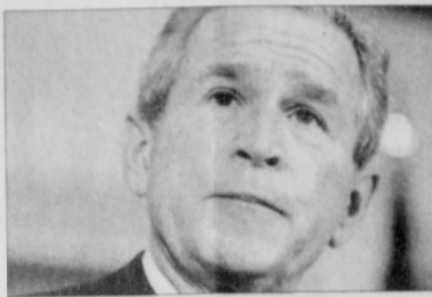


Bush Approval Rating Hits New Low

Black support scant 2 percent

President Bush has the lowest rating among blacks of any president in recent memory, registering a scant 2 percent, according to an NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll. The survey had a possible margin of error of 3 percent which means his approval rating among African Americans might be close to 5 percent or as low

as minus 1 percent. Overall, a Washington Post-ABC News poll shows that 60 percent of Americans disapprove of Bush's handling of his job and only 39 percent approve. An Associated Press-Ipsos poll registered Bush's approval rating at 37 percent, the lowest of his presidency. While Ken Mehlman, the chair of the Republican National Committee, has made outreach to African Americans part of his party's



George Bush

agenda, Karen Finney, communications director for the Democratic National Committee, said that black

Americans have made no gains under Bush.

"Bush's low approval rating among African Americans is based on the fact that African Americans are worse off under this president," Finney said. "Time and time again, Republicans have made empty promises about outreach while continuing to make decisions that are disastrous for the African-American community."

U.S. Census Bureau statistics

show that household incomes for black Americans have declined more than \$2,000 under Bush. The Census Bureau also said that nearly 25 percent of all blacks lived in poverty in 2004, an increase of over 250,000 over the past two years.

The Census Bureau also reported that in 2004, the number of blacks without health insurance remained at about 7.4 million, or nearly one in five.

Katrina Work Unfulfilled

Minority firms put on hold

Despite a month-old pledge, a promise to hire more minority-owned firms for Hurricane Katrina work in New Orleans and the Gulf Coast is largely unfulfilled.

The no-bid contracts for temporary housing, worth up to \$100 million each, were given to Shaw Group Inc., Bechtel Corp., CH2M Hill Inc. and Fluor Corp. right after Katrina struck. Charges of favoritism helped prompt last month's pledge by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, but now officials with the Homeland Security Department, which oversees FEMA, say the contracts won't be awarded again until February.

The disclosure dismayed some lawmakers and business groups that believe the Bush administration has not done enough to ensure Katrina contracts are spread around. In

particular, they say small and minority-owned businesses in the Gulf Coast have been short-changed.

FEMA promised to boost the number of contracts given to minority-owned businesses but in the last month the percentage has increased only slightly, from 1.5 percent to 1.8 percent of the \$3.1 billion awarded. That's still well below the 5 percent of federal contracts normally set aside for minority-owned firms.

"FEMA's performance falls far short," said Mississippi Rep. Bennie Thompson, ranking Democrat on the House Homeland Security Committee and a member of the Congressional Black Caucus. "The federal government must make a major shift in both policy and implementation if the lives of the people of the Gulf Coast are to be effectively rebuilt and restored."



Cindy Sheehan, the mother of a U.S. soldier killed in Iraq, during her arrest last September during a sit-down protest outside the White House. (AP photo)

'Peace Mom' to Resume War Protest

(AP) — The fallen soldier's mother who drew thousands to her 26-day war protest near President Bush's Crawford, Texas ranch this summer plans to return for Thanksgiving next week, despite new county ordinances banning roadside camping.

Cindy Sheehan, of Vacaville, Calif., and at least a dozen supporters are prepared to be arrested as they return to the makeshift campsite along the road leading to Bush's ranch, where he is expected to spend the holiday.

"It's significant that we do not let up on this administration," said Hadi Jawad, co-founder of the Crawford Peace House, which supported the protesters during their August vigil. "It is critical for our democracy that we continue to ask the same questions that Cindy Sheehan asked this summer: What is the noble cause for the war with Iraq, and at what point do we say enough bloodshed has happened?"

Sheehan, whose 24-year-old son Casey was killed in Iraq last year, has traveled the U.S. spreading her anti-war message.

San Francisco Handgun Ban Approved

(AP) — Voters approved ballot measures to ban handguns in San Francisco and urge the city's public high schools and college campuses to keep out military recruiters.

The gun ban prohibits the

manufacture and sale of all firearms and ammunition in the city, and makes it illegal for residents to keep handguns in their homes or businesses.

Only two other major U.S. cities - Washington and Chicago - have

implemented such sweeping handgun bans.

Voters backed the proposed gun ban in the Nov. 8 election by a margin of 58 to 42 percent.

A coalition led by the National Rifle Association has said it plans

to challenge the initiative in court, arguing that cities do not have the authority to regulate firearms under California law.

The military recruitment ban won with 60 percent in favor and 40 percent against.

Seattle Author, Entrepreneur to Visit

Edwina Martin-Arnold is cooking up more than cheese steaks in her popular Seattle restaurant Phila-

delphia Fevre. She has just published her third novel entitled *Chocolate Friday* and will be signing personalized copies of the new publication on Saturday, Nov 19 at 2 p.m. at Reflections, 446



Edwina Martin-Arnold

N.E. Killingsworth St.

Readers will enjoy this spicy tale and find it to be both romantic and suspenseful.

The first person narrative of the book quickly

draws the reader into the world of Olivia Anderson, a sedate English professor who learns the real meaning of necessary hunger when she is enticed to take a walk on the wild side and attends an all male revue with a distinct urban edge. There, she discovers more about herself and her hidden desires.

Math Stress Eased with Online Help

Many people see a math problem and panic. Ask them to balance their checkbook, determine the square footage of a room, find the error on an invoice, or even calculate a waiter's tip, and they'll just freeze up.

Mt. Hood Community College math teacher Ivy Bishop believes her new online math course can

help people move beyond their fears and gain the self-confidence they need to solve common mathematical problems.

Bishop is calm, patient, and respectful as she helps her online students gain comfort with the notion of using math at home, at work, while shopping, at the bank and elsewhere.

Her course, "Everyday Math," can be taken online from the convenience of your home or office, and at any time of the day or night.

For more information about this course and more than 300 other online courses, contact Mt. Hood Community College's Community Education department at 503-491-7571 or visit www.ed2go.com/mhcc.

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- Transportation to medical and social service appointments
- Home Visits
- Incentives
- Health education classes (free childcare and transportation when attending any HBI group or class)
- Information and referrals to community services



For more information contact: Healthy Birth Initiative 5329 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Portland, Oregon 97211 503-988-3387 x22242

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