

News at a Glance

One-fourth of NYC residents have herpes virus, says the Health Department

NEW YORK (AP) — A city Health Department study finds that more than a fourth of adult New Yorkers are infected with the virus that causes genital herpes.

The study, released Monday, says about 26 percent of New York City adults have genital herpes, compared to about 19 percent nationwide.

The department says genital herpes can double a person's risk for contracting HIV.

Herpes can cause painful sores, but most people have no recognizable symptoms.

Among New Yorkers, the herpes rate is higher among women, black people and gay men.

The health department urges consistent use of condoms, and says its STD clinics offer free, confidential herpes testing.

James Earl Ray's brother pens book on Martin Luther King Jr., assassination

QUINCY, Ill. (AP) — James Earl Ray's oldest brother has written a book that he says explains who really killed civil rights leader the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

John Larry Ray has lived in Quincy for about four years.

The 75-year-old told The (Alton) Telegraph in Illinois for a story in Sunday's editions that his book "Truth at Last" reveals information about the King assassination that he's kept to himself for decades.

He claims his brother, James Earl Ray, had ties to the FBI and CIA and fled Memphis after the assassination out of fear for his life.

The book also discusses the boys' early life in Quincy and Alton.

James Earl Ray died of liver disease in Nashville in 1998 while serving a 99-year prison sentence for King's 1968 murder.



James Earl Ray

Judge rejects racial bias argument

MANCHESTER, N.H. (AP) — A judge has rejected the argument that racial bias will taint the trial of a black man accused of killing a white police officer.

Michael Addison, 28, is charged with capital murder in the death of Manchester Officer Michael Briggs, who was shot to death in October 2006. In two rulings last week, Hillsborough County Superior Court Judge Kathleen McGuire acknowledged that racism exists but said those who are affected by it still must be held accountable for their actions.

She pointed to juror questions by attorneys, instructions to jurors to not let race influence their decisions and the ability of both sides to eliminate jurors as safeguards against racial discrimination.

Though racism may exist, McGuire said, it's not reason enough to throw out the death penalty.

"The court is unwilling to accept the pessimistic conclusions about our criminal justice system which inevitably flow from the defendant's arguments," she wrote.

She said Addison hasn't proven he's been the subject of purposeful discrimination, nor is there any evidence that prosecutors decided to seek the death penalty against him because of his race.

Addison's lawyer says he believes the defense presented a complete record of how racial bias can affect capital murder trials.

Briggs, 35, was fatally wounded in an alley after he and a partner approached Addison while investigating a domestic dispute.

Bob Dylan tells British press that Sen. Obama is redefining US politics

LONDON (AP) — Bob Dylan believes Barack Obama is redefining politics in the United States and could deliver change to a nation in upheaval, according to a British newspaper interview published Saturday.

In an interview with the Times of London, the musician is quoted as saying that Obama has changed politics in the U.S., though Dylan does not specifically endorse the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee.

"Well, you know right now America is in a state of upheaval. Poverty is demoralizing. You can't expect people to have the virtue of purity when they are poor," Dylan is quoted as saying.

"But we've got this guy out there now who is redefining the nature of politics from the ground up ... Barack Obama," he was quoted as saying. "He's redefining what a politician is, so we'll have to see how things play out. Am I hopeful? Yes, I'm hopeful that things might change. Some things are going to have to."

The newspaper said the interview took place in Denmark during Dylan's current tour of Scandinavia.

"You should always take the best from the past, leave the worst back there and go forward into the future," Dylan said, apparently referring to Obama's campaign.

The 67-year-old singer has an exhibition of his art work opening in London next week.



Dylan

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Report says Asian-Americans' academic success hides problems

BY JUSTIN POPE
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

With their high visibility on elite college campuses, Asian-Americans have picked up a nickname that makes many uncomfortable: the "model minority."

But a new report argues that Asian-Americans' reputation for academic success has obscured important variations within the group — and created a false sense that all their education needs are being met.

"They face a number of challenges such as being invisible, people assuming they don't have any educational needs, they don't need services, they don't need to be included when it comes to particular policies," said Robert Teranishi of New York University, one of the authors of the study, a collaboration between two NYU research institutes and the College Board, which owns the SAT exam.

Also, he added, "there's some emerging trends that we've found relating to use of mental health services, suicide rates" indicating Asian-American students may be at particular risk — though he cautioned the data there are limited.

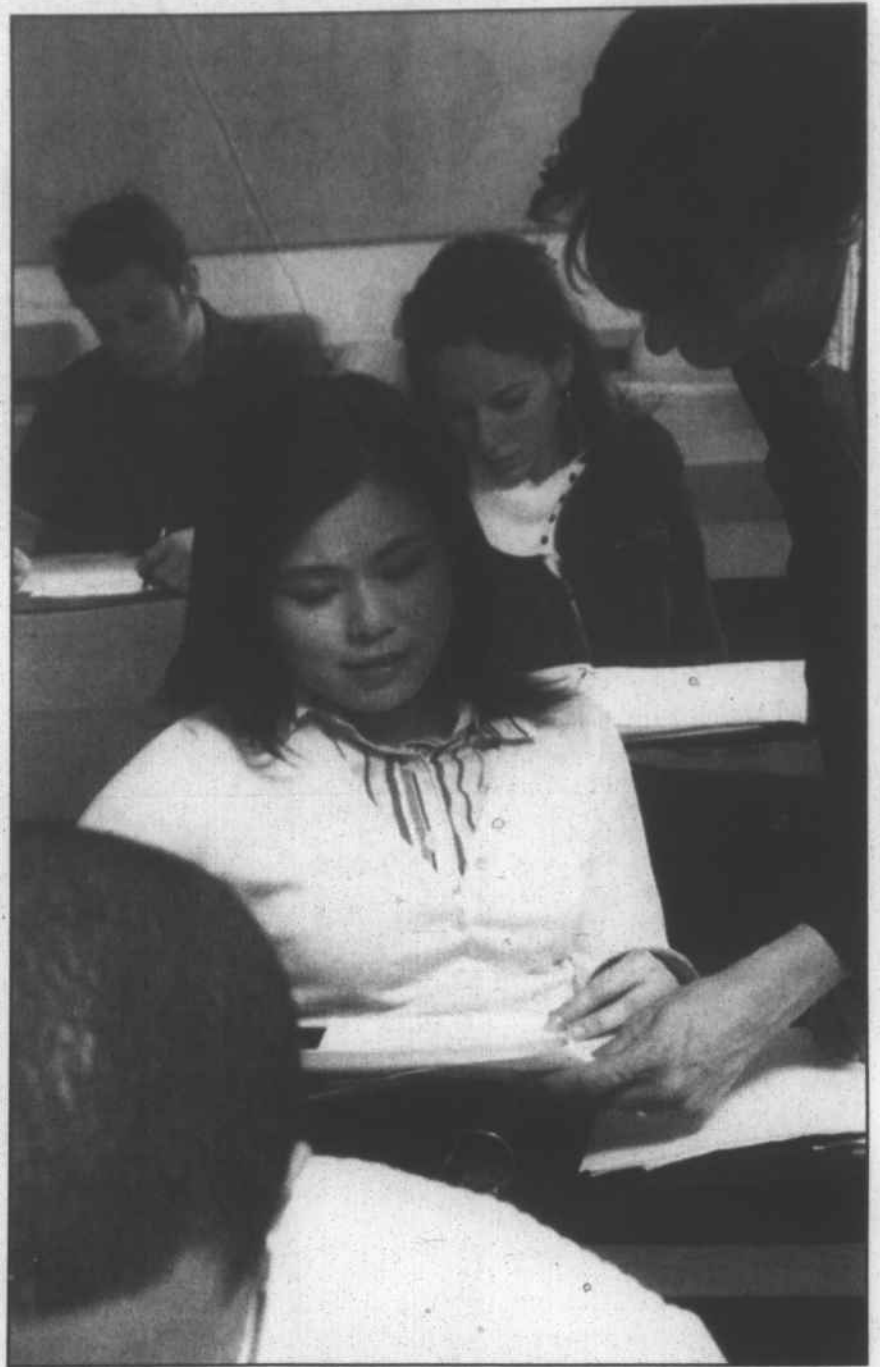
Relative to other ethnic minorities, Asian-Americans have, indeed, been extremely successful by many academic measures. They substantially outscore other minority groups on average scores on the SAT college entrance exam. And according to the report more than 44 percent included in the group Asian-American (but excluding Pacific Islanders) have earned a bachelor's degree, 20 percentage points higher than the national average.

In the prestigious University of California system, the number of Asian-Americans enrolling each fall has shot up 59 percent in the decade since a ballot initiative ended racial preferences in admissions.

But the study notes often overlooked disparities in achievement among various Asian and Pacific Islander groups.

Just 7.5 percent of Hmong immigrants, 9.2 percent of Cambodians and 7.7 percent of Laotians had earned a bachelor's degree in 2000, compared to 43.8 percent of Filipinos and an identical proportion of Koreans.

On standardized tests, Asians are often disproportionately represented among the highest scores, but also among the lowest — doomed by poor English



See Asians on A4

DC school's first major leaguer returns

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Emmanuel Burriss took a look around Nationals Park and gasped. He was in the major leagues, and he was at home.

The 23-year-old Burriss made his major league debut April 20 for the San Francisco Giants, and it was a big deal for Washington. Burriss, a 2003 graduate of the city's Woodrow Wilson High School, is the first District of Columbia public school graduate to play in the major



Emmanuel Burriss

leagues since 1981.

Burriss wasn't in the starting lineup for last Friday's game with the Nationals, but his manager, Bruce Bochy, promised that he'd get at least one start in the Giants' four-game series here.

"It felt really great to be able to drive through the city I grew up in. It's changed a lot. I really didn't recognize it," Burriss said. "They did a really great job with the stadium."

When Burriss grew up here, there wasn't any big league baseball. He went to Baltimore to see the Orioles or to Bowie, Maryland to see minor league ball, and while many of his friends played football or basketball, it was always baseball for him.

"My parents got me involved in baseball early. I started playing when I was eight years old, so it's always been baseball for me," Burriss said.

Burriss is one of a dwindling number of black players in the majors, and says once he becomes more established, he'd like to encourage young African Americans to play baseball.

"I want to get myself set-

tled so that I can make a bigger impact and hopefully rebuild the African American community when it comes to major league baseball," Burriss said.

For now, Burriss is playing both shortstop and second base. In 30 games, the switch-hitter is batting .254 with 6 RBIs.

He estimated he reserved

about 100 tickets for family and friends for Friday's game.

"Hopefully, the city will get involved, and they'll start cheering for me, too," Burriss said.



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