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The new Black view

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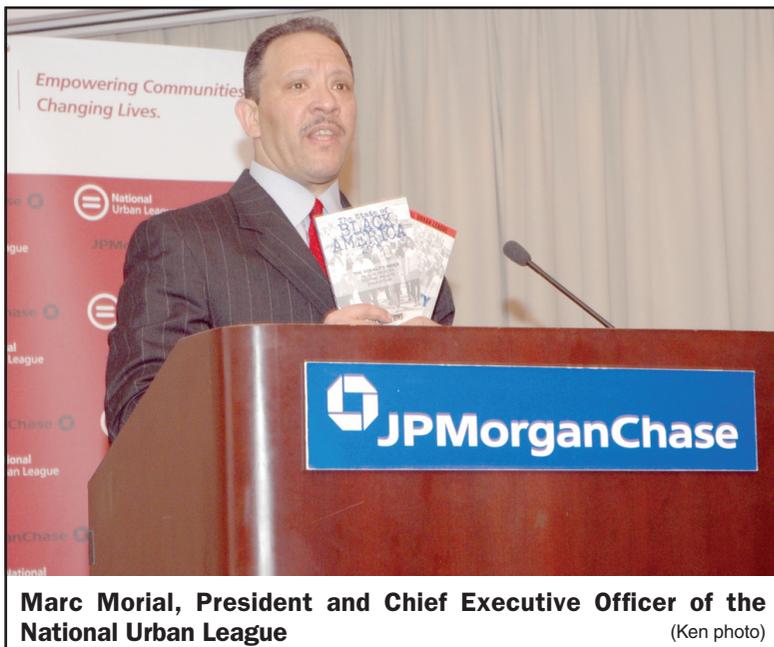
National Urban League's: State of Black America

BLACKS STILL LAG BEHIND

By CLOVER HOPE
Special to the AmNews

The stark reality of statistics and bare facts shows that Black America is constantly struggling to draw level with whites in various facets of life. Blacks still lag severely behind economically and are even deteriorating in certain areas like health and employment, according to the National Urban League's "State of Black America: Prescriptions for Change" latest 2005 edition.

In addition to examining racial disparities in America, the Urban League's report, which was unveiled at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. this week, out-



Marc Morial, President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Urban League (Ken photo)

lines solutions needed to break the racial divide and offers commentary on issues that plague the Black community.

"The truth is there's been gains over the last 40 years but we've not caught up," said Marc Morial, President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Urban League. "There's still a considerable amount of work to do."

The widest discrepancy exists in economics, where the racial gap is twice as large as the education or health gap, Morial noted. The report's accompanying "State of Black America Report's Equality Index" indicated that the overall status of Blacks has

remained relatively constant since last year, at 73 percent of whites, with the widest disparity existing in the economic domain. The economic status for Blacks is 57 percent of whites while the employment gap is on the decline with only slight progress.

"Economics drives the country," said Morial, who formerly served as mayor of New Orleans. "We want Black people to recognize we've got to focus on economics because that's the new civil rights issue."

Morial said he thought the most significant findings in the report were the increasing gap in the unemployment rate (Continued on Page 40)

Bellevue backlog leaves test subjects in jeopardy

By JOYCE MAYER
PERRY

Special to the AmNews

Thousands of current cases of adverse drug-study results at New York City's Bellevue Hospital have not been reviewed or examined by Bellevue physicians, and are strewn in offices, closets and bathrooms, which may be seriously jeopardizing the lives of Bellevue's mostly

minority clinic patients.

The allegations—made by staffers in the research department at Bellevue Hospital—have been substantiated by documents obtained by the *New York Amsterdam News*.

A New York City Comptroller's Bureau of Management audit revealed that medical research conducted at Bellevue Hospital through its affiliation with the New York University Medical Center was found non-compliant with regulations governing the testing of subjects. The audit determined that Bellevue/NYU procedures were in violation in the processing of new and renewal approvals, research implementation, and monitoring serious drug-study-related adverse effects.

A sampling of 11 documents reveal that voluntary patients have (Continued on Page 41)



Unattended boxes sit in full view at Bellevue Hospital

Life at Parris Island: A photographer's journal

By DAMASO REYES

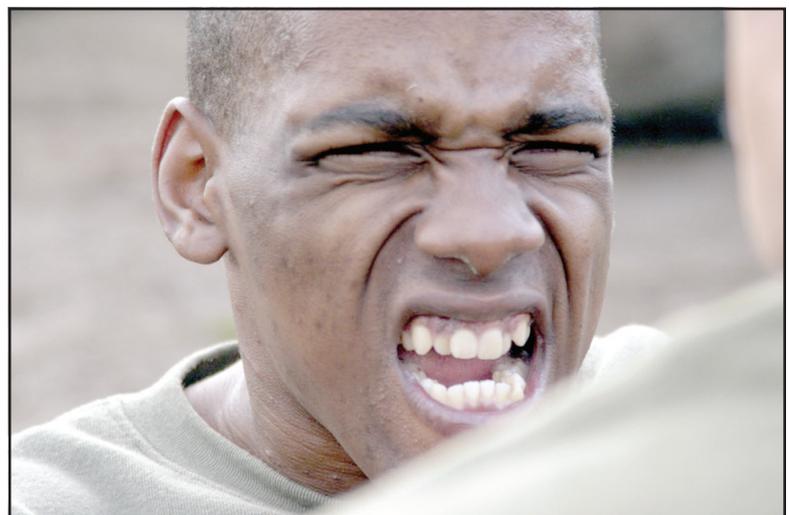
Special to the AmNews

BEUFORT, S.C. — "Teamwork is the foundation of my Marine Corps! Teamwork, therefore, will be the basis of your training while you are here! From this point forward you will eat, sleep, breathe and train teamwork! The words 'I,' 'me' and 'we' are no longer in your vocabulary! These words will be replaced by this recruit, that recruit and these recruits! Do you understand? DO YOU UNDERSTAND!"

Welcome to Parris Island, where Marines are made.

The two dozen or so recruits who just got off the bus had already been up since the early morning hours, and most probably hadn't slept much the night before. Dressed for the last time in civilian clothing they won't see again for three months, none were prepared for Staff Sergeant Patrick K. Wiley and what he had to say.

Whatever they thought



Physical training or PT is an integral part of the three month basic training program. (Damaso Reyes photo)

about the United States Marine Corps, they were in for a rude awakening when they got off the bus at 10 pm and stepped into the cool South Carolina air. These raw young men will not sleep for the next 36 hours as they are processed and given everything they will need to live for the next twelve weeks.

If Parris Island is the anvil, drill instructors like Sgt. Wiley are the hammer with which Marines are forged. The sign leading to the base reads: "Parris Island: We Make Marines" not teach, not help them to learn. Here they make Marines, nothing more, nothing less.

(Continued on Page 29)

1.8 MILLION NEW YORKERS WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE

Urban Agenda by David R. Jones

Community Service Society of New York President

see Page 5

Marines

(Continued from Page 1)

"As stressful and as hard as recruit training is, my goal is to make Marines," Sgt. Wiley said as a group of journalists waited for a barber to arrive to shave the recruits' heads.

"I'm not here to send them home, I'm not here to be cruel to them in any way, shape, form or fashion. But I have three months to make a civilian into a Marine," he added.

With the distinctive campaign hats and gruff voices, nearly everything a drill instructor says is shouted. That leaves them horse for up to two years, accompanied by a withering gaze.

In a time of war this is deadly serious work, and each drill instructor knows this as he or she tries to break bad habits and teach a civilian how to live up to being addressed as a United States Marine.

"Look at me right NOW!" the martial arts senior drill instructor said, blowing his whistle and bringing training to a halt.

"At NO time will you lean back just like you're in your doggone father's Cadillac! Do you understand? You will have an aggressive stance, do you understand?"

Shawn Curtis, 25, of Crown Heights, responds: "An awakening, sir, no more playtime, sir," recalling his first 24 hours in the Marine Corps.

"A lot of friends and family told this recruit that he was crazy to go and join the Marines during a time of war," he said, referring to himself in the third person, as all recruits are supposed to. "I see it as a time of challenge and a time to serve my country."

Curtis, now in his tenth week of training, was in the middle of what is called the Crucible, a grueling 54 hour endurance test where the young recruits work together in teams to accomplish five different tasks using their training. Eating only four meals and getting just eight hours of sleep, each recruit depends on the others to help get them through when it feels like they can't go any further.

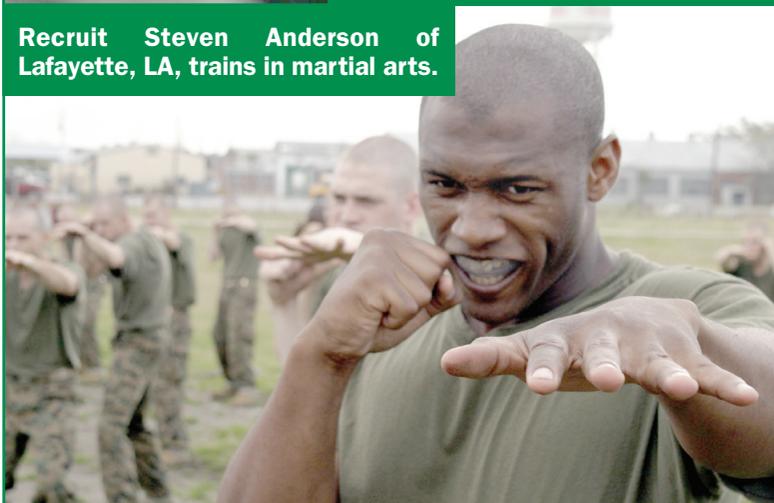
If there is one thing a visitor takes from a trip to Parris Island it is how much pride Marines take in being considered the elite of the US military, a title certainly earned by their basic training, which is the longest and most intense of all the branches. They are the tip of the spear of US military might and they know it, none more so than the drill instructors who mold these young men.

"There are Marines dying in Iraq now, and I've got to replace them," a somber Sgt. Wiley said. "I have friends that I'll never see again and this Marine that I'll make in three months is going to replace him."

This is the second in a two-part series about Blacks in the U.S. Marines Corps.



A Marine captain salutes his commanding officer during graduation.



Recruit Steven Anderson of Lafayette, LA, trains in martial arts.



A recruit has his head shaved soon after arriving on Parris Island.



A recruit falls behind his unit during the Crucible, a grueling 54 hour exercise all Marines must complete before graduating.



Recruit Steven Anderson of Lafayette, LA, trains in martial arts.

(Damasp Retes photos)

The Dorothy Dandridge Story
Yesterday Came Too Soon

Written by Jamal Williams
 Creative development by Dr. Barbara Ann Teer
 Starring Leslie Lewis Sword
 At the National Black Theatre
 in association with Jammit Productions.



Playwright Jamal Williams has crafted an affecting script.
 (Variety)

The saga of Dorothy Dandridge, the bombshell who grabbed the Hollywood brass ring in the 1950s with the title role in Fox's all-black megamusical "Carmen Jones," is brought to life stirringly in this one-woman show. "Yesterday Came Too Soon" is set backstage at the faded Dandridge's final engagement the day before she was found dead from an antidepressant overdose. Her story of triumph and tragedy thrills audiences.

Address:
 National Black Theatre Way
 2031 Fifth Avenue
 between 125th And 126th St

When:
 ~ Gala Opening night **SOLD OUT!!!** 7:30 pm on Thursday April 14
 ~ Friday and Saturday at 7:30 pm on April 15 and 16
 ~ SUNDAY MATINEE AT 3:00 PM ON APRIL 17

ONE WEEKEND ONLY!
 This is your only chance to see it!!!

Tickets: \$35
 Call 212-722-3800
 For group sales, call Jackie Jeffries 212 862 2543.