



San Jose Mercury News

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A trip to history

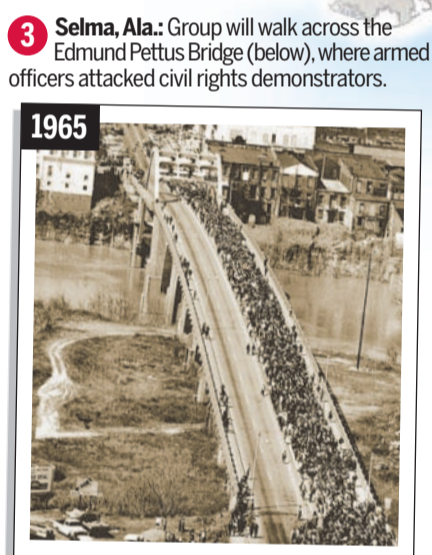
STUDENTS TO FOLLOW FOOTSTEPS OF CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT EN ROUTE TO OBAMA INAUGURATION

The journey begins...

1 Memphis, Tenn.: The 10-day road trip begins where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated at the Lorraine Motel on April 4, 1968 (below).



2 Jackson, Miss.: The group will travel along the Mississippi Delta and will stop along the Tallahatchie River, where the body of Emmett Till, who was killed by whites in August 1955, was discovered. The group will go to Philadelphia, Miss., where the KKK killed James Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner, civil rights workers who were registering black voters.



3 Selma, Ala.: Group will walk across the Edmund Pettus Bridge (below), where armed officers attacked civil rights demonstrators.

4 Birmingham, Ala.: Group will visit the 16th Street Baptist Church, where four little girls were killed in a KKK bombing on Sept. 15, 1963. The group will interview the church pastor and members.

5 Atlanta: Group will tour the Martin Luther King Center and meet with students at Morehouse, the only all-male historically black college in the United States. They will also tour CNN and the Atlanta Journal Constitution.

6 Greensboro, N.C.: Group will tour the Woolworth's lunch counter site where four North Carolina A&T students launched the sit-ins.



... and ends



7 Washington, D.C.: Group will assemble on the Mall for the inauguration of Barack Obama.

PHOTOS BY ASSOCIATED PRESS AND MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE. GRAPHIC BY DOUG GRISWOLD — MERCURY NEWS

San Jose State students raise funds to see the sites that bring America to Jan. 20, 2009

By Dana Hull Mercury News

For college senior Justin Allegri, the civil rights movement is a sepia-toned jumble of historic places, people and events that forced a reluctant America onto the long road toward electing its first black president last month.

Selma and Montgomery. The Tallahatchie River and the Edmund Pettus Bridge. Martin Luther King Jr. and Emmett Till. A sit-in at a Woolworth's lunch counter in Greensboro, N.C. The Ku Klux Klan bombing of Birmingham's 16th Street Baptist Church that killed four young girls.

Now Allegri, a broadcast journalism student at San Jose State University, and nine other students are preparing for a rare road trip back through some of the bloodiest and most intense corners of America's racial and political history. But this journey, through key civil rights landmarks in the American South, will culminate in Washington, D.C., with the group joining a throng of millions celebrating Barack Obama's historic inauguration Jan. 20.

"All I know of civil rights is what I've read in books and seen in video clips," said Allegri, who grew up in Santa Cruz and has never been to the Deep South. "But this way I'll be meeting people who were actually there."

San Jose State's journalism professors Michael Cheers and Bob Rucker, both African-American, are leading an ethnically diverse group. The journalism students had to write an essay detailing their understanding of civil rights history as part of the application process, and the professors selected students who have a strong command of multimedia technology.

Throughout the trip, the students will meet with and interview local residents who were part of the dramatic events as they unfolded. The students will blog, write stories, shoot photographs and video and edit multimedia packages as part of a special independent study project through San Jose State's School of Journalism and Mass Communications.

The group is now feverishly racing

See TRIP, Page 19

ONLINE

See more on the presidential transition of power, with multimedia and reader forums, at www.mercurynews.com/presidentelect.

RAISING FUNDS



PATRICK TEHAN — MERCURY NEWS

Bianca deCastro and her daughter, Jera, 3, try to drum up business as San Jose State students wash cars in the United Methodist Church parking lot.

ILLINOIS ARREST



NANCY STONE — CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich was arrested on corruption charges.

Senate seat for sale?

GOVERNOR ACCUSED OF CORRUPTION 'CRIME SPREE'

By Carrie Johnson Washington Post

Federal prosecutors charged Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich on Tuesday with engaging in a series of illegal schemes intended to enrich himself, including an attempt to sell the Senate seat recently vacated by President-elect Barack Obama.

In conversations riddled with coarse language and blunt threats that the FBI recorded with telephone wiretaps and listening devices planted in his campaign office, the Democratic governor laid bare a "pay-to-play" culture that, according to prosecutors, began shortly after he took office in 2002 and continued until before sunrise Tuesday, when FBI agents arrested him and John Harris, his chief of staff.

Beyond deliberations about filling the Senate seat, Blagojevich and Harris discussed withholding funding for a children's hospital project until its chief

See GOVERNOR, Page 8

WEATHER

Snow and rain on the way, but it's still too dry

By Bruce Newman Mercury News

There's some cold, wet weather headed our way this weekend, and here's a hint where it's coming from: Right now, Sarah Palin can see it from her front porch.

A cold air mass is barreling toward Silicon Valley from Alaska, and though you probably won't

need to break out your snow machine like the First Dude, there should be a mantle of white on Mount Hamilton by Sunday. The National Weather Service doesn't expect more than a dusting, but it should be enough to get everyone thinking about a white Christmas.

"For sure, Mount Hamilton will get some snow out of this," said Ryan Walbrun, senior meteorologist at the National Weather Service center in Monterey. But with snow levels descending only to 3,000 feet, what most of us will

FORECAST

Table with weather forecast data for Saturday, Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday, including high/low temperatures and chance of rain.

FINANCIAL CRISIS

Investors flee market turmoil, but get zero return on T-bills

SHUNNING CORPORATE BONDS, STOCKS COULD HURT ECONOMY

By Vikas Bajaj and Michael M. Grynbbaum New York Times

When was the last time you invested in something that you knew wouldn't make money?

In the market equivalent of shoveling cash under the mattress, hordes of buyers were so eager Tuesday to park money in the world's safest investment, U.S. government debt, that they agreed to accept a zero percent rate of return.

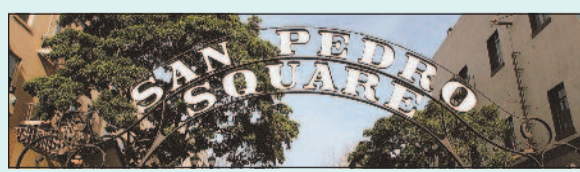
The news sends a sobering signal: In these troubled economic times, when

people have lost vast amounts on stocks, bonds and real estate, making an investment that offers security but no gain is tantamount to coming out ahead. This extremely cautious approach reflects concerns that a global recession could deepen next year, and continue to jeopardize all types of investments.

While this will lower the cost of borrowing for the U.S. government, economists worry that a widespread hunkering-down could have broader implications that could slow an economic recovery. If investors remain reluctant to put money into stocks and corporate

See DEBT, Page 19

LOCAL



MERCURY NEWS ARCHIVES

THUMBS UP FOR DOWNTOWN PLAN

Council OKs San Pedro Square proposal. PAGE 1B

WEATHER

Sunny High: 63-67 Low: 40-43 Complete forecast, 10B

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Table with index items and page numbers: Comics, Crossword, Dear Abby, Horoscope, Lottery, Movies, Obituaries, Opinion, Television.



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