



"Below the fold . . .

The devastating earthquake hit Haiti just a little over a week ago. Millions of dollars of "first response" aid have been raised both in the US and abroad. Thousands of aid workers-civilian and military- from around the world have been mobilized. This evening there will be a huge televised fundraiser. The outpouring of support from DU has been amazing: that goal of \$10,000 floated by the DU Grilling Society, the Social Justice/International LLCs. and other student groups has just about been met (or exceeded) so I learned a few minutes ago. Truly outstanding! In addition, the attendance at the panel discussion and the vigil showed that interest in knowing, and doing, more than simply giving money is strong in this community as well.

But . . . even at the panel discussion and vigil, conversation was turning to the outcome of the senatorial election in

Massachusetts. As of yesterday, the email version of the *New York Times* no longer had a Haiti story as one of its "Top Stories". And that is the way of the world. Big stories stay "big" in the news only so long, and are supplanted by other stories. And once those "big" stories begin to lose to their luster, they go "below the fold" in newspaper parlance. And, within a few days, they migrate to page 9 or 17.

Disasters the scope of Haiti will follow the same pattern. But it's not just true in news reporting, it's true in a figurative sense as well. The disaster that was Katrina was front-page news for a while, then migrated back in the paper. And, as we know, we're still fixing New Orleans-and it is one of the most visited cities in the United States! The story has gone "below the fold" or to page 9 in most of our national consciousness. The same will probably happen with Haiti.

It is a crime that New Orleans is still not "fixed". It will be a crime if we don't continue to pay attention to Haiti. Estimates are that it will take decades; the need for money, material aid, and workers will be there for a LONG time.

For that reason, I am collecting names of folks who'd like to work collectively on keeping the recovery of Haiti as a live issue. Close to 30 people signed up at the Haiti panel to be kept abreast of developments in this area. If you'd like to be added to that list, please email me at gary.brower@du.edu My thinking at this point is that, in the next week or so, I would set up a meeting for interested folks-undergraduates, graduate/professional students, staff and faculty alike-to brainstorm HOW to keep this situation alive, and how to continue/coordinate our communal response.

At the vigil, I played a [YouTube video set to Bruce Springsteen's "My City of Ruins"](#). Two lines were repeated over and over again: "With these hands" and "Rise up." And, at the end of the vigil, we anointed each others hands, recognizing that the hands of the God of Compassion were OUR hands.

Rise up!

Gary
January 22, 2010

University Chaplain

Driscoll Student Center South, 29 | 2050 E. Evans Ave. | Denver, CO 80208 | 303.871.4488 | Fax 303.871.3331 | www.du.edu