

News at a Glance

African-American to help lead Republican Barbour's transition team

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — Republican Gov.-elect Haley Barbour said his transition team chairmen are experienced leaders who demonstrate the kind of political and racial diversity he intends to have in his administration.

The transition chairmen are former Supreme Court Justice Reuben Anderson of Jackson and Hancock Bank CEO George Schloegel of Gulfport.



Anderson

Anderson, a longtime Democrat, was the first black Mississippi Supreme Court justice since Reconstruction, serving from 1985-90. He is a lawyer and has served on corporate boards with Barbour, including the board of Mississippi Chemical Corp. Barbour said he has known Anderson since he was a young lawyer and Anderson was a circuit judge two decades ago.

Schloegel served on Democratic Gov. William Winter's transition team after the 1979 election and was founder and the first chairman of Coast 21, a strategic planning group.

Barbour, a former Republican National Committee chairman, defeated Democratic Gov. Ronnie Musgrove and will take office Jan. 13.

Anderson said he had three conversations with Barbour about the transition before his appointment as co-chairman was announced. He said Barbour confirmed a "commitment to diversity and inclusion."

"He's committed to what I'm committed to in Mississippi, and that's making Mississippi a better place for everybody," Anderson said.

Black woman gets \$350,000 settlement for airport strip search

MIAMI (AP) — The federal government has agreed to pay \$350,000 to a woman who says she was singled out for a strip search by Miami airport agents because she is black.

Rhonda Brent's search and dozens of others prompted changes in federal law and policies based on claims that customs inspectors made it a national practice to single out minority women for unjustified, humiliating searches in the 1990s.

"She is relieved that it's over, and she in her way is also glad to know that other people can benefit from what she did to stand up for their rights," the Houston woman's attorney, L. Obii Aham-Neze, said.

The Justice Department agreed to settle a lawsuit filed by Brent without an admission of wrongdoing two years after she won an appeal that found she was subjected to an unconstitutional strip search and X-ray exam.

Civil rights leader bashes Miller over talkathon reference to lynching

ATLANTA (AP) — A civil rights leader demanded that Georgia Sen. Zell Miller apologize for saying a conservative black woman's efforts to get a federal judicial seat will be "lynched" by her opponents in Congress.



Miller

Wade Henderson, executive director of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, criticized Miller's 2 a.m. speech last week during the Republican talkathon supporting President Bush's stalled judicial nominees.

Miller, describing the treatment of California Supreme Court Justice Janice Rogers Brown, said Senate Democrats were wrongheaded

in their opposition to her nomination. Brown's confirmation has been opposed by the Congressional Black Caucus and some civil rights groups.

"They're standing in the doorway and they've got a sign: Conservative African-American women need not apply." The Atlanta Journal-Constitution quoted Miller as saying. "And if you have the temerity to do so, your reputation will be shattered and your dignity will be shredded."

"Gal you will be lynched."

Henderson demanded an apology, saying Miller's use of the term was an insult to the families of blacks who were actually killed by being hung from trees by white mobs during the often violent years of Southern segregation.

"Either Senator Miller has conveniently forgotten a frightening period of American history or he is willfully demeaning all those African-Americans who were hung from trees," Henderson said.

But Miller stuck by his use of the term, saying the real insult was the treatment of Rogers Brown by Democratic opponents.

Miller defended his record on racial issues, saying that, while governor of Georgia, he named more blacks to state boards than any other governor and named more blacks to judgeships than all previous Georgia governors combined.

The Senate on Friday will vote on whether to break filibusters on Rogers Brown and another California judge, Carolyn Kuhl.

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The nine candidates for the Democratic nomination for president participate in an Oct. 26 debate. From left are: Rev. Al Sharpton, Rep. Richard Gephardt, retired Gen. Wesley Clark, Sen. Joseph Lieberman, Sen. John Edwards, Rep. Dennis Kucinich, Howard Dean, Carol Moseley Braun and Sen. John Kerry. Also pictured is Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm, who is not running for the office.

White House hopefuls hit S.C. HBCUs

BY JENNIFER HOLLAND THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Benedict College doesn't have to look for ways to get students excited about the presidential campaign because the Democratic candidates have been beating a path to the historically black campus.

They've made policy announcements, held roundtable discussions, and one even came to the 3,000-student school to declare an official run for the White House in front of cheering groups of young, black potential voters.

"It's excellent because it gives our students an opportunity to ask questions — policy questions of real interest to

their hearts," said Sheila Ards, vice president for community development at Benedict.

As Democrats seek support from minorities, who could make up a majority in the state's first-in-the-South Feb. 3 primary, they see South Carolina's historically black colleges as prime campaign stops.

The Rev. Al Sharpton has rallied students as he pushed voter registration at predominantly black Claflin University in Orangeburg, about 40 miles south of Columbia. Retired Gen. Wesley Clark was just down the street from Claflin three weeks later visiting S.C. State University, the state's largest historically black school.

Clark tied in a visit with the

family of a third Orangeburg soldier recently killed in Iraq before heading to the university to announce his plan for the war.

"South Carolina State was the right venue to talk about Iraq and how it impacts not only the African-American community but all communities," said Clark spokeswoman Meighan Stone. "It's really what politics should be about. It's the meeting of policy and people's real-life experiences."

S.C. State student Mary-Catherine LeGette, 19, said she has heard more talk about the presidential race through church leaders in her hometown of Marion and appreciates the chance to meet the

Democratic candidates when they visit her school.

"I think that's good to visit small colleges," LeGette said. "Just because we're small doesn't mean we don't do nothing."

U.S. Sen. John Edwards from North Carolina was scheduled to hold a town hall meeting at tiny Morris College, which is operated by the Baptist Educational and Missionary Convention of South Carolina.

"Edwards is reaching out to voters across South Carolina," said campaign spokeswoman Jenni Engebretsen. "Certainly reaching out to African-American voters is a big part of his

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Hampton loses grant over flap about paper

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HAMPTON, Va. — A prestigious journalism organization will withhold a \$55,000 grant from Hampton University after the school's administration confiscated the student-run newspaper.

The American Society of Newspaper Editors had intended to provide funding for a 2004 summer training program for high school journalism teachers at the university's new Scripps Howard School of Journalism and Communications.

But the society voiced doubts after the university's actions last month. Last week, it sent a clear message by declining to hand over the money.

"We're an organization that is devoted to the interests of newspapers and is devoted to the First Amendment and everything it stands for in our society," said ASNE President Peter Bhatia, also executive editor of The Oregonian

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