

News at a Glance

Shaw University \$20 million in debt

RALEIGH (AP) — Shaw University is \$20 million in debt and is ending its relationship with its president of six years.

The school said that President Clarence Newsome will take a one-year, paid sabbatical. But the chairman of Shaw's Board of Trustees, Willie Gary, said Newsome wouldn't return to the school.

Newsome and the school agreed to the split Friday, Gary said, one day before graduation, when about 400 students received their degrees. The school has about 2,700 undergraduate and graduate students.

"We wished each other (God's) speed," Gary said. "Even though we were going in different directions, we both agreed that no one or anyone is bigger than this university."

Terms of the agreement are confidential, Gary said. He promised that an interim president would be appointed within 10 days, then the school will conduct a nationwide search for Newsome's replacement.

Meanwhile, Gary said each of Shaw's 40 trustees has pledged to contribute \$50,000 to the university. Gary said he also is asking alumni to contribute as the school plans tough cuts, perhaps entire departments.

In December, more than 100 students filled Newsome's office to protest poor dorm conditions, including moldy bathrooms and toilets that didn't work. Some wore duct tape with the words "Rats" and "Ants" written on them.



Newsome

Players sue school district

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) — Four Richland High School girls basketball players have filed a civil rights lawsuit against the school district and their former coach, contending they were the victims of racial discrimination or harassment.

The four girls and their families contend they suffered the discrimination in two seasons under former coach Bruce Robertson, who resigned in April.

A spokesman for the Richland School District said Friday he had just received the lawsuit and declined to comment. Robertson could not be immediately located.

The lawsuit was filed in federal court in Spokane by players Nicole McCowan and Shallynn Jackson, who are both 18, and players identified as J.M. and B.C., who are still minors, and their parents, Jackson is black, while B.C. is black and Hispanic. The other two players are white and came to the defense of their teammates, the lawsuit contends.

"He did not like African-American girls and particularly did not like girls who complained to their parents about his abusive coaching," the lawsuit said, alleging the coach retaliated by denying McCowan, Jackson, J.M., and B.C. practice and playing time.

McCowan and Jackson were ultimately cut from the team before their senior season, the lawsuit said.

The lawsuit said the parents of the athletes brought their concerns to the school district, but could not get any help. They contend the coach's actions "destroyed the girls' self-esteem, and devastated them emotionally and, at times, physically."

Beyonce, T.I. lead BET nominations

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Beyonce and T.I. have topped the list of BET Awards nominations, with five each.



Chart-topper Beyonce.

Lil Wayne, T-Pain and Keri Hilson each have four nominations for the awards, sponsored by the cable channel geared to black viewers.

Other multiple nominees include Jennifer Hudson, Jazmine Sullivan, Kanye West, Keyshia Cole and Jamie Foxx, who is set to host the show on June 28 at the Shrine Auditorium.

Cross burning shocks Oregon woman

ALSEA, Ore. (AP) — A white woman who moved with her adopted African-American son to the small Coast Range town of town of Alsea in Benton County says she's shocked someone burned a cross on her lawn.

Summer MacLean says she found the 5-foot cross on her front lawn last weekend.

"I feel terrible, and I feel like I want to leave," she said. "It's so stupid. Prejudice is the height of stupidity."

Her 13-year-old son, Isaiah Cavanagh, told the Corvallis Gazette-Times it appears somebody wrapped an old sheet around the wood cross and set it afire.

"They're just proving they're ignorant," Cavanagh said. "It just means they don't have anything better to do with their lives."

A black charcoal line across the green grass marks the spot where the cross burned.

MacLean says she moved from Corvallis to Alsea about a year ago to provide a nice place and good school for her son.

Shockingly, authorities in the town say because there weren't any threats or other evidence of prejudice, the crime is not being classified as a hate crime, he said. Instead, it is classified as reckless burning.

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Atlanta couple's 'Buy Black' experiment becomes a movement

BY ERRIN HAINES
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATLANTA — It's been two months since 2-year-old Cori pulled the gold stud from her left earlobe, and the piercing is threatening to close as her mother, Maggie Anderson, hunts for a replacement.

It's not that the earring was all that rare — but finding the right store has become a quest of quixotic proportions.

Maggie and John Anderson of Chicago vowed four months ago that for one year, they would try to patronize only black-owned businesses. The "Empowerment Experiment" is the reason John had to suffer for hours with a stomach ache and Maggie no longer gets that brand-name lather when she washes her hair. A grocery trip is a 14-mile (22-kilometer) odyssey.

"We kind of enjoy the sacrifice because we get to make the point ... but I am going without stuff and I am frustrated on a daily basis," Maggie Anderson said. "It's like, my people have been here 400 years and we don't even have a Walgreens (drug store) to show for it."

So far, the Andersons have spent hundreds of dollars with black businesses, from grocery stores to dry cleaners. But the couple still hasn't found a mortgage lender, home security system vendor or toy store. Nonetheless, they're hoping to expand the endeavor beyond their Chicago home.

Plans are underway to track spending among supporters nationwide and build a national database of quality black businesses. The first affiliate chapter has been launched in Atlanta, and the couple has established a foundation to raise funds for black businesses and an annual convention.

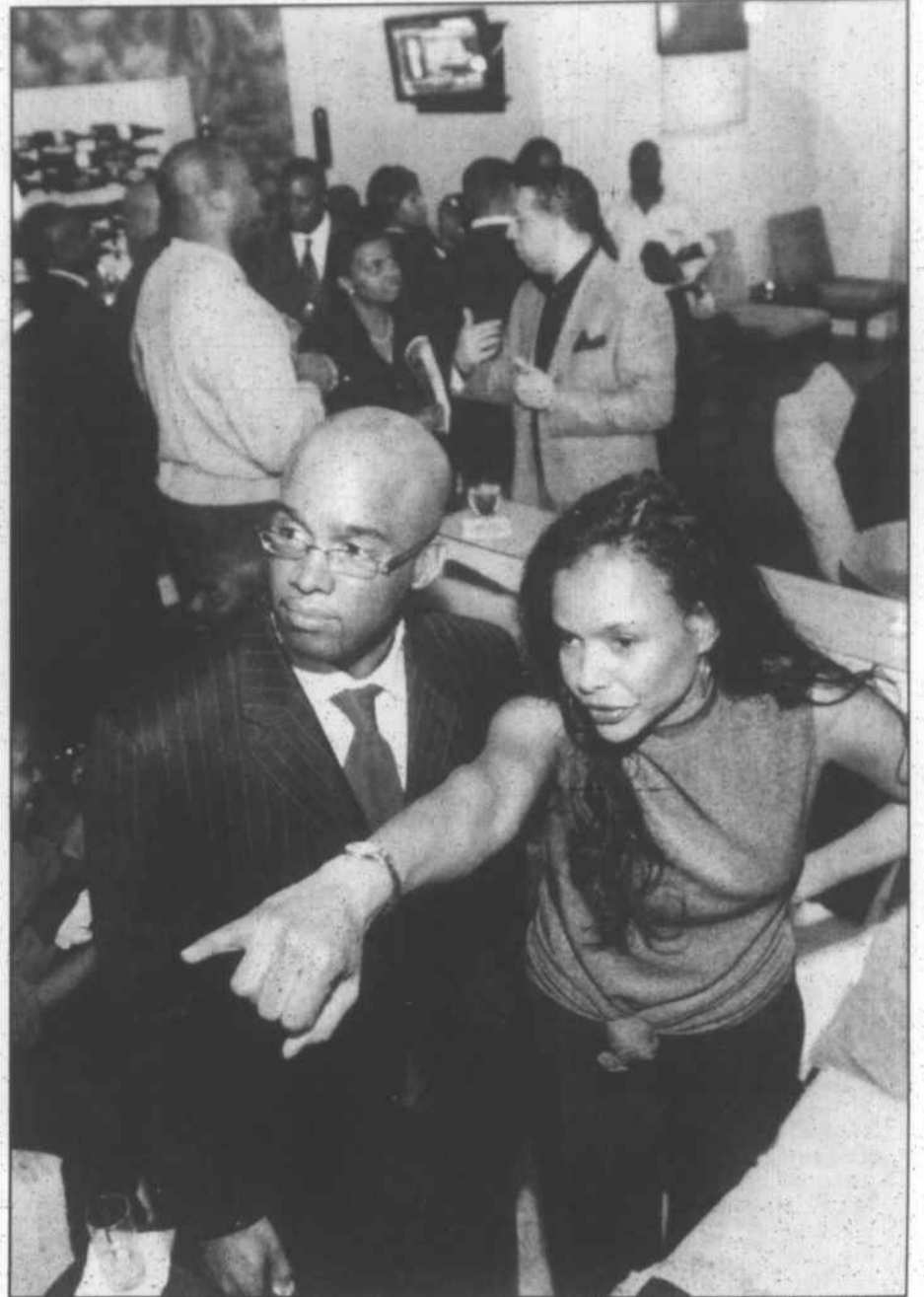
"We have the real power to do something, to use the money we spend every day to solve our problems," Maggie Anderson said recently at a meet-and-greet in Atlanta. "We have to believe that black businesses are just as good as everybody else's."

Now, the Andersons are following up with 4,000 people who signed up for the experiment on their Web site to gauge their commitment and set up online accounts to track their spending. Hundreds have also joined the experiment's Facebook page, Maggie Anderson said.

Gregory Price, chairman of the economics department at Morehouse College, said black visionaries like Booker T. Washington and Marcus Garvey made similar calls to action.

"The idea is a sound one, given that black Americans are still underrepresented in the ranks of the self-employed and that entrepreneurship is a key component to wealth," Price said.

There are one million black businesses in the United States, accounting for more than \$100 billion in annual sales,



Maggie Anderson talks to Michael Hill as they prepare for a presentation of "The Empowerment Experiment" at the Vino Libro wine bar in Atlanta.

according to the National Black Chamber of Commerce. The latest U.S. Census numbers report that blacks have more than \$800 billion in expendable income each year. African-Americans make up about 12 percent of the U.S. population, according to the Census.

The Andersons track their spending on their Web site, and estimate about 55 percent of their monthly spending is with black businesses for things like daycare, groceries, car maintenance and home improvements.

One of the businesses highlighted by the Empowerment Experiment is Brenda Brown's Atlanta wine boutique, a shop with a growing black clientele. She said the project can help overcome the problems many black consumers lament.

"When we were a community of black folks who could not go to the white stores,

our community of black stores flourished," Brown said, referring to America's history of segregation, especially in the South. "When we were given the opportunity to go into the white store, it was like nothing else mattered anymore and we wanted to go to the white store, regardless of what the black store provided. We could have the same or better products if we supported (black businesses) in the same way."

Lewis Peoples, 45, lives in a black neighborhood in southwest Atlanta but didn't think to spend his money with black businesses until a friend told him about the project.

"So often, we make purchases and decisions and aren't even mindful that there is a need to support our own businesses," said Peoples. "Now, I'm reaching

See Buy black on A9

Ayers, Wright meet to talk Mideast peace

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

OAK PARK, Ill. — Two men who created ways for President Barack Obama on the campaign trail have appeared together at a suburban Chicago church to promote Mideast peace.

The Rev. Jeremiah Wright Jr. and 1960s radical William Ayers spoke Sunday at First United Church of Oak Park, during a forum on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The event took place the day before Obama was set to meet with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Both Wright and Ayers urged the hundreds in attendance to rethink the conflict, but both also took the opportunity to poke fun at the scrutiny they received during Obama's run for the White House.

Organizers of the Committee for a Just Peace in Israel and Palestine said Wright and Ayers were invited because of their work on the conflict, not their political fame.

"We can't be squelching viewpoints, because they are unpopular..." said spokeswoman Caren Levy Van Slyke.

Wright, the former head of Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago, was Obama's pastor for two decades. But Obama distanced himself from Wright after video clips of the pastor's more incendiary remarks were widely circulated.

Ayers, a co-founder of the Weather Underground, once served with Obama on the board of a Chicago charity. Ayers also hosted an event for Obama in the 1990s.

At the event, Ayers, a professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago, said a new curriculum is needed to better understand the conflict. He said he felt "support and



Rev. Wright



Ayers

solidarity" with Wright when his association to Obama became an issue on the campaign trail. He poked fun at how he was labeled a "terrorist" and that Wright was referred to as a "fiery preacher."

Wright made parallels between Trinity's actions

opposing apartheid in South Africa and current efforts for Mideast peace. He said local actions calling for peace in the troubled region would be heard.

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