

# WELCOME HOME CM EPPES ALUMNI

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June - July 2009 Free

## Michael Jackson Dies At Age 50 Death Still Unsolved After Autopsy



By Dan Whitcomb and Laura Isensee Dan Whitcomb And Laura Isensee -

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) - Doctors conducted an autopsy on the body of Michael Jackson on Friday but could not immediately determine what killed the "King of Pop," amid reports he had been injected with a narcotic painkiller shortly before collapsing. Jackson was in full cardiac arrest when paramedics arrived at his rented mansion in the Holmby Hills neighborhood of Los Angeles on Thursday afternoon, with his personal physician trying desperately to revive him. The 50-year-old pop superstar was rushed to nearby UCLA Medical Center, where he was pronounced dead without regaining consciousness. "The cause of death (determination) has been deferred, which means that the medical examiner has ordered additional testing such as toxicology and other studies," Los Angeles County Coroner's spokesman Craig Harvey said. "Those tests we anticipate will take an additional four to six weeks." Speaking to a throng of reporters outside the coroner's office, Harvey said, "There was no indication of any external trauma or indication of foul play to the body of Mr. Jackson." Police said they were seeking to question Jackson's personal physician, identified by news

media as Houston-based cardiologist Dr. Conrad Murray. Jackson's body will be released to family members after they choose a mortuary for funeral arrangements, Harvey said. There was no immediate word on when he would be laid to rest. Celebrity website [TMZ.com](http://TMZ.com), citing an interview with an unidentified "close member" of the Jackson family, reported the entertainer was injected with Demerol about half an hour before he went into cardiac arrest.

### DAILY SHOT OF DEMEROL?

TMZ, citing family members, said Jackson received a daily shot of Demerol, a narcotic painkiller, and that the family believed his death was caused by an overdose of the drug. Detectives searched Jackson's home and impounded Murray's Mercedes from the driveway, saying it might contain evidence. An unidentified man called a 911 emergency phone line from the mansion at 12:21 p.m. local time, saying Jackson was unconscious and not breathing. In excerpts from the call released by authorities, the caller said the physician was the only other person present and was frantically performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation on the unconscious Jackson without results. "He's pumping, he's pumping his chest but he's not responding to anything, sir, please," the man said. A senior law enforcement official told ABC News that Jackson was "heavily addicted" to the painkiller Oxycontin and was injected daily with that medication, along with Demerol. Lawyer Brian Oxman, a Jackson family spokesman, told CBS' "The Early Show" he had been concerned about the prescription drugs Jackson took due to injuries suffered while performing. "I do not want to

point fingers at anyone because I want to hear what the toxicology report says and the coroner says but the plain fact of the matter is that Michael Jackson had prescription drugs at his disposal at all times," Oxman said. Fans and fellow pop stars revived memories of Jackson's musical genius, tarnished over the past decade by accusations of child molestation and eccentric behavior. U.S. President Barack Obama called Jackson a "spectacular performer" but said he believed aspects of his life were "sad and tragic," the White House said.

Facing a battered reputation and a mountain of debt that The Wall Street Journal reported ran to \$500 million, Jackson spent the last two months rehearsing for a series of London concerts, including Wednesday in Los Angeles. Despite reports of Jackson's ill health, the promoters of the London shows, AEG Live, said in March that Jackson passed a 4 1/2-hour physical examination with independent doctors. TMZ reported it was AEG that had retained Murray. In death, Jackson's music enjoyed an immediate rebound that eluded him for years. His songs surged to the top 15 on online retailer [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com)'s best-selling albums within hours. He dominated the charts in the 1980s and was one of the most successful entertainers, with 13 Grammy Awards and several seminal music videos. His 1982 album "Thriller" yielded seven top-10 singles. But he was twice accused of molesting young boys and was charged in 2003 with child sexual abuse. He was acquitted of all charges in a four-month trial in 2005.

## The Pitt County Branch of the NAACP Recognizes Operation Sunshine



The Executive Board of the Pitt County Branch of the NAACP recognizes operation Sunshine for the service the organization has given our community, as well as the excellence they have obtained at their facility, as advocates of young men and women in the community who achieved great accomplishments. The NAACP appreciates the time and energy Mrs. Davis and her staff spend as leaders of many. They also wanted to congratulate them for the manner that they continue even in these tough economic times. therefore they have been chosen as a recipient of the 2009 Pitt County NAACP Community Service Award in the amount of \$1,000.00 Operation Sunshine the Minority Voice Salutes you! Keep up the good work!

Photo by Jim Rouse

## Ann Huggins Appointed To The North Carolina State Social Services Commission



Ann Floyd Huggins was appointed to the North Carolina State Social Services Commission by Governor Beverly Perdue. The appointment is effective immediately and will expire on March 31, 2013. Commissioner Melvin McLawhorn administered the Oath of office. Attendees for the event were: Mayor Pat Dunn Social Services Director George Perry, retired Social Services Director Ed Garrison, Social Service Member LaVerna Parker, NAACP President Calvin Henderson and Beatrice Henderson. Congratulations Mrs. Huggins you deserve it!

## St John Empowerment Center Open To Serve The Entire Community



Pastor Russell S. Wilkins and the St. John Church of Christ, Disciples of Christ invite you to visit the St. John Empowerment Center located at 2240 St. John Church Road, Washington, North Carolina. The 22,000 square foot facility houses a multipurpose gymnasium and classrooms equipped with the newest audio and video technology and state-of-the-art music room with multimedia capabilities that are available to accommodate your next banquet, family reunion meeting or special event. The center also has a fitness center open to

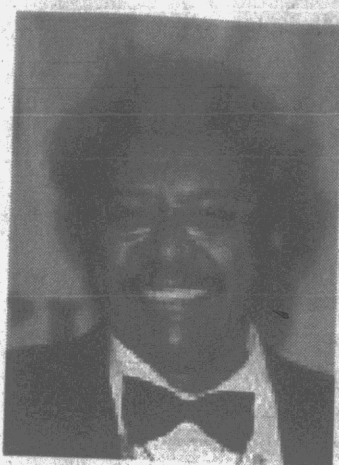
the public at a reasonable rate. The St. John empowerment center is equipped to serve the entire community by offering numerous services to address the issues of the total person. Such as, the St. John Leadership Academy that provides courses to both clergy and laity, the St. John Summer enrichment that serves children in grades kindergarten to eighth, health programs courses in subjects such as money management and basketball leagues. To learn more about the center and its numerous amenities The St. John empowerment center can be reached at (252) 975.3700 and is currently open Monday-Friday between 10:00 am and 6:00pm pictured above Pastor Russell Wilkins and Mrs. Fagan executive secretary. everyone is invited to stop by for a tour of the facility

Photo by Hayward Johnson

## The CM EPPES ALUMNI 30th Reunion Friday July 3 - July 5 2009

Friday	Saturday	Sunday
7:30 pm	12:30 pm	11:00 am
Fun Night	Community	Church Service
City Hotel Bistro	Field Day	Rev. Eve Rogers
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Saturday	Park	Community
8:30 am	Saturday	Church
Reunion	8:00 pm	Sunday
Breakfast	Banquet	4:00 pm
City Hotel Bistro	Guest Speaker	Reunion Cookout
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Saturday	City Hotel Bistro	for Information
11:00 am		Ben Johnson
Parade		Ph. 252.258.6817
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# Black Press of America Convening in Minneapolis



**Don King**

by Hazel Trice Edney  
NNPA Editor N Cheif

WASHINGTON (NNPA) - Boxing promoter and Black publisher Don King, actor/comedian Bill Cosby, members of the Congressional Black Caucus and top Black publishers from around the nation are among the big names to highlight the 2009 National Convention of the National Newspaper Publishers Association in Minnesota this week.

"NNPA continues to be the much-needed voice for issues of concern that affect the ongoing development and success within the African American community," John B. Smith Sr., chair of the federation of the more than 200 Black-owned newspapers and publisher of the Atlanta Inquirer, says in a statement. "2009 marks another milestone for NNPA because it represents 182 years of news gathering, awareness building and providing vitally needed services to our communities. Through journalistic leadership and devotion to efficiently promote community progress, our mission is to empower minorities through the Black Press." Publishers Al McFarlane of Insight News and Tracey L. Williams of the Minnesota Spokesman-Recorder are co-hosting the annual summer event. "Their respective reputations in the community are outstanding with impressive records as advocates to empower the minority community," says Smith. Among the highlights, boxing promoter Don King, owner of the Cleveland and Columbus Call & Post newspapers, is slated to attend the annual Merit Awards Gala on Friday night as a sports writing award is named for

him. The Merit Awards, an event of the NNPA Foundation, chaired by Dorothy Leavell, recognizes publishers and writers for their journalist excellence and service over the past year. Leavell applauds King as "the only contemporary publisher to have a Merit Awards category named for him. It will now be known as the Don King Best Sports Section Award. The award was voted to be named for him by the NNPA Foundation board of directors," she says. "He joins a long list of luminaries and distinguished publishers, staff members and outstanding musical artists in having categories named for them, including Robert S. Abbott, Carl Murphy, Ida B. Wells, Frank L. Stanley, Robert L. Vann, Leon H. Washington, John H. Sengstacke, Ada S. Franklin, Duke Ellington and Louis Armstrong." King is being honored as much for his community contributions as for his publishing career. "He revolutionized boxing as we know it today and has made significant contributions to African-Americans and African-American causes," says Leavell. She also credits him for taking over and reviving the Call & Posts after the death of William O. Walker. "Don King revived the Call and Post newspapers

by hiring a professional staff that has maintained the high journalistic standards that was the mission set out by Mr. Walker."

This year's Merit Awards will also feature a new HIV/AIDS Education Award, sponsored by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the California-based Black AIDS Institute, headed by HIV/AIDS activist Phill Wilson. Also, Members of the Congressional Black Caucus, including CBC Chairwoman Barbara Lee (D-Calif.); Keith Ellison (D-Minn.); and Donna Christensen (D-V.I.) are among those confirmed to lead a Saturday morning health workshop. U. S. Sen. Roland Burris (D-Ill.), the only Black member of the U. S. Senate, in the throws of a re-election campaign, is also expected to address the publishers.

NNPA, among the most powerful and most respected coalitions of journalists and publishers in the nation, will also hold an election of a new chair as Smith completes four years of leadership. The summer conference is the largest of four annual gatherings of the NNPA publishers. The other three are the annual winter conference, the September board meetings during the Congressional Black Caucus Annual Legislative Conference, and Black Press

Week in March. As the Black Press of America is nearly two centuries old, the annual summer conference illustrates the vitality and vibrancy of Black newspapers even as many of them are struggling during the historic economic downturn. "Corporations will have the opportunity to gain further insight about the significance of the Black Press of America, the high trust level of its readership, and how to be effective partners," says Smith.

This is particularly apropos as Black newspapers played a pivotal role in the election of the nation's first Black President

Barack Obama last year. NNPA members met at the White House with the President and First Lady during Black Press Week in March to give him the organization's esteemed Newsmaker of the Year Award. This week's conference is not all business. On Saturday night, after an afternoon blues concert, the publishers will venture to the Minnesota Orchestra Hall for a show featuring comedian/actor and author Bill Cosby. As many White-owned newspapers have shut their doors across the nation, the bond and unified mission among NNPA

publishers continue to fortify its strength and survival. Forums pertaining to revenue and advertising growth will be a staple at the conference. But a major focus will also be placed on issues such as racism and social disparities that have either grown or remained steady in America. Concludes Smith, "Our theme, 'Building Coalitions to Advance our Community: Educate, Empower, Inspire', reflects our steadfast commitment to writing the stories tackling the issues that would otherwise go unheard."

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# Michael Jackson 1958 - 2009

## Michael Jackson : Will The Stories Ever End

We've heard them all before: Michael Jackson sleeps in a hyperbaric chamber. Michael Jackson purchased the "Elephant Man's" bones for \$1 million. Michael Jackson's pet monkey Bubbles is potty-trained and cleans his own bedroom. Tabloid-esque speculation defined the life of the late King of Pop, so it's not all-too surprising that bizarre rumors would follow him to the grave. Here's some of the wackier post-mortem gossip.

**Haunted Neverland?** Late last week, as Larry King broadcast his show live from Neverland Ranch, viewers caught a glimpse of a faint shadow that appeared to cross a corridor before vanishing. The eerie sighting wasn't noticed by King, the camera crew or Jermaine Jackson (who was there leading the tour), but once the video was posted online, frenzy ensued. Fans from all-over began pointing out the image, and chat forums were flooded with messages insisting the shadow was Jackson's ghost **Secret girlfriend?** As rumors swirl around the mysterious paternity (and maternity, for that matter) of Michael's three children, UK's Mirror is **adding a twist** to the custody battle. According to the paper, at the time of his death, Jackson was in a long-term relationship with his children's nanny, 42-year-old Grace Rwaramba. The Mirror claims: "Ian Barkley, who travelled the world with Jacko for three years as his personal photographer, says the couple's romance was an open secret among staff after they fell in love while she was nanny to his children." The article also claims that the children call Rwaramba "mom" and Jackson and Rwaramba were "more like a married couple." It's also been rumored that Jackson and Rwaramba had secretly married, but that has been denied by Rwaramba, who is still legally married to her first husband. **The show must go on?**

Reports claim that Joe Jackson and the Jackson brothers are planning a Jackson 5 reunion tour and will have Michael performing beside them in **hologram-form**. The family is said to be hoping the hologram will be ready for Jackson's memorial service at L.A.'s Staples Center.

### Buried brainless?

The Los Angeles Coroners office has reportedly confirmed that Michael Jackson will, in fact, be buried without his brain. Sources tell the Mirror that Jackson's brain was removed before his body was released to relatives and a forensic neuropathologist said they are testing it for past drug use. Because the brain must be hardened before it can be examined, Jackson's family has reportedly opted to have Michael buried sans the important organ instead of waiting for it to be returned. Read more of the gory details [here](#).

### A religious conversion?

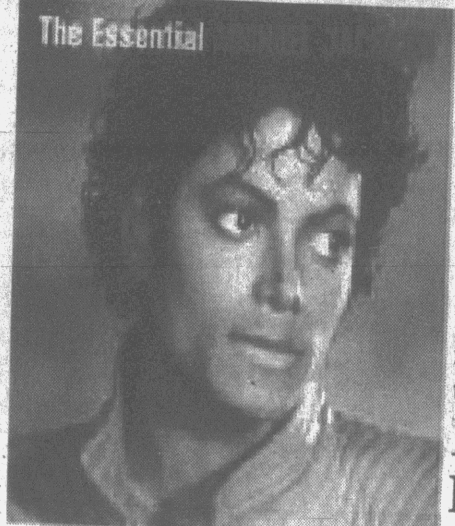
Soon after Jackson's death, rumors emerged that the late King of Pop had converted to Christianity just a few weeks before his death with the help of gospel singer Andrae Crouch. The **Boston Globe** briefly cited the conversion in an article about Jackson's religious explorations, and **Christianity Today** even took to their blog to address the rumors. But according to Crouch's **Facebook** page (via Crouch's administrator):

"The Crouches did NOT lead Michael Jackson to the Lord, They DID pray with him, but NOT a prayer of 'salvation'. It is a rumor that they 'led him to Christ'. Please spread the 'truth' as quickly as the rumor has spread." It's understandable that such an extraordinary life would be riddled with such extraordinary hearsay. Michael Jackson may be gone, but if the media coverage surrounding his death is any indication, his story is far from over. **NEW YORK** — On Tuesday (June 30), the Reverend Al Sharpton led a memorial for Michael Jackson at Harlem's Apollo Theater. Thousands of fans lined up as early as 5 a.m., according to reports. The theater opened its doors at 2 p.m., admitting Jackson's fans 600 at a time. MTV News went to the world-famous venue, where it looked as if more than 1,000 people were lined up waiting.

-Allison Louie-Garcia

## Reverend Al Shapton Leads Memorial At Apollo Theater

**NEW YORK** — On Tuesday (June 30), the Reverend Al Sharpton led a memorial for Michael Jackson at Harlem's Apollo Theater. Thousands of fans lined up as early as 5 a.m., according to reports. The theater opened its doors at 2 p.m., admitting Jackson's fans 600 at a time. MTV News went to the world-famous venue, where it looked as if more than 1,000 people were lined up waiting. "The Apollo has always been the symbol for black music and, later on, popular music because as black music expanded, American popular music became greatly grounded in the black music tradition," Sharpton explained from his office. "No one was responsible for that more than Michael Jackson. "I said, 'We need to do a memorial in New York and give the people in New York an opportunity to express their love for Michael, similar to when we brought James Brown's body to the Apollo,' " Sharpton continued. "Michael was a part of Amateur Night at the Apollo, Michael in 2002 came back and performed at the Apollo for the Democratic National Committee.



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