

# News at a glance

## Liberian president will be receiving honorary degree

**BLOOMINGTON, Ind.** — Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, the first woman elected as president of Liberia or of any African country, will receive an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Indiana University on Saturday (May 3) in recognition of her efforts to promote peace, justice and democracy, and of the close relations between her country and IU.



Sirleaf

IU's ties to Liberia are extensive. The late IU scholar J. Gus Liebenow was a pioneer in his studies of Liberia and founded the university's African Studies Program in 1961. On his retirement in 1990, Liebenow received the first Lifetime Achievement Award of the Liberian Studies Association, a group of scholars from around the world.

Amos Sawyer, interim president of Liberia from 1990 to 1994 and now an IU faculty member, presented the Liebenow Memorial Lecture as part of the center's 40th anniversary. The university also is home to an extensive collection of Liberian materials, which houses papers from the Presidential and Liberian National archives and the personal papers of President William V. S. Tubman (1895-1971). IU has the largest such holdings outside of Liberia.

Frequently referred to as Africa's "Iron Lady" for her strong will and determination, Sirleaf rose from humble beginnings as the daughter of an indigenous civil servant to have a distinguished career spanning nearly four decades. She followed her father into public service — he was the first indigenous Liberian to be elected to the national legislature — and became Liberia's president in 2006. She also is the mother of four sons and grandmother to nine grandchildren.

## American mom honored in South Africa

**(GIN)** — Linda Biehl, whose daughter Amy died in a township riot during the waning days of apartheid, has forgiven the four men convicted in her daughter's 1993 death.

The American girl's attackers received amnesty after confessing before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission headed by Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Two of them now work for a charity the Biehl family founded that has provided training in arts, sports and other areas to young South Africans.

"I'm just interested in finding the humanity in all of us, which I thought was the essence of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission," Biehl said. Founder of the Amy Biehl foundation, named for her daughter, Biehl speaks about forgiveness to high school students in urban areas of the U.S. and to forums of Palestinians and Israelis.

Last week, President Thabo Mbeki acknowledged her work with the Order of the Companion of Oliver Tambo for "contributing to the promotion of non-racism in post-apartheid South Africa."

## Mayor stands by busing comments

**HAMMOND, Ind. (AP)** — Mayor Tom McDermott Jr. is standing by his criticism of Gary's school district for busing high school students to a government office to register to vote and cast early votes in Indiana's upcoming primary.

McDermott, who backs Hillary Rodham Clinton, said that the students were being manipulated in an attempt to boost Barack Obama's vote totals in the state's tightly contested May 6 primary.

He said it was wrong to pull students out of classes for what he termed a political field trip, especially given that Gary schools are among the worst-performing in the state.

But he backtracked Friday from his comments about the schools' academic woes after a small group of demonstrators picketed outside City Hall, calling on McDermott to resign.

"The Hammond schools certainly have problems, too, and I regret having brought the Gary schools into this," he said.

Gary high school seniors have taken recent field trips in school buses to the Lake County government center in Crown Point to register and vote early in the primary.

McDermott maintained Friday that the trips, which Gary schools have sponsored for several elections in recent years, are an improper use of public funds.



McDermott

## Boeing donates \$5 million to Smithsonian's black history museum

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — The Boeing Company is contributing \$5 million to the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C., to support the design and construction of the museum. The Smithsonian's 19th museum will be the only national museum devoted exclusively to the documentation of African American life, art, history and culture.

Boeing is the largest donor to date for the museum, which was established in December 2003 when President George W. Bush signed legislation establishing the museum as part of the Smithsonian Institution. It will be built on the National Mall at Constitution Avenue between 14th and 15th Streets N.W. The museum is scheduled to open in 2015 at a cost of approximately \$500 million.

Boeing leaders joined Rep. Norman D. Dicks (D-Wash.); Cristián Samper, Acting Secretary of the Smithsonian; and Lonnie G. Bunch III, founding director of the museum, in making the announcement last week.

The museum opened its inaugural exhibition last fall at the International Center of Photography in New York in a unique collaboration with that museum and the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery, from whose collection the exhibition images were drawn.

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# Black youths drink less, targeted more

BY CHARLENE MUHAMMAD  
FROM THE FINAL CALL

**(NNPA)** — The Center on Alcohol Marketing and Youth at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., found Black youth ages 12 to 20 drink far less alcohol than their White counterparts, but with age they suffer more from alcohol-related diseases than Whites and other ethnicities.

Alcohol-related ailments include heart disease, high blood pressure, decreased or impaired brain functions, liver and kidney damage and kidney failure.

During its study of exposure between 2003 and 2004, the center also found alcohol use contributes to homicides, unintentional injuries and suicide, which are considered the three leading causes of death among Blacks of that age group.

According to the center, 19 percent of the Black youth used alcohol within 30 days prior to the survey, compared to about 33 percent of Whites. Further, Black youth reported "binge" drinking at 10 percent, compared to Whites at 23 percent. Binge drinking is considered as five or more drinks at one sitting, and is associated with health, social and economic problems, and is harmful for adolescent development.

Critics say alcohol is made appealing to Black youth via a consistent, aggressive advertising campaign in magazines, music and videos, and on TV, radio, billboards.



The Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine studied Billboard magazine's 279 most popular songs of 2005 to analyze substance use in popular music. It found rap music referenced alcohol 33 percent of the time, followed by country music at 20 percent. R&B referenced alcohol 7 percent of the time.

Researchers provided a breakdown of alcohol advertisements Black youth were exposed to:

**Magazines**  
• Twelve-to-20-year-olds saw 15 percent more for beer and 10 percent more for distilled spirits per capita than adults age 21 and over; and generally, Black youth saw

more advertising for both products than youth in general.

• In national magazines, Black youth saw 34 percent more alcohol advertising than youth in general, 21 percent more for beer and ale, 42 percent more for distilled spirits; and

• 99 percent of Black youth saw an average of 150 alcohol ads in national magazines while 97 percent of all youth saw an average of 113 alcohol ads.

• 14 magazines (including Sports Illustrated, Vibe, Stuff, Entertainment Weekly, the Source, InStyle and Vogue), accounted for 75 percent of Black youth's exposure in 2004.

### Radio

• Of a sample of more than 67,000 occurrences of advertising airing in 104 markets for the 25 top alcohol brands in June-July, 2004, Black youth heard 15 percent more advertising per capita than youth in general;

• In New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Dallas-Forth Worth, Houston-Galveston and Detroit (six of the top 10 markets comprising 34-percent of America's Black population), and in 25 of 104 markets, Black youth heard more alcohol advertising on the radio per capita than youth in general)

• Colt 45 Malt Liquor accounted for nearly one-third of Black youth exposure to radio advertising along with

See Drinking on A4

# Hundreds march in Harlem after acquittals

BY VERENA DOBNIK  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**NEW YORK** — Hundreds of angry people marched through Harlem after the Rev. Al Sharpton promised to "close this city down" to protest the acquittals of three police detectives in the 50-shot barrage that killed a groom on his wedding day and wounded two friends.

"We strategically know how to stop the city so people stand still and realize that you do not have the right to shoot down unarmed, innocent civilians," Sharpton told an overflow crowd of several hundred people Saturday at his National Action Network office in the historically black Manhattan neighborhood. "This city is going to deal with the blood of Sean Bell."

Sharpton was joined by the family of 23-year-old Sean Bell — a black man — and a friend of Bell's who was wounded in the 2006 shooting outside a Queens strip club. Two of the three officers charged were also black.

The rally at Sharpton's office was followed by a 20-block march down Malcolm X Boulevard and then across 125th Street, Harlem's main business thoroughfare, where some bystanders yelled out "Kill the police!"

Fifty of the marchers carried white placards bearing big black numbers for each of the police bullets fired at Bell and his friends.

Sharpton urged people to return for a meeting this coming week "to plan the day that we will close this city down" with the kind of "massive civil disobedience" once led by Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

"They never accused Sean Bell of doing anything. Then why is he dead?" Sharpton asked, his voice roaring with anger. Authorities "have shown now that they will not hold police accountable. Well, guess what? If you won't, we will!"

"Shut it down! Shut it down!" the crowd chanted, standing up and applauding wildly.

Sharpton didn't say exactly how they would protest the acquittals of the officers who fired the 50 shots. He said Bell's supporters could demonstrate all over the city, from Wall Street to the home of Justice Arthur Cooperman, who on Friday acquitted the three detectives after a non-jury trial.

Sitting behind Sharpton as

he spoke were Bell's parents, his sister and Nicole Paultre Bell, who took her fiance's name after his death.

"The justice system let me down," Paultre Bell told the crowd in a soft voice. "April 25, 2006: They killed Sean all over again. That's what it felt like to us."

It was her first public comment since she stormed out of a courtroom Friday after the NYPD detectives were cleared in Bell's killing as he left his bachelor party.

One of Bell's companions, Joseph Guzman, also spoke briefly on Saturday, saying: "We've got a long fight."




Sean Bell and Nicole Paultre Bell



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