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'OBAMA' SNEAKERS

Six nabbed in bogus 'Obama' sneakers ring



COUNTERFEIT SNEAKERS — Brooklyn District Attorney Charles J. Hynes shows a counterfeit sneaker with President Obama's picture to reporters at a press conference.

Gov. places NYS in emergency preparedness over Swine Flu

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WHAT'S GOING ON

By Victoria Horsford

OBAMA'S FIRST 100

President Barack Obama goes to the head of the class compared with his predecessors as media scrambles to evaluate and grade his performance during the first 100 days. His popularity is high, approaching 70%.

Erstwhile US Republican Senator Alan Specter announced that he was crossing the aisle to become a Democratic, bringing the Dems number closer to the 60 member chamber, which would be Republican filibuster averse. He signed a \$787 billion Stimulus Recovery bill into law.

His Health and Human Services Secretary nominee Kathleen Sebelius was confirmed on April 28. He has visited three continents since he took the oath of office and met more than 60 heads of state since January 20. And (he) has a laundry list of international crises with which to deal such as the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, a possible Taliban takeover of nuclear club member Pakistan, Somali Pirates, and the US economic credibility in a globalized world. What's Going On grades gives the President an A-!!!

He confronts a new problem, the Swine Flu, aka H1N1 Flu, a respiratory virus transmitted from pigs and from human to human contact, which originated in Mexico with pandemic potential. While President Obama can allay fears about H1N1 Flu, it is scary reviewing all of the Federal authorities addressing this health crisis: the Centers for Disease Control, yes; but Homeland Security?

The H1N1 Flu is included in the President's daily intelligence briefing. There is no vaccine to prevent or protect humans from H1N1. The seasonal influenza vaccine may help provide partial protection. Symptoms are high fever, diarrhea, muscle pain and discomfort, cough, sore throat, stuffy nose, headaches and fatigue.

THE WEEK IN REVIEW/NY

On April 24, Governor David Paterson told NY 1 TV host Dominick Carter's NY 1 TV he plans to keep his job and will be the NYS Democratic Gubernatorial Party contender in 2010. He was adamant that neither NYC media, nor the polls were going to run him out of state. I know that local media, including NY 1 and Carter have been foretelling Paterson's demise.

The NY Times published a cover story a few weeks ago claiming that Paterson has fallen out of favor among Blacks. It was mentioned that the Democrats should give him a deadline by year's end to withdraw as a candidate, if his numbers continue to plummet.

Governor Paterson, is the ipso facto leader of the state Democratic Party. Then mainstream media proffers polls showing that Giuliani is favored by more New Yorkers to be Governor than Paterson, if a vote was held today. Governor Paterson has had audiences with labor leaders, NYC real estate barons, still bristling about higher taxes for the



President Barack Obama

rich.

On April 25, at Reverend Al Sharpton's National Action Network Harlem headquarters, Governor Paterson was greeted by his base, Harlemites and members of the NYC black and white establishment – Congressmen Charles Rangel and Gregory Meeks; UFT chief Randi Weingarten, Comptroller Bill Thompson, Senator Bill Perkins, and Assemblymen Keith and Councilwoman Inez Dickens – who pledged support for his 2010 candidacy.

Most speakers agreed that Paterson's biggest enemy is NY media. Regarding Giuliani as Paterson's 2010 Republican challenger, Reverend Sharpton in warrior mode bellowed. "Bring him on!"

VILLAGE PEOPLE

Congratulations to African-American Washington Post Op/ed writer EUGENE ROBINSON for his Pulitzer Prize. Denied the WAPO managing editor job a few years ago, Robinson has no regrets. As managing editor he would be ineligible for a Pulitzer. Congrats to MIRA LOWE, newly named editor in chief of Jet Magazine, the nation's #1 Black newsweekly. NY Link/actress/wife/mother HARRIETTE MANDEVILLE just returned from a spiritual retreat to India.....

Journalist/educator RON SCOTT spent his spring break in Japan....Harlem community pillar MARTHA DOLLY died. Born in Haiti in 1923, Mrs. Dolly embraced the American dream. She earned degrees in the U.S, became a nurse and married, Dr Harold Dolly. She is survived by two children Harold Dolly and Donna Atmore-Dolly and a granddaughter Ania.

THEATRE STUFF

AUGUST WILSON'S drama, JOE TURNER'S COME AND GONE, is at the center of a storm offstage almost as volatile as the riveting Black American classic does onstage. The latest scuttle-

butt is about JOE TURNER'S white director Bartlett Sher. The NY Times Ben Brantley review rhapsodized about the brilliance of this limited-engagement Lincoln Center Theatre presentation of JOE TURNER'S at the Belasco Theatre at 111 West 44 Street.

Brantley said that JOE TURNER is theatre-phil's favorite of Wilson's 10 plays about African American life during the 20th Century. People finding their own voice in life is a theme that runs through Wilson's century-long sagas.

Pulitzer Awardee August Wilson was a vocal opponent of non-traditional casting and would not allow whites to direct his plays. His widow digressed and with good effect based on feedback from friends, including cast member LATANYA JACKSON. The Harlem One Stop Theatre Club has booked JOE TURNER'S seats for the June 3 performance at a discounted group rate \$67.50. Email info@harlemonestop.org if you are interested.

A revival of the Arthur Miller American classic, DEATH OF A SALESMAN opened last week, with an all Black cast headed by CHARLES DUTTON at Yale Repertory. Play runs through May 23. For information, visit www.yalerep.org.

OUT OF AFRICA

The CELEBRATE AFRICA FOUNDATION (CAF) and its partner New York University will host the Second CAF Dinner Awards Gala on Wednesday, May 13 at NYU at 60 Washington Square South, Manhattan. Celebrate Africa Foundation Board trustee and spokesperson Chika Onyeani announced the honorees: the Republic of Botswana as the Best African Country of the Year 2009 and Edward Bergman, Executive Director of the Africa Travel Association as a visionary who has contributed immeasurably to the continent's economic growth through tourism.

Botswana President Seretse Ian Seretse Khama has been invited to receive the CAF 2009 award. The CAF Best Country criteria includes a nation's practice of democratic ideals, good governance, tolerance war on terrorism and resource management. Botswana, a diamond-rich landlocked country in southern Africa, boasts one of the continent's highest per capita incomes. Event tickets are \$250. Tables are \$2250. Call 917.279.4038



Mira Lowea