

LOCAL

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tree was magnificent." Trabue added that "visiting the White House was a once in a life time experience" and feels honored to be part of the "national tradition. It was really a thrill to see your creation hanging in such a historical setting and the reception was fabulous."

Each artist had pictures taken with Mrs. Bush and the tree. The ornaments will become a part of the White House archives.

Black studies scholar Henry Louis Gates to stay at Harvard

BOSTON (AP) - West Virginia native Henry Louis Gates put an end to a widely watched academic tug-of-war, announcing he would remain as head of Harvard University's Black studies department rather than follow two prominent colleagues to Princeton.

"This is for good," Gates told The Associated Press in a telephone interview. "It's to rest. It's final."

Professors Cornel West and K. Anthony Appiah were lured away by Princeton earlier this year. West left after a dispute with new Harvard President Lawrence Summers.

Gates, a native of Piedmont, W.Va., and a member of West Virginia University's Board of Advisers, also is chair of Harvard's Afro-American Studies program and director of the W.E.B. DuBois Institute for Afro-American Research.

Gates said that he had talked extensively with Summers since West's departure.

"We've been talking heart-to-heart," Gates said. "We've developed a warm working relationship. It's very candid, very open, very frank, and I'm absolutely persuaded that he sees Afro-American studies as fundamental to the intellectual life of a great university."

In a statement, Summers said he was "delighted" with the decision.

Gates had previously said he would not leave for Princeton this academic year, but had not ruled out the move altogether. His plans had been the subject of widespread speculation among observers who wondered whether Princeton would lure the entire Black studies "dream team" Harvard had put together during the 1990s.

"It was very tempting to join Anthony Appiah and Cornel West," Gates said. "They're my two best friends in the academy and they're two great scholars, and Princeton now has virtually overnight become one of the three great centers of African-American studies."

But, he said, the Harvard department was in transition.

"It would be irresponsible of me to leave at this time," he said. "I'm very concerned with protecting the great legacy that Cornel West and Anthony Appiah and our colleagues built."

Princeton spokeswoman Lauren Robinson-Brown said the university would have been pleased if Gates had decided to come to Princeton.

"We appreciate the reasons he has stated for making his decision and we appreciate his kind words about Princeton," she said.

Prosecutor drops murder charge against retarded suspect

By Associated Press

Prosecutors dropped charges against a mentally retarded man after a judge threw out his confession to the murder of an 11-year-old girl.

The Marion County prosecutor's office dismissed charges against Charles Daugherty, 32.

Defense attorney Jane

Ruemmele said Daugherty was released from the county jail, where he has been held since his arrest in October 2000.

"I'm sure he's relieved but until today, I didn't know what direction the state would take. And I've been cautious with my optimism for Charles," said Ruemmele.

Marion Superior Court Judge Patricia Gifford threw out Daugherty's confession, ruling

that he did not know what he was doing when he told police he had raped and killed fourth-grader LaShonna Bates.

Gifford said Daugherty was not capable of intelligently waiving his Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination during police questioning. Daugherty has a reported IQ of 67.

Without the confession, prosecutors had no choice but to

dismiss the charges, said Deputy Prosecutor Ralph Staples. However, he said prosecutors will consult with the state attorney general and may file an appeal.

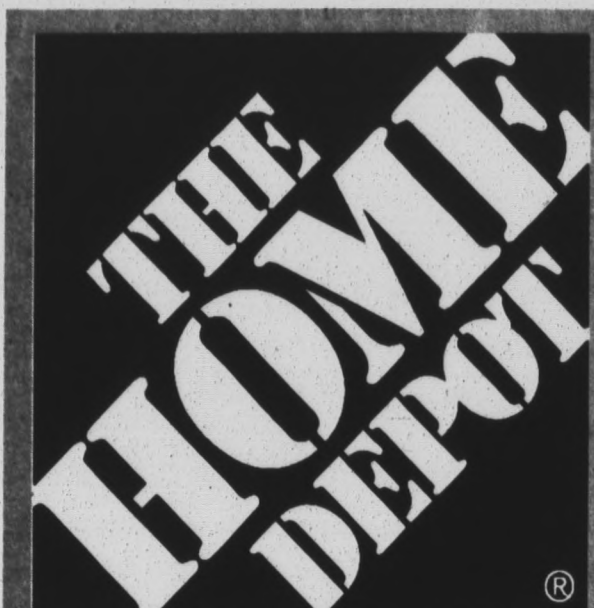
Daugherty, a former restaurant worker, confessed to Bates' 1994 murder when police promised to take him home after 13 hours of questioning, Gifford noted.

Ruemmele contended Daugherty confessed so officers

would take him home.

Authorities said Daugherty, a convicted child molester, was a suspect from the moment he reported finding a badly decomposed body in a wooded area on April 5, 1994.

Daugherty told detectives he kidnapped the girl and raped her five times before striking her head with a rock. However, doctors found no evidence the girl had been raped.



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