

News at a Glance

Bush extends Liberians' protected status

WASHINGTON (AP) — President George W. Bush is extending by 18 months the U.S. refuge for thousands of Liberians living in the United States under temporary protected status.

In a memo Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff, Bush halted the deportation process for 18 months. That is the normal length of the temporary protected status program unless renewed, and it is renewable until the political or natural crisis that caused the refugees involved to flee has ended.

The Liberians began coming to the United States in 1991, shortly after the West African country became involved in civil war that evolved eventually into chaos.

After elections in 2005 and modest signs of stabilization in Liberia, the Homeland Security Department lifted their temporary protected status last year, making their continued presence illegal as of this Oct. 1.

"Although the armed conflict in Liberia ended in 2003, and conditions have improved, I have found that the political and economic situation in Liberia continues to be fragile," Bush said in the memo.

About 3,600 Liberians are living in the United States under temporary protected status, federal officials have said, although activists claim there are thousands more. Many thousands of other Liberians are in the country, either U.S. citizens or under other immigrant statuses.

Social scientists to return to Harvard

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP) — A husband-wife team of prominent social scientists who left Harvard University three years ago after one was denied tenure are returning to the university's Department of African and African American Studies, officials said Thursday.

Marcyliena Morgan and Lawrence Bobo left for Stanford University in late 2003 after Morgan was denied tenure under former President Lawrence Summers.

She will return to Harvard in January as a tenured professor, said Evelyn Higginbotham, chairwoman of the department.

"Tenure was the issue for her leaving and that has been resolved," Higginbotham said.

Morgan is a linguistic anthropologist and expert in global hip-hop culture who will concentrate on hip-hop's role in AIDS prevention, Higginbotham said.

Bobo, who will have a joint appointment in sociology, researches the ways race and racial attitudes affect public policy.

Morgan and Bobo were among a number of high-profile defectors from Harvard's Department of African and African-American Studies. It started in 2002 when Cornel West and K. Anthony Appiah left for Princeton University.

West's departure was sparked by Summers, who reportedly questioned the academic validity of some of his ventures, including the recording of a rap album. The departures were seen as a serious blow to former department head Henry Louis Gates Jr.'s efforts to assemble a "dream team" of academics and create the nation's leading African-American studies department.

Residents: long-standing race problem may have led to black woman's ordeal

LOGAN, W.Va. (AP) — Some residents say the news of a black woman's brutal weeklong ordeal at the hands of white captors was shocking — but came as no surprise.

About 20 locals, mostly blacks, gathered at the library here last Thursday to comfort one another while recalling their own experiences with discrimination, at times through tears and shaking voices.

They vowed to find a way to help Megan Williams, the 20-year-old Charleston, W. Va., woman who was held captive for more than a week at a ramshackle trailer in Logan County, where authorities say she was tortured, sexually assaulted and forced to eat animal droppings.

At a news conference at the hospital where Williams is being treated, the Rev. Emanuel Heyliger of the Ferguson Memorial Baptist Church in Dunbar called Williams' ordeal "barbaric, heinous, despicable."

Williams did not attend the news conference. Her parents did, but declined to comment on the investigation. Authorities said Williams knew one of her alleged attackers, which played a role in their decision not to pursue civil rights (hate crime) violations at this time. A criminal complaint filed in July accused one suspect of hitting her. U.S. Attorney Charles T. Miller said he anticipated criticism over the decision.

Philadelphia seeks 10,000 black men to patrol violence-plagued streets

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Philadelphia's embattled police chief, acknowledging that police alone cannot quell a run of deadly violence, has called on 10,000 black men to patrol the streets to reduce crime.

Sylvester Johnson, who is black, says black men have a duty to protect more vulnerable residents. He wants each volunteer to pledge to work three hours a day for at least 90 days.

Philadelphia, the sixth-largest U.S. city, has nearly 1.5 million residents, 44 percent of them black. It has notched 294 homicides this year. More than 80 percent of the slayings involve handguns, and most involve young black males.

Johnson plans to introduce the "Call to Action: 10,000 Men, It's a New Day" program on Oct. 21, three months before his planned retirement.

Mayor John F. Street, whose term is up at the beginning of 2008, has voiced support for the program. Street and Johnson have both endured withering criticism from frustrated residents and community leaders who say they should do more to halt the violence.

The Chronicle (USPS 067-910) was established by Ernest H. Pitt and Nubisi Egemoye in 1974 and is published every Thursday by Winston-Salem Chronicle Publishing Co. Inc., 617 N. Liberty Street, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27101. Periodicals postage paid at Winston-Salem, N.C. Annual subscription price is \$30.72.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: The Chronicle, P.O. Box 1636, Winston-Salem, NC 27102-1636

Black majority in D.C. slipping

BY BRIAN WESTLEY
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Much has changed since Ben's Chili Bowl opened nearly 50 years ago on a bustling strip known as America's Black Broadway for its thriving black-owned shops and theaters.

Back then, the diner was a popular hangout for black bankers, doctors and blue-collar workers. Jazz greats Duke Ellington and Ella Fitzgerald could be found enjoying chili half-smokes and milkshakes after performing at nearby clubs.

Now, the crowd at the Washington landmark is sometimes mostly white, reflecting a neighborhood metamorphosis characterized by high-end condominiums and businesses like Starbucks.

"Sometimes you look around and wonder, 'Where are all the black people?'" said Virginia Ali, who opened the diner with her husband, Ben, in 1958.

A similar transformation is happening across Washington as the black population declines and more white residents and other ethnic groups move in. Demographers say if the trend continues the District of Columbia could lose its longtime majority-black status within 10 years. The changes are shaking up city politics, reshaping neighborhoods and displacing long-time residents.

Washington's black population peaked at 71 percent in 1970 as tens of thousands of white residents left for the suburbs, according to the U.S.



Census Bureau. But by 2006, the estimated number of black residents had fallen to 57 percent.

At the same time, the population of white residents, which plunged from 65 percent in 1950 to 27 percent 30 years later, is growing. By 2006, the census estimated that 38 percent of D.C. residents were white. The city's Asian and Hispanic populations also are climbing.

Analysts attribute the shift to lower-income and middle-class black residents leaving for the suburbs while young white professionals and others able to afford expensive housing are moving in. The newcomers to D.C. are being lured by a robust economy, new condos and a chance to escape worsening highway congestion.

"The city today is occupied by a lot of singles and

childless couples who have put incomes together," said Robert Lang, director of the Metropolitan Institute at Virginia Tech. "I don't think it's a straight-on white gentrification — it's more affluent as a whole."

Washington isn't the only city where neighborhoods have gentrified in recent years. But D.C. is one of the few places seeing such dramatic change, said William Frey, a demographer at the Brookings Institution. He expects the city will cease to be majority black by 2015.

The city's diversifying racial makeup is being reflected in local politics. Adrian M. Fenty, who became mayor in January, is black, but many of his appointees are not. The police and fire chiefs are white, as is the city administrator. The new chancellor of the city's public schools is Korean-American. Those positions were held by black officials under previous mayors.

"Probably, at some point in the near future, we'll see a white mayor," said Dwight

See D.C. on A12

Internet Access
Only **\$9.95** Per month.
CORECOMM
FREE 24/7 Live Technical Support
Unlimited Hours, No Contracts!
10 E-mail Addresses
FREE Spam Protection
Invoice Billing Available
Reliable Access Since 1994
1-877-267-3266
www.core.com

Study: Black elected officials hold more seats but have little power

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

COLUMBIA, Mo. — Researchers examining trends in state politics have found that during the 1990s, African-American officeholders had difficulty translating election to public office into positions of authority such as committee chairs in state legislatures.

The findings, said a University of Missouri-Columbia faculty member who participated in the study, provide somewhat of a "mixed picture" of political gains by African Americans.

"I think people tend to focus on the national level, on the congressional level, looking at Senator Barack Obama as being a good barometer of black America and the American political process," said Marvin Overby, professor of political science in MU's College of Arts and Science. "But, I think we get a much better picture by looking at state data — especially by looking at the extent to which African Americans have been able to turn elections into positions of power within state political institutions."

Overby, along with Byron D'Andra Orey, associate professor of political science at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and Christopher W. Larimer, assistant professor of political science at the University of Northern Iowa, found that from 1989 through 1999 African Americans were under represented as committee chairs in state legislatures throughout the United States. The findings are viewed as "mixed" because despite overall under representation, African Americans still occupied a significant number of leadership positions on the most important committees and were, in fact, over represented on committees that focused on social services.

"It's hard to be ecstatic," Overby said. "You can look and see a glass that's half empty or one that's half full. There was a large increase in the number of black legislators serving in state legislatures during the 1990s, but only limited success in trans-

lating those gains into positions where they had their hands on the levers of power."

The researchers examined data from the Council of State Governments, the 1993 Black

Elected Officials directory and 1999-2000 Directory of African American Legislators. The study focuses on a pivotal period of political change —

See Study on A12



Morgan



Obama

