

## Chavez

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earlier in the day.

Opposition has also been building to Bush's nomination of former Sen. John Ashcroft of Missouri as attorney general. He was opposed by a number of civil rights, abortion rights and liberal groups and their allies in Congress.

Bush is also to hold personnel meetings while in Washington. It was possible Bush would announce appointments to top unfilled positions in his administration, aides said. He has yet to fill the posts of trade representative, CIA director and U.N. ambassador.

## Flag Fight

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in 1956. Southern heritage groups say it was a tribute to Confederate soldiers, but most historians believe it was an act of defiance against the desegregation of schools.

Much of the South continues to struggle over the future of Confederate symbols. This year, the Legislature in Mississippi - the only other state that uses the Confederate emblem on its state flag - will consider a proposal to change the flag.

The debate also continues to simmer in South Carolina. Although the Confederate flag was removed from atop the

## Microsoft

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cations for that position," Jackson said, adding that, counting "secretive, arbitrary" stock options, black employees get about 30 cents for each dollar earned by white employees at Microsoft.

Jackson said he took his concerns to Microsoft chief executive Steve Ballmer be-

fore his suit was filed, but was rebuffed.

"He said he didn't feel there was anything he could do," Jackson said. "We really didn't want to have to be here today."

Former employee Jozette Joyner, who worked as an assistant to a vice president until last year, said that that her white boss told her she

## Traffic

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The film succeeds because it puts a diversity of faces on the drug culture, indicting all its players: the kingpins, street-level dealers, bribed cops, recreational teen abusers, ghetto crack-addicts, bought-and-paid for politicians, even a compromised, crime-fighting drug czar. Refreshingly unpredictable, it would be unfair for me to

spoil your viewing of one of the year's best films by revealing any of its surprising plot twists. Suffice to say that Traffic is a compelling action film, yet the action somehow remains secondary to the piercing portraits of its fascinating characters.

Excellent (4 Stars). Rated R for illegal drug use, profanity, gruesome violence, nudity and graphic sex.

Statehouse, another was placed nearby on the Statehouse grounds, raising the ire of civil rights leaders.

Barnes hasn't taken a position on the flag issue, other than to say the state has more pressing matters to confront.

State Rep. Calvin Smyre, chairman of the House Rules Committee and a Democrat, said he is working to find a consensus and resolve the issue.

"It's no cakewalk," Smyre said. "It's going to be a very, very difficult proposition because there are strong feelings on both sides."

would "never get out of this cubicle," and that other employees were told to watch her and her black colleagues to make sure they wouldn't steal anything.

The district court will first decide whether to approve class-action status for the case, which could take two to three months. Gary said he hopes to go to trial within a

year.

In October, a lawyer representing a black female plaintiff filed a suit against Microsoft claiming racial and gender bias.

That suit, which also requested an injunction against further discrimination by Microsoft, is still pending and is also seeking class-action status.

## Domain

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a profit, or to mislead the public.

Anyone can register a domain name for a few dollars, which has led so-called "cybersquatters" to file for famous names to make a fast buck from those who want the names. Some names are worth millions of dollars.

The U.N. system, which started last year, allows those who think they have the true right to a domain to get it back without having to fight a costly legal battle or paying large sums of money.

## Election

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The commission will hold hearings into whether Floridians' voting rights were violated, after complaints were made to the Department of Justice by the Rev. Jesse Jackson and others alleging that some black voters were denied access to the polls.

Several groups, as well as dozens of black members of Congress, have alleged that black voters were kept from the polls in Florida and other states on Election Day, and ballots of others were systematically discarded.

Exit polls showed that nine out of 10 blacks voted for Vice President Al Gore rather than Republican George W. Bush.

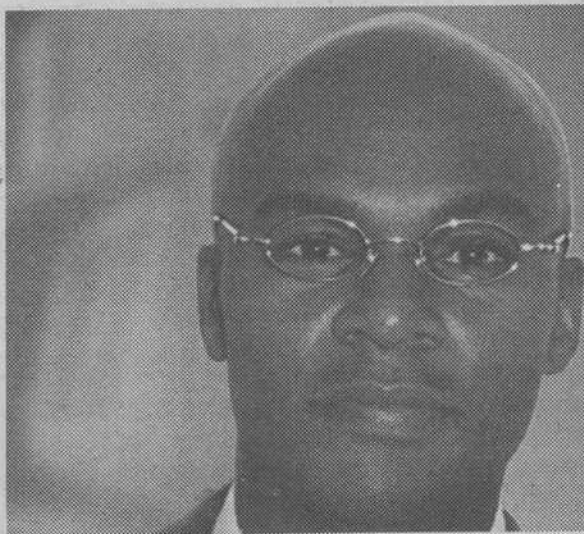
Many Gore supporters believed manual recounts of ballots in disputed Florida precincts would give him the nationwide victory, but the U.S. Supreme Court halted the recounts Dec. 12. Florida's 25 electoral votes gave Bush the presidency.

Jackson has promised demonstrations in the days leading up to the inauguration and is to appear in a Jan. 20 rally in Tallahassee. Protests are also scheduled in Chicago and other cities.

Among events planned in Washington is a "Shadow Inaugural" march by the Rev. Al Sharpton on Jan. 20, Inauguration Day, to the Supreme Court building.

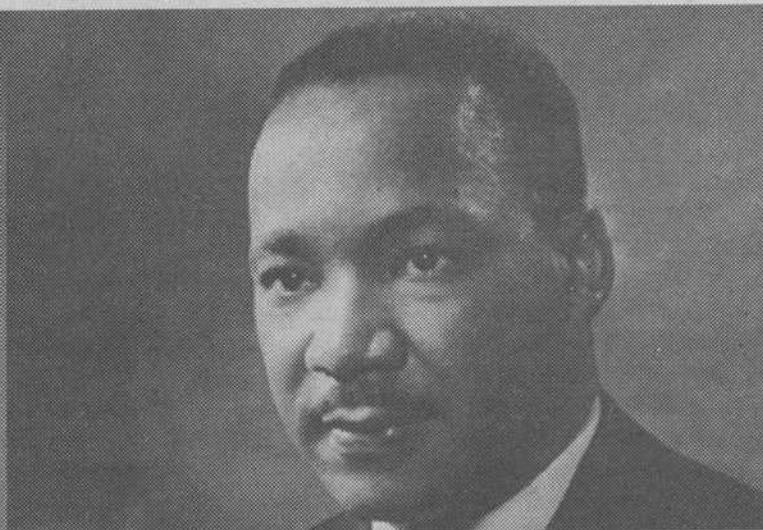
"Never again will the African-American vote be taken for granted," said Martin Luther King III, who heads the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. "That is what this election showed us."

WHAT YOU WENT THROUGH  
TO GET YOUR JOB:



4 years of high school  
4 years of college  
2 years of graduate school  
Years of work experience  
before becoming president.

WHAT HE WENT THROUGH  
TO GET YOU YOUR JOB:



Dog attacks  
Beatings  
Phone threats  
A house bombing  
Harassment  
A stabbing  
Arrests  
Incarceration  
Murdered while fighting  
for workers' rights

As we continue the struggle for equality for all, let's not forget the man who opened so many doors: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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