

# Selma March 40 Years Later

(AP) - Rep. John Lewis returned to the Edmund Pettus Bridge, 40 years after he braved billy clubs and tear gas in one of the grimmest, goriest spectacles of the civil rights movement.

Others on hand Sunday to commemorate the marches across the bridge included the Rev. Jesse Jackson, Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, and Lynda Johnson Robb, whose father, President Lyndon Johnson, signed the Voting Rights Act into law later in 1965.

"President Johnson signed that act, but it was written by the people of Selma," said Lewis, who was clubbed on the head during the "Bloody Sunday" attack on marchers by state troopers and sheriff's deputies on March 7, 1965. He was among 17 blacks hospitalized as that march was turned back while crossing the



Georgia Congressman John Lewis (center), walks arm in arm with other members of Congress, in Selma, Ala., on the Edmund Pettus Bridge to mark the 40th anniversary of the Selma to Montgomery voting rights march. (AP photo)

bridge. Participants also included singer Harry Belafonte, who was at the demonstration 40 years ago, and Coretta Scott King, whose husband, the Rev.

Martin Luther King Jr., led a second march two weeks later to the state Capitol.

"The freedom we won here in Selma and on the road to Montgomery was

purchased with the precious blood of many," said King, who crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge in a car.

Police estimated the crowd at nearly 10,000.

Certain provisions of the Voting Rights Act, such as the use of federal examiners and a requirement for Justice Department approval of election law changes, will be up for renewal by Congress in 2007.

The Rev. Joseph Lowery, longtime head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, urged the nearly three dozen House and Senate members who participated to renew those portions of the law.

"Their presence here is a mockery unless they go home and do the right thing," said Lowery, who also joined King on the march to the Capitol.

# Gang Member Charged in Rapper Shooting

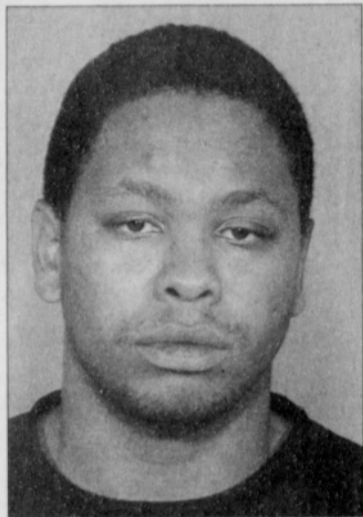
A man police say is a documented Crips gang member has been arrested for attempted murder in the shooting of a local rap musician. The victim, Ladarius Davis, who goes by the stage name Korbell, survived 12 gunshot wounds during the Feb. 27 shooting on North Interstate Avenue and Skidmore Street.

Alan Jerome Bates, 23, faces charges of attempted murder, assault, being a felon in possession of a firearm and unlawful possession of a firearm.

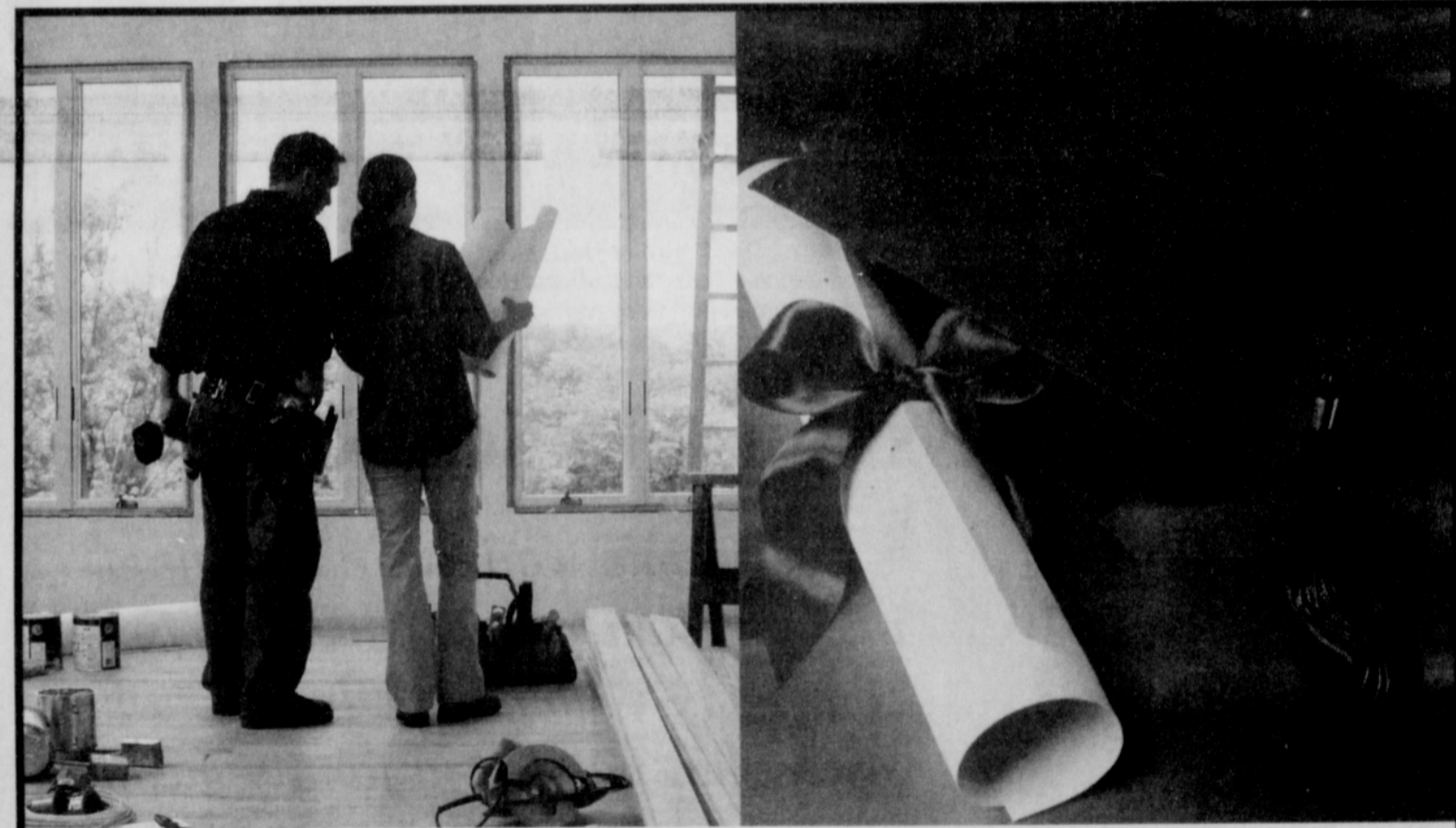
Police say he was arrested March 2 during search warrants in the 15900 block of East Burnside Street. A high-capacity gun and seven grams of crack cocaine were seized during the arrest.

Police said Bates apparently got into a dispute with Davis before the shooting. Investigators said there was no evidence that Davis was involved in gang activity.

A man and woman were also arrested in connection with the case. Michael Dee Collins, 31, was charged with drug and firearm offenses; and Monique Roshell Crane, 22, was charged with hindering prosecution.



Alan Bates and the gun police seized in the shooting of a local rap musician.



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# Army Behind in Recruiting

Many blacks site a war they don't believe in

(AP) — Young blacks have grown markedly less willing to join the Army, citing fear of being sent to fight a war in Iraq they don't believe in, according to unpublished studies for the military that suggest the Army is entering a prolonged recruiting slump.

Fear of combat also is a leading reason fewer young women are choosing the Army, the studies say. Although female soldiers are barred by law from assignments in direct land combat, they nonetheless have found themselves under attack by insurgents in Iraq, and 33 have died.

"More African Americans identify having to fight for a cause they don't support as a barrier to military service," concluded an August 2004 study for the Army. It also said attitudes toward the Army among all groups of American youth have grown more negative in recent years.

"In the past, barriers were about inconvenience or preference for another life choice," the study said. "Now they have switched to something quite different: fear of death or injury."

Statistically, the fear factor is about twice as strong among potential recruits as a whole as it was in 2000, the study said. That and other studies, all of which are posted on an obscure Defense Department Web site, cited the Iraq war as a major turnoff for many.

The Army has suffered more of the 1,500-plus U.S. deaths in Iraq than any other service, and thousands have been wounded. Some soldiers will serve their second tour in Iraq this year. While Army leaders say soldiers have shown a strong interest in re-enlisting, the strains of war seem to have become a barrier to first-time enlistees.

The Army's recruiting challenge is critically important not only to the long-term commitment in Iraq but also to the Army's goal of expanding by 30,000 soldiers. Through the first five months of the budget year which began last Oct. 1, the active Army is about 6 percent behind schedule to meet its 2005 recruiting goal.

The Army isn't the only service having trouble finding recruits. The Marine Corps fell slightly short of its recruiting goal in January - the first month that had happened in nearly a decade - amid parents' concerns about the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

# Deadly AIDS Impact Grows

(AP) - More than 80 million Africans may die from AIDS by 2025, the United Nations said in a report released Friday, and infections could soar to 90 million - or more than 10 percent of the continent's population - if more isn't done soon to fight the disease.

More than 25 million African have been infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. UNAIDS estimated that nearly \$200 billion is needed to save 16 million people from death and 43 million people from becoming infected, but donors have pledged nowhere near

that amount. In its report, "AIDS in Africa," the U.N. agency examines three potential scenarios for the continent in the next 20 years depending on the international community's response.

Researchers determined that even with massive funding and better treatment, the number of Africans who will die from AIDS is likely to top 67 million in the next two decades.

They all warn that the worst of the epidemic's impact is still to come.

# Troop Deaths Top 1,500

(AP) — The number of U.S. troops killed in Iraq has topped 1,500, an Associated Press count showed Thursday after the military announced the deaths of three Americans.

The military said two U.S. troops died of injuries suffered when a roadside bomb in Baghdad struck their vehicle. Another soldier was killed in Babil province, part of an area known as the "Triangle of Death" because of the frequency of insurgent attacks on U.S. and

Iraqi forces. At least 1,140 Americans have died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defense Department. The figures include four military civilians.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,364 U.S. military members have died, according to the AP count. That includes at least 1,030 deaths resulting from hostile action, the military said.

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