

News at a Glance

Texas Baptists elect first black president

AUSTIN (AP) — The Baptist General Convention of Texas elected its first black president last week and announced plans to increase minority representation on its executive board.

The Rev. Michael Bell, the 54-year-old senior pastor at Greater St. Stephen Baptist Church in Fort Worth, overwhelmingly defeated the Rev. Rick Davis, a Brownwood pastor, in a ballot vote.

Bell succeeds Albert Reyes, the organization's first Hispanic president.

His election brought tears and cheers from black delegates and encouraged pastors.

"It will get more African-American churches involved because they will see someone who looks like them involved in the process," the Rev. Timothy Brown, pastor of New El Bethel Church in Dallas, told the Houston Chronicle.

Convention officials want to increase minority representation on its executive board from 15 percent to 30 percent. About 12 percent of the convention's 2.5 million members are black.

Bell said he will focus on helping churches communicate with each other, baptizing more people, sharpening the convention's focus and building on changes made to the executive board.

First African-American chief judge of U.S. District Court dies

WASHINGTON (AP) — Longtime federal judge William B. Bryant — the first black person to serve as chief judge of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia — has died. He was 94.

Bryant, who continued hearing cases as a senior judge until recently, died Nov. 13, court spokesman Sheldon Snook said.

President Lyndon B. Johnson nominated Bryant to the federal bench in 1965, after Bryant distinguished himself in private practice and as a federal prosecutor in Washington. He was first hired as an assistant U.S. attorney in 1951.

Last week, President George W. Bush signed legislation that will name a new \$110 million, nine-courtroom addition to the federal courthouse in Bryant's honor.

Bryant was known for his dedication to constitutional law and believed that lawyers could stop injustice.

Bryant was a graduate of Howard University and its law school, where he taught for more than 20 years.

His wife of 60 years, Astaire, died in 1997.



Bryant

Black lawn jockey to be moved inside museum after complaint from couple

GALENA, Kan. (AP) — A black lawn jockey statue on display outside the Galena Mining & Historical Museum for more than 20 years will be moved inside the building after a complaint from a biracial couple.

The museum board took the action last week. Members defended the statue, but some cited concerns that it might be stolen following a story in The Joplin Globe detailing the views raised by Terri and Geff Jackson, who moved to Galena from California about a year ago.

Board President Gene Russell referred to the statue as a hitching post, and he and other board members said there had been no prior complaints about it.

Besides moving the statue into the museum annex, the board decided to post with it an item from a Web site about the history of lawn jockey statues. The information, which does not site a source, says such statues originated as a tribute to a slave who died in service to George Washington during the Revolutionary War. Some historians say that later such statues were used as markers on the Underground Railroad system that helped slaves escape to freedom.

The Jacksons had complained about the statue being a racist symbol and said they noticed it their first day in the southeastern Kansas community.

"It's very degrading," Terri Jackson, who is white, told The Globe. Her husband, who is black, said he is resigned to racism in a small town but is discouraged that someone had to point it out to officials.

Baltimore mayor wants monitoring of police officers' stop-and-frisk tactic

BALTIMORE (AP) — Baltimore's mayor called for better police record-keeping and training after a newspaper reported that officers stopped and frisked citizens more than 100,000 times but reported only 11 such stops to state authorities in the past year.



O'Malley

The report in Baltimore Sun also said blacks appear to be stopped more often than whites.

While saying that he supports the use of "stop and frisk," Mayor Martin O'Malley said last week that police must comply with state law, which requires that a report on each stop be sent to the Maryland State Police to ensure the stops are legally justified.

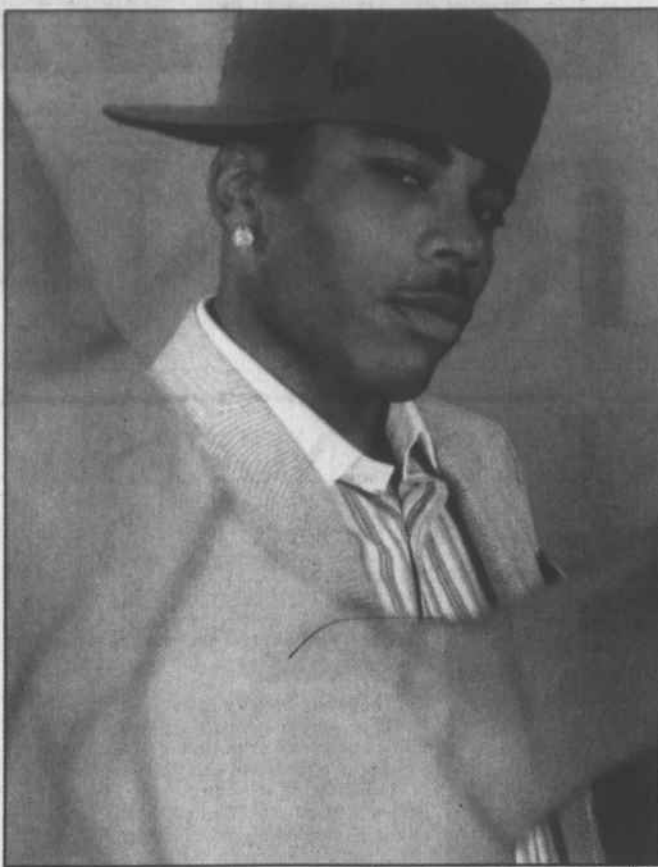
"I'm supportive of the legal and constitutional use of this tactic, and I'm also supportive of taking more guns off the streets and seizing more drugs," O'Malley told the newspaper.

Before stopping and patting down a person to search for weapons, an officer is supposed to have a "reasonable suspicion" that the person is armed and may be involved in a crime.

The Sun said internal documents suggest officers have conducted more than 130,000 stop-and-frisks through the first nine months of this year in the city of 641,000.

Spelman continues hip-hop debate

BY JANELLE RICHARDS AND NISA ISLAM MUHAMMAD
SPECIAL FROM THE ESPNC TO NNPA



Spelman students criticized rapper Nelly last year for the way black women were portrayed in his music videos.

ATLANTA — Last year, the young women of Spelman College started a national conversation against the denigration of black women in the music industry. After viewing rapper Nelly's "Tip Drill" video, Spelman students Aisha Jennings and Moya Bailey were fed up with the images of women and could no longer withstand the silence. They organized a panel discussion of 150 students in protest of his scheduled visit and decided Nelly wasn't welcome at Spelman.

This year, the school and Rapper MC Lyte joined forces to bring "Hip-Hop Week" to the all-female campus. From Oct. 31-Nov. 4, students tackled the subject of the impact of hip-hop in urban, suburban and rural communities and the exploitation of women in the music industry.

Freshman Kristin Kelly, a philosophy major, said, "Hip-Hop Week allowed us, as young adults and black women, to explore hip-hop — more than just the music videos and beats, but the culture and history, as well."

The week included panel discussions, an open mic session for aspiring artists, and a film screening of "Masculinity in Hip-Hop" by Byron Hunt. The male panel discussion, which was hosted by MC Lyte, featured actor/musician Malcolm-Jamal Warner, rapper Chuck D, actor Darryl "Chill" Mitchell and Spelman professor William Jelani Cobb.

Somewhere between the powerful and poetic lyrics of Tupac and the arrival of new "artists," hip-hop has evolved into a "rap" movement that glorifies violence and degrades women, many students observed. Hip-hop was once on a nurturing road to grow and move the masses, but something created an obstruction, they stressed.

The week continued with an all-female panel discussion. Artists MC Lyte, Cheryl "Salt" James, Da Brat, Yo Yo, cultural critic Joan Morgan and Spelman professor Tarshia Stanley came together to battle opinions of the exploitation of women in the music industry.

MC Lyte stated that as a female, "You have to stay true to yourself and speak up; don't wait around until it's too late."

See Nelly on A5

HIV rate drops for African-Americans

BY MIKE STOBBE
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATLANTA — The rate of newly reported HIV cases among blacks has been dropping by about 5 percent a year since 2001, the government said last Thursday. But blacks are still eight times more likely than whites to be diagnosed with the AIDS virus.

"The racial disparities remain severe," said Lisa Lee, an epidemiologist at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The falling rate among blacks seems to be tied to overlapping drops in diagnoses among intravenous drug users and heterosexuals, CDC researchers said.

The study was based on 2001-04 data from 33 states that have name-based reporting systems for HIV. Health officials do not know which diagnoses represent new infections and which ones were infections people had for years but had just discovered.

The CDC found that overall diagnoses in the 33 states



A college student makes her way into the HIV testing room earlier this year on National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness and Information Day.

SHNS photo by Joe Howell / Knoxville News Sentinel

decreased slightly, from 41,207 cases in 2001 to 38,685 in 2004. The rate fell from 22.8 cases per 100,000 people in 2001 to 20.7 per 100,000 in 2004.

The decline was more pronounced among blacks — the rate dropped from 88.7 per 100,000 in 2001 to 76.3 in 2004. Among whites, the rate rose slightly from 8.7 to 9.0.

At least part of the decline among blacks appears to be tied to a 9 percent annual decline in

diagnoses among intravenous drug users, who can get the virus from contaminated needles. More than half of the drug users were black, Lee said.

The decline is also linked to a 4 percent decline in diagnoses among heterosexuals. About 69 percent of the heterosexuals diagnosed with HIV were black.

Diagnoses among men who have sex with men remained roughly stable from 2001 to 2003 but climbed 8 percent

between 2003 and 2004. That was true for men of all races, CDC officials said. But they could not explain the recent increase.

In New York, needle exchange programs helped explain declining HIV infection rates, said state Health Department spokeswoman Claire Pospisil. New York introduced needle exchanges in 1992, and 114,500 people have participat-

See HIV on A9

INDEX	
OPINION.....	A10
SPORTS.....	B1
RELIGION.....	B6
CLASSIFIEDS.....	B10
HEALTH.....	A6
ENTERTAINMENT.....	A12
CALENDAR.....	B9

New Name. New Location. Same People.

Mike Carico
336.231.8917

Lisa Clayton
336.831.1050

Ruth Hudspeth
336.831.1055

Dario Romo
336.231.8918

GRANITE MORTGAGE, INC.
Financing The American Dream

Granite Mortgage, Inc. is our new name.

You may remember us as GLL & Associates, Inc. Initially founded in 1985.

This year we celebrate 20 years as a local mortgage lender. Offering great rates, quick closings, numerous loan programs and more.

Unique mortgage solutions at a local level.

For the past 15 years Granite Mortgage has been #1 in NC for First Time Homebuyer Loans.

Ann Tucker
336.831.1054

Corporate Location
791 Jonestown Road, Suite 110
Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27103
336.760.4911 Office • 336.760.4915 Fax
www.granitemortgageinc.com

Bob Church
336.712.1444

Natalie Dillard
336.831.1057

Denise Maroldy
336.499.1121

Lisa Wright
336.231.8915

Formerly GLL & Associates, Inc.

The Chronicle (USPS 067-910) was established by Ernest H. Pitt and Ndubisi Egemonye in 1974 and is published every Thursday by Winston-Salem Chronicle Publishing Co. Inc., 617 N. Liberty Street, Winston-Salem, NC 27101. Periodicals postage paid at Winston-Salem, N.C. Annual subscription price is \$30.72.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
The Chronicle, P.O. Box 1636
Winston-Salem, NC 27102-1636