

# Podiums

*(Continued from Page 4)*  
 cratic, there is a growing Black Republican base, which boosted George W. Bush's numbers in the last election. In 2000, Bush received only 8 percent of the Black vote, but in 2004, he received 11 percent.

And the candidates, taking questions from three journalists, received what appeared to be genuine appreciation from the mixed but predominantly African-American audience.

There were rounds of applause throughout the evenings' commentary, when candidates answered questions from the three widely recognized journalists: Cynthia Tucker of *The Atlanta Constitution Journal*, Ray Suarez of the "McNeil/

Lehrer Report" and National Public Radio's Juan Williams.

Topics addressed by the candidates included the disparities between Blacks and mainstream America, the death penalty, immigration reform and the crisis in Darfur.

On immigration, Paul said illegal immigration "shouldn't be rewarded." While Brownback said he would push for securing borders.

Hunter reiterated, saying, "Folks here illegally have to leave. It's not fair to those who play by the rules. When people come to this country, they have got to knock on the front door."

And Keyes said that illegal immigrants are here be-

cause they are a source of "cheap labor." He referenced New Orleans, where many immigrants have found jobs in rebuilding the city, which hurts Blacks trying to find work. "And I'm sick of seeing it," Keyes said.

As for crime in urban communities, the candidates had varying responses, including from Huckabee, "We don't have a crime problem; we have a drug and alcohol problem." He said those affected need help. "We've got to quit locking up people we're mad at and lock up people we're afraid of."

Regarding disparities in health care, Keyes said he would like to see the return of two-parent families, which would in turn result in healthier individuals, men-

tally, physically and socially.

The candidates were split on whether they believed the death penalty was just. Paul said he no longer believed in it. Brownback said, "We need a culture of life." Hunter said he believed it would deter further crime. And Keyes said some crimes call for dispatching the criminal to "the ruler of us all."

Huckabee said that while he had had to carry out the death penalty, it was not a part of his job that he liked. "God help the person who ever has to do it," he said.

The All-American Presidential Forum is the second one held. The first was open to the Democratic candidates, all of whom attended.

*Elaine Welles writes for the Philadelphia Tribune.*

# Knicks

*(Continued from Page 12)*

internal inquiry into her allegations against Thomas.

The trial also made headlines with its testimony about an admitted tryst involving star Knicks guard Stephon Marbury and an MSG intern, an encounter the plaintiffs' attorneys argued demonstrated the organization's frat house mentality.

At the Knicks training camp in South Carolina on Tuesday, Marbury and other players said it was time for the team to move past the off-court controversy. Thomas was expected to arrive at the camp midweek.

"It's a tough situation and the only thing we can do now is go forward," Marbury said.

Forward Malik Rose predicted the team would rally behind Dolan and Thomas.

"We all know what kind of guy 'Mr. D' is," he said before the jury awarded punitive damages. "We all know what kind of guy Isiah is and how they treat us. I'm sure all you guys agree this is a first-class organization."

MSG is owned by Cablevision Systems Corp., based in Bethpage, N.Y., and Dolan is Cablevision's CEO. Shares fell 35 cents, or 1 percent, to \$34.71 in afternoon trading.

# AIDS

*(Continued from Page 10)*

—Reduce HIV/AIDS stigma in Black America by 50 percent.

Debra Fraser Howze, president and CEO of the National Leadership Commission on AIDS, said that her organization, along with the Institute, the Magic Johnson Foundation and the Balm in Gilead, an active part of the effort but could not be present at the kickoff, gave up some of their individuality to work collectively in 2006 to build the mobilization effort.

"This mobilization brings together traditional Black institutions from all sectors to end the AIDS epidemic in Black America within five years. We set the bar high

because we are exceptional," said Howze.

Lee said she and other congressional members, such as Maxine Waters, D-Calif., are sponsoring legislation that would test federal prisoners for HIV, ensure their treatment while incarcerated and then to test them upon release.

Congresswoman Diane Watson, D-Calif., said, "We in the Congressional Black Caucus want to today to renew our commitment as we approach the 10th anniversary of the Minority AIDS Initiative, bringing the initiative back to its original intent and to make sure that the resources of the Minority AIDS Initiative in the Black community and community faith-

based organizations that it was intended to do," said Christian-Christensen, adding that smaller Caribbean countries, while poor, have national AIDS plans.

Christian-Christensen and Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, D-Texas, both said they felt the current Republican administration is not doing enough to address the issue of funding for African-American HIV/AIDS patients or research.

"It is time now to call on this administration and successive administrations to find a vaccine and to find a way an immunization against the disease, not to affirm behavior we should not support," Jackson Lee said.

"We know the devastation

that we are in with the Iraq War," Jackson Lee said. "No one has to ask the questions of why we cannot address domestic issues when \$120 billion is being spent on the Iraq War that is causing us to lose our way. So I must say, let us end that war and begin to address domestic issues such as research on HIV/AIDS and the cure for saving the lives of our young people, our families and our women."

Jackson Lee, who has been encouraging the hip-hop and gospel community in her district to get tested on a regular basis, said she didn't want to get into a conversation on which diseases are more worthy, but she says she questions why some

"comfortable" diseases garner so much money and research time.

"What is the Centers for Disease Control doing? The National Health Institute? And why are they not engaging the Black physicians in order to find a cure or vaccine for HIV/AIDS?"

Dr. Mohammad Akhter, executive director of the National Medical Association, which presents 30,000 Black physicians, agreed, saying it was time for a new strategy to fight HIV/AIDS.

"What is it that reassessment means? Since 50 percent of the new cases of HIV/AIDS are in the African-American community, where

do you think the resources should be going? Shouldn't they be focused on the African-American community? And if the current system of providing services to our community isn't working, shouldn't we involve the African-American community and the institutions in our community? The Black church and the community-based organizations?" he questioned.

"We think it is time for us as a nation to reassess the HIV/AIDS strategy to redirect resources to focus on where the problem is and to work with our community to make sure we solve this problem."

# CBC

*(Continued from Page 10)*

doing each and every day in Congress is challenging everyone to live up to what the American people dictated that we do in November. That is to end this war and bring our troops home."

Democrats view November's election as a mandate by voters to end the war after they successfully landed Democratic majorities in the House and Senate. The war is also an issue that will be considered as baggage for the Republicans in the 2008 presidential elections.

For the past two years, the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina largely dominated the annual conference, refocusing African-Americans on poverty issues. But, among the diversity of issues at this year's ALC, it appears the Jena Six case illuminated the issue of unequal justice

even as Black political progress was being celebrated.

"Barack Obama is running a serious, substantive campaign for president of the United States, [and there are] more Black members of Congress than ever before. At the same time, Jena Sixes are still happening in this country," said U.S. Rep. Artur Davis, D-Ala., sipping a cranberry juice at a VIP reception.

"It will continue to be a mixed bag for a very long time. ...Most of the inequalities we have in America — education, healthcare, infrastructure — they're all connected to each other. And so, it's going to take a while to make progress."

More than 3,700 American troops have died since the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq in March 2003. President Bush, who has lost support

from among Republicans because of the way Iraq has been handled, says the war is to win Iraqi freedom. The monthly death toll in Iraq has slowed, but the casualties of socioeconomic conditions on American soil continue to rise.

"Our cup is running over," said U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, D-Texas. "I call it a second reconstruction where we are renewing the rights of African-Americans."

She ticks off a list of issues that belie the economic logic of waging the Iraq War.

"The frightening prospects of education for our children, the whole question of healthcare, mainly quality of life issues. And the one that is near and dear to my heart because I truly believe there is not equality, there's not a sense of justice — and that is the justice system. I am frankly frightened about

the institutionalizing of our children, the incarceration rate, and certainly I could not finish this interview without saying that Jena Six opens a cancerous sore that really has been sitting and we have been attending to it by Band-Aids and putting salve on it and all of a sudden it has burst forth."

But, there is hope in that the CBC-ALC and the African-Americans who came and learned from the issue forums and brain trusts will likely take the information back to their communities and unleash the power there.

"I still have an abiding faith in African-Americans," Lee said.

"I think it is imperative for us to renew our non-violent aggressiveness in demanding fairness in this country. And all the get-along to go along, all of the 'get over it' needs to be thrown out."

## EMPLOYMENT



**LOOKING FOR BARBERS**  
 Just finished expansion  
 Downtown location  
**A CUT ABOVE THE REST**  
 Serious inquiries only  
 477-7557

To place your classified ads, help wanted, legal notices just call  
**(702) 380-8100**

# SAM'S TOWN

5111 Boulder Highway  
 Las Vegas, NV 89122  
[www.jobflash.com/boyd](http://www.jobflash.com/boyd)  
 or  
 1-866-562-2693  
 Always accepting applications.  
 Please visit our website for a complete Listing of open positions.  
**Equal Opportunity Employer**