

# Not a voice

## Faculty leader wants Howard president out

WASHINGTON (AP) - A faculty leader at Howard University is calling for the ouster of President H. Patrick Swygert, accusing him of putting one of the most prestigious historically black schools in financial jeopardy.



Swygert

Theodore Bremner, chairman of the faculty senate, wrote to Howard's board of trustees this past week on behalf of the senate's leadership council that it is time to end "an intolerable condition of incompetence and dysfunction at the highest level." The letter was obtained by The Washington Post.

Swygert, who has been president since 1995, said he had seen the letter and does not plan to resign.

"I think it clearly demonstrates how democratic and how open the university is and how free the faculty is to express opinions," he said.

The letter accuses Swygert of failing to keep financial problems at the university hospital from spilling over into academic budgets. Academic programs are plagued by substandard equipment and facilities, it said.

It also cited a recent National Science Foundation audit that criticized Howard's management of grant money. The federal government is the largest source of revenue for the private university.

The faculty senate, made up of more than 1,000 full-time professors, has had a contentious relationship with the administration. Earlier this month, the leadership council voted 16 to 2, with one abstention, to send the letter of concern to the board. The council has about 50 members.

## Obama pays tickets 17 years late

BOSTON (AP) - Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama got more than an education when he attended Harvard Law School in the late 1980s. He also got a healthy stack of parking tickets, most of which he never paid.

The Illinois senator shelled out \$375 in January - two weeks before he officially launched his presidential campaign - to finally pay for 15 outstanding parking tickets and their associated late fees.

The story was first reported by The Somerville News. Obama received 17 parking tickets in Cambridge between 1988 and 1991, mostly for parking in a bus stop, parking without a resident permit and failing to pay the meter, records from the Cambridge Traffic, Parking and Transportation office show.

He incurred \$140 in fines and \$260 in late fees in Cambridge in all, but he paid \$25 for two of the tickets in February 1990. Jen Psaki, a spokeswoman for the Obama campaign, dismissed the tickets as not relevant.

## S.C. may host first presidential debate

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) - South Carolina is back on track to hold the first Democratic presidential debate after organizers of a debate next month in New Hampshire have had to move their event back to June.

The candidates have made firm commitments to House Majority Whip Jim Clyburn to appear at the April 26 debate at his alma mater, South Carolina State University in Orangeburg, said Morton Brilliant, the chairman of the South Carolina Democratic Party.



Clyburn

The 90 minute debate at the historically black college will be televised live nationally by MSNBC from the state expected to have the first presidential primary in the South.

New Hampshire had originally scheduled Republican and Democratic presidential debates for April 4 and April 5, but many of the leading candidates couldn't come because of trips to Iraq or other scheduling conflicts. Those debates have now been moved back to June.

Leading off the debate calendar is good for South Carolina, said Carol Fowler, first vice chair for state Democrats.

The April 26 debate will kick off three days of Democratic events in South Carolina. On April 27, the party holds its Jefferson-Jackson dinner, a fundraising event candidates have been encouraged to attend.

## Appeals court sets arguments in ex-CU student's sex assault suit

DENVER (AP) - A federal appeals court has scheduled oral arguments May 7 in the attempt by two women to revive their lawsuit alleging they were sexually assaulted by University of Colorado football players or recruits.

The 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals will hear arguments by both sides in the appeal of a federal judge's decision to dismiss the lawsuit filed by Lisa Simpson, who has agreed to be named publicly, and another woman, who has not.

Sixteen women's and civil rights groups including the American Civil Liberties Union and the NAACP have filed friend-of-the-court brief supporting the women.

Simpson and the other woman say they were assaulted at an off-campus party in 2001 and that CU violated federal Title IX gender-equality law by fostering an atmosphere that led to the alleged attacks.

U.S. District Judge Robert Blackburn ruled the women failed to prove the university had actual knowledge of sexual harassment or that the school was deliberately indifferent to any known sexual harassment. In their August appeal, the women argued that university officials knew of sexual assaults and harassment four years before the party that Simpson attended, and that not enough was done to curb it.

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# Fats Domino coming home to New Orleans

BY STACEY PLAISANCE THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW ORLEANS - Fats Domino broke into soft song as he stepped slowly through his gutted house in the city's flood-ravaged 9th Ward on last Friday. Sometimes the Hall of Fame piano man murmured a line of his familiar lyrics.

At other moments, he just seemed to be thinking out loud, with a tune.

"Why such bad luck fall on me?" the 79-year-old sang, looking out a rear window into the neighborhood where he was born in 1928.

In between melodies, he said repeatedly that it's time to come home.

"I'm ready," he said. "I wasn't ready to leave."

Domino - whose real



Legend Fats Domino on stage.

name is Antoine and who is known in New Orleans nearly as much for his reclusiveness as for hits such as "Blueberry Hill," "Blue Monday" and

"Ain't That a Shame" - rode out Hurricane Katrina in the 9th Ward, where the Aug. 29, 2005 storm did some of its worst damage. His family and

agent had reported him missing and learned days later that he had survived when they saw a photo in The Times-Picayune that showed him stepping off a rescuer's boat.

Domino, who had been back to see the 9th Ward at least once before last Friday, said he had no doubt he would eventually return for good. Workers are rebuilding his home, which is expected to be restored by summer.

For many in the heavily devastated neighborhood, which some have said shouldn't be rebuilt, Domino's return is a sign of hope.

"This is not about just getting one guy back in his house. It really is symbolic of this city coming back," said Bill Taylor, director of the

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## South works to honor past with names

BY GIOVANNA DELL'ORTO THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATLANTA - Crisscrossing suburban Atlanta's Clayton County, the self-proclaimed home of "Gone with the Wind," is a thoroughfare named Tara Boulevard, after the imaginary plantation home of the Civil War novel's heroine.

It's an image that plays well with the genteel evocation of "old Southern charm" that marks the area's tourism efforts, but it doesn't sit well with many residents as the county's population shifted from mostly white to predominantly black over the past couple decades.



Parks

Since the death of civil rights pioneer Rosa Parks in 2005, some have pushed the county to change Tara Boulevard's name to pay homage to Parks. A compromise is in the works - state Rep. Darryl Jordan, who represents part of Clayton County, is proposing naming a nearby highway after Parks instead.

"What better way to honor someone than to give them a name?" said Robert Hartley, a local businessman who's led the effort.

Both the Civil War era and the civil rights movement are an integral part of Southern history, but which memory is more visible continues to spur debate in a region that loves to name its roads, highways, intersections, even bridges after individuals.

"People are in a rivalry about whose ideas about the past ultimately get inscribed, literally, into places," said Derek Alderman, a cultural

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