

Katrina victims in the North prepare for their first cold winter

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gear.

"I'm looking at the leaves," he said. "It's amazing to me. In New Orleans, you get two colors: green and dirty brown." In New England, "I see pretty yellows, a little burgundy color, light green."

He also plans to give skiing

a shot.

Jackson, who plans to find work as an HIV counselor, said fall in New York has been preferable to the sizzling heat in Louisiana. "It's like we have air conditioning outside," she said.

A few chairs away from her in a New York assistance cen-

ter sat Bernard Pearce, a New Orleans musician. "It's not 200 mph winds and a 30-foot storm surge," Pearce said. "I'll take a little cold and snow over a hurricane any day."

Andrew Chambers found shelter with relatives in New York after fleeing Biloxi,

Miss. Originally from Jamaica, Chambers has never seen snow and he wonders how cold weather compares to standing in front of an open refrigerator.

Snow is "something I'm looking forward to seeing," he said. "It's making my imagination run wild."

Winston-Salem State University losing its 'suitcase college' atmosphere

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WINSTON-SALEM—The clock-tower bell tolled eight times. On a recent Thursday night, strains of the marching band drifted through the open windows of the dimly lit dorm living room.

Students plopped into overstuffed chairs. When the seats ran out, others leaned against the walls.

The master of ceremonies—a Winston-Salem State University sophomore named Ashley Bowman—walked to one end of the room and raised her voice.

"I ask at this time that all cell phones be turned off or on vibrate," she said, opening the student open-mike night at Moore Residence Hall. "First up is Melessia Kellar. She's a freshman biology major from Connecticut, and she is going to do a monologue called 'Dark Secret.'"

The days of Winston-Salem State's reputation as a "suitcase" school—where students came for the week and left for the weekend—seem to be waning.

As enrollment at WSSU has increased—more than 98 percent in the last five years

—so has the number of students living on campus.

Designated a "focused-growth" campus by the University of North Carolina system, WSSU is one of seven public universities in the state expected to accommodate a wave of high-school graduates.

This year's freshman class is the largest in school history. Although school officials are uncertain whether WSSU will continue to grow at the current rate, they expect to enroll about 8,000 students by 2015.

At the recent open-mike night, a handful of students signed up to read poetry and sing about love, their childhoods, relationships, sex, love and more love. About 30 spectators drifted in and out of the living room of the all-girls dorm, sharing seats on couches and even on tables as they drank lemonade and ate cookies.

The singing and the reading went on well into the evening.

"If you know it, help me out, because I'm nervous," said Mychaell Johnson, an 18-year-old freshman biology

major, before she began to sing in front of the living-room crowd.

A few beats later, she was joined by a chorus of female voices and a staccato of snapping fingers. "Let's take a long walk around the park, after dark," they sang.

During a five-minute break, the blaring band passed by. Several students began dancing.

Mason Parker, a 19-year-old junior who lives on campus, stood outside.

He said that the change in campus atmosphere—or that there's now an atmosphere at all—is noticeable. The change seems genuine, something that's not just orchestrated for glossy college-brochure photo shoots.

"It creates a kind of school spirit because the freshmen become a lot more involved," Parker said. "When I was a freshman, everyone went home on the weekends, and if you didn't go home on the weekends, you were just bored."

Residence advisers are organizing game and card nights, ice-cream socials, video-game tournaments,

and a haunted house. For the more practical-minded, there are dorm workshops such as "How to Tie a Tie" and "How to Get a Tutor."

The student health center will have more part-time staffers this year, including a pharmacist. The student fitness center is open longer on the weekends, and, on some Saturday nights, there are late-night parties in the gym.

"In the past, we probably wouldn't have dreamed about putting a comedy show on Saturday because nobody would have come," said Theo Howard, an assistant vice chancellor who oversees campus activities.

University officials hope that more campus activities for greater numbers of students mean that fewer of them will drink alcohol.

But Howard said that campus life is also tied to student retention.

"On the weekend, people are actually here," said Ashley Barbre, a residence adviser and a junior.

"It's very interesting to see a bunch of women singing to 'Beauty and the Beast,'" she added.

Black Holocaust Museum struggling financially

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MILWAUKEE—The nationally acclaimed America's Black Holocaust Museum is struggling financially, due to its inability to find an executive director and lagging attendance, officials say.

The nearly 20-year-old museum has gone from having a working capital budget of \$1.1 million a few years ago to not having enough money to make full mortgage payments on its building.

"We're digging out of the hole," said Marissa Weaver, the museum's former executive director, who recently came back to the board to help stabilize the facility. "We're putting together a whole new board."

One of her key functions had been grant-writing.

Since her departure, the museum has been led by a string of interim directors working on month-to-month contracts.

"We are now working to re-establish relationships with donors," Weaver said.

One of the first of its kind in the country, the museum explores the struggles of blacks in America from slav-

ery to the present time. It was founded in 1988 by James Cameron, who, in 1930, survived a lynch mob in his hometown of Marion, Ind.

Over the years, the museum has hosted a number of high-profile exhibits, including the "A Slave Ship Speaks: the Wreck of the Henrietta Marie," which brought in 75,000 visitors in 1999.

"It was wonderful and things were really booming," said Marty Stein, a philanthropist who recently joined the board.

But in the past two weeks the museum has seen just 305 visitors.

Stein attributes the museum's current state to lack of leadership from its board.

"There were people who didn't really take their responsibility seriously and consequently let the museum drift," Stein said. "Now we are out raising money."

Board member Reuben Harpole said the museum needs to raise about \$300,000 a year for its operating budget.

The National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, which has had nearly 300,000 visitors since opening in Cincinnati a year ago,

looked to Milwaukee's museum and others like it for tips and advice before opening, said Paul Bernish, chief communications officer for the Ohio facility.

"The significance of that museum is that it brings to the forefront issues and history related to African-Americans, who are an integral part of this society," Bernish said. "This country has the most diverse population in the world."

Funding for black museums throughout the country has always been a challenge, said Lawrence J. Pijaux Jr., executive director for the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute and president and chief executive officer of the Association of African American Museums.

Often, he said, the difficulty comes with the subject matter.

"They focus on the plight of African-Americans in this country and the stories we tell are painful," Pijaux said. "A discussion on civil rights and slavery may be uncomfortable. It makes it difficult for us to receive financial support from the majority community."

Board member and

Wisconsin Secretary of Revenue Michael Morgan said their fund raising drive is heading in a positive direction.

"It hasn't resulted in pulling us out of the crisis, but we have good people who are part of the museum now," he said.

Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett said he's confident the museum can work through its financial problems. The museum received \$75,000 as part of



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