

# News at a Glance

## NBA great Dave Bing is new mayor of Detroit

**DETROIT (AP)** — Basketball legend Dave Bing was elected as Detroit's mayor through the end of the year, sweeping the incumbent from office in the city with myriad problems.

"The real work starts now," Bing said to loud cheers during his victory speech the night of May 5.

"What we will bring ... is efficiency, transparency, honesty and integrity back to the mayor's office," he said.

Bing, 65, will be mayor through 2009, serving the balance of the term that belonged to Democrat Kwame Kilpatrick, who resigned in September and went to jail after admitting he lied during a civil trial to cover up an affair with his chief of staff.

Bing must run again in the regular Aug. 4 nonpartisan primary and win the Nov. 3 general election to hold the mayor's seat for a full four years.

The founder of steel manufacturer The Bing Group announced his run for mayor the day after Kilpatrick stepped down as part of pleas to two criminal cases.

Bing was the No. 2 overall pick by the Detroit Pistons in 1966 out of Syracuse. He played in Detroit until he was traded in 1975 and is a member of professional basketball's Hall of Fame.

His Bing Steel company opened in Detroit in 1980, and The Bing Group is a manufacturer and supplier to the auto industry that employs about 500 workers.



Bing

## Judge who wore blackface is in hot water once again

**NEW ORLEANS (AP)** — A judge disciplined for racial insensitivity has been brought back before the Louisiana Supreme Court to answer allegations that he belittled a woman who wanted a restraining order against her husband.

Judge Timothy Ellender refused to keep in place an emergency restraining order obtained by Eula Smith Warren, telling her she could get a divorce but not a restraining order. He also congratulated her husband, Charles Warren, for threatening to make his 2-year-old daughter's "booty bleed" if she didn't behave herself.

The state Judicial Commission recommended public censure, saying the incident didn't include vulgarities or shouting.

Ellender was suspended for six months in 2004 for wearing blackface to a Halloween party.

## Parks statue 'loved to death'

**MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)** — A plaster statue of civil rights figure Rosa Parks is one of the most abused exhibits at the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis.

Parks became one of the most enduring heroes of the struggle for equal rights when she refused to give up her seat on a city bus to a white man in Montgomery, Ala., 54 years ago.

The Commercial Appeal reports some museum visitors talk to the statue of Parks, but others have been known to sit their children on the statue's lap.

Museum curator Barbara Andrews said the worst abuse she has seen was someone snatching the purse from Parks' statue. The likeness has also lost eyeglasses and had fingers broken.

Andrews says repairs to the exhibit cost between \$200 and \$400 and are done about twice each year.

## Ali to be honored by college

**ALLENTOWN, Pa. (AP)** — Muhammad Ali will receive an honorary doctorate from Muhlenberg College.

The former three-time heavyweight champion will be honored at Muhlenberg's 161st commencement May 17 in Allentown.

Also to be honored will be Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Galway Kinnell and former Pennsylvania environmental secretary Kathleen McGinty.

Ali has Parkinson's disease and has helped raise more than \$45 million for Parkinson's research. He also has been honored for his humanitarian work and received the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Kinnell is the author of 13 books and until his recent retirement taught at New York University.



Ali

## Alomar settles AIDS lawsuit

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Roberto Alomar and his ex-girlfriend have apparently settled her lawsuit claiming he made her have unprotected sex even though he had AIDS.

Ilya Dall had sued Alomar in Brooklyn federal court in February for \$15 million. Her allegations that he demanded sex without a condom despite showing signs of HIV were never corroborated.

An entry in the court file on Tuesday says a settlement had been reached. Dall's lawyer wouldn't comment. A call to Alomar's attorney wasn't immediately returned.

Alomar spent 17 years with seven teams in Major League Baseball and is regarded as one of the game's great second basemen. He has said that he is "in very good health."



Alomar

# Sen. Burr among critics of reduced support for HBCUs

Obama budget does not include millions that black schools have received for last two years

JUSTIN POPE  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

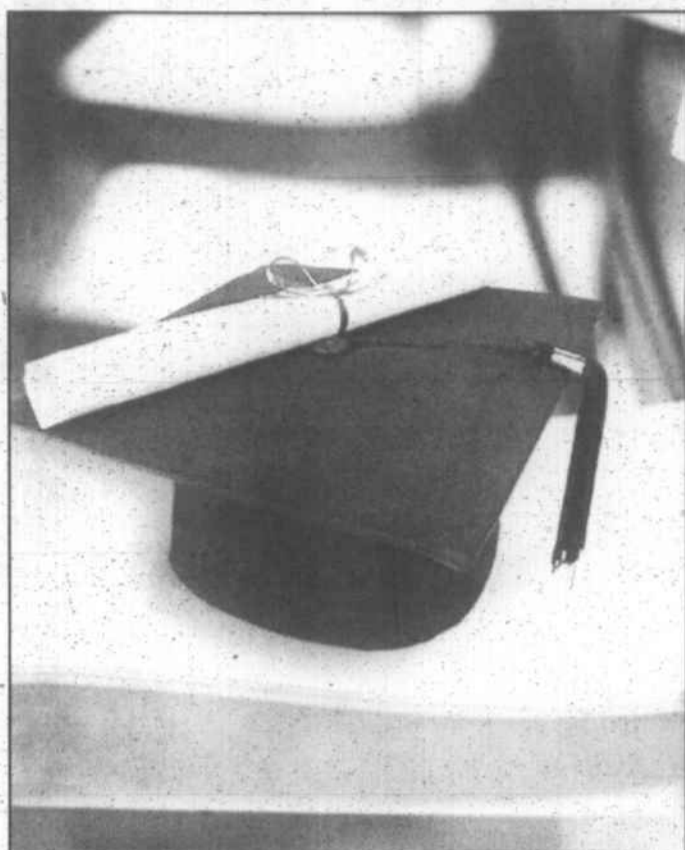
Leaders of historically black colleges say they'll fight a reduction in a federal program they call a financial lifeline at a time of economic distress for the schools and their students.

President Barack Obama's education budget, unveiled last Thursday, included major spending increases in many areas — but didn't include an extra \$85 million that black institutions have received annually for the past two years thanks to a 2007 change to the student loan laws.

That two-year-old program provided direct funds to federally recognized HBCUs — historically black colleges and universities.

Other direct federal support to the schools would increase from \$238 million to \$250 million, but with the expiration of the HBCU fund, the schools effectively would see a \$73 million cut.

A program supporting Native American tribal colleges would also see decreased funding, while one for institutions serving large numbers of Hispanic students would see an



increase from \$93 million to \$98 million.

Education Department officials emphasized that all such institutions stand to gain from other parts of the budget, notably the proposed increase in the maximum

Pell Grant for low-income students by \$200 — to \$5,550.

Still, the move could suggest that even as the administration pushes big education spending increases focused on low-income

and minority students, direct support for institutions isn't the most favored method. The HBCU program is unusual; most federal help for higher education goes to students, and thus only indirectly to schools.

"The administration is definitely committed to strengthening HBCUs and other colleges and universities that serve minority populations," said Carmel Martin, assistant secretary of education, on a press conference call last Thursday. "And one of the best ways we can do that is by supporting our students."

The historically black colleges and universities have been hit particularly hard by the recession, and HBCU leaders said this is no time to cut back on programs offering direct support to institutions that play an outsized role in educating the neediest students.

The 105 federally recognized HBCUs make up just three percent of U.S. colleges but account for nearly 20 percent of undergraduate degrees awarded to blacks, according to UNCF, the United Negro College Fund.

See HBCUs on A7

## Lawmakers want probe of tribes' treatment of blacks

BY BEN EVANS  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**WASHINGTON** — A small group of powerful House Democrats has asked the Justice Department to investigate whether American Indian tribes are engaging in modern-day racial segregation against black "freedmen" who are descendants of former tribal slaves.

The lawmakers, including House Judiciary Committee Chairman John Conyers of Michigan and former civil rights leader John Lewis of Georgia, say five major tribes have been systematically removing freedmen from their membership or relegating them to second-class status without voting rights and other benefits.

In a letter sent last week, they asked Attorney General Eric Holder to investigate whether the tribes are violating treaties and breaking the law.

"Over 40 years after enactment of the landmark Civil Rights and Voting Rights Acts, there is a place in the United States that African Americans cannot vote or receive federal benefits as a matter of law," the letter says. "They are called 'freedmen,' but they are anything but free."

The lawmakers said the tribes' practices prevent the slave descendants from accessing millions of dollars in federal tribal funding for housing, health care and other services.

Justice Department spokesman Andrew Ames said the agency would "review the letter to determine what action, if any, is appropriate."

Mike Miller, a spokesman for the Cherokee Nation, one of the tribes named in the letter, called it "sad but not surprising."

"As the Cherokee Nation has explained to more than 100 members of Congress through meetings, this issue has never been about race but only about who is a citizen of an Indian Nation," Miller said.

Jon Velie, an attorney who has represented freedmen in a bid to stop the Cherokee Nation from revoking their tribal citizenship, said, "The letter sent from six of the most influential members of Congress is a great sign of hope for the Freedmen, who have endured a second-class status for too long. Congress' champions of civil rights have taken the issue of the

Freedmen to Attorney General Eric Holder — a man who has shown great courage in taking on the issue of race."

Cherokees and other tribes have long argued that they simply want to restrict their membership to blood descendants.









Rep. Lewis



Rep. Conyers

See Tribes on A7

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