

Students protest unequal funding

Hundreds travel from Chicago to New Trier to symbolically apply for admission

By **JENNY SONG**
Associated Press Writer

NORTHFIELD, Ill. — More than 1,000 Chicago public school students skipped the first day of classes Tuesday to protest unequal education funding, a boycott organizers said would continue through the week with help from retired teachers who will turn office lobbies into impromptu classrooms.

The students took church buses 30 miles north to the wealthy suburb of Northfield, where they filled out applications to enroll in the better-funded New Trier district. The

move was largely symbolic because students must pay tuition to attend a school outside their home district.

The turnout fell short of the thousands organizers expected, and was a tiny fraction of the more than 400,000 students who attend Chicago public schools, but protesters and their parents said they're willing to keep the boycott going as long as it takes to persuade state officials to give their district more money.

"It's on us kids," said 14-year-old Tracey Stansberry, a student at Corliss High School. "If we don't, we'll be on the bottom."

Gillie Beal said she will keep her 12-year-old grandson involved in the protest as long as it takes. "You must stand for

something or you'll fall for anything," she said.

Chicago Public Schools spokesman Mike Vaughn said he did not know how many students boycotted the country's third-largest district Tuesday; attendance figures would not be available for a couple of days. Although district officials agree the system is underfunded, he said, they consider it a mistake for the children to miss any school.

"We want our kids to start the school year strong, and that means the first week of school," he said. "The first week, it is important for the kids to connect with teachers and lay the groundwork for the year. And that can't happen if kids aren't in school."

On Wednesday, boycott or-
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AP PHOTO BY M. SPENCER GREEN

Hundreds of Chicago public school students and their parents line up to fill out applications Tuesday at new trier high school in suburban Northfield, 30 miles away, in a mainly symbolic protest about unequal school funding.



AP PHOTO BY ARIANA CUBILLOS

Residents attempt to save their belongings from flooding Tuesday in L'Artibonite, northern Haiti. Tropical storm Hanna has left 10 people dead in Gonaives, along Haiti's western coast, according to the country's civil protection department. The storm appears headed for the U.S. East Coast.

What's with all these tropical storms?

Having four at once is unusual but not unprecedented, experts say

By **SETH BORENSTEIN**
AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON — The tropics seem to be going crazy what with the remnants of Gustav, the new threat from Hanna, a strengthening Ike and newcomer Josephine. Get used to it.

Hurricane experts say all the weather ingredients, which normally fluctuate, are set on boil for the formation of storms. And it's going to stay that way for a while, they said.

Four named storms at the same time is a bit odd, but not unprecedented, meteorologists said. In 1995 five named storms lived simultaneously. And in 1998 there were four hurricanes at

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AP PHOTO BY LM OTERO

Police officer walks inside a shelter set up for evacuees from hurricane Gustav in Shreveport, La., Tuesday, Sept. 2, 2008. Many of the people that fled the storm are complaining about sub-standard facilities devoid of any red cross or FEMA aid.

'If you're gonna help, help me. Don't send me to a place like this.'

By **JOHN MORENO GONZALES**
Associated Press Writer

SHREVEPORT, La. — With his city spared from major damage, and his husky body surpassing the edges of a narrow cot, Eddie Brown had come to believe Gustav was no longer the villain in this hurricane story: It was this rusted and vacant Sam's warehouse brimming with 3,000 evacuees.

The Shreveport shelter offered little more than a dry place to sleep. It had no showers, no elbow room and no privacy. After five days, Brown and others who fled here were questioning their decision to leave New Orleans at all.

"If you're gonna help, help me. Don't send me to a place like this," Brown said Tuesday, his eyes sunken in the industrial lights that stay on around the clock for security reasons. "I

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GOP rips Obama, supports

By **DAVID ESPO**
AP Special Correspondent

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Republicans assailed Barack Obama as the most liberal, least experienced White House nominee in history Tuesday night as President Bush led a convention chorus of praise for GOP candidate John McCain. Delegates rallied behind vice presidential running mate Sarah Palin in the face of fresh controversy.

"God only made one John McCain, and he is his own man," declared Sen. Joseph Lieberman, the 2000 Democratic vice presidential nominee, awarded a prime-time turn at the Republicans' convention podium.

The convention hall resounded with boos when Lieberman said the Democratic presidential candidate voted to cut off funding "for our troops on the ground" in Iraq last year.

And again when former Sen. Fred Thompson scoffed at the 47-year-old Illinois senator, who is seeking to become the first black president.

"Democrats present a history-making nominee for president. History making in that he is the most liberal, most inexperienced nominee ever to run for president," Thompson said as delegates roared their agreement.

Thompson and Lieberman both cast Palin as a political maverick in the McCain mold.

The Republican nominee-in-waiting campaigned in Pennsylvania and Ohio during the day, slowly making his way toward the convention city where the 72-year-old Arizona senator will deliver his formal ac-



Former Democratic vice presidential candidate Joseph Lieberman was among the speakers Tuesday night.



Vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin will address the convention tonight

AP PHOTOS

Convicted of microwaving her baby, mom seeks new trial

Associated Press

DAYTON, Ohio — A former cellmate who said a woman convicted of microwaving her baby daughter confessed to the crime has changed her story, the mother's attorneys said Tuesday as they asked for a new trial.

Defense attorney Jon Paul Rion said a woman who testified that defendant China Arnold confessed to the crime contacted him Tuesday and told him she was "ready to tell the truth."

During Arnold's first trial, Linda Williams testified that she had a sexual relationship with Arnold when the two

shared a cell in the Montgomery County jail in March and that Arnold confided in her about the baby's death.

Rion said that if allowed to testify, he believes, Williams would present evidence that contradicts her previous testimony.

"I have interviewed Linda Williams this day and the statements made during that interview are in total and complete contradiction to the testimony given at the previous trial," Rion wrote in an affidavit.

Officials at the jail, where Williams is back on a traffic violation, said they did not know whether she had an attorney.

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AP PHOTO

Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick is accused of trying to covering up an exchange of steaming text messages with his top aide.

Governor ponders mayor's fate

Misconduct hearing to last several days

By **ED WHITE**
and **COREY WILLIAMS**
Associated Press Writers

DETROIT — Gov. Jennifer Granholm opened an extraordinary hearing Wednesday to determine whether Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick committed misconduct and should be removed from office in a scandal over steamy text messages and a multimillion-dollar legal settlement.

Granholm gave brief opening remarks after Kilpatrick's lawyers failed the day before to persuade courts to stop the hearing, which drew members of the public as early as sunrise to a state office building.

Granholm will hear evi-

dence over allegations by the Detroit City Council that Kilpatrick misled it when it approved an \$8.4 million settlement with fired police officers. Council members say they didn't know the deal also covered up steamy text messages between Kilpatrick and his top aide, Christine Beatty, on city-issued pagers.

Michigan governors have a constitutional authority to remove elected officials for misconduct, but the target never has been the leader of the state's largest city. The hearing is expected to last several days.

"The burden of proof is sufficient evidence satisfactory to the governor," Granholm said in her remarks. "This is not a criminal trial. This is not a civil trial."

Kilpatrick skipped the hearing. His attorney, Sharon McPhail, attacked council members who asked for the removal hearing, saying they are Kilpatrick's political rivals. She said it was city lawyers who settled the case with former police officers, not the mayor.

"It's too stupid to be plausible" that Kilpatrick had a secret pact to cover up embarrassing text messages, McPhail said.

She warned the governor that removing the mayor would have a chilling effect on officials statewide. The last time a Michigan governor considered the removal of an elected official was in 1982. In that case, Gov. William Milliken found a township official guilty of official misconduct but let him stay in office if he stopped doing it.

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"I don't like being threatened, I don't submit."	—Amy Poehler

