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Today's ethnics will be a memory

Categories
will be fluid at
400 million
Americans

By Erin Teixeira
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Now that the United States officially numbers more than 300 million, some are already imagining what will 400 million look like.

If demographers are right, the United States will hit that mark by 2043. They and other futurists envision a typical American neighborhood that year will be something like this:

More than likely it will be located in the South or West, despite scarce water resources. Barely half of the community's residents will be white, and one in four whites will be senior citizens. Nearly one in four people will be Latino and multiracial Americans will be commonplace.

"We're going to be growing for the next 50 or 100 years, but it's not because of the birthrate," said John Bongaarts, vice president of the Population Council, a nonprofit organization in New York. "If the birthrate were to drop we'd have a very different future ahead. If we were not living longer and had no migrants we wouldn't be growing at all."

The U.S. will keep getting more racially and ethnically diverse - by 2043, it will be about 15 percent non-Hispanic black, 8 percent Asian and 24 percent Hispanic.

Ideas about race that hold sway now, simply won't then, just as the attitudes of 30 years ago have changed.

For example, in the 1970s one in three whites favored laws that barred marriage between blacks and whites; in recent years it is barely one in 10.

More than 7 million Americans reported in Census 2000 that they were multiracial - 42 percent of them were under age 18.

Please see RACIAL/6A

Caucus poised to gain ground

Democratic control of the U.S. House would place black lawmakers in historic positions of power:



Watt

Mel Watt (D-N.C.) Chair of Congressional Black Caucus would have choice of chairing subcommittees on Financial Services or Commercial and Administrative Law. Both are important to financial services industry.



Rangel

Charles Rangel (D-N.Y.) Would chair Ways and Means, which writes tax laws and federal entitlement programs like Social Security.



Conyers

John Conyers (D-Mich.) Would chair Judiciary, which deals with bills relating to law, courts and judges. Also has major say in immigration and constitutional amendments.

Blacks would chair top committees with Democrat majority

By Herbert L. White
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The Congressional Black Caucus stands to ride a wave of newfound clout with a Democratic takeover of the U.S. House of Representatives.

The 42-member Caucus chaired by Charlotte Democrat Mel Watt, has been on the outside looking in since Republicans seized the majority in 1994. But with polls showing

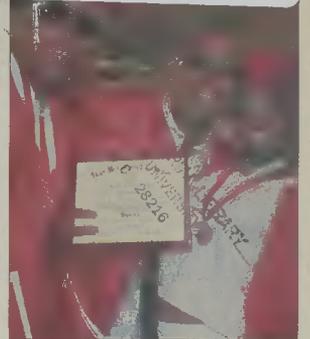
Democrats likely to gain the 15 seats needed to tip the balance of power, black lawmakers will be among the most powerful political players in Washington.

"Within the House, there's not group that would gain as much as the Caucus," said David Bositis, a senior research associate at the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, a think tank that focuses on issues related to African

Americans.

At least one national poll contends neither party has a lock on control. The Reuters/Zogby Poll found Democrats lead Republicans in 12 of the 15 key races for vulnerable seats held by the GOP. Seven Democrats have increased their leads, the poll revealed, three lost ground but still lead. One, Virginia Democrat Phil Kellam, now

Please see BLACK/7A



FILE PHOTO/CURTIS WILSON

In North Carolina, 66 percent of students graduate high school; among black males, the rate drops to 49 percent.

Forum on state's dropout rate

N.C. House panel at West
Charlotte High School

By Herbert L. White
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Members of an N.C. House committee will meet in Charlotte today to talk about keeping more students in school.

The Select Committee on High School Graduation and Dropout Rates will hold a public session at West Charlotte High School, 2219 Senior Drive. The forum begins at 6 p.m.



Parmon

A student who graduates from high school is less likely to grow up and live in poverty and has a much greater chance at a prosperous and rewarding future," said Rep. Earline Parmon (D-Forsyth). "I'm hopeful this committee will discover how to increase graduation rates and by association, how to improve the lives

Please see HOUSE/2A

the box

NEWS, NOTES & TRENDS

Mecklenburg NAACP hosts elections

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg branch of the NAACP is holding elections this month.

Members of the civil rights organization will elect officers and at-large members Nov 16 at Weeping Willow AME Zion Church, 2220 Milton Road. Polls will be open from 6-8 p.m.

To vote, individuals must be a member in good standing with the branch 30 days prior to the election and a form of identification is required. For information, call the branch office at (704) 594-9555 and leave a message.

N.C. A&T janitor rewarded for making a difference

By Jeri Rowe
(GREENSBORO) NEWS & RECORD

GREENSBORO — Sylvester Davis keeps the medallion pinned to his bedroom wall, near a television where he always watches one of his favorites: professional wrestling.

After a turnbuckle-rattling body slam, he knows he can look over and see his gold medal. It makes

him smile every time, just seeing it on the wall held up by two green thumbtacks, a silver dollar-size medal right below "Guardian Angel," a print of a praying little girl.

"Yes, Lord, that is my pride and joy," Davis said, flashing a wide grin. "I can get up every morning and thank God I have something like this here."

Davis works as a janitor inside McNair Hall, home for the College of Engineering at North Carolina A&T University. In the past eight months, he's prevented a crime and saved a life.

He recently received the State Employees' Award for Excellence. Next month, he'll be honored as A&T's Employee of the Year. It's all for what the 51-year-old did -

and does - in a job that earns him \$10 an hour.

"There's something so special about him," said Sanjiv Sarin, associate dean for A&T's College of Engineering. "Most other cultures, if it's not my job, it's like, 'Let me look the other way.' He's not like that. He wants to make a difference. It's that serious

Please see N.C. A&T/3A



Johnson C. Smith, in contention for Pioneer Bowl, faces CIAA West champ N.C. Central in regular season finale/1C

INSIDE

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