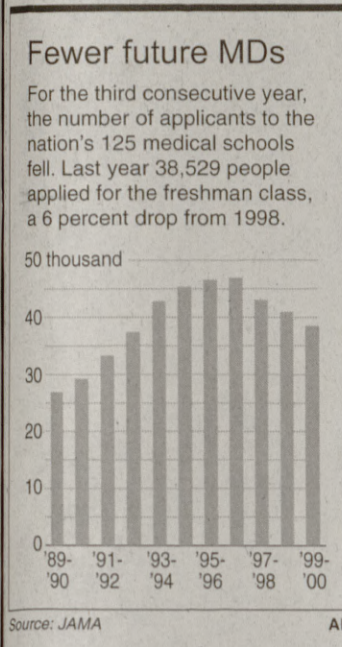


Medical school applications drop



CHICAGO (AP) — The number of applicants to the nation's 125 medical schools fell for the third straight year in 1999, in part because of the booming economy and the changing face of medicine, researchers say. The 38,529 applicants for last year's freshman class represent a 6 percent decline from 1998, when there were 41,004 applicants. And despite gains over the years, blacks and Hispanics are still under-represented among applicants, students and admissions officers. The figures were contained in studies published in Wednesday's Journal of the American Medical Association. The biggest drop in applicants — 9.1 percent — was seen among men, while the number of female applicants fell 2 percent. Barbara Barzansky of the AMA's undergraduate medical education di-

vision, who led the overall enrollment study, suggested the economy has been so strong that potential applicants might be choosing other fields. Also, doctors are having more trouble finding practices and medicine has changed so much that many doctors say they would not enter the field again, Barzansky said. She also said the average medical school graduate last year was \$90,000 in debt. While schools in the past decade have begun programs to increase racial diversity, attacks on affirmative action programs in some states have created a more hostile climate for minorities in medicine, the researchers suggested. One study found that the number of black, Hispanic and American Indian applicants fell by nearly 7 percent last year, from 4,487 in 1998 to 4,181. Of last year's freshman class, 7.9 percent were black, 6.9 percent were Hispanic, 19.4 percent were Asian or Pacific Islander and 0.7 percent were American Indian. The U.S. population is 12 percent black, 12 percent Hispanic, 4 Asian/Pacific Islander and 0.7 percent American Indian. Of particular concern is a lack of blacks and Hispanics on admissions committees, researchers said. Of 85 medical schools surveyed, half had two or fewer minorities on their committees and 11 had none. The researchers speculated that recruitment of minority admissions officers could promote diversity. Overall, 87 percent of the committees had at least one minority member, a substantial gain from just 55 percent in 1972, said the researchers, Drs. Douglas Kondo of the Menninger Clinic and Victoria Judd of the University of Utah. The committees had an average of 16 members.

Bush caught at press conference using obscenity about reporter

NAPERVILLE, Ill. (AP) — George W. Bush made a disparaging remark about a reporter from The New York Times that was picked up by a live microphone. As Bush stood on the podium Monday waiting for music to finish, he turned to running mate Dick Cheney and used an obscenity to describe reporter Adam Clymer in the nearby press area. Cheney agreed with Bush's assessment. Both men thought their remarks were off-mike. Karen Hughes, Bush's spokeswoman, said the remarks were "a whispered aside to his running mate. It was not intended as a public comment." Clymer said, "I'm disappointed in the governor's language." Cheney refused to discuss it. "The governor made a private comment to me. It was a private com-

ment, and I don't plan to say anything about it," he told reporters later in Chicago. Joseph Lieberman, the Democratic vice presidential candidate, called Bush's remark a mistake. "You'd better be real careful what you do or say at any moment because it could be globally televised, or known rapidly."

that "reminds us of the reality of public life." "You'd better be real careful what you do or say at any moment because it could be globally televised, or known rapidly," Lieberman said Tuesday on CBS' "The Early Show." The Times on Tuesday quoted Hughes as saying of Clymer, "There's been a series of articles that the governor felt have been very unfair." Joseph Lelyveld, the Times' executive editor, said Clymer was a veteran political reporter "His work is both fair and accurate. The Times has never heard from the Bush campaign about Adam. If they have a complaint, they should convey it to us and we will review it as we do all serious complaints about our coverage."

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 s Labor Day high surpassed  
 previous record of 106.4  
 in 1998.  
 n you bust a record by 5  
 e that, that's something  
 Alan Moller, NWS meteorologist  
 in Fort Worth, told the Waco  
 bune-Herald.  
 Houston reached its  
 record of 111 on Aug. 23, 1989  
 — a temperature that was tied  
 week during the summer's  
 drought, said John Zeigler,  
 Service senior forecaster.  
 ate's all-time high is 111,  
 which was recorded in  
 as town of Seymour in  
 1980.  
 se of its distance from  
 orth Texas is vulnerable  
 extreme temperatures,  
 sts said.  
 usually have more moisture  
 because we're influenced  
 so it's not as hot," Carr  
 weather service meteorologist  
 the Houston Chronicle.  
 t said the extreme heat