

## Clinton proposes tax cut for college tuition

TMS Campus  
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WASHINGTON (TMS) — President Clinton has proposed a tax credit designed to make college more affordable.

Clinton unveiled the proposed plan Thursday, January 20. It is a \$30-billion, 10-year initiative that would make higher education more affordable for millions. When the credit is fully phased in, a family could receive a tax credit of up to \$10,000 for tuition, fees and training. The maximum credit would be up to \$2,800 a year.

Congress rejected a similar plan last year proposed by Democratic New York Sen. Charles Schumer. That plan, narrowly defeated as an amendment to last year's tax-cut package, would have allowed families to deduct up to \$12,000 for college tuition. The deduction would have saved the average family as much as \$3,360 per student. Schumer's plan was more expensive than Clinton's proposal: \$45 billion to \$50 billion over 10 years.

The President also called for a \$1 billion increase in Pell Grants and other federal education assistance.

## Universities continue to hire part-time professors

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WASHINGTON (TMS) — Universities are hiring fewer full-time professors and more part-timers, according to a recent study conducted by the U.S. Department of Education.

The report, based on data accrued in 1997 from almost 4,100 institutions, is released every two years by the department's National Center for Educational Statistics. The latest findings show that universities hired more faculty members than they did in 1995 — but of those new hires at four-year institutions, 11,083 were full-timers, and 24,508 were part-timers. Overall at four-year schools in 1997, 67.4 percent of faculty members worked full-time, and 32.6 percent worked part-time.

During the same period, the number of faculty members at two-year institutions also rose. Of the 22,748 new hires at those institutions, 31 percent took full-time jobs, while 69 percent accepted part-time positions.

Women still make up less than half of all full-time faculty members. The report showed that 36 percent of full-timers are women and that women make up 47 percent of all part-timers.

Of the 568,719 academics working at all levels of university faculty in 1997, 5.5 percent were Asian, 4.9 percent were African American, 2.6 percent were Hispanic and 0.4 percent were American Indian or Native Alaskan.

## Welsh Yale agrees to change name

TMS Campus  
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NEW HAVEN, Conn. (TMS) — Apparently, the world's too small for two educational institutions known as Yale.

Yale College, a vocational school in Wales, has agreed to change its name in response to legal pressure from Yale University in New Haven, Conn.

Pending formal approval from its board next month, Yale College will be renamed Coleg Ial Yale College of Wrexham. Ial, which sounds like "yawl," is the Welsh name for hills near Wrexham. To further differentiate, Yale College has agreed to add "Wrexham" to its Web-site address, which is now [www.yale.ac.uk](http://www.yale.ac.uk).

"There's confusion about whether they are us or not," Yale University's vice president and secretary, Linda Lorimer, told the *Yale Daily News*. "Who's to know whether they're connected with us?"

The resolution ends a disagreement that surfaced in March, when Yale University's attorneys demanded that the Welsh institution change its name

# Three die in Seton Hall dorm fire, 58 injured

by Robert Ingrassia,  
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Knight-Ridder Tribune  
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SOUTH ORANGE, N.J. — Screams drowned out the fire alarm, choking smoke filled the halls, and flames shot through a Seton Hall University dormitory early Thursday, January 20, as hundreds of freshmen fled in terror.

One girl plunged through a wall of flame at her door, and at least two students leaped from windows to escape a blaze that left three male students dead and 58 people injured.

The fire, whose cause had not yet been determined, originated in a sofa in a third-floor lounge in Boland Hall on the South Orange, N.J., college campus at 4:30 a.m., forcing coatless students into frigid darkness.

"The screams we heard could have been some of the people dying," said Greg Edwards, 18, of Valley Stream, L.I. "I'll never forget the screams. It was the worst thing I've ever heard."

A recent spate of false alarms led many students at the Catholic college to ignore the warning at first.

"When people came out with black stuff on their faces and yelling, 'Help me! Help me!' — that's when reality set in," said 18-year-old Vanessa Gomez.

Lisa Sepulveda, 18, of New York City, said she passed a burned young man moaning as she fled the residence hall. "He looked like he had painted his entire body; it was purple and blue and orange."

The dead victims were all 18, from New Jersey, and third-floor residents of Boland, a freshman dorm. They were identified as Frank Caltabilota of West Long Branch, John Giunta of Vineland,

and Aaron Karol of Dunellen.

Frantic parents rushed to the college to find their children, 18- and 19-year-olds who seemed much younger as they stood crying in pajamas, hugging their mothers and fathers.

The blaze apparently started in the third-floor lounge in the north wing of the 600-student dorm, spreading quickly into a hallway and sending black smoke through the building.

"This was a pretty intense and fast-moving fire," said Essex County prosecutor Don Campolo.

Local fire investigators and agents of the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms were probing the cause. There was speculation that someone had been smoking on the sofa.

An accelerant-detecting dog failed to detect any apparent evidence of arson, authorities said.

"This is an investigation that's going to take some time to complete," Campolo said.

Two of the dead were found in the lounge; they may have tried to put the fire out, authorities said. The three sofas in that room were just charred frames; the hallway was blackened by soot. Dorm room doors left open by fleeing students revealed normalcy — computers, books, and sneakers — juxtaposed with the horrific scene.

The third victim was found in a nearby room; emergency personnel had attempted to revive him, said Campolo.

"I actually went back to sleep after I heard the alarm, and my roommate had to wake me up and tell me it was real," said Pete Tornatore, 18, of Manalapan, N.J.

"It could have been us," said George Kelly, 18, of Wildwood N.J., hugging his girlfriend who was clad in Winnie-the-Pooh slippers. "This was a total reality check."

Resident assistants went from room to room banging on doors to

get the students out. Firefighters guided other students out by crawling with them, forming human chains.

Later, students — who 12 hours before had celebrated the Seton Hall Pirates' upset win over the St. John's basketball team — milled around the student center adjacent to Boland Hall, some crying, some in shock, most exhausted from grief and relief.

Besides being plagued by 18 false alarms since September — including seven times during finals week of the fall semester — the dorm had no sprinkler system. Sprinklers were not required when it was built in 1971, officials said.

Also, fire hoses in the building had been disconnected from the standpipe system, but Campolo said firefighters wouldn't have used those "obsolete" hoses anyway because of uncertainty about whether they were in working order.

The residence had 55 fire extinguishers; at least one of them was used in the blaze.

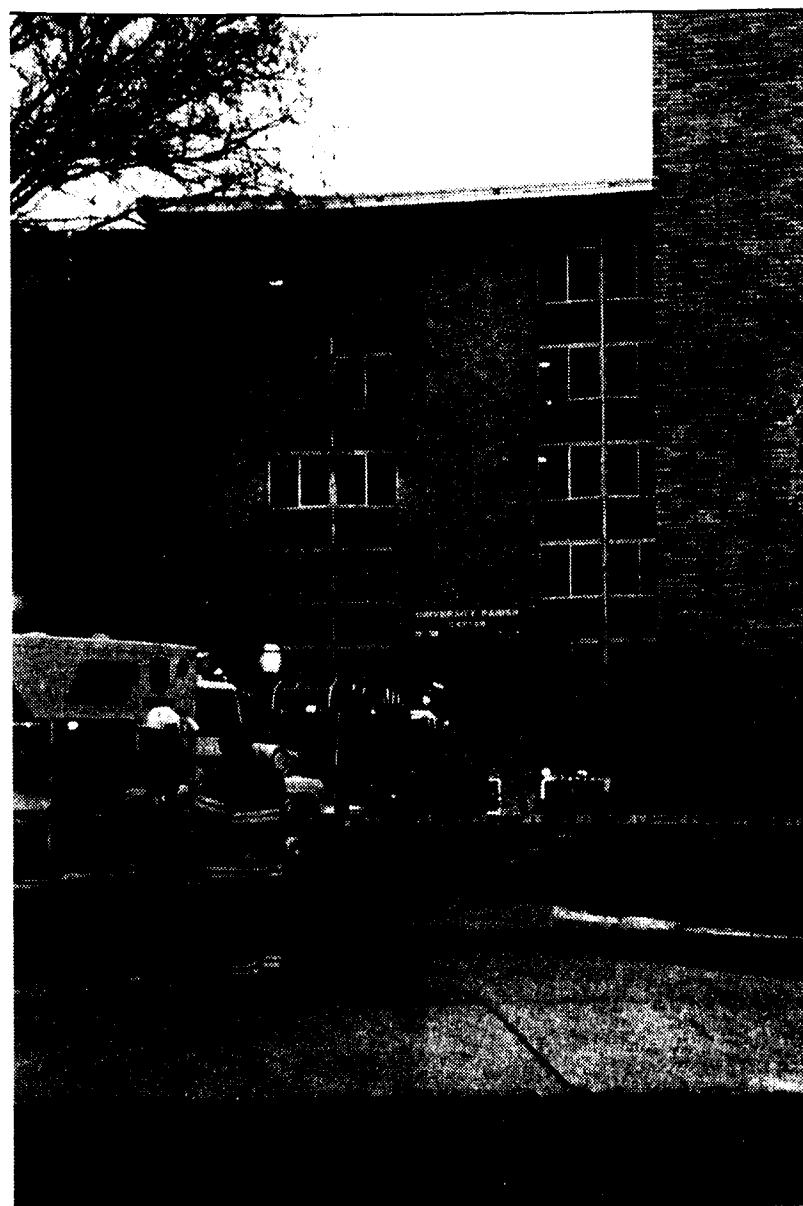
Forty-two of the injured were treated at area hospitals and released. Of the remaining 16, at least three were in critical condition.

The blaze was extinguished quickly. Firefighters searched rooms to account for all the residents.

One student apparently slept through the whole thing. He was found in his room in the dorm at 1:30 p.m. after his parents inquired about him.

Classes and other activities had been suspended at least through Sunday, Jan. 23. Boland Hall reopened on Thursday, Jan. 20, so students could retrieve their belongings.

Wednesday night, Jan. 19, an overflow crowd of hundreds of students attended a solemn, half-hour memorial Mass at Immaculate Conception Chapel, just



KRT PHOTO BY ED HILL  
Firefighters stand in front of Boland Hall at Seton Hall University where an early morning fire on the third floor killed three people and injured 58 others.

across a field from the fire-ravaged dorm. Hundreds of other grieving students waited outside the stone chapel.

"It was a great thing for everyone to come together," said Tricia Santiago, 21, a senior. "That's what helps."

Mourners walked out of the chapel arm-in-arm, and several wiped away tears.

"We just prayed for the dead and

those that were injured," said Maria Stratigis, 19, a freshman from Fort Lee, N.J.

Back at the dorm, the building's exterior displayed nothing of the day's deadly drama. Its pale exterior walls weren't charred; the icy air had erased the odor of smoke.

But bouquets of red roses and white carnations were laid at the entrance in remembrance.

# Sit-in ends with Bush agreeing to hearings on affirmative action

by Linda Kleindienst  
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TALLAHASSEE — Gov. Jeb Bush agreed to slow down his push to end affirmative action in state university admissions on Wednesday, January 19, after a sit-in by two black legislators grew into a demonstration of more than 100 legislators, civil rights activists, and students who sang and chanted outside Bush's office for most of the day.

A tearful Rep. Tony Hill and Sen. Kendrick Meek, who had camped out in Lt. Gov. Frank Brogan's office for 24 hours, declared triumph in the late afternoon after Bush conceded to several requests from the 20-member legislative black caucus.

Among the concessions, Bush agreed to a month's delay in a vote by the state Board of Regents on key elements of the university portion of the plan and to three public hearings by a 15-member select legislative committee. The regents had been scheduled to vote Friday, Jan. 21, on changes that would have affected this fall's freshman class.

The sit-in began Tuesday afternoon, Jan. 18, when Bush refused to meet with Meek and Hill. The two legislators then refused to leave Brogan's office, which is in the governor's suite. Their victory came after a day of noisy demonstrations around the Capitol, an overnight lockdown of the governor's office, the physical ejection of nine reporters from the governor's office, and a demonstration against the governor's plan by about 150 people at Florida International University in southern Miami-Dade County.

Black legislators were unhappy that Bush never made an attempt to talk with them about his "One

Florida" plan, which ends minority preferences in education and state contracting.

"This is not the last time you'll see this kind of action if we don't have a voice in the process," promised Meek, D-Miami.

"You cannot operate in a vacuum up here. You can't just get two or three people and make a decision about what's going on in the state of Florida because we all represent people. That's what it was all about," said Hill, D-Jacksonville.

Across from them sat U.S. Rep. Carrie Meek, D-Miami, Kendrick Meek's mother and the first black elected to Congress from Florida. Four decades ago she led a protest march to the Tallahassee jail when a group of Florida A&M University students were arrested after a similar sit-in demonstration at Woolworth's, where they asked to be served at the lunch counter.

"Forty years ago I went to jail. God help us that we are going through this again," she said, grasping a small black Bible.

Bush repeatedly voiced disapproval of the sit-in. After a protest that drew national media attention, however, the governor began to relent. The final agreement, allowing Bush and the protesting legislators to save face, came together only after several hours of negotiations involving key black state lawmakers, House Speaker John Thrasher, R-Orange Park, and Senate President Toni Jennings, R-Orlando.

"In the end, we've agreed to disagree. I just hope that the hard work we put into this will eliminate some concerns and we can build upon it," Bush said. Earlier he agreed his

"One Florida" plan is not perfect, but "it will pass the test [of public approval], I'm confident of that."

Jon Moyle, a member of the Board of Regents from West Palm Beach, admitted that the public hearings on Bush's plan would not change his support for it. "I still think it's a good idea," Moyle said.

The Tallahassee demonstration sparked a protest Wednesday afternoon, Jan. 19, at FIU by more than 150 people. Waving orange flags and posters that read "Jobs with

Justice," the demonstrators chanted: "Shame on Bush, shame on Bush," and "What do we want? Justice. When do we want it? Now."

FIU officials said the demonstrators did not cause any problems or disrupt classes.

In Tallahassee, a protest outside Bush's office drew support from fellow Democratic legislators, nationally known civil rights activists, South Florida NAACP leaders, and scores of students from FAMU, the state's only mostly black public college, and Florida State University.

At one point well over 100 people gathered in front of the double doors that lead to the governor's suite. They blocked the doors, sang "We Shall Overcome" and other gospel songs, chanted, and criticized the governor and his plan.

Many were angered that the doors were locked to the public. "This office belongs to the people of Florida," said Sen. Mandy Dawson, D-Fort Lauderdale, as she

unsuccessfully tried to bring breakfast to Hill and Meek. "This isn't a democracy. We're embarking on a dictatorship."

Among those gathered in support of the protesting legislators was Cicely Hill, Tony Hill's 21-year-old daughter, who is a psychology student at FAMU.

"This is about making a statement," she said. "My dad is willing to go the extra mile in order to be heard, and so should we. I am proud of them. They are speaking up for us — for the students, for our children, and for their grandchildren."

Most Democratic members of the Broward, Palm Beach County, and Miami-Dade legislative delegations joined Tuesday afternoon, Jan. 18, in the governor's suite. Bush came into the office briefly but said he wouldn't revoke his Nov. 9 executive order abolishing affirmative action in state contracting. That's when the two legislators made an impromptu decision to just stay. With them were nine newspaper reporters and Barbara DeVane, a Tallahassee activist for the National Organization for Women.

In the overnight hours, Meek and Hill dozed but slept little. At one point, Hill proclaimed, "We're going to stay until hell freezes over." Later, he said, "This is an abomination for all those people who have fought on behalf of affirmative action. We're making a stand and hope other people are making a stand."

At noon Wednesday, the reporters and DeVane were told to leave. Reporters, including one from the *Sun-Sentinel*, were helped up from their seats by security agents and led, single file, out of the Capitol building. DeVane, who refused to get up, was dragged out the door by agents.

About an hour later, Bush met privately in the lieutenant governor's office with Hill and Meek while reporters watched outside an office window. The governor repeatedly became animated and waved his arms during his discussions with the lawmakers, who sat passively and listened.

Bush left, then returned and talked with the legislators again. Elsewhere in the Capitol, the legislative black caucus gave Republican legislative leaders a list of requests that they said could end the standoff. The key request: delay implementation of Bush's plan until public hearings could be held around the state. After more deliberations, Bush agreed.

At 4:35 p.m., almost 24 hours after the sit-in began, it was over. Hill and Meek met with Brogan

*"This is not the last time you'll see this kind of action if we don't have a voice in the process."*

-Senator Kendrick Meek,  
D-Miami