

Date and Time: Saturday, May 4, 2024 3:28:00 AM EEST

Job Number: 223500036

Documents (99)

1. [AP Top News at 7 a.m. EDT Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2000](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

2. [AP News Digest](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

3. [AP Top News at 1 a.m. EST Friday, Dec. 3, 1999](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

4. [AP Top News at 1 a.m. EST Monday, Nov. 29, 1999](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

5. [AP Top News at Midnight EST Thursday, Nov. 25, 1999](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

6. [AP News Digest](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

7. [AP News Digest](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

8. [Court decision in California protects bloggers from libel suits](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

9. [AP News Digest](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

10. [Weekend : FAITH, HATE AND MURDER: Martin O'Hagan was the first journalist to be killed in the recent Troubles in Northern Ireland . He'd been in the Maze prison and was a fearless reporter on crime and the paramilitaries. Susan McKay describes his life as a marked man - and the revival of religious fundamentalism among the loyalists who claim they murdered him](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

11. [AP News Digest](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

12. [AP Top News at 6 p.m. EDT Tuesday, April 18, 2000](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

13. [AP Top News at 4:25 p.m. EDT Thursday, April 6, 2000](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

14. [AP News Digest](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

15. [AP and RealNetworks Inc. launch service for media Web sites](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

16. [AP News Digest](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

17. [AP News Digest](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

18. [AP News Digest](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

19. [AP Top News at Midnight EST Tuesday, Nov. 30, 1999](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

20. [*AP Top News at 1 a.m. EST Friday, Nov. 19, 1999*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

21. [*AP Top News at 1 a.m. EST Wednesday, Nov. 16, 1999*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

22. [*AP Top News at Midnight EST Monday, Nov. 22, 1999*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

23. [*AP Top News at Noon EDT Friday, May 12, 2000*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

24. [*AP Top News at 1 a.m. EST Saturday, Jan. 22, 2000*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

25. [AP Top News at 11 a.m. EDT Thursday, Sept. 21, 2000](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

26. [Editors.; Publishers:](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

27. [AP Top News at 7 a.m. EDT Wednesday, Oct. 25, 2000](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

28. [AP Top News at Midnight EST Sunday, Nov. 21, 1999](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

29. [World Briefing: France and Ireland Arrest 7 Linked To Real I.R.A.](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

30. [World Briefing Europe: Northern Ireland : Four Charged In Gun Plot](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

31. ['Real' IRA bomb suspect arrested](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

32. [World Briefing Europe: Northern Ireland : Arrests On Both Sides](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

33. [World Briefing Europe: France And Ireland Arrest 7 Linked To Real I.R.A.](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

34. [Bomb explodes outside police station](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases,Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

35. [INSIDE](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases,Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

36. [Leader of Real IRA arrested](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases,Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

37. [WILL WE GO AFTER ALL OTHER TERRORISTS, SUCH AS THE IRA?](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases,Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

38. [U.K. intelligence arm targets al-Qaida](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases,Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31,

2004

39. [Bomb Explodes in N. Ireland County](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

40. [Nireland-Bomb](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

41. [Bomb explodes outside police station](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

42. [US -Terrorism](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

43. [At least 7 policemen injured in Belfast clashes](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type

Narrowed by

News

Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

44. [*Army defuses bomb under pregnant woman's car*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

45. [*Women arrested over bombing campaign in England*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

46. [*major news items in leading british newspapers*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

47. [*On this day*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

48. [*ON THIS DAY*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

49. [Yoko Ono says Lennon gave money to Ireland , but not to the IRA](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

50. [Car crashes into Downing Street gates](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

51. [Women arrested over bombing campaign by IRA dissidents in England](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

52. [Girlfriends caught in bomb swoop](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

53. [Today in history](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

54. [*Yoko denies Lennon IRA link*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

55. [*Widow denies Lennon funded IRA*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

56. [*WASHINGTON: be frozen.*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

57. [*TODAY'S HISTORY*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

58. [*TODAY'S HISTORY*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

59. [Lennon did not help IRA, says Yoko](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

60. [No Headline In Original](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

61. [No Headline In Original](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

62. [No Headline In Original](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

63. [No Headline In Original](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

64. [No Headline In Original](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

65. [No Headline In Original](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

66. [No Headline In Original](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

67. [No Headline In Original](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

68. [No Headline In Original](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases,Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

69. [No Headline In Original](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases,Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

70. [No Headline In Original](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases,Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

71. [No Headline In Original](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases,Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

72. [No Headline In Original](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases,Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31,

73. [No Headline In Original](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases,Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

74. [No Headline In Original](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases,Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

75. [No Headline In Original](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases,Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

76. [No Headline In Original](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases,Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

77. [No Headline In Original](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type

Narrowed by

News

Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

78. [No Headline In Original](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

79. [No Headline In Original](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

80. [No Headline In Original](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

81. [No Headline In Original](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

82. [Names in the News](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

83. [No Headline In Original](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

84. [No Headline In Original](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

85. [Congo peace hopes](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

86. [No Headline In Original](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

87. [No Headline In Original](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1999 to Dec 31, 2004

88. [No Headline In Original](#)

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89. [No Headline In Original](#)

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90. [No Headline In Original](#)

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98. [Northern Ireland : Six arrested in arms plot](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

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News

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99. [Gun-plot charges](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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News

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AP Top News at 7 a.m. EDT Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2000

Associated Press Online

September 27, 2000; Wednesday

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Section: Domestic, non-Washington, general news item

Length: 15038 words

Byline: VINCENT K. WILLIS

Body

Greece Ship Sinking Kills 40

ATHENS, Greece (AP)

A Greek ferry carrying more than 510 passengers and crew sank after hitting a rocky islet near the Aegean Sea island of Paros, rescue officials said today. At least 40 people were killed and another 46 were unaccounted for. A port official also suffered a heart attack and died after hearing news of the sinking, the coast guard said. Coast Guard chief Andreas Sirigos said 40 people were confirmed dead and 46 missing after the 34-year-old ferry boat Express Samina sank after hitting a large patch of rocks late Tuesday in rough seas about two miles off the popular resort island.

Prague Quiet After Summit Riots

PRAGUE, Czech Republic (AP)

Prague rumbled through the night with police helicopters looking for troublesome anticapitalist protesters, but by today the city streets were quiet and hundreds of the demonstrators who smashed bank windows and demolished a McDonald's had left town. No protests were immediately scheduled outside the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, but the city was still shaking off a day of street protests, tear gas and 5,000 marchers chanting "smash the IMF!" The three-day meeting opened Tuesday.

Gore To Compare Prescription Plans

ALTOONA, Iowa (AP)

With campaign rhetoric growing tougher by the day, Al Gore is offering a "compare and contrast" with rival George W. Bush on prescription drug plans, a key element of a health care debate at the heart of the presidential election. Appearing before carefully selected seniors, Gore pitched his plan but saved time to bash Bush as he compared their proposals. Gore was touting his \$253 billion prescription drug package, but also sharpening differences with Bush. Campaign aides argue the issue resonates with voters, and Gore sought to focus the campaign's debate on health care. It was part of a weeklong focus, but the prescription drug portion was today's theme.

Yugoslav Election Runoff Rejected

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP)

AP Top News at 7 a.m. EDT Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2000

Yugoslav opposition leaders have rebuffed President Slobodan Milosevic's claim that he earned enough votes to force a runoff in presidential elections, pledging to defend the will of the people by all means short of violence. Milosevic defied international and domestic appeals for him to step down Tuesday, announcing a runoff election against opposition leader Vojislav Kostunica, who insists he won Sunday's election outright. Kostunica quickly counterattacked, rejecting a runoff and planning a massive rally today in downtown Belgrade to defend the results.

House Mulls Palestinian Sanctions

WASHINGTON (AP)

The House was prepared to vote on a measure that would cut off all except humanitarian aid to the Palestinians should Yasser Arafat unilaterally declare a Palestinian state. The measure was brought to the floor ahead of Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's scheduled testimony Wednesday before the House International Relations Committee. Albright told a Senate panel on Tuesday that senior Israeli and Palestinian negotiators had arrived in Washington at the request of President Clinton to try again to arrange a peace settlement. In the past, the Clinton administration has questioned the wisdom of singling out the Palestinians but not the Israelis for actions that could hinder the peace process.

Tokyo Stocks Fall

TOKYO (AP)

The benchmark 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average shed 194.17 points, or 1.22 percent, to 15,734.45 at the end of the morning session. Investors turned bearish after the Dow Jones industrial average fell 176.83 points to 10,631.32 at Tuesday's close. The Nasdaq composite index lost 52.12 to end at 3,689.10.

Gymnast Must Wait For Medal Decision

SYDNEY, Australia (AP)

Romanian all-around gymnastics champion Andreea Raducan must wait another day to learn whether she will regain the gold medal stripped from her because she took cold medicine containing a banned substance. After a 41/2-hour hearing today at the Court of Arbitration for Sport, Romanian Olympic Committee president Ion Tiriuc emerged and asked for patience. The Romanians argue that the penalty was too harsh because Raducan had simply taken the medicine to cure a cold. The substance, pseudoephedrine, is listed as a stimulant by the International Olympic Committee.

Kazakhstan's Shishigina Wins Hurdles

SYDNEY, Australia (AP)

With an injured Gail Devers suddenly reduced to the role of spectator, a hurdler who missed the last Olympics on a drug ban captured the one medal Devers truly craved. Olga Shishigina of Kazakhstan won the 100-meter hurdles today in 12.65 seconds. Gloria Alozie of Nigeria won the silver and Melissa Morrison of the United States won the bronze. American Angelo Taylor won gold in the men's 400-meter hurdles and Germany's Nils Schumann held off Wilson Kipketer at the finish line of the 800 meters to win that race.

Greek Ship Sinking Kills 55

PAROS, Greece (AP)

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America Online, NTT DoCoMo Ally

TOKYO (AP)

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AP Top News at 7 a.m. EDT Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2000

WASHINGTON (AP)

Hollywood executives are seeking to mollify angry lawmakers with new pledges to curb the marketing of R-rated movies to underage audiences. Top studio executives prepared to present their initiatives today on Capitol Hill. The plan, which was unveiled yesterday by the Motion Picture Association of America, calls for the movie studios to ask theater owners not to show ads for R-rated films during G-rated movies and to not include people under age 17 in focus groups for R-rated movies without a parent.

District Ends Boy Scout Affiliation

NEW YORK (AP)

A Manhattan school board has banned its 42 schools from sponsoring Boy Scout troops because the 90-year-old national organization excludes gays. The board of Community School District Two passed the resolution at a meeting last night, becoming the first district in the city to enact such a ban. The ban keeps the schools in the district, primarily elementary and middle schools, from sponsoring troops, which none currently do. The troops may still meet on campus, as can most any independent group.

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Marion Jones Has Big Day on Track

SYDNEY, Australia (AP)

Marion Jones looked as good as ever in her first day back on the Olympic track since it was announced that her husband had tested positive for the steroid nandrolone. She breezed through the first two rounds of the 200 meters today, then bettered the automatic qualifying mark in the long jump, her weakest event, with a leap of 22 feet, 3 inches.

55 Die As Greek Ferry Sinks

PAROS, Greece (AP)

A Greek ferry struck a patch of rocks in the Aegean Sea and sank, killing at least 55 of the more than 500 people aboard who panicked and started jumping overboard, rescue officials said. "We're finding bodies all the time. There are 55 dead and about that number of people missing," rescue force chief Andreas Kois said today. Many of the dead were young children, who were not required to be counted on the passenger list. A port official also suffered a heart attack and died after hearing news of the sinking, the coast guard said.

Nazi War Crimes Suspect Dies

VILNIUS, Lithuania (AP)

AP Top News at 7 a.m. EDT Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2000

Alleged Nazi war criminal Aleksandras Lileikis, indicted for sending scores of Jews to their deaths during World War II, has died of a heart attack before a court could pass final judgment. He was 93. Nazi hunters sought for years to bring Lileikis, whom they considered one of the last major Nazi war criminals, to justice. He was indicted by Lithuanian prosecutors, but the trial that began in 1998 never went beyond preliminary stages. Lileikis died yesterday. Lileikis maintained his innocence throughout the on-again, off-again court proceedings.

Yugoslav Opposition Plans Rally

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP)

Yugoslav opposition candidate Vojislav Kostunica has rejected President Slobodan Milosevic's call for a runoff election, planning a massive rally tonight in downtown Belgrade to defend his apparent victory. The election commission reported that Kostunica finished first with 48.22 percent while Milosevic earned 40.23 percent. Under Yugoslav law, a runoff is required since none of the candidates received more than 50 percent. The Democratic Opposition of Serbia released its own tally based what it said was on 97.5 percent of the ballots. It showed Kostunica leading with 55 percent to Milosevic's 35 percent.

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Attempted Chinese Hijacking Foiled

BEIJING (AP)

The crew of a Chinese domestic airliner thwarted a hijacking attempt this morning, and airport police killed one of the suspected hijackers after the plane landed safely, state-run media reported. The plane's captain and another unidentified crew member were injured in the attempted hijacking of the Xinhua Airlines flight, the China News Service and the state-run China Central Television reported. All 143 passengers were unharmed.

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Russians Charge American Businessman

MOSCOW (AP)

Russian prosecutors have officially charged American businessman Edmond Pope with espionage and sent his case to court, officials said today. "As the result of the investigation, E. Pope has been incriminated in espionage," said a terse statement by the Prosecutor-General's office obtained by The Associated Press. The prosecutors sent Pope's case to the Moscow city court yesterday, after reviewing the charges drawn up against him by the Federal Security Service, the statement said. Pope faces 20 years in prison if convicted.

Poll: Gore Holds Edge in Michigan

WASHINGTON (AP)

Al Gore and George W. Bush are very close in national polls, with a new one giving Bush an edge. In the battleground state of Michigan, Gore is hanging onto a slim lead because of heavy backing by union voters. Democrat Gore is also seen as running a more positive campaign than his Republican rival in the state with 18 electoral votes.

Continental Faces Suit by Air France

HOUSTON (AP)

Air France is suing Continental Airlines in connection with a July 25 crash of an Air France Concorde jet in which 113 people died. Continental Airlines, in a statement said, Air France initiated the litigation yesterday. The Houston-based airline said the lawsuit was filed in France earlier this month. An Air France spokeswoman in Paris today declined to comment on the lawsuit.

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Dow Climbs 15; Nasdaq Jumps 43

NEW YORK (AP)

In early trading, the Dow Jones industrial average is up 15.54 at 10,646.86 and the Nasdaq composite index is up 43.01 at 3,732.11.

Women's Hoops: U.S. 58, Slovakia 43

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Lisa Leslie, the 6-foot-5 center from the Los Angeles Sparks, hit three jump shots from 15 feet and beyond early in the second half to help the United States shake off Slovakia 58-43 to move into the semifinals of the Olympic tournament. One more victory, and the United States will be in the gold medal game, which is where the Americans had expected to end these Olympics all along. To get there, though, they'll have to win a rematch with pesky South Korea on Friday.

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Clinton Dismisses Yugoslav Runoff

WASHINGTON (AP)

At the White House today President Clinton dismissed Yugoslav government plans for a run-off election as an apparent attempt to steal a fair election. Clinton said, "It certainly appears from a distance that they had a free election and somebody's trying to take it away from them," Authorities in Belgrade called a runoff election for Oct. 8 on grounds no clear winner emerged from Sunday's balloting. "The government's official election commission has no credibility whatever," Clinton said.

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HOUSTON (AP)

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OPEC Targets \$22-\$28 Oil Price

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries is shooting for the price of oil to be between \$22 and \$28 a barrel. Many analysts and market watchers, however, doubt the cartel's ability to corral prices into that range, and even OPEC itself is considering raising the target to make it easier to hit. At their first summit in 25 years, OPEC leaders repeated promises to get oil prices below \$28 a barrel, pledges they've had little luck fulfilling.

Service Chiefs Urge Defense Spending

WASHINGTON (AP)

The U.S. military is fully prepared to carry out its war-fighting missions but the next president and Congress will have to increase defense spending to keep the troops ready, the nation's top military officer told the Senate today. Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman Army Gen. Henry H. Shelton said: "Continuing to improve our current readiness posture to desired levels while preparing for tomorrow's challenges will require additional resources."

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Dow Declines 10; Nasdaq Up 19

NEW YORK (AP)

AP Top News at 7 a.m. EDT Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2000

The markets were mixed today as investors concerned about corporate profits again sold off stocks of poor performers. Just before 11 a.m. EDT, the Dow Jones industrial average was down 10.92 at 10,620.40. The Nasdaq composite index was up 19.17 at 3,708.27.

Arrests in Rocker-Bottle Incident

NEW YORK (AP)

A man who served 11½ years in prison for the death of his hours-old son was arrested on a charge of interfering with police after a friend allegedly threw a bottle at Atlanta Braves reliever John Rocker at Shea Stadium. Brian Petersen, 22, was charged with obstructing governmental administration and disorderly conduct. His friend, Ray Maniaci, was charged with reckless endangerment.

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At the White House today President Clinton dismissed Yugoslav government plans for a run-off election as an apparent attempt to steal a fair election. Clinton said, "It certainly appears from a distance that they had a free election and somebody's trying to take it away from them," Authorities in Belgrade called a runoff election for Oct. 8 on grounds no clear winner emerged from Sunday's balloting. "The government's official election commission has no credibility whatever," Clinton said.

OPEC Targets \$22-\$28 Oil Price

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

AP Top News at 7 a.m. EDT Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2000

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries is shooting for the price of oil to be between \$22 and \$28 a barrel. Many analysts and market watchers, however, doubt the cartel's ability to corral prices into that range, and even OPEC itself is considering raising the target to make it easier to hit. At their first summit in 25 years, OPEC leaders repeated promises to get oil prices below \$28 a barrel, pledges they've had little luck fulfilling.

EU Plans Air Safety Agency

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP)

The European Union's head office today revealed plans to create an aviation safety agency. The proposed agency would be responsible for drawing up and regulating EU-wide airplane safety and security standards. "The EU will at last have the means to conduct a genuine aviation safety policy," said EU Transport Commissioner Loyola de Palacio in a statement.

Service Chiefs Urge Defense Spending

WASHINGTON (AP)

The U.S. military is fully prepared to carry out its war-fighting missions but the next president and Congress will have to increase defense spending to keep the troops ready, the nation's top military officer told the Senate today. Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman Army Gen. Henry H. Shelton said: "Continuing to improve our current readiness posture to desired levels while preparing for tomorrow's challenges will require additional resources."

Stocks Mixed in Midday Trading

NEW YORK (AP)

Stock prices were mixed today as investors concerned about third-quarter profits again sold off shares of poor performers. Just before noon EDT, the Nasdaq Composite Index is up 15.94 at 3,705.04 and the Dow Jones industrial average is down 27.38 at 10,603.94. Advancing stocks lead decliners on the New York Stock Exchange 1,471-1,080.

Pacers Center Rik Smits Retires

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)

Indiana Pacers center Rik Smits retired today, citing foot problems and other injuries that have plagued him throughout his career. Smits became the third starter and fourth player to leave the team that reached the NBA Finals last season. The 7-foot-4 center, born in the Netherlands, said he had considered retiring a year ago, but after working out over that summer had decided to come back one more year.

Women's Hoops: U.S. 58, Slovakia 43

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Greek Ship Sinking Kills 59

PAROS, Greece (AP)

A Greek ferry struck a patch of rocks in the Aegean Sea and sank, killing at least 59 of the more than 500 people aboard. Many of the victims panicked and jumped off the boat, rescue officials said. The ship's captain and four crew members were arrested after the accident yesterday, amid reports at least some of them were watching a soccer match on television at the time. Government officials accused them of criminal negligence, and survivors criticized the shipping company for complete disorganization.

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U.S. May Cut Aid to Palestinians

WASHINGTON (AP)

The House voted today to cut off all except humanitarian aid to the Palestinians should Yasser Arafat unilaterally declare a Palestinian state. The 385-27 vote came as Secretary of State Madeleine Albright testified before the House International Relations Committee. It has not passed the Senate. Albright told a Senate panel yesterday that senior Israeli and Palestinian negotiators had returned to Washington at the request of President Clinton to try again to arrange a peace settlement.

Ferry Survivors Describe Horror

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Priceline Stock Plunges 43 Percent

NORWALK, Conn. (AP)

Shares of Priceline.com fell 43 percent today after the company warned today that its third-quarter revenues are likely to fall short of expectations. Priceline, known for its name-your-price system for online purchases of airline

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tickets, hotel rooms, rental cars and home mortgages, said third-quarter revenues would likely range from \$340 million to \$345 million. Third-quarter 1999 revenue was \$152.2 million.

Clinton: GOP Ducking Gay Rights Bill

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President Clinton accused congressional Republicans today of ducking a gay-rights bill out of fear it might anger some of the party's bedrock supporters. "The Republican majority does not want a bill that explicitly provides hate crimes protections for gay Americans," Clinton said at the White House. "I think they think it will split their base or something." Clinton is pushing an anti-hate-crimes bill that would define crimes against homosexuals in much the same way as racially motivated crime.

NY Poll Shows Clinton at 50 Percent

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)

Hillary Rodham Clinton has reached the 50 percent support level for the first time in her Senate race against Republican Rep. Rick Lazio, according to a major statewide independent poll released today. Among the likely voters questioned, Lazio trailed with 43 percent, according to the poll issued by the Quinnipiac University Polling Institute. A Sept. 12 poll by the institute had the first lady leading the congressman from Long Island by 49 percent to 44 percent.

Liberty Takes Shares in News Corp.

NEW YORK (AP)

John Malone's Liberty Media Corp. is transferring its 21 percent stake in Gemstar-TV Guide International Inc. to News Corp. in exchange for shares in the media conglomerate. The deal announced today makes Liberty the largest shareholder in News Corp. after Rupert Murdoch and his family. The deal also gives News Corp., which already owned 20 percent of Gemstar-TV Guide, a bigger share in the company, which puts out interactive programming guides as well as the weekly TV Guide magazine.

Dow Up 29, Nasdaq Up 32

NEW YORK (AP)

Just before 1 p.m. EDT, the Nasdaq Composite Index is up 32.94 at 3,722.04 and the Dow Jones industrial average is up 29.87 at 10,661.19.

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Rejecting attempts to portray him as a champion of the wealthy, George W. Bush visited an inner-city school today to call for safer classrooms and increased spending on character lessons. "The classrooms need to be safe havens," Bush said. He proposed a law to shield teachers from being sued for enforcing disciplinary rules. And he pledged to triple federal "character education" funds that flow to schools.

Gore Compares Prescription Plans

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Al Gore questioned rival George W. Bush's commitment to Medicare today and declared "it is time" to help 13 million senior citizens get prescription drugs. Gore said he's "met too many seniors who have to choose between filling their prescriptions and filling up their shopping cart."

U.S. Inflation May Be Understated

WASHINGTON (AP)

A software glitch caused the government to measure inflation at the consumer level incorrectly this year, possibly understating it a bit, government officials indicated today. But private economists said that won't change the rosy picture of the U.S. economy. The Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics said it will unveil revisions to its Consumer Price Index data for the period of January through August.

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Dow Up 22, Nasdaq Up 13

NEW YORK (AP)

Just before 2 p.m. EDT, the Nasdaq Composite Index is up 13.86 at 3,702.96 and the Dow Jones industrial average is up 22.19 at 10,653.51.

Arrest Warrants in Pierce Stabbing

BOSTON (AP)

Three men are sought by police today in the stabbing of Boston Celtics star Paul Pierce, a law enforcement source said. Police had been investigating associates of the rap group Made Men, but the source did not know if the suspects had ties to the group. The group has denied any involvement.

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Yugoslav Opposition Calls for Rally

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Dow Up 18, Nasdaq Down 32

NEW YORK (AP)

Stock prices moved lower today as investors concerned about third-quarter profits again sold off shares of poor performers. Just before 3 p.m. EDT, the Dow Jones industrial average was down 18.50 at 10,612.82 and the Nasdaq Composite Index was down 32.32 at 3,656.78.

Raiders' Rison Arraigned

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)

Andre Rison of the Oakland Raiders will have a hearing Oct. 5 in his case in which he is charged with writing bad checks. Rison, traded by Kansas City to Oakland before the season, surrendered last week. He appeared in court today for his arraignment. Shortly after posting a \$10,000 bond last Friday, Rison appeared in court in suburban Johnson County, Kan., and pleaded no contest to a charge of failing to return a \$1,000 tape recorder he rented in Overland Park.

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Dow Down 34, Nasdaq Down 61

NEW YORK (AP)

Stock prices slumped today as investors concerned about third-quarter results again punished the shares of poor performers. Just before the close, the Dow Jones industrial average was down 34.04 at 10,597.28 and the Nasdaq composite index was down 61.01 at 3,628.09.

Stewart Plane Had Previous Problems

WASHINGTON (AP)

The Learjet that carried golfer Payne Stewart to his death last October probably after losing cabin pressure _ had previous problems with its cabin pressure system, maintenance logs show. The National Transportation Safety Board is investigating the accident.

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Dow Ends Down 3; Nasdaq Falls 61

NEW YORK (AP)

Stock prices failed to rebound today as investors concerned about third-quarter results again punished the shares of poor performers. The Dow closed down 2.96 at 10,628.34, according to preliminary calculations. On the NYSE, gainers led losers by a 6-to-5 margin. The Nasdaq dropped 61.01 to 3,628.09.

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200,000 Milosevic Opponents Rally

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP)

About 200,000 joyful, banner-waving opponents of Yugoslavia's Slobodan Milosevic flooded the capital's main square today in a massive show of support for the opposition claim to victory in the presidential election. The crowd unseen in such numbers at anti-Milosevic protests in recent years _ blocked Belgrade's Republic Square and the surrounding streets. Milosevic had ordered a runoff vote.

Hollywood Execs Admit Bad Judgment

WASHINGTON (AP)

Hollywood executives today admitted efforts to market violent films before audiences that included children as young as 9 years old. Questioned by angry senators, a Sony executive called the practice a lapse in judgment. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas, said that if the industry doesn't take steps to keep violent films away from young children "you're going to see some kind of legislation."

West Nile Virus Claims 1st Death

HACKENSACK, N.J. (AP)

An 82-year-old New Jersey man has become the first person in the United States this year to die of the West Nile virus, Gov. Christie Whitman said today. Officials did not immediately identify the man, who died on Sept. 14, 11 days after he became ill. Whitman said people shouldn't panic and that they should wear insect repellent and long-sleeved clothes.

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Prosecutors: Lee Plea Best Choice

WASHINGTON (AP)

Letting scientist Wen Ho Lee leave jail on a plea bargain was the best way to recover missing nuclear secrets, prosecutors insisted today, but that failed to persuade senators to drop their criticism of the government's handling of the matter. Lee pleaded guilty to one of the 59 counts of his grand jury indictment. In exchange, he was released

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after being held for nine months. He also agreed to tell officials what happened to the information he downloaded at the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico.

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OPEC Defends Its Oil Policies

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

OPEC leaders strongly defended their oil policies today, blaming high taxes and market speculators for prices that sparked global protests. At summit talks, they worked on a declaration that will call for more cooperation with consumer nations.

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NEW YORK (AP)

Stock prices failed to rebound today as investors concerned about third-quarter results again punished the shares of poor performers. The Dow closed down 2.96 at 10,628.34, according to preliminary calculations. On the NYSE, gainers led losers by a 6-to-5 margin. The Nasdaq dropped 61.01 to 3,628.09.

Stewart Plane Had Previous Problems

WASHINGTON (AP)

The Learjet that carried golfer Payne Stewart to his death last October probably after losing cabin pressure _ had previous problems with its cabin pressure system, maintenance logs show. The National Transportation Safety Board is investigating the accident.

WWF's The Rock To Star in Movie

LOS ANGELES (AP)

The Rock has struck gold: The World Wrestling Federation champ has signed a \$5.5 million deal with Universal Pictures to star as the action hero in "The Scorpion King," a spinoff of the upcoming "The Mummy 2." It is one of the highest amounts paid an actor in his first starring role.

Russia: Don't Interfere in Yugoslavia

MOSCOW (AP)

Russia warned Wednesday against any international intervention in Yugoslavia, as Western leaders harshly criticized President Slobodan Milosevic for clinging to power after an apparent election loss. Many international

AP Top News at 7 a.m. EDT Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2000

observers say Milosevic lost outright to challenger Vojislav Kostunica, but Milosevic has defied calls to step down. The country's central elections commission says a run-off is necessary because Kostunica got just under 50 percent a result being widely questioned abroad.

L.A. Times Poll Shows Bush Lead

WASHINGTON (AP)

George W. Bush has reclaimed some momentum in the presidential race, attracting women and senior citizens, focusing on his best issues and benefiting from concerns about Al Gore's truthfulness. After several weeks when the campaign appeared to be moving in the Democrat's direction, evidence pointed to a Bush comeback fueled largely by his renewed appeal to female "swing voters" and seniors. A new Los Angeles Times poll, which gave Bush a 48-42 lead, suggested senior citizens supported Bush slightly more than Gore 47 percent to 41 percent. Bush and Gore are currently about even in other national polls.

Lawmakers Spotlight Hollywood Judgments

WASHINGTON (AP)

Hollywood executives refused to guarantee to lawmakers today that they would end all marketing of R-rated films to underage audiences. Some acknowledged trying to market to children movies made for adults, an effort one studio chief called "a judgment lapse." A day after the industry released its 12-step plan to stop "inappropriately specifically" targeting children in advertising R-rated movies, lawmakers derided the effort as insufficient and pressed for firmer commitments.

Ferry Crew Arrested for Deadly Crash

PAROS, Greece (AP)

Greek authorities Wednesday arrested the captain and four crew members of a ferry that struck a rocky outcrop marked by a light beacon that could be seen for seven miles. At least 62 people were killed. Some survivors said crew members were watching a soccer match on television Tuesday when the ship, holding more than 500 people, went aground in a gale in the Aegean Sea just two miles from shore.

McCain Blocks Bailey NHTSA Bid

WASHINGTON (AP)

Sen. John McCain is blocking a vote on President Clinton's nominee to lead the government's auto safety agency, saying Sue Bailey did not completely disclose to his committee all the contributions she has made to Democratic campaigns. Bailey wrote McCain, chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee, today to apologize for the "most embarrassing oversight." The former assistant secretary of defense for health affairs is line to head the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Buffett Takes Swipe at Rich Kids

NEW YORK (AP)

When billionaire Warren Buffett hears his friends complain about poor people dependent on government handouts, he starts complaining about rich kids and their trust funds. "I hear friends talk about the debilitating effects of food stamps and the self-perpetuating nature of welfare and how terrible that is," Buffett said today at Columbia University. "These same people are leaving tons of money to their kids, whose main achievement in life had been to emerge from the right womb ... Instead of a welfare officer, they have a trust fund officer. Instead of food stamps, they get dividends and interest." He acknowledged that his own kids "started out way ahead."

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Report: Stewart Jet Was Troubled

WASHINGTON (AP)

The Learjet that carried golfer Payne Stewart to his death last October probably after losing cabin pressure _ had previous problems with its cabin pressure system, maintenance logs show. On Feb. 9, 1998, a pilot reported that the plane sometimes would not hold cabin pressure at low altitude, and in July 1999, mechanics again were asked to check the system, according to maintenance reports released today by the National Transportation Safety Board.

Priceline Stock Plunges 42 Percent

NORWALK, Conn. (AP)

Shares of Priceline.com fell 42 percent today after the company warned that its third-quarter revenues are likely to fall short of expectations. Priceline, known for its name-your-price system for online purchases of airline tickets, hotel rooms, rental cars and home mortgages, said third-quarter revenues would likely range from \$340 million to \$345 million. Analysts had expected revenues of approximately \$360 million to \$380 million. Priceline blamed airline ticket sales woes. Shares of Priceline fell \$7.89 to \$10.75 on the Nasdaq.

Clinton: GOP Ducking Gay Rights Bill

DALLAS (AP)

President Clinton accused Republican congressional leaders today of deliberately ducking his long-languishing hate crimes legislation because they fear it would split the GOP base. "If it doesn't get to be law, it's because the leadership doesn't want it," Clinton said during a luncheon fund-raiser here with gay Democrats. He noted that, in light of a spate of hate crimes in recent years, the bill is supported by more Americans and by a majority of lawmakers in both parties. Clinton was in Texas to help raise money for his party and to attend a "Texas Tribute" in his honor.

Israeli Convoy Bombed in Gaza

NETZARIM JUNCTION, Gaza Strip (AP)

Two roadside bombs exploded next to a convoy of Jewish settlers in the Gaza Strip Wednesday, a settlement leader said. Channel 2 television reported two soldiers were wounded, one seriously. The convoy was accompanied by Israeli military vehicles and heading for the isolated settlement of Netzarim, south of Gaza City, said Netzarim spokesman Shlomo Kostiner. Israel television's Channel 2 said two soldiers were injured, one seriously, suffering from a head injury.

House Panel OKs Auto Penalties

WASHINGTON (AP)

Auto industry executives who withhold information on defective products that kill or injure consumers could be sentenced to up to 15 years in prison under legislation that passed a House Commerce subcommittee today. The bill, which passed unanimously 23-0, originally did not contain criminal penalties a provision strongly opposed by the auto industry, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and other business groups. Rep. Billy Tauzin, R-La., who offered the amendment to add them, said the goal was not to punish executives, but to use the threat of jail time to get officials to admit problems.

AP Top News at 7 a.m. EDT Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2000

Execs Charged With Duping Investors

LOS ANGELES (AP)

Indictments and lawsuits accusing former executives from two companies of falsifying financial records to dupe investors and lenders out of millions of dollars were announced today by federal authorities. The Securities and Exchange Commission announced lawsuits and the U.S. Attorney's office added criminal indictments against Cerritos-based Craig Consumer Electronics and Sirena Apparel Group, a major swimwear maker based in Vernon.

Russia: Don't Interfere in Yugoslavia

MOSCOW (AP)

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Calif. Housing Official Convicted

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)

A city housing executive was convicted today of taking thousands of dollars in bribes from people seeking low-income homes in one of the nation's tightest housing markets. Patricia Williams, 57, was convicted following a yearlong FBI probe into the San Francisco Housing Authority. Williams, another city official, Yolanda Jones, and 20 others have pleaded guilty or been convicted in the scam to illegally obtain subsidized housing.

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Pacers Center Rik Smits Retires

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)

Rik Smits never lost his love for basketball, but his aching size-21 feet told him it was time to get out. The 7-foot-4 center, who played more games for the Indiana Pacers than any player except Reggie Miller, retired today, less than a week before training camp opens. He said he made his decision several weeks ago, but at the urging of team president Donnie Walsh took more time to think things over.

Bush Ahead in L.A. Times Poll

WASHINGTON (AP)

A new Los Angeles Times poll gives Republican George W. Bush a 48-42 percent lead over Democrat AL Gore in the presidential race. With Bush and Gore are about even in other national polls, both Republicans and Democrats said today they feel the race is very close, maybe the closest since 1960. Bush is said to have reclaimed momentum, attracting women and senior citizens and benefiting from concerns about Gore's truthfulness. After several weeks when the campaign appeared to be moving in the Democrat's direction, evidence pointed to a Bush comeback fueled largely by his renewed appeal to female "swing voters" and seniors.

Texas Inmate Is Executed

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Gore Offers To Kill 'Soft Money' Ads

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Al Gore offered today to pull the plug on all presidential campaign radio and TV ads paid for by political parties with unregulated "soft money" but only if George W. Bush does likewise. Bush had signaled his reluctance to do so just a day earlier, saying he wanted to get rid of such ads but that Gore couldn't be counted on to abide by such a deal. "I don't trust him, to be frank with you," the Texas governor said.

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Nobel Panel Mum on Peace Prize

OSLO, Norway (AP)

A half-dozen people in Norway now know who will win this year's Nobel Peace Prize, to be awarded in about two weeks. But as usual, the secretive members of the awards committee didn't give a hint following Wednesday's final meeting. "We had our last regular meeting, and have reached a decision that will be announced on Oct. 13," said Geir Lundestad, a non-voting secretary who attends the five-member awards committee's meetings. "I'll leave it at that."

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Athletics Beat Angels, 9-7

AP Top News at 7 a.m. EDT Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2000

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)

Rookie Terrence Long hit a go-ahead two-run homer as the Oakland Athletics beat the Anaheim Angels 9-7 today and tied Seattle for the AL West lead. The A's entered the game a half-game back of the Mariners in the AL West and 11 1/2 games up on Cleveland in the wild card chase. The Mariners play host to Texas and the Indians play host to the Twins in night games.

Gore Offers End To 'Soft Money' Ads

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Polls: Gore, Bush Race Close

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Milosevic Opponents Rally in Belgrade

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP)

More than 200,000 joyful opponents of Slobodan Milosevic swarmed the capital's downtown district Wednesday, supporting an opposition claim of an electoral triumph over the Yugoslav president. The biggest demonstration ever against Milosevic completely blocked Belgrade's main streets around Republic Square. Much of the downtown area teemed with people waving flags and chanting: "He's finished."

Chavez Rallies OPEC Leaders

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez rallied OPEC leaders Wednesday to demand equal footing with industrialized nations and a just price for oil, calling the oil cartel's rebound on the back of rising crude prices a "resurrection." Chavez, a driving force behind the resurgence of a cartel that was on the brink of collapse in 1998, urged oil producing nations to use their newfound influence in this era of high crude prices to improve their citizens' standards of living and that of developing nations in general.

Lieberman Promises To Help Seniors

AP Top News at 7 a.m. EDT Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2000

MILWAUKEE (AP)

Joseph Lieberman met today with senior citizens so strapped by the cost of prescription drugs that they boarded buses for Canada to buy their medication. He called the situation "an embarrassment" and said Al Gore's Medicare plan would help. The candidates' competing Medicare plans have become a focus of the presidential race. Separately, Gore endorsed his Democratic vice presidential running mate's controversial decision to stick with his simultaneous Connecticut campaign for re-election to the Senate. "I agree with his view on that," Gore told reporters as he traveled to Washington from Iowa.

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NBC's Olympics Ratings Hit New Low

NEW YORK (AP)

NBC's 12th night of Olympic coverage from Sydney had the worst rating for Summer Games competition in at least 16 years. The network's taped telecast, including the gymnastics champions' gala, diving, and a U.S. gold-medal victory in beach volleyball, drew a 12.4 rating and 21 share last night. That's 23 percent below what advertisers were told the Sydney Olympics would average and even further off the 17.5 to 18.5 rating NBC Sports chairman Dick Ebersol predicted.

Arrests in Rocker-Bottle Incident

NEW YORK (AP)

A man imprisoned in the death of his newborn son pleaded innocent today to a charge of interfering with police after a friend allegedly threw a bottle at Atlanta Braves pitcher John Rocker. Police said the bottle was thrown from the first-base box seats. It landed about 10 feet from Rocker as he warmed up on the mound at Shea Stadium, where the Braves played the Mets on last night. When police tried to arrest Raymond Maniaci, of Wyckoff, N.J., his hometown friend Brian Peterson got between them and his friend and refused to step away, police told newspapers.

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Drug Industry Gave \$800,000 to GOP

WASHINGTON (AP)

The pharmaceutical industry gave more than \$800,000 to Republican Party committees last month after the Senate voted to allow reimports of lower-priced U.S.-made drugs — something the companies oppose. In addition, the president of Bristol-Myers Squibb co-chaired a fund-raising dinner today for Senate Republicans. But despite the intensive lobbying effort, Congress is likely to pass the legislation. The pharmaceutical industry also is fighting a

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Democratic proposal to expand Medicare, the health care program for the elderly, to cover the cost of prescription drugs.

Milosevic Opponents Rally in Streets

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP)

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Crew of Fatal Ferry Crash Arrested

PAROS, Greece (AP)

Greek authorities on Wednesday arrested the captain and four crew members of a ferry that struck a rocky outcrop marked by a light beacon that could be seen for seven miles. At least 66 people were killed. Searches continued throughout the night for possible survivors. Some survivors said crew members were watching a soccer match on television Tuesday night when the ship, holding more than 500 people, went aground in a gale in the Aegean Sea just two miles from shore.

Dell To Cut Computer Prices

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)

Dell Computer announced plans to slash prices on some computer servers and PCs, passing on savings to consumers as parts become less expensive. But investors hardly celebrated Dell's announcement today as many tech stocks were down as shares of Dell fell to a 52-week low midday on the Nasdaq Stock Market. The stock recovered somewhat to end regular trading at \$32.44, down \$1.19, or 3.6 percent. Round Rock, Texas-based Dell said it was reducing prices on its PowerEdge servers 14 to 47 percent. The servers, or computers used to host Web sites, now will sell for as low as \$1,199 to \$13,000 or more.

Tokyo Stocks Rise in Early Trading

TOKYO (AP)

Tokyo stocks rose early Thursday, rebounding modestly from the previous day's sharp decline. The dollar was lower against the yen. The Nikkei gained 126.61 points, or 0.81 percent, to 15,766.56 points in the first 30 minutes of trading. On Wednesday, the average closed down 288.67 points, or 1.81 percent. The Nasdaq fell 32.80 points to close at 3,656.30 on Wednesday. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 2.96 points to close at 10,628.36.

Mets Clinch NL Wild Card

NEW YORK (AP)

AP Top News at 7 a.m. EDT Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2000

For the first time ever, the New York Mets are going to the playoffs in consecutive years after beating the Braves 6-2 tonight to clinch the NL wild card berth. Rick Reed limited Atlanta to four hits in eight innings and pinch-hitter Darryl Hamilton singled in the go-ahead run in the fifth. After slumping for the third straight September, the Mets survived and will open the playoffs Oct. 4 at San Francisco or St. Louis.

Gymnast Must Await Medal Decision

SYDNEY, Australia (AP)

The Court of Arbitration for Sport needed more time after Wednesday's hearing to decide whether 16-year-old Romanian gymnast Andreea Raducan can reclaim the Olympic gold medal she lost for taking cold medicine that contained a banned substance. Court reconvened Thursday (Wednesday night EDT). "It's too much to give back a medal for only one pill taken for cold and influenza," Romanian coach Octavian Belu said.

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WASHINGTON (AP)

Democratic presidential candidate Al Gore offered today to pull the plug on all presidential campaign radio and TV ads paid for by political parties with unregulated "soft money" but only if George W. Bush does likewise. Bush had signaled his reluctance to do so just a day earlier, saying he wanted to get rid of such ads but that Gore couldn't be counted on to abide by such a deal. "I don't trust him, to be frank with you," the Texas governor said.

Ex-KLA Chief Warns Yugoslav Leaders

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia (AP)

Any attempts by Yugoslav leaders to return police or military units to Kosovo would "bring another war" that could trap NATO-led forces in the middle, the former Kosovo Liberation Army political chief warned today. The increasingly sharp comments by Hashim Thaci are part of efforts to tap into pro-independence sentiments and memories of the KLA's struggle against Serb forces before Oct. 28 municipal elections. Thaci's Democratic Party of Kosovo is particularly critical of the more moderate positions of ethnic Albanian leader Ibrahim Rugova.

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Devil Rays 11, Yankees 1

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)

Jose Guillen, Ozzie Timmons and Fred McGriff homered Wednesday night as the Tampa Bay Devil Rays once again prevented the Yankees from clinching the AL East, beating New York 11-1. Cory Lidle limited the two-time defending World Series champions to five hits in seven innings.

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AP News Digest

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Section: International news

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Body

WORLD AT 1800 GMT:

NEW:

MONACO-FIRE-BANKER. Nurse admits setting fire that killed billionaire.

EU-SUMMIT. Foreign ministers back outline of EU defense policy.

US-SCHOOL SHOOTING. Students wounded in Oklahoma school shooting.

Y2K-STRUGGLING COLOMBIA. Nation scrambles with Y2K contingencies.

MAIN SPOT NEWS:

DOLINSKY, Russia Russian planes rain flyers Monday on the Chechen capital Grozny with an ultimatum to rebel fighters and civilians still holed up in the battered city: Leave or be destroyed. The Russian forces plan a massive assault in five days. RUSSIA-CHECHNYA. Lead has moved. By Yuri Bagrov. AP Photos MOSB102-104.

WITH:

UN-CHECHNYA. The OSCE chairman on Monday urges Moscow to refrain from carrying out a threatened attack against the Chechen capital. Expected by 2200 GMT.

MONTE CARLO, Monaco Edmond Safra's American nurse admits setting the fire that killed the billionaire banker, but says he did to get back at another member of the household staff, the local prosecutor says Monday. MONACO-FIRE-BANKER. Lead has moved. By Ian Phillips. GE101-102; GEV104-106.

ALSO MOVED:

SWITZERLAND-SAFRA FUNERAL. Billionaire banker buried in Geneva.

FORT GIBSON, Oklahoma A 13-year-old middle school student wounds four of his classmates Monday morning before being subdued with a gun still in his hand, authorities say. It's the latest case in a rash of school shootings across the United States. US-SCHOOL SHOOTING. Lead expected by 1900 GMT. By Renee Ruble.

WITH:

AP News Digest

US-RUNAWAY BOYS. Authorities search for seven boys who allegedly attacked counselors on wilderness outing. Lead expected by 2000 GMT.

ZURICH, Switzerland An extensive search through Swiss banks turned up 54,000 unclaimed accounts that may have belonged to Holocaust victims, an international panel concludes Monday in a report that criticizes some banks for stonewalling the victims' heirs. SWISS BANKS-NAZIS. Lead has moved. By Alexander G. Higgins. ZUR112,211.

JERUSALEM On the eve of Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's arrival, a bitter new confrontation erupts Monday between Israel and the Palestinians over Jewish settlements, derailing month-old talks aimed at sealing peace. MIDEAST TALKS. Lead has moved to some points; upcoming to others. By Laura King. JRL101-104.

ALSO MOVED:

SKEPTICAL OVER SYRIA. Pessimism grows over peace prospects with Syria.

ALBRIGHT-MIDEAST. Albright could find herself drawn into slow-moving negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians.

ARUSHA, Tanzania A U.N. court convicts a former Rwandan Hutu militia leader on Monday of ordering the deaths of thousands of Tutsis, and sentences him to life in prison for genocide and crimes against humanity. RWANDA-GENOCIDE TRIBUNAL. Lead expected by 2000 GMT. By Farah Stockman.

BRUSSELS, Belgium European Union foreign ministers on Monday endorse an outline of a common defense policy to give the union military clout to stifle conflicts beyond its borders without relying on the United States. EU-SUMMIT. Lead has moved. by Robert Wielaard. BRU101-102.

ALSO MOVED:

EUROPEAN SECURITY. Europe seeks larger role in its own defense, bringing U.S. worries over split in NATO alliance.

RUSSIA-EUROPEAN SECURITY. Russia wants European defense identity independent of NATO.

GENEVA The massive demonstrations in Seattle may well have contributed to the collapse of international trade talks, but the globalization juggernaut will continue to roll, members say. WORLD TRADE-FUTURE. Has moved. By Clare Nullis.

ALSO MOVED:

EU-WORLD TRADE. EU blames US election pressure, WTO inefficiency for trade talks failure. BRU103.

CHINA-WTO. A government-run Chinese newspaper accuses the United States on Monday of using the WTO to ride roughshod over developing countries.

WORLD TRADE. The United States did not mean to tell the world what its labor standards should be, Commerce Secretary William Daley says.

WORLD TRADE-SCENE. Protesters released, residents come to grips with WTO-related violence. SEB106.

HAVANA Fidel Castro turns up the heat Monday on the United States for failing to return a boy rescued at sea to his father in Cuba as the communist government organizes protests in the capital and the child's hometown. CUBA-US-BOY. Lead expected by 2000 GMT. By Anita Snow. HAV101-102.

SKOPJE, Macedonia The candidate of the ruling pro-Western coalition secures his previous victory as Macedonia's president in a revote called because of irregularities, according to preliminary results released Monday. MACEDONIA-ELECTIONS. Lead has moved. By Konstantin Testorides.

AP News Digest

PASADENA, California With the Mars Polar Lander all but written off, NASA faces the possibility of never really knowing what went wrong with the spacecraft 157 million miles from Earth. US-MARS LANDER. Lead expected by 2000 GMT. By Matthew Fordahl.

ALSO MOVED:

US-MARS LANDER-FUTURE. NASA's ambitious campaign of Mars exploration uncertain after several setbacks.

BOGOTA, Colombia At age 59, Alvaro Rojas is just a few months from retirement and worried sick that his entire employment history will be erased by the dreaded Year 2000 computer bug. Rojas has good reason to worry. The Social Security Institute, possessor of 4.5 million Colombians' labor history, still has not solved its Y2K problem. Y2K-STRUGGLING COLOMBIA. Expected by 2000 GMT. By Margarita Martinez. With Photos.

LOOKING AHEAD: On Tuesday, U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright meets with Syrian officials before heading to Israel.

FEATURES MOVED:

FEA-MEXICO-PLANNING FAMILIES. AP Photos 115-116.

FEA-MEXICO-SPREADING THE WORD. AP Photos NY122-125.

FEA-MACAU'S FUTURE. AP Photos NY107-109.

FEA-COLOMBIA-COCAINE ECONOMY, FEA-COCAINE ECONOMY-CONTRABAND HAVENS.

ARTS-BRITAIN-MARX LIBRARY.

YOUR QUERIES: The Associated Press World Service editors in charge are Jean H. Lee and Matt Kohlman. Suggestions and story requests to The Associated Press World Service are welcome. Contact your local AP bureau or the AP International Desk in New York,

telephone (1) 212-621-1650, fax (1) 212-621-5449.

WORLD AT 0700 GMT:

NEW:

WORLD TRADE-FUTURE. WTO debacle won't halt the drive to globalism.

SKEPTICAL OVER SYRIA. Growing pessimism over peace prospects.

AFGHANISTAN-UN-EMERGENCY AID. Workers bring refugees food.

FEA-MACAU'S FUTURE. Portugal spiffs up Macau for handover to China.

MAIN SPOT NEWS:

PASADENA, California Scientists listen in vain Sunday for a signal during two chances to communicate with the dlr's 165 million Mars Polar Lander. US-MARS LANDER. Lead expected by 0800 GMT. By John Antzac. AP Photo NY120, XJPL101-105.

ALSO MOVED:

US-MARS LANDER-FUTURE. NASA's ambitious campaign of Mars exploration could face uncertainty after several setbacks.

AP News Digest

NAZRAN, Russia As Russia tightens its encirclement of the Chechen capital Grozny, Chechen rebels have been turning increasingly to guerrilla tactics, the Russian military says. RUSSIA-CHECHNYA. Lead has moved. By Yuri Bagrov. AP Photos MOSB103,104,112.

JERUSALEM Only five months ago, as Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak took office, there was a burst of optimism over prospects for making peace with one of Israel's most implacable foes: Syria. But now there is growing conviction in Israel that President Hafez Assad will continue to rebuff efforts to restart peace negotiations between the two sides. SKEPTICAL OVER SYRIA. Has moved. By Laura King.

ALSO MOVED:

ISRAEL-PALESTINEANS. U.S. peace envoy Dennis Ross tries to smooth out differences between Israeli and Palestinian officials. AP Photo JRL105.

PALESTINIANS-CORRUPTION. Arafat asks critic to shoot him if he betrays the Palestinians.

BELFAST, Northern Ireland The *Irish Republican Army* says its representative has met a Belfast-based disarmament commission _ another step toward the arms handover vital to the survival of a new Protestant-Catholic administration. NORTHERN IRELAND. Lead has moved.

GENEVA The massive demonstrations in Seattle may well have contributed to the collapse of international trade talks, but the globalization juggernaut will continue to roll. "We cannot stop the World Trade Organization because there is globalization now," says Philippine President Joseph Estrada. WORLD TRADE-FUTURE. Expected by 0730 GMT. By Clare Nullis.

ALSO MOVED:

WORLD TRADE. The United States did not mean to tell the world what its labor standards should be, Commerce Secretary William Daley says. AP Photos WX103-104.

US-WORLD TRADE-SCENE. Protesters are released, shoppers return in Seattle. AP Photos SEM102-103.

TOKYO Japan on Monday says its economy contracted 1 percent during the latest quarter, setting back the country's efforts to emerge from its worst recession in decades. JAPAN-ECONOMY. Lead has moved. By Joji Sakurai.

ZURICH, Switzerland Accountants comb through 54 Swiss banks in search of accounts opened by Nazis during World War II. The results of a half-billion-dollar search for Holocaust victims' assets are to be disclosed Monday. SWISS BANKS-NAZIS. Has moved. Report being released about 1100 GMT. By Alexander G. Higgins.

ALSO MOVED:

AUSTRALIA-NAZI HUNTING. Australia's justice ministers denies government lacks will to pursue war criminals.

HAVANA An angry President Fidel Castro demands that the United States return a Cuban boy rescued at sea to his father within 72 hours. CUBA-US-BOY. Lead has moved. By Anita Snow. AP Photos HAV101-105.

LUANDA, Angola Rumors about rebel leader Jonas Savimbi whirl in this muggy, ragged African capital nearly two months after the government scored major military successes in a 25-year civil war. ANGOLA-WHERE'S SAVIMBI. Has moved. By Daniel J. Wakin. AP Photo NY191.

ALSO MOVED:

ANGOLA-ARRESTED JOURNALIST. Angolan journalist speaks of abuse while in prison. AP Photo LAD105.

AP News Digest

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico The discovery of a mass grave at a ranch has prompted calls to reopen numerous unsolved kidnappings in this border city. MEXICO-GRAVES. Has moved. By Mark Stevenson. AP Photos JUA101-105.

ALSO MOVED:

US-MEXICO. Rivals cooperate in grave probe. AP Photo NY195.

KABUL, Afghanistan After negotiating safe passage with the ruling Taliban and clearing landmines, the United Nations moves 90 ton of food to cold, hungry refugees in enemy territory, U.N. officials say. AFGHANISTAN-UN-EMERGENCY AID. Expected by 0900 GMT. By Amir Shah.

SKOPJE, Macedonia The ruling pro-Western coalition claims victory in the prolonged presidential race of this former Yugoslav republic, while the opposition claims widespread irregularities. MACEDONIA-ELECTIONS. Lead has moved. By Konstantin Testorides. AP Photo SKJ102.

MONTE CARLO, Monaco Unaccustomed to major crime, residents of this tiny Mediterranean playground are closing ranks more than ever after the death of billionaire banker Edmond Safra in a suspicious fire last Friday. MONACO-PLAYGROUND OF THE RICH. Has moved. By Ian Phillips. AP Photo MON102.

LOOKING AHEAD: On Tuesday, U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright meets with Syrian officials before heading to Israel.

FEATURES:

MACAU Sailing into Macau by night, a visitor is immediately taken by the shiny lights flickering in the water and illustrating both the past and present of this tiny Portuguese enclave. What's less clear is the future, with Macau scheduled to be handed back to China on Dec. 20 after 442 years of direct rule from Lisbon. FEA-MACAU'S FUTURE. Has moved. By Dirk Beveridge. AP Photos NY107, construction worker outside a temporary hall being built for the handover; NY108-109.

ALSO MOVED:

FEA-COLOMBIA-COCAINE ECONOMY. For nearly a decade, Colombia's economy was on a cocaine high. But the drug traffickers apparently are now repatriating less of their profits. With FEA-COCAINE ECONOMY-CONTRABAND HAVENS.

ARTS-BRITAIN-MARX LIBRARY. Communism may be on the wane, but London's Marx Memorial Library is keeping the flame alive.

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telephone (1) 212-621-1650, fax (1) 212-621-5449.

WORLD AT 1100 GMT:

NEW:

EUROPEAN SECURITY. Europe seeks larger role in its own defense.

RWANDA-GENOCIDE TRIBUNAL. Former militia leader convicted of genocide.

NORTH KOREA-FAMINE. U.N. official: Famine easing, but gains are fragile.

TURKEY-QUAKE ANGER. Turkey facing pressure from quake survivors.

FEA-MEXICO-PLANNING FAMILIES. Frank talk helps cut average family size.

MAIN SPOT NEWS:

DOLINSKY, Russia Russian planes drop flyers on the Chechen capital Grozny Monday with an ultimatum to civilians and militants in the battered city: Leave or be destroyed. The Russian forces say they will give anyone left in the city five days to leave before they unleash a massive assault. RUSSIA-CHECHNYA. Developing. By Yuri Bagrov. AP Photos MOSB102-104.

ALSO MOVED:

AFGHANISTAN-CHECHNYA. The hard-line Islamic Taliban militia urges the faithful Monday to pray for Chechen rebels.

JERUSALEM Only five months ago, there was a burst of optimism over prospects for making peace with one of Israel's most implacable foes: Syria. But now there is growing conviction in Israel that President Hafez Assad will continue to rebuff efforts to restart peace negotiations between the two sides. SKEPTICAL OVER SYRIA. Has moved. By Laura King.

ALSO MOVED:

MIDEAST-TALKS. The U.S.'s Mideast envoy is briefed Monday by Israeli and Palestinian negotiators.

ALBRIGHT-MIDEAST. Albright could find herself drawn into slow-moving negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians.

ZURICH, Switzerland A half-billion-dollar search through Swiss banks turns up 54,000 unclaimed accounts that may have belonged to victims of the Holocaust, an international panel concludes Monday, criticizing some banks for stonewalling the victims' heirs in the past. SWISS BANKS-NAZIS. Lead expected by 1200 GMT. By Alexander G. Higgins.

ALSO MOVED:

AUSTRALIA-NAZI HUNTING. Australia's justice ministers denies that the government lacks the will to pursue war criminals.

GENEVA A funeral of Edmond Safra, the billionaire banker slain last week in Monaco, takes place Monday at a Geneve synagogue. SWITZERLAND-SAFRA FUNERAL. Expected by 1300 GMT.

ARUSHA, Tanzania A former Rwandan militia leader is convicted of genocide and crimes against humanity and sentenced Monday to life in prison. RWANDA-GENOCIDE TRIBUNAL. Has moved. By Farah Stockman.

BRUSSELS, Belgium For years, the United States pressed its European allies to shoulder more of the burden of their own defense. Now Europe is forging ahead with a plan to do just that, and Washington suddenly is worried it could split the NATO alliance. EUROPEAN SECURITY. Expected by 1200 GMT. By Jeffrey Ulbrich. AP Photo NY390 of Dec. 2.

DUZCE, Turkey For the past three weeks, Jale Gungor and her two children have been living in a cramped, soggy tent that is lit by a single candle. Like tens of thousands of other earthquake survivors in Turkey, Gungor is angry angry at a government she says doesn't care about a poor, single mother; angry at an administration she says is not capable of finding a warm home for her family. TURKEY-QUAKE ANGER. Has moved. By Louis Meixler. AP Photos NY126-130.

GENEVA The massive demonstrations in Seattle may well have contributed to the collapse of international trade talks, but the globalization juggernaut will continue to roll, members say. WORLD TRADE-FUTURE. Has moved. By Clare Nullis.

ALSO MOVED:

CHINA-WTO. The government-run Chinese newspaper People's Daily accuses the United States Monday of using the World Trade Organization to ride roughshod over the interests of developing countries.

WORLD TRADE. The United States did not mean to tell the world what its labor standards should be, Commerce Secretary William Daley says. AP Photos WX103-104 of Dec. 5.

US-WORLD TRADE-SCENE. Shoppers return to downtown Seattle. AP Photos SEM102-103 of Dec. 4.

BEIJING North Korea's economy is showing tentative signs of life after more than four years of food shortages but a generation of children will never recover from the ravages of famine, U.N. aid officials say Monday. NORTH KOREA-FAMINE. Has moved. By Charles Hutzler.

HAVANA An angry President Fidel Castro demands that the United States return a Cuban boy rescued at sea to his father within 72 hours. CUBA-US-BOY. Lead has moved. By Anita Snow. AP Photos NY111, NY131-132.

SKOPJE, Macedonia The ruling pro-Western coalition's candidate for president in Macedonia secures victory in a re-vote called because of irregularities, according to preliminary results released Monday. MACEDONIA-ELECTIONS. Has moved. By Konstantin Testorides. AP Photo SKJ102.

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico The discovery of a mass grave has prompted calls to reopen numerous unsolved kidnappings in this border city. MEXICO-GRAVES. Has moved. By Mark Stevenson. AP Photos JUA101-105.

ALSO MOVED:

US-MEXICO. Rivals cooperate in grave probe. AP Photo NY195.

PASADENA, California Two tiny probes that rode aboard Mars Polar Lander but separated before entry appear to be lost forever Monday as efforts to contact the larger spacecraft also continued without success. US-MARS LANDER. Lead has moved. By Matthew Fordahl. AP Photo NY120.

ALSO MOVED:

US-MARS LANDER-FUTURE. NASA's ambitious campaign of Mars exploration uncertain after several setbacks.

LOOKING AHEAD: On Tuesday, U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright meets with Syrian officials before heading to Israel.

FEATURES:

MEXICO CITY Frank sex education lessons in primary school are the latest effort to teach young Mexicans about once-taboo subjects such as family planning and venereal disease and help cut the average family size. FEA-MEXICO-PLANNING FAMILIES. Has moved. By Michelle Ray Ortiz. AP Photos 115-116.

WITH:

FEA-MEXICO-SPREADING THE WORD. Health program for Mexicans keeps growing. Has moved. AP Photos NY122-125.

ALSO MOVED:

FEA-MACAU'S FUTURE. What's in store for the tiny Portuguese enclave of Macau? AP Photos NY107-109.

FEA-COLOMBIA-COCAINE ECONOMY, FEA-COCAINE ECONOMY-CONTRABAND HAVENS.

ARTS-BRITAIN-MARX LIBRARY. Communism may be on the wane, but London's Marx Memorial Library is keeping the flame alive.

AP News Digest

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telephone (1) 212-621-1650, fax (1) 212-621-5449.

Russian jets and helicopters attacked targets around Chechnya on Monday, while rebel fighters put up heavy resistance in a key town that Russian commanders claimed to have captured last week. Russian forces surrounded Argun in eastern Chechnya last week, and commanders claimed that their troops have been "mopping up" since then. But there were reports Monday that the Russian forces did not control Argun and were facing growing resistance. Russia's NTV television reported that Russian forces had taken control of one district in Argun, located 15 kilometers (nine miles) east of the Chechen capital Grozny, but had not defeated militants holed up in the town center and other districts. Russian officers in Chechnya also said that rebels still held large parts of Argun. (RUSSIA-CHECHNYA)

ARUSHA, Tanzania (AP)

A U.N. court convicted a former Rwandan militia leader of genocide and crimes against humanity Monday and sentenced him to life in prison. Georges Rutuganda was vice president of the ferocious Interahamwe militia that, together with the army and security forces, led the 1994 mass murder of Rwanda's minority Tutsis. The 41-year-old former businessman, standing with his hands clasped together behind his back, inhaled deeply as the judgment was announced. His sister, sitting nearby, said, "I didn't expect more." Rutuganda is the sixth Rwandan to be convicted of genocide by the Tanzania-based tribunal and the fourth to be sentenced to life in prison, the maximum penalty allowed under court rules. Rutuganda was convicted on three of eight counts of genocide and crimes against humanity and violations of the Geneva Conventions. He pleaded innocent to all the charges. (RWANDA-GENOCIDE)

HAVANA (AP)

President Fidel Castro has demanded that the United States return a boy rescued at sea to his father in Cuba, and members of the Communist Youth gathered in Havana to protest the decision to keep him in the United States. Warning that the Cuban people were losing patience and that there would be more mass demonstrations, Castro said in statements broadcast Sunday that Elian Gonzalez who turned six Monday must be returned within 72 hours. Castro accused the U.S. government of kidnapping Elian, who was found clinging to an inner tube floating off the coast of Florida. He promised a "battle for world opinion" to bring the child home. In an unusual move Sunday, the Cuban government stationed several dozen soldiers outside the U.S. Interests Section in Havana the American government's Cuban mission. Generally, there are only about four soldiers outside the mission. (CUBA-US-BOY)

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico (AP)

The discovery of a mass grave near the U.S. border has stirred speculation that six bodies found there so far could be related to the disappearance of a half-dozen men in 1998. The FBI and Mexican police are not revealing many details about their investigation at a ranch near Ciudad Juarez, where authorities believe victims of the powerful Juarez cocaine cartel were secretly buried. But the discovery of the grave at Rancho la Campana, 10 miles (16 kilometers) southwest of Ciudad Juarez and across from El Paso, Texas, has prompted activists and residents to recall numerous unsolved kidnapping cases. Six men were kidnapped in 1998 from a downtown Ciudad Juarez restaurant and nearby bar that was allegedly owned by deceased drug lord Rafael Munoz Talavera who was battling other drug traffickers for control of the Juarez cocaine cartel. (MEXICO-GRAVES)

PASADENA, California (AP)

Two tiny probes that rode aboard Mars Polar Lander but separated before entry appear to be lost forever as efforts to contact the larger spacecraft also continued without success. Mission controllers, looking increasingly gloomy and exhausted after failing for three days to detect signs of life from any of the spacecraft, admitted late Sunday it is growing more likely that contact may never be made. If no signals are heard, it would be total loss for the entire dlr

AP News Digest

330 million Mars '98 project, which consisted of Polar Lander, the Deep Space 2 microprobes and the Climate Orbiter, which burned up over the Red Planet in September. The softball-sized microprobes were supposed to slam into the surface at 400 mph (644 kph) to test a new descent technique that did not use expensive parachutes or rockets to break

he fall from space. (US-MARS-LANDER)

WORLD SPORTS AT 1400 GMT

SOCCER:

LONDON Coming off more embarrassing results in their domestic leagues, Real Madrid and Chelsea hope to lift the gloom on Tuesday by maintaining their impressive records in the Champions Cup.

Slug Sports-Soccer-Champions Preview. Expected by 1600 GMT.

By Robert Millward

LONDON Tottenham and West Ham meet Monday hoping to rekindle their Premier League title chances and put more pressure on sliding Chelsea.

Slug Sports-Soccer-British Roundup. Expected by 2200 GMT.

TOKYO The countdown to the 2002 World Cup officially starts Tuesday, when FIFA conducts the preliminary draw for hundreds of qualifying matches that will eventually produce 32 teams to contest the final round in Japan and South Korea.

Slug Sports-Soccer-2002 Draw. Has moved.

By Nesha Starcevic

MADRID, Spain Sports-Soccer-Real Madrid.

TENNIS:

NICE, France Mark Philippoussis didn't just win the Davis Cup for Australia. He rejuvenated his own career. "The Davis Cup has started other careers, and I feel mine is really starting today," Philippoussis said after defeating Cedric Pioline to give Australia an insurmountable 3-1 lead over France in the final.

Slug Sports-Tennis-Davis Cup. Has moved.

By Andreas Evagora

SYDNEY, Australia It was an image Australian tennis fans never expected to see: Mark Philippoussis and John Newcombe locked in a joyous bear hug after beating France in the final of the Davis Cup.

Slug Sports-Tennis-Davis Cup-Reaction. Has moved.

By Tony Harper

GOLF:

PALM HARBOR, Florida John Daly knows exactly what he is going to do with his first winner's check since the 1995 British Open.

Slug Sports-Golf-JC Penny Classic. Has moved.

AP News Digest

VIRGINIA WATER, England Scotland's Colin Montgomerie was named European golfer of the year Monday for a record fourth time.

Slug Sports-Golf-Montgomerie Award. Has moved.

CRICKET:

HARARE, Zimbabwe Sri Lanka's opening batsman Russel Arnold reaches the second Test century of his career Monday on the third morning of the third and last match of the series against Zimbabwe.

Slug Sports-Cricket-Zimbabwe-Sri Lanka. Has moved.

RUGBY:

SYDNEY, Australia Northern and southern hemisphere rugby unions put aside their differences Monday to support a raft of reforms aimed at making the sport a better spectacle.

Slug Sports-RugbyU-Laws. Has moved.

ALSO MOVED:

BRISBANE, Australia Sports-RugbyU-Templeton-Obit.

SAILING:

AUCKLAND, New Zealand AmericaOne hands Italy's Prada only its second defeat in 24 races Monday in the challenger series for sailing's America's Cup.

Slug Sports-Sailing-America's Cup. Has moved.

ALSO MOVED:

ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey Sports-Boxing-Obit-Johnson.

BUCHAREST, Romania Sports-Track-Romania-Doping.

MIAMI Sports-Football-NFL Roundup.

TORONTO Sports-Basketball-NBA Roundup.

PHILADELPHIA Sports-Ice Hockey-NHL Roundup.

YOUR QUERIES: Sports stories carry the "s" category code or, in some cases, the "i" category code. Questions and story requests are welcome. Contact your local AP bureau or the AP International Desk in New York, telephone (1) 212-621-1857, fax (1) 212-621-5449.

WORLD SPORTS AT 0000 GMT

SOCCER:

LONDON Spanish fans scream at Real Madrid while British papers say Chelsea can't win the Premier League. So what? Both clubs are riding high in the Champions Cup.

Slug Sports-Soccer-Champions Preview. Has moved.

By Robert Millward

LONDON A stunning one-handed save from goalkeeper Shaka Hislop three minutes from the end secures West Ham's 0-0 tie with Tottenham in the Premier League.

AP News Digest

Slug Sports-Soccer-British Roundup. Has moved.

SAO PAULO, Brazil Fresh from the loss of the Toyota Cup to Manchester United, Palmeiras resumes the hunt for the Mercosur Cup on Tuesday in a second-leg semifinal game against San Lorenzo of Argentina.

Slug Sports-Soccer-Mercosur Cup-Palmeiras-San Lorenzo. Has moved.

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil Corinthians is back where it always expected to be in the finals of the national championship and favored to win its third title of the '90s.

Slug Soccer-Sports-SAmerican Roundup. Has moved.

By Peter Muello.

ALSO MOVED:

PARIS Sports-Soccer-Ronaldo.

TENNIS:

LAUSANNE, Switzerland Steffi Graf, winner of 22 Grand Slam titles and the 1988 Olympic champion, receives the Olympic movement's highest honor.

Slug Sports-Tennis-Graf-Olympic Order. Has moved.

NEW YORK Rod Laver beats out the player who grew up idolizing him, Pete Sampras, as the Associated Press men's tennis player of the century. Steffi Graf edges Martina Navratilova as the top women's player.

Slug Sports-Tennis-Athletes-Century. With lists. Part of a series of stories moving this week. Expected by 0200 GMT.

By Steve Wilstein.

GOLF:

NEW YORK Jack Nicklaus is selected the golfer of the century by a six-member panel assembled by The Associated Press.

Slug Sports-Golf-Athletes-Century. With lists. Part of a series of stories moving this week. Expected by 0200 GMT.

By Doug Ferguson.

CRICKET:

TAUPO, New Zealand The West Indies are in a strong position on the final day of their cricket tour match against New Zealand A on Tuesday.

Slug Sports-Cricket-New Zealand A-West Indies. Expected by 0700 GMT.

CANBERRA, Australia Indian captain Sachin Tendulkar wins the toss and sends in the Prime Minister's XI in a one-day cricket match at Manuka Oval on Tuesday.

Slug Sports-Cricket-PM XI-India. Expected by 0900 GMT.

HARARE, Zimbabwe Dark scudding clouds and high winds send the Sri Lanka fielders and Zimbabwe batsmen off the field with only three hours played on the third day of the last Test match in the series.

Slug Sports-Cricket-Zimbabwe-Sri Lanka. Has moved.

AP News Digest

SAILING:

AUCKLAND, New Zealand Japan's Nippon takes on frontrunner Prada Tuesday in one of five races in the challenger series for sailing's America's Cup.

Slug Sports-Sailing-America's Cup. Expected by 0500.

BOXING:

ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey Stephan Johnson wanted to keep boxing, even after a knockout sent him to the hospital last April. His manager urged him to quit. So did his mother. Johnson said no, and died on Sunday from a head injury.

Slug Sports-Boxing-Obit-Johnson. Recap expected by 0300 GMT.

By John Curran.

LAS VEGAS Nevada boxing officials aren't the only ones who want Mike Tyson to fight elsewhere. Most residents don't want him here, either.

Slug Sports-Boxing-Tyson-Poll. Has moved.

FOOTBALL:

TAMPA, Florida With both teams looking for a share of the NFC Central lead, the Minnesota Vikings match their quick-strike offense against a Buccaneers' defense anchored by Warren Sapp.

Slug Sports-Football-NFL Roundup. Expected by 0600 GMT.

ALSO:

NEW YORK Sports-Baseball-ESPN Trial. Has moved.

COMISO, Sicily Sports-Italy-Ali. Has moved.

UNDATED Sports-Basketball-NBA Roundup. Expected by 0500 GMT.

UNDATED Sports-Ice Hockey-NHL Roundup. Expected by 0500 GMT.

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12-621-5449.

Load-Date: December 6, 1999

AP Top News at 1 a.m. EST Friday, Dec. 3, 1999

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Section: Domestic, non-Washington, general news item

Length: 21232 words

Byline: GABRIEL MADWAY

Body

Bush Draws Rivals' Fire in Debate

MANCHESTER, N.H. (AP)

In his debate debut Thursday night, Gov. George W. Bush was challenged by other Republican presidential candidates on Social Security, abortion and tax cuts. Bush and his closest challenger, Sen. John McCain of Arizona, treated one another gently even favorably throughout the 90-minute encounter. Under the evening's format, the candidates were questioned by two reporters. The subjects ranged from Social Security to abortion to foreign policy to a question to Bush about Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein and his weapons stockpile. He said he would "take out the weapons of mass destruction."

Demand Is Strong for College Grads

LANSING, Mich. (AP)

College graduates with public speaking skills and a high level of computer proficiency will be among the most highly sought job candidates this year, according to a study released Friday. And they also will benefit from good timing. Graduates will find the labor market expanding 10 to 15 percent during the 1999-2000 academic year, according to the 29th annual Recruiting Trends survey from the Collegiate Employment Institute at Michigan State University. "Not only is the labor market poised to expand, but all academic majors will benefit from the increase in hiring levels," said Phil Gardner, the study's author. "This is very good news for college graduates."

Consultant Hired For Microsoft Case

WASHINGTON (AP)

The Justice Department hired a New York financial consulting company Thursday to advise it on remedies it might seek in its antitrust case against Microsoft. Greenhill & Co. LLC, which specializes in advising technology corporations on mergers and divestitures, was hired to help "in analyzing financial aspects of the full range of potential remedies in U.S. v. Microsoft, including conduct and structural relief," the department said. The government has given no indication whether it will seek to break up the software giant or merely advocate court orders governing its contracts, marketing or other conduct.

WTO Struggles for Compromise

AP Top News at 1 a.m. EST Friday, Dec. 3, 1999

SEATTLE (AP)

World trade delegates struggled Thursday for a compromise over deep differences that would allow them to launch a new round of market-opening negotiations. Many Third World countries said President Clinton's appeal for the WTO to link trade agreements with basic protections of worker rights confirmed their worst fears. Namely, that the administration would ultimately demand trade sanctions for their alleged labor violations as a way to take away their competitive advantage of lower wage levels. Meanwhile, Officials in Seattle were dealing with the aftermath of violent protests in which demonstrators caused an estimated \$2 million in property damage.

New Belfast Cabinet Makes History

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP)

On a day of historic firsts and defining moments, **Irish Republican Army** supporters sat down with their Protestant antagonists on Thursday in a new Northern Ireland government. That first meeting produced no decisions but encouraged great hopes that three decades of bloodshed may truly be at an end. Also Thursday, the IRA confirmed it had appointed a senior member to meet soon with a Belfast-based disarmament commission.

R.J. Reynolds To Reduce Chemical

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (AP)

The nation's second-largest cigarette maker announced Thursday it will begin making cigarettes with less of a compound some scientists say causes cancer. R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co., the maker of Camel and Winston, said it won't make any health claims but will begin using the new blend in its cigarettes "as soon as practical." Gary Burger, RJR's senior vice president of research and development, said nitrosamines, also known as TSNAs, have been identified as carcinogens in high doses in some animal experiments.

Tokyo Stocks Fall

TOKYO (AP)

The Nikkei Stock Average fell 21.32 points to 18,493.09 points in early trading Friday. On Thursday, the average closed up 18.46 points. On Wall Street, the Dow industrials rose 40.67 to 11,039.06, and the Nasdaq shot up 99.07 to 3,452.78, setting a new high.

Ali Named Sportsman of the Century

NEW YORK (AP)

Muhammad Ali was honored as the Sportsman of the Century during Sports Illustrated's 20th Century Sports Awards at Madison Square Garden on Thursday night. "This is a great feeling," said the three-time heavyweight champion, who playfully sparred with presenter Billy Crystal after taking the stage. Babe Ruth was honored by the magazine's editors as the best baseball player, Michael Jordan was selected the top basketball player, Jim Brown the best football player, and Wayne Gretzky the best hockey player.

Austria Blast Death Toll Expected To Rise

WILHELMSBURG, Austria (AP)

An explosion leveled a three-story apartment building Thursday, killing at least two people, and rescuers worked through the night searching for victims buried in the ruins. The blast in this town 30 miles west of Vienna may have been caused by an ignition of natural gas, authorities said. Two people were confirmed dead, two were injured and eight were believed missing early Friday. Officials said it was unlikely that many more survivors would be found.

Bush Draws Rivals' Fire in Debate

AP Top News at 1 a.m. EST Friday, Dec. 3, 1999

MANCHESTER, N.H. (AP)

In his debate debut Thursday night, Gov. George W. Bush was challenged by other Republican presidential candidates on Social Security, abortion and tax cuts. Bush and his closest challenger, Sen. John McCain of Arizona, treated one another gently even favorably throughout the 90-minute encounter. Under the evening's format, the candidates were questioned by two reporters. The subjects ranged from Social Security to abortion to foreign policy to a question to Bush about Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein and his weapons stockpile. He said he would "take out the weapons of mass destruction."

Bosnian Serbs Roll Back on Accord

BANJA LUKA, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP)

Bosnian Serb leaders are rolling back on terms of a U.S.-brokered accord that American officials hailed as a major step toward fulfilling the goal of a united, multiethnic country. Last month, U.S. officials said the three members of Bosnia's collective, multiethnic presidency agreed to a declaration proposed by Richard Holbrooke, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, to end ethnic strife and work more closely together. On Thursday, however, the Serb member of the presidency told the Bosnian Serb parliament that he agreed only to work on elements of the accord, which he described as an "expression of the will" rather than a binding commitment.

Demand Is Strong for College Grads

LANSING, Mich. (AP)

College graduates with public speaking skills and a high level of computer proficiency will be among the most highly sought job candidates this year, according to a study released Friday. And they also will benefit from good timing. Graduates will find the labor market expanding 10 to 15 percent during the 1999-2000 academic year, according to the 29th annual Recruiting Trends survey from the Collegiate Employment Institute at Michigan State University.

Consultant Hired For Microsoft Case

WASHINGTON (AP)

The Justice Department hired a New York financial consulting company Thursday to advise it on remedies it might seek in its antitrust case against Microsoft. Greenhill & Co. LLC, which specializes in advising technology corporations on mergers and divestitures, was hired to help "in analyzing financial aspects of the full range of potential remedies in U.S. v. Microsoft, including conduct and structural relief," the department said. The government has given no indication whether it will seek to break up the software giant or merely advocate court orders governing its contracts, marketing or other conduct.

WTO Struggles for Compromise

SEATTLE (AP)

World trade delegates struggled Thursday for a compromise over deep differences that would allow them to launch a new round of market-opening negotiations. Many Third World countries said President Clinton's appeal for the WTO to link trade agreements with basic protections of worker rights confirmed their worst fears. Namely, that the administration would ultimately demand trade sanctions for their alleged labor violations as a way to take away their competitive advantage of lower wage levels. Meanwhile, Officials in Seattle were dealing with the aftermath of violent protests in which demonstrators caused an estimated \$2 million in property damage.

Tokyo Stocks Fall

TOKYO (AP)

AP Top News at 1 a.m. EST Friday, Dec. 3, 1999

The Nikkei Stock Average fell 21.32 points to 18,493.09 points in early trading Friday. On Thursday, the average closed up 18.46 points. On Wall Street, the Dow industrials rose 40.67 to 11,039.06, and the Nasdaq shot up 99.07 to 3,452.78, setting a new high.

Canucks Defeat Oilers 3-2 in OT

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP)

Todd Bertuzzi scored 1:51 into overtime as the Vancouver Canucks snapped a five-game winless skid with a 3-2 victory over the Edmonton Oilers on Thursday night. Andrew Cassels, who has three goals and an assist in his last four games, and rookie Harold Druken also scored for the Canucks, who entered the night in an 0-3-2 slump. Rookie Steve Kariya extended his career-best points streak to four games, with two assists as the Canucks also beat the Oilers for the first time in eight meetings (1-6-1) dating to April 1, 1998.

Death Toll in Austria Blast May Rise

WILHELMSTADT, Austria (AP)

An explosion leveled a three-story apartment building Thursday, killing at least two people, and rescuers worked through the night searching for victims buried in the ruins. The blast in this town 30 miles west of Vienna may have been caused by an ignition of natural gas, authorities said. Two people were confirmed dead, two were injured and eight were believed missing early Friday. During the night, about 200 firefighters, soldiers, police and dogs searched through the mound of rubble. Officials said it was unlikely that many more survivors would be found. "This is a hopeless situation," said Erwin Proell, the governor of Lower Austria state.

Congo Rebels Say They Lost Key Town

KIGALI, Rwanda (AP)

After weeks of being bombarded by government forces, Congolese rebels said Friday they had lost a key northwestern Congo town. The rebels said they could no longer resist helicopter and river assaults at Bokungu, 500 miles northeast of the capital, Kinshasa. They surrendered the town on Thursday, rebel spokesman Kin-Kiey Mulumba said. Also Thursday, Zimbabwean troops aiding Congolese President Laurent Kabila said they planned to keep pounding rebel lines until they broke through to save at least 700 Zimbabwean soldiers.

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Bush Accomplishes His Debate Goal

MANCHESTER, N.H. (AP)

In his first debate, George W. Bush accomplished his No. 1 goal: He survived. No gaffes. No wounds. No doubt he's still the GOP presidential front-runner. He may not have been the star of the debate, but he was a target, and as such had to avoid traps laid by his fellow candidates. "He showed he was in command, he looked solid and he didn't get rattled. He didn't fall apart," said GOP consultant David Carney, conceding that was an unusually low standard for a presidential candidate.

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Storm Systems Roll Through Oklahoma

PERRY, Okla. (AP)

A series of storms produced high winds, hail and unusual December tornadoes, damaging homes and toppling power lines across the state Thursday night. No serious injuries were reported. A tornado roared through Perry in central Oklahoma, damaging 10 homes and toppling power lines in a 3-mile path through Noble County, authorities said. Residents reported a second tornado in Noble County, and warnings also were issued for Logan County, an area hit hard hit by tornadoes on May 3 that killed 44 and left thousands homeless.

U.S. Auto Sales Up 7 Percent

DETROIT (AP)

American consumers kept buying new cars and trucks last month, sending U.S. auto sales up 7 percent and keeping the industry on track for a record year. But American automakers had less to cheer. Sales at General Motors Corp., Ford Motor Co. and the Chrysler division of DaimlerChrysler AG were up 1 percent, while Asian automakers saw a 21 percent gain and European brands boosted sales by 30 percent. Ford said Thursday its sales were up 4 percent last month, paced by a 17 percent jump in car sales.

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Mavericks Defeat Bulls 101-95

CHICAGO (AP)

Michael Finley scored 30 points as the undermanned Dallas Mavericks continued the Chicago Bulls' misery, beating them 101-95 Thursday night. Chicago (1-13) has now lost eight straight games. The Mavericks got a boost from Damon Jones whom they signed just prior to tipoff. Jones scored 13 points on 5-of-13 shooting off the bench.

Mars Polar Lander at Journey's End

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)

The Mars Polar Lander today maneuvered for touchdown on the frigid, rolling plains near the Red Planet's south pole. The \$165 million NASA probe was designed to slice through Mars' thin atmosphere at precisely the right angle, separate from its heat shield, deploy a parachute and fire a dozen thrusters before setting down all without radio contact with Earth. Instead, thousands of lines of computer code mapped out every final move, with the probe slowing from 15,400 mph to 5 mph just before touchdown this afternoon. Scientists hope to learn about Mars' climate by studying layers of dust and possibly ice during the 90-day mission.

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Barkley Fined for Verbal Abuse

LOS ANGELES (AP)

A \$20,000 fine isn't going to shut Charles Barkley up. Barkley, fined by the NBA yesterday for criticizing an official a night earlier, said before the Houston Rockets' 109-96 win over the Los Angeles Clippers that that he will continue to "defend himself." It's not the first time he's been fined for ripping an official. "This is like the third time it's happened," Barkley said. "They got me for \$10,000, \$15,000. It's just escalated. If I think an official's bad, I'll say it. I don't think about it, don't worry about it too much, man. They're all tax-deductible."

Mars Polar Lander Prepares for Touchdown

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US Won't Use Puerto Rican Island Now

WASHINGTON (AP)

Puerto Rico appears to have won at least a temporary victory in its battle to stop the Navy from resuming use of a bombing range that U.S. military officials have insisted is irreplaceable for the kind of training sailors and Marines must have before deploying abroad. Although no final decisions had been made last night, officials said the Clinton administration was willing to send the aircraft carrier USS Eisenhower and its battle group including a contingent of Marines on its next deployment without training on the Puerto Rican island of Vieques.

New Belfast Cabinet Makes History

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP)

After months of political deadlock threatening to kill the Good Friday peace accord for Northern Ireland, the landmark 1998 pact is suddenly firing on all pistons. Yesterday, supporters of the outlawed **Irish Republican Army** sat down with their Protestant antagonists in the new Northern Ireland government, which has already had a host of powers transferred to it from Britain. The first meeting produced no decisions but encouraged great hopes that three decades of bloodshed may truly be at an end. Also yesterday, the IRA confirmed it had appointed a senior member to meet soon with a Belfast-based disarmament commission.

Cohen Warns Allies About Missiles

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP)

AP Top News at 1 a.m. EST Friday, Dec. 3, 1999

Drawing on new intelligence reports, the United States is warning its NATO allies that the threat of long-range missile strikes from rogue nations is growing more serious. That news, however, hasn't necessarily rallied the allies behind a proposed U.S. anti-missile net designed to combat the threat. The proposed system worries Russia, and it has some U.S. allies wondering whether it would be worth the havoc it could wreak on existing security balances.

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Rockets Defeat Clippers 109-96

LOS ANGELES (AP)

The Houston Rockets, who had tied an NBA record by playing three consecutive overtime games, worked a regular shift yesterday, beating the Los Angeles Clippers 109-96. "We played three overtime games, and last night a double overtime, then traveled," said Shandon Anderson, who scored a career-high 27 points to lead the Rockets. "I knew they were going to try to run against us early." The Clippers, who trailed all the way, stayed close early, then made a run in the fourth quarter before the Rockets, who led by as many as 19 points in the third quarter, pulled away again.

250 Russians Said Killed in Chechnya

SERNOVODSK, Russia (AP)

Up to 250 Russian soldiers were killed early today when their unit was surrounded and overrun by Chechen insurgents in heavy fighting, according to an official. Ali Dudarov, deputy interior minister of the republic of Ingushetia, said that Russian officers told him that the unit was attacked near the Chechen town of Urus-Martan, 12 miles southwest of the capital Grozny. He said some 200 soldiers were killed in the attack and 50 more who had been taken prisoner were executed by having their throats slit.

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Mexico Suspends Car Deposit Program

MEXICO CITY (AP)

The Mexican government suspended a day-old program that charged U.S.-registered cars deposits of up to \$800 to cross into Mexico. Faced with angry opposition from both sides of the border, Mexican officials last night announced that the program which went into effect on Wednesday is suspended "until further notice" on orders from President Ernesto Zedillo. Officials will meanwhile conduct a "careful analysis" to come up with modifications, the Interior Ministry said in a news release.

Southern Baptists Launch Web Service

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)

The Southern Baptist Convention has launched an Internet service intended to filter out pornography, violence, bigotry and other material deemed a stumbling block to personal and spiritual growth. The service, at www.lifewayonline.com, began Wednesday to help Christians navigate online without fear of smut and Web sites that conflict with Christian values. It joins a growing field of Internet services responding to public concern about content on the Web and how it is being used.

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Prominent Banker Dies in Monaco Fire

MONTE CARLO, Monaco (AP)

Edmond Safra, one of the world's wealthiest men and most prominent bankers, was killed today in a fire set by two armed men who broke into his apartment, the Monaco press center said. Safra, 68, founded the Republic National Bank of New York and was listed this year as one of the world's top billionaires by Forbes magazine. Safra was a

AP Top News at 1 a.m. EST Friday, Dec. 3, 1999

major shareholder in the Republic Bank. The attack came during the final stages of the purchase of Republic Bank by London-based HSBC Bank.

Leaders From Cyprus Resuming Talks

UNITED NATIONS (AP)

After a break of nearly two years, leaders from war-divided Cyprus are preparing to tackle the island's future an issue that has repeatedly brought Greece and Turkey to the brink of war. Greek and Turkish leaders from Cyprus were scheduled to hold separate talks today with U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan at the start of a new round of negotiations to reunify the island. The round of meetings is expected to last about 10 days. Yesterday, President Clinton sent an emissary to the United Nations to show support for coming talks to settle the 25-year-old dispute.

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Ali Named Sportsman of the Century

NEW YORK (AP)

Muhammad Ali was honored as the Sportsman of the Century during Sports Illustrated's 20th Century Sports Awards at Madison Square Garden on Thursday night. "This is a great feeling," said the three-time heavyweight champion. Babe Ruth was honored by the magazine's editors as the best baseball player, Michael Jordan was selected the top basketball player, Jim Brown the best football player, and Wayne Gretzky the best hockey player.

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injured and six were believed missing early today. Officials said it was unlikely that many more survivors would be found. "This is a hopeless situation," said Erwin Proell, the governor of Lower Austria state.

Bush on Defensive in GOP Debate

MANCHESTER, N.H. (AP)

Together at last, the six Republicans who want to be president haggled over taxes, abortion, Social Security and their qualifications for the White House in a contentious debate that found George W. Bush on the defensive. Bush, the leading GOP candidate avoided a major gaffe and stressed his record as a two-term Texas governor. "I know how to lead," he said last night. It was the first of three debates this month, perhaps the best chance for the field to chip away at Bush's lead.

WTO Struggles for Compromise

SEATTLE (AP)

Trade ministers narrowed their differences on farm policy but still had to resolve bitter fights over labor rights and a host of other issues before launching a new round of talks to reduce global trade barriers. Wrapping up four days of negotiations marred by violent street protests, the 135-nation World Trade Organization hoped to reach the finish line today with a deal on the specific agenda for what should be covered by the new talks.

Tokyo Stocks Fall

TOKYO (AP)

Tokyo's main stock index edged lower on profit-taking today. The Nikkei Stock Average fell 146.27 points to close the day's trading at 18,368.14. In New York yesterday, the Dow Jones industrial average rose 40.67 to 11,039.06.

Ali Named Sportsman of the Century

NEW YORK (AP)

Muhammad Ali was honored as the Sportsman of the Century during Sports Illustrated's 20th Century Sports Awards at Madison Square Garden on Thursday night. "This is a great feeling," said the three-time heavyweight champion. Babe Ruth was honored by the magazine's editors as the best baseball player, Michael Jordan was selected the top basketball player, Jim Brown the best football player, and Wayne Gretzky the best hockey player.

Top Banker Dies in Monaco Fire

MONTE CARLO, Monaco (AP)

Two armed men today broke into the apartment of wealthy banker Edmond Safra and set it on fire, causing him to suffocate to death, the Monaco press center said. Safra, a 68-year-old Lebanese businessman, founded the Republic National Bank of New York and was listed this year as one of the world's top billionaires by Forbes magazine. Safra was found in a bathroom, along with his daughter's nanny who also died. Safra's wife and daughter barricaded themselves in another room and survived unharmed. The attack came during the final stages of the purchase of Republic Bank by London-based HSBC Bank.

WTO Seeks Labor Rights Compromise

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The Mars Polar Lander faces the greatest challenge of its 11-month journey today as maneuvers for touchdown on the frigid, rolling plains near the Red Planet's south pole. Thousands of lines of computer code are mapping out every final move, with the \$165 million NASA probe slowing from 15,400 mph to 5 mph just before touchdown this afternoon. Scientists hope to learn about Mars' climate by studying layers of dust and possibly ice during the 90-day mission.

Cyprus Leaders Resuming Talks

UNITED NATIONS (AP)

After a break of nearly two years, leaders from war-divided Cyprus are preparing to tackle the island's future an issue that has repeatedly brought Greece and Turkey to the brink of war. Greek and Turkish leaders from Cyprus are scheduled to hold separate talks today with U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan at the start of a new round of negotiations to reunify the island. The round of meetings is expected to last about 10 days.

N.Y.-Cuba Direct Flights To Start

NEW YORK (AP)

A private charter company is set tonight to start regular, direct flights between New York and Havana for the first time since the early 1960s yet another indication of increasing flexibility in U.S.-Cuban relations. Only researchers, journalists, Cuban-Americans visiting relatives and other individuals eligible for U.S. visas will be allowed to travel on the Marazul Charters flights.

Austria Building Blast Kills 3

WILHELMSBURG, Austria (AP)

Rescue crews worked through the night and into today searching for victims of an explosion that leveled a three-story apartment building, killing at least three people. The blast yesterday in this town 30 miles west of Vienna may have been caused by an ignition of natural gas, authorities said. Three people were confirmed dead, two were injured and six are believed missing. Officials say it is unlikely that many more survivors will be found.

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Unemployment Rate Holds Steady

WASHINGTON (AP)

The nation's unemployment rate held steady at 4.1 percent in November, the best showing in three decades, as 234,000 workers found jobs. The Labor Department reported today that November's rate matched October's rate at 4.1 percent, the lowest since a 3.9 percent rate set in January 1970. Average hourly earnings, a key gauge of inflation pressures, grew by tiny 0.1 percent to \$13.41 in November, less than the 0.3 percent rise many analysts were forecasting.

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250 Russians Said Killed in Chechnya

SERNOVODSK, Russia (AP)

Up to 250 Russian soldiers were killed early today when their unit was surrounded and overrun by Chechen insurgents in heavy fighting, according to an official. Ali Dudarov, deputy interior minister of the republic of Ingushetia, said that Russian officers told him that the unit was attacked near the Chechen town of Urus-Martan, 12 miles southwest of the capital Grozny. He said some 200 soldiers were killed in the attack and 50 more who had been taken prisoner were executed by having their throats slit.

China Detains 9 in Tiananmen Square

BEIJING (AP)

Chinese police detained at least nine people today in Tiananmen Square, including two women who had struck a pose used by the banned Falun Gong meditation group. The two women detained had posed in a meditation stance briefly in front of someone taking a picture of a group of Japanese boys on a school trip. Police also confiscated and broke the disposable camera one of the boys had used to take a picture of the women. They also held a foreign news photographer for an hour of questioning and confiscated his film.

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Woman First To Row Across Atlantic

POINTE-A-PITRE, Puerto Rico (AP)

Tori Murden, a Kentucky lawyer, became the first American and the first woman to row across the Atlantic alone, completing a 3,000-mile odyssey today to the cheers of family and friends. Murden rowed up to a dock in the French Caribbean island of Guadeloupe, grabbed an American flag and waved it high, celebrating a triumphant journey that began in the Canary Islands in September.

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Spaniards in Plea for Basque Truce

SAN SEBASTIAN, Spain (AP)

Spaniards observed five minutes of silence across the Basque region today in a plea for Basque separatists not to give up on a 14-month truce and return to bullets and bombs. The armed separatist group ETA, which has killed nearly 800 people since 1968, announced last week it would resume action as of today because it was unhappy with the political process spawned by its September 1998 cease-fire.

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Dow Up 170

NEW YORK (AP)

Stock prices opened higher on the strength of this morning's unemployment report. Just before 10 a.m. EST, the Dow industrials were up 170.05 to 11,209.11. Advancers on the New York Stock Exchange led decliners 953-515. The Nasdaq was up 69.75 to 3,522.53.

Mavs' Smith Arrested on Assault Rap

CHICAGO (AP)

Dallas Mavericks rookie Leon Smith was arrested on a misdemeanor charge of aggravated assault, police said today. Smith turned himself in to police late last night after learning that he was wanted for questioning following an

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accusation that he had threatened his former girlfriend. Police said Smith was accused of threatening his ex-girlfriend with a gun yesterday at John Marshall High School. Smith was held overnight and released today after posting \$100 bail.

Dow Rises 255; Nasdaq Up 82

NEW YORK (AP)

Stocks soared this morning after a government report showing continued strength in the job market, but little sign of inflation. Just before 11 a.m. EST, the Dow industrials were up 255.99 at 11,295.05. Advancers on the New York Stock Exchange led decliners 1,821-785. The Nasdaq was up 82.23 at 3,535.01. The rally was sparked by a report showing that inflationary forces remained mild last month even as the economy created 234,000 jobs and the nation's unemployment rate held steady at a three-decade low of 4.1 percent.

Belfast Talks Turn to Disarmament

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP)

With a new Protestant-Catholic government in power in Northern Ireland, attention returned today to the issue that blocked progress for so long disarming the paramilitaries. The ***Irish Republican Army*** yesterday announced it had chosen an official to meet the disarmament commission. The new government's leader, David Trimble, said today that the announcement marks the start of the process of disarming paramilitaries. The IRA, which has been observing a cease-fire since 1997, received 100 tons of weapons from Libya in the mid-1980s.

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Japan Lawmakers OK Cult Laws

TOKYO (AP)

Japan's upper house of Parliament approved two bills today aimed at clamping down on the doomsday cult accused of a deadly nerve gas attack on Tokyo's subways. One measure allows the government to monitor groups that have committed mass murder. A target would be the Aum Shinrikyo cult, whose guru is on trial for the 1995 nerve gas attack that killed 12 people and sickened thousands. The other law will make it easier to seize the assets of organizations that commit mass murder, and use them to compensate victims.

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Six months after having a stroke, Larry Kelley decided the best way to raise money for his family would be by selling his 1936 Heisman Trophy. Early today, the former Yale star's trophy only the second Heisman Trophy to be auctioned to the public was sold for nearly \$100,000 more than the price paid in February for O.J. Simpson's Heisman. The final bid of \$328,110 included a 15 percent auction house commission. The winning bidder was identified only as a domestic buyer.

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Dow Rises 252; Nasdaq Up 75

NEW YORK (AP)

Stocks surged today, with all of the major indexes flirting with records, on relief that a fresh report on the nation's tight labor market found no signs that inflation is getting out of hand. Just before noon EST, the Dow industrials were up 252.32 at 11,291.38. Advancers on the New York Stock Exchange led decliners 1,872-908. The Nasdaq was up 75.16 at 3,527.94. The rally was sparked by a report showing that inflationary forces remained mild last month even as the economy created 234,000 jobs and the nation's unemployment rate held steady at a three-decade low of 4.1 percent.

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Mrs. Clinton Names Campaign Manager

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)

Hillary Rodham Clinton, hoping to bring some discipline to her fledgling Senate campaign, today picked a veteran New York political operative to serve as her campaign manager. Bill de Blasio has been serving as regional director of the New York-New Jersey office of the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development. He is politically close to HUD Secretary Andrew Cuomo, the son of former New York Gov. Mario Cuomo.

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Steve Forbes today raised anew questions about George W. Bush's youth after the Texas governor zinged him in a debate last night about a 1977 article the publisher wrote about Social Security. Referring to his clash with Bush, Forbes told reporters, "At least you knew what I was doing in my youth." A spokesman said Forbes was justified in raising the drug question because Bush delved 22 years into Forbes' past in the debate. In a separate news conference, Bush refused to expand on his past comments on his youth and said Republicans should run "a solid, clean campaign."

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Two hooded men with knives today broke into the penthouse apartment of billionaire Edmond Safra and set a fire that killed the banker and a nanny while they hid in a bathroom, authorities said. A security system sounded the alarm after the attackers entered the apartment. Safra's wife and her granddaughter, who barricaded themselves in another room, survived unharmed. Safra, one of the world's richest men, founded the Republic National Bank of New York in 1966.

U.S. Won't Test Puerto Rico Bombs

WASHINGTON (AP)

Puerto Rico has won at least a temporary victory in its battle to stop the Navy from resuming use of a bombing range that U.S. military officials have insisted is irreplaceable. Some final details are still under discussion today, but administration officials say the Clinton administration is willing to agree to send the aircraft carrier USS Eisenhower and its battle group on its next deployment without training on the Puerto Rican island of Vieques this month. The officials said the administration also agreed to halt all Navy operations on Vieques within five years.

Boy, 9, Set on Fire Outside School

CHESTER, Pa. (AP)

A woman who was videotaped buying 85 cents worth of gasoline was charged today with dumping it on a 9-year-old boy and setting him on fire as he walked to school. The boy, Vincent Williams, is expected to be released today from Crozer-Chester Medical Center. Vincent was attacked yesterday morning outside Weatherill Elementary School, where he is in fourth grade. Kelly Chapman, 33, of Chester faces reckless endangerment and various assault charges. Police would not say whether she knew the boy.

Actor Jason Priestly in Car Crash

LOS ANGELES (AP)

Actor Jason Priestley crashed his new Porsche into a utility pole early today, injuring a passenger and ending up in jail on suspicion of drunken driving. The former star of Fox television's "Beverly Hills, 90210" was booked on suspicion of felony drunk driving and released several hours later on \$50,000 bond. Priestley was unhurt but his

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passenger had a broken arm. The actor told investigators he lost control when he swerved to avoid a deer on the steep, narrow streets in the Hollywood Hills.

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Dow Rises 282; Nasdaq Up 81

NEW YORK (AP)

Stocks soared today on a government report showing continued strength in the job market but little sign of inflation. Just before 1 p.m. EST, the Dow industrials were up 282.59 at 11,321.65. Advancers on the New York Stock Exchange led decliners 1,890-1,033. The Nasdaq was up 81.21 at 3,533.99. This morning's report showed that inflationary forces remained mild last month even as the economy created 234,000 jobs and the nation's unemployment rate held steady at a three-decade low of 4.1 percent.

Trade Ministers Narrow Differences

SEATTLE (AP)

Trade ministers are struggling today to launch a new round of talks to reduce global trade barriers as they narrowed differences on farm policy but remain stymied by several other issues. Ministers from the 135 nations that make up the World Trade Organization are meeting in various groupings after a series of all-night sessions that failed to produce agreement on an agenda for new trade negotiations. Some Asian nations have hinted they won't agree to a new round of trade talks if it includes any mention of labor rights, which they believe should be handled separately from WTO rules governing global commerce.

Hudson Foods Acquitted of Lying

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP)

A federal jury today found Hudson Foods and one of its employees innocent of lying to government inspectors in nation's largest meat recall. Hudson's former director of quality control, Michael Gregory, was accused by federal prosecutors of lying to inspectors who were at the company's Columbus plant investigating the 1997 E. coli outbreak. Attorneys for Hudson and Gregory denied there was any proof of wrongdoing.

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POINTE-A-PITRE, Guadeloupe (AP)

Weak-kneed but jubilant, Kentucky lawyer Tori Murden today became the first American and the first woman to row 3,000 miles across the Atlantic alone. Murden, 36, persevered despite days where, thanks to Hurricane Lenny, she actually went backward as much as 10 miles. She is a member of the Sector No Limits Team of athletes dedicated to testing the outer limits of endurance. Murden was the first woman and first American to ski to the geographic South Pole.

Vietnam, China OK Land Border Deal

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)

AP Top News at 1 a.m. EST Friday, Dec. 3, 1999

Vietnamese and Chinese officials said today they hope to sign a treaty by year's end delineating an 800-mile border between the two countries. The tentative deal, announced on the third day of Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji's visit to Vietnam, indicates relations between the communist neighbors are improving. Negotiations have been under way since 1993 to resolve territorial claims between the two countries, which have a long history of animosity. More than 100 areas along the border between northern Vietnam and southern China are under dispute.

Fla. Flight School Planes Collide

DELAND, Fla. (AP)

Two small planes from different flying schools collided in the air today, killing at least two people. A Piper Cadet from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University with two people aboard and a Piper Seminole owned by Phoenix East, another flight school, collided about 10 a.m. EST near DeLand Municipal Airport, said a spokeswoman for Embry-Riddle. The student and instructor aboard the Embry-Riddle plane were killed.

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Chargers File Grievance Against Leaf

SAN DIEGO (AP)

The San Diego Chargers filed a breach-of-contract grievance to withhold the final \$2.95 million installment of troubled quarterback Ryan Leaf's franchise-record \$11.25 million signing bonus. The grievance filed late last night was in reaction to Leaf's off-field problems, but it doesn't mean the team has given up on the second-year pro, said Ed McGuire, the Chargers' coordinator of football operations.

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SEATTLE (AP)

Trade ministers are struggling today to launch a new round of talks to reduce global trade barriers as they narrowed differences on farm policy but remain stymied by several other issues. Ministers from the 135 nations that make up the World Trade Organization are meeting in various groupings after a series of all-night sessions that failed to produce agreement on an agenda for new trade negotiations. Some Asian nations have hinted they won't agree to a new round of trade talks if it includes any mention of labor rights, which they believe should be handled separately from WTO rules governing global commerce.

Hudson Foods Acquitted of Lying

AP Top News at 1 a.m. EST Friday, Dec. 3, 1999

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP)

A federal jury today found Hudson Foods and one of its employees innocent of lying to government inspectors in nation's largest meat recall. Hudson's former director of quality control, Michael Gregory, was accused by federal prosecutors of lying to inspectors who were at the company's Columbus plant investigating the 1997 E. coli outbreak. Attorneys for Hudson and Gregory denied there was any proof of wrongdoing.

Woman First To Row Across Atlantic

POINTE-A-PITRE, Guadeloupe (AP)

Weak-kneed but jubilant, Kentucky lawyer Tori Murden today became the first American and the first woman to row 3,000 miles across the Atlantic alone. Murden, 36, persevered despite days where, thanks to Hurricane Lenny, she actually went backward as much as 10 miles. She is a member of the Sector No Limits Team of athletes dedicated to testing the outer limits of endurance. Murden was the first woman and first American to ski to the geographic South Pole.

Vietnam, China OK Land Border Deal

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)

Vietnamese and Chinese officials said today they hope to sign a treaty by year's end delineating an 800-mile border between the two countries. The tentative deal, announced on the third day of Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji's visit to Vietnam, indicates relations between the communist neighbors are improving. Negotiations have been under way since 1993 to resolve territorial claims between the two countries, which have a long history of animosity. More than 100 areas along the border between northern Vietnam and southern China are under dispute.

Fla. Flight School Planes Collide

DELAND, Fla. (AP)

Two small planes from different flying schools collided in the air today, killing at least two people. A Piper Cadet from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University with two people aboard and a Piper Seminole owned by Phoenix East, another flight school, collided about 10 a.m. EST near DeLand Municipal Airport, said a spokeswoman for Embry-Riddle. The student and instructor aboard the Embry-Riddle plane were killed.

Boy, 9, Set on Fire Outside School

CHESTER, Pa. (AP)

A woman who was videotaped buying 85 cents worth of gasoline was charged today with dumping it on a 9-year-old boy and setting him on fire as he walked to school. The boy, Vincent Williams, is expected to be released today from Crozer-Chester Medical Center. Vincent was attacked yesterday morning outside Weatherill Elementary School, where he is in fourth grade. Kelly Chapman faces reckless endangerment and various assault charges. Police said Chapman and the boy did not know each other and Vincent did nothing to provoke the attack.

Chargers File Grievance Against Leaf

SAN DIEGO (AP)

The San Diego Chargers filed a breach-of-contract grievance to withhold the final \$2.95 million installment of troubled quarterback Ryan Leaf's franchise-record \$11.25 million signing bonus. The grievance filed late last night was in reaction to Leaf's off-field problems, but it doesn't mean the team has given up on the second-year pro, said Ed McGuire, the Chargers' coordinator of football operations.

Mars Polar Lander Nears Touchdown

AP Top News at 1 a.m. EST Friday, Dec. 3, 1999

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)

Its trajectory looking good, the Mars Polar Lander faces the greatest challenge of its 11-month journey this afternoon as it maneuvers for touchdown near the Red Planet's south pole. Engineers said today the spacecraft remained in excellent shape and is on course to land on the planet's frigid, rolling plains only a few miles west of the absolute target point. Earlier today, engineers ordered a final course correction to make one last adjustment to the spacecraft's angle of approach.

Wealthy Banker Dies in Monaco Fire

MONTE CARLO, Monaco (AP)

Two hooded men with knives broke into the apartment of Edmond Safra, one of the world's richest men, and set a fire that killed the international banker and a nanny today while they hid in a bathroom, authorities said. Safra, a 67-year-old Lebanese-born businessman, founded the Republic National Bank of New York in 1966. Safra suffocated, a government press release said. He was found in a bathroom, along with the nanny, who was not identified. Safra's wife and her granddaughter, who barricaded themselves in another room, survived the attack unharmed, the government press center said.

Trade Ministers Narrow Differences

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Columbia/HCA Exec Gets Prison, Fine

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)

A Columbia/HCA Healthcare Corp. executive was sentenced today to two years in prison and fined \$7,500 for his part in a scheme that cheated Medicare of \$3 million by filing false cost reports. Robert Whiteside also was ordered to pay restitution of \$576,000, but repayment was stayed until a civil case is resolved. U.S. District Judge Susan Bucklew also gave him three years probation. Columbia, based in Nashville, is the largest hospital chain in the country.

Dow Rises 274; Nasdaq Up 73

NEW YORK (AP)

Major stock indexes flirted with record levels today on a government report showing continued strength in the job market but little sign of inflation. Just before 2 p.m. EST, the Dow industrials were up 274.64 at 11,313.70. Advancers on the New York Stock Exchange led decliners 1,905-1,062. The Nasdaq was up 73.33 at 3,526.11. This morning's report showed that inflationary forces remained mild last month even as the economy created 234,000 jobs and the nation's unemployment rate held steady at a three-decade low of 4.1 percent.

Cohen Laments Kosovo Progress

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP)

The NATO-led military force in Kosovo has achieved remarkable things since it intervened five months ago, but the lagging civilian effort could force an extension of the military commitment, U.S. Defense Secretary William Cohen said today. At a meeting of NATO defense ministers in Brussels, officials said the peacekeepers' successes have

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been underreported. Those successes, they said, include bringing down the murder rate, returning 810,000 refugees, demilitarizing the Kosovo Liberation Army, and completing 70 percent of home repairs.

Woman First To Row Across Atlantic

POINTE-A-PITRE, Guadeloupe (AP)

A Kentucky lawyer today became the first American and the first woman to row 3,000 miles across the Atlantic alone. Tori Murden, 36, completed the journey in 81 days, about a week off the record of 73 1/3 days, set by Briton Sidney Genders. Murden was the first woman and first American to ski to the geographic South Pole.

Leukemia Pill Holds Promise

NEW ORLEANS (AP)

An experimental pill has shown remarkable promise against one form of leukemia in early tests, helping every patient in whom the standard treatment had failed. It could prove to be the first major treatment for the disease in 13 years. STI-571 is intended to treat chronic myelogenous leukemia, which accounts for about 4,300 of the 30,000 new cases of leukemia in the United States each year, according to the Leukemia Society of America. Brian J. Druker of the Oregon Health Sciences University will present his findings Sunday to the American Society of Hematology in New Orleans.

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The Mars Polar Lander is set to touch down on the Red Planet this hour, where the \$165 million probe will study the atmosphere and dig into the frosty soil for evidence of some of the necessities for life. Engineers said today the spacecraft remained in excellent shape and is on course to land only a few miles west of the absolute target point. Scientists hope to learn about Mars' climate by studying layers of dust and possibly ice during the 90-day mission.

Wealthy Banker Dies in Monaco Fire

MONTE CARLO, Monaco (AP)

Banker Edmond Safra, one of the world's richest men, was killed in a pre-dawn fire today set by two hooded intruders who burst into his Riviera penthouse. Safra was found suffocated in a bathroom, along with a nanny, who also died. His wife and her granddaughter, who barricaded themselves in another room, survived the attack unharmed. A family bodyguard is in critical condition after struggling with the two armed men.

Forbes, Bush Trade Barbs

MANCHESTER, N.H. (AP)

In a fractious follow-up to the first Republican debate, Steve Forbes today raised George W. Bush's "youthful irresponsibility" again. He said he has the right to bring up the past, since Bush zinged him about an article he wrote 22 years ago on Social Security. In a separate news conference, the front-running governor cautioned against going negative, saying Republicans should run "a solid, clean campaign."

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Puerto Rico Island Cheers Decision

VIEQUES, Puerto Rico (AP)

A group of demonstrators camped out on the U.S. Navy's bombing range broke into cheers today when reports streamed in that Washington will send an aircraft carrier and its battle group elsewhere for training. In Washington, officials said the Clinton administration was willing to send the aircraft carrier USS Eisenhower and its battle group on its next deployment without training on Vieques. The officials said the administration also agreed to halt all Navy operations on Vieques within five years.

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A Columbia/HCA Healthcare executive was sentenced today to two years in prison and fined \$7,500 for his part in a scheme that cheated Medicare of \$3 million by filing false cost reports. Robert Whiteside also was ordered to pay restitution of \$576,000, but repayment was stayed until a civil case is resolved. Whiteside also was given three years probation. Columbia, based in Nashville, is the largest hospital chain in the country.

Woman First To Row Across Atlantic

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Braving hurricanes and bouts of despair, Kentucky lawyer Tori Murden today became the first American and the first woman to row across the Atlantic alone. Murden, 36, completed the journey in 81 days, about a week off the record of 73 1/3 days, set by Briton Sidney Genders. Murden was also the first woman and first American to ski to the geographic South Pole.

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Dow Rises 253; Nasdaq Up 63

NEW YORK (AP)

Stocks are higher today after a government report showed continued strength in the job market but little sign of inflation. Just before 3 p.m. EST, the Dow industrials were up 253.54 at 11,292.60. Advancers on the New York Stock Exchange led decliners 1,848-1,171. The Nasdaq was up 63.29 at 3,516.07.

France, Australia Tied in Davis Cup

NICE, France (AP) - Cedric Pioline won two thrilling tiebreaks today on his way to a straight-sets victory over Australian teen-ager Lleyton Hewitt as France pulled even after the opening two singles matches in the Davis Cup final. Earlier, Mark Philippoussis routed Sebastien Grosjean 6-4, 6-2, 6-4 to give Australia a 1-0 lead in the best-of-5 matches event.

No Signal Yet From Mars Lander

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)

AP Top News at 1 a.m. EST Friday, Dec. 3, 1999

Radio signals confirming the Polar Lander's touchdown on Mars did not immediately reach Earth as hoped today. Engineers said the \$165 million NASA probe was in excellent shape after its 11-month journey and was on course to land on the planet's frigid plains only a few miles west of the absolute target point. The problem could be as simple as a mispointed antenna or as serious as a catastrophic failure during the descent. Scientists hope to learn about Mars' climate by studying layers of dust and possibly ice during the 90-day mission.

Dow Up 249.56 on Economic Report

NEW YORK (AP)

Stocks surged today, with all of the major indexes flirting with records, on relief that a fresh report on the nation's tight labor market found no signs that inflation is getting out of hand. Just before the close at 4 p.m. EST, the Dow Jones industrial average was up 249.56 at 11,288.62. Advancers on the New York Stock Exchange led decliners 1,766-1,309. The Nasdaq was up 75.27 at 3,528.05.

Cohen Urges End to Vieques Training

WASHINGTON (AP)

Defense Secretary William Cohen today recommended ending military training on Vieques over the next five years and barring military personnel from using live weapons on the Puerto Rican island until that phaseout occurs. The recommendation, which President Clinton is expected to accept, leaves open the possibility of continued use of the island for military training if Vieques residents agree before the end of the five-year period. The Navy operations have been a target of occasional protests and legal actions since the 1960s, but the controversy erupted into a crisis after a civilian security guard was killed last April.

Russia Behind on Flight Readiness

MOSCOW (AP)

Only about 50 percent of Russia's air traffic control systems are safe from Y2K computer problems, a top aviation official said Friday, the ITAR-Tass news agency reported. Vladimir Andreyev, head of Russia's Federal Air Transport Service, said the country's flight control centers would be ready by New Year's Eve. Russia's air traffic controllers use about 14,000 computers to guide aircraft in Russia's airspace, including flights from U.S. destinations to East Asia. Of these, 2,470 needed upgrades, Andreyev said.

Billionaire Banker Killed in Monaco

MONTE CARLO, Monaco (AP)

Billionaire Edmond Safra, one of the world's richest men and banker to clients in the United States, Latin America and Russia, died in a pre-dawn fire set today by two hooded intruders who burst into his Riviera penthouse. The murder shocked the banking world. Safra, a 67-year-old Lebanese businessman and founder of the Republic National Bank of New York, died in a bathroom of the two-story penthouse.

Forbes, Bush Trade Barbs

MANCHESTER, N.H. (AP)

In a fractious follow-up to the first Republican debate, Steve Forbes today raised George W. Bush's "youthful irresponsibility" again. He said he has the right to bring up the past, since Bush zinged him about an article he wrote 22 years ago on Social Security. In a separate news conference, the front-running governor cautioned against going negative, saying Republicans should run "a solid, clean campaign."

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N.Y. Students Send Money to Kosovo

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia (AP)

Students in New York who saved their lunch money and held bake sales donated \$2,000 today to a school in Kosovo, hoping to help other children restart an education interrupted by war. Students at Manhattan's Dwight School took up a collection to help their counterparts at Gjin Gazulli High School, who have been struggling to buy desks, blackboards and school supplies. The Kosovo students had been banned from the school for eight years under anti-Albanian policies instituted by Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic.

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Dow Closes Up 247.12 at 11,286.18

NEW YORK (AP)

Stocks soared today, lifting the Dow industrials within striking distance of its first record since August. The Dow Jones industrial average closed up 247.12 at 11,286.18 in active trading, close to the record 11,326.04 it reached on Aug. 25. Advancers on the New York Stock Exchange led decliners 1,824-1,260. The Nasdaq was up 67.85 at 3,520.63, a record high. The rally was sparked by a report showing no wage inflation last month even as the economy created 234,000 jobs and the nation's unemployment rate held steady at a three-decade low of 4.1 percent.

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Mars Lander's Signal Fails To Reach Earth

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)

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Radio signals confirming the Polar Lander's touchdown on Mars did not immediately reach Earth as hoped today, raising questions about the whereabouts of NASA's \$165 million probe. The problem could be as simple as a mispointed antenna or as serious as a catastrophic failure during the descent that was to culminate the 11-month mission to land near Mars' south pole. A loss would be particularly devastating. Only 10 weeks ago the \$125 million Mars Climate Orbiter burned up in the planet's atmosphere because of an embarrassing failure to convert navigation data from feet and inches into metric units.

Stocks Soar; Dow Closes Up 247.12

NEW YORK (AP)

The Nasdaq composite index and the Standard & Poor's 500 soared to record highs today as investors exulted in fresh evidence that the nation's tight labor market is not contributing to rising inflation. The Dow Jones industrial average closed up 247.12 at 11,286.18. The S&P rose 24.26 to 1,433.30, while the Nasdaq was up 67.85 at 3520.63. Advancing issues outnumbered decliners 1,824-1,260 on the NYSE. The rally was sparked by a report showing that inflationary forces remained mild last month and the nation's unemployment rate held steady at 4.1 percent.

Clinton Orders Halt To Vieques Training

WASHINGTON (AP)

President Clinton today ordered the military to stop using a Puerto Rican island as a live-bombing range unless residents there allow the practice to continue, and to phase out all use of the island for military training over the next five years. Emphasizing the importance of the island to military readiness, the Clinton administration dangled a \$40 million incentive to try to persuade Vieques' 9,000 civilians, who are U.S. citizens, to let the training continue. However, Puerto Rico Gov. Pedro Rossello rejected the decision as "unacceptable." Rossello has called for the Navy to withdraw.

Billionaire's Bodyguard Questioned

MONTE CARLO, Monaco (AP)

The bodyguard of billionaire Edmond Safra was being questioned by police Friday night after the banker, one of the world's richest men, died in a pre-dawn fire set by two intruders who burst into his Riviera penthouse. The bodyguard was supposed to be in the apartment at the time of the attack, the chief prosecutor of Monaco said. Safra's Republic National Bank of New York had fallen on hard times in recent years, suffering heavy losses during the Latin American banking crisis in the 1980s and during the Russian economic meltdown that began in 1998.

U.N. May Extend Iraq Program

UNITED NATIONS (AP)

Overriding objections from Iraq's supporters, the Security Council moved ahead today with a vote to extend the U.N. oil-for-food program in Iraq for one week. The U.S.-proposed extension was expected to be approved, but diplomats said as many as five countries could abstain in a sign of continuing divisions over a new Iraq policy. U.S. officials said the one-week extension will maintain pressure on the Security Council to adopt a comprehensive resolution on Iraq that would enhance the oil-for-food program and return U.N. weapons inspectors.

Russia Lags in Flight Readiness

MOSCOW (AP)

Only about 50 percent of Russia's air traffic control systems are safe from Y2K computer problems, a top aviation official said Friday, the ITAR-Tass news agency reported. Vladimir Andreyev, head of Russia's Federal Air Transport Service, said the country's flight control centers would be ready by New Year's Eve. Russia's air traffic

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controllers use about 14,000 computers to guide aircraft in Russia's airspace, including flights from U.S. destinations to East Asia.

Y2K Viruses Prompt New Concern

NEW YORK (AP)

Businesses and individuals who think they have the Y2K bug beat may have a new worry: computer viruses triggered by the new year. Anti-virus experts today said they have detected a new virus that could make computers appear to have a Y2K problem Jan. 1. When the computer restarts, the virus tries to erase data. At least four other Y2K-related viruses are known to exist. Two of them are also timed for the new year, and two activate right away and spread by posing as Microsoft programs for fixing Y2K problems or programs that count down to the new year.

Chargers File Grievance Against QB

SAN DIEGO (AP)

The San Diego Chargers have filed a breach-of-contract grievance to withhold the final \$2.95 million installment of troubled quarterback Ryan Leaf's franchise-record \$11.25 million signing bonus. The grievance filed late yesterday was in reaction to Leaf's off-field problems, but it doesn't mean the team has given up on the second-year pro, club president Dean Spanos said today. He said he expected the differences between the club and Leaf to be settled within a few days.

NASA Awaits Signal From Mars Lander

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)

Radio signals confirming the Polar Lander's touchdown on Mars did not immediately reach Earth today. "This is not entirely unexpected," said Richard Cook, operations project manager. But the failure does raise questions about the whereabouts of NASA's \$165 million probe. The problem could be simple or serious such as a catastrophic failure during the descent that was to culminate the 11-month mission to land near Mars' south pole. Only 10 weeks ago the \$125 million Mars Climate Orbiter burned up in the planet's atmosphere because of an embarrassing failure to convert navigation data into metric units.

Nasdaq, S&P Soar; Dow Gains 247.12

NEW YORK (AP)

The Nasdaq composite index and the Standard & Poor's 500 soared to record highs today on news that inflationary forces are remaining mild and the nation's unemployment is holding steady. The Dow Jones industrial average closed up 247.12 at 11,286.18. The S&P rose 24.26 to 1,433.30, while the Nasdaq was up 67.85 at 3520.63. Advancing issues outnumbered decliners 1,824-1,260 on the NYSE.

Arafat Says Peace Talks Are Stalled

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP)

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat said Friday that negotiations with Israel on a permanent peace treaty are deadlocked, and he urged the United States to force Israel to stop expanding Jewish settlements in the West Bank. Arafat accused Israel of using the talks as a cover for an unprecedented expansion of the Jewish settlements. Arafat made his comments shortly before a visit by Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. She is due to arrive Tuesday to meet Israeli and Palestinian leaders in an effort to help move the negotiations forward.

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U.N. Approves Iraq Aid Extension

UNITED NATIONS (AP)

The U.N. Security Council narrowly approved a U.S. resolution today to extend the oil-for-food humanitarian program in Iraq for one week, with France refusing to vote in protest and three other countries abstaining. The vote reflected the continuing divisions in the Security Council as it tries to reach agreement on a new and much broader comprehensive policy toward Iraq. U.S. officials said the one-week extension will maintain pressure on the Security Council to adopt a comprehensive resolution on Iraq that would enhance the oil-for-food program and return U.N. weapons inspectors.

Bodyguard Questioned in Safra's Death

MONTE CARLO, Monaco (AP)

The bodyguard of billionaire Edmond Safra was being questioned by police Friday night after the banker died in a pre-dawn fire set by two intruders who burst into his Riviera penthouse. The bodyguard was supposed to be in the apartment at the time of the attack, the chief prosecutor of Monaco said. Safra's Republic National Bank of New York had fallen on hard times in recent years, suffering heavy losses during the Latin American banking crisis in the 1980s and during the Russian economic meltdown that began in 1998.

Clintons Commemorate Hanukkah

WASHINGTON (AP)

President Clinton and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton joined a group of schoolchildren today in lighting a menorah to commemorate the first night of Hanukkah. The first couple greeted 20 fourth-graders from the Gesher Jewish Day School in suburban Virginia, who recited a prayer and three blessings in Hebrew, then sang "Maoz Tzur," or "Rock of Ages," while a student lighted a small candle on the menorah. Hanukkah is an eight-day celebration commemorating the Jewish uprising in the second century B.C. against the Greek-Syrian kingdom.

Fisk Top Holdover for Hall Balloting

NEW YORK (AP)

Carlton Fisk is the leading holdover on this year's ballot for the Baseball Hall of Fame, while Jack Morris and Rich Gossage are among 14 players appearing for the first time. Ballots for this year were sent to writers this week, and election results will be announced Jan. 11. To gain election, a player must be selected on 75 percent of the ballots cast by 10-year members of the Baseball Writers' Association of America.

WTO Meetings Near Close

SEATTLE (AP)

The World Trade Organization neared the close of its meetings today on course for a minimal agreement that lacked many prized U.S. objectives. Trade ministers from the 135 member countries appeared ready to commit to starting a new round of global trade talks aimed at reducing trade barriers in agriculture, manufactured goods and services, according to a draft of their ministerial statement. However, the document did not include many proposals that President Clinton lobbied for early in the week, including establishment of a WTO working group on workers' rights.

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NASA Awaits Word From Mars Lander

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)

NASA scientists nervously awaited word from the Mars Polar Lander after it failed to promptly radio home today to confirm whether it had safely parachuted onto the surface of the Red Planet. The problem with the \$165 million spacecraft could be as simple as a mispointed antenna or as serious as a crash landing. Just 10 weeks ago, the \$125 million Mars Climate Orbiter burned up in the planet's atmosphere because of scientists' embarrassing failure to convert navigation data from feet and inches into metric units.

Billionaire Killed in Home Attack

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Nasdaq, S&P Soar; Dow Gains 247.12

NEW YORK (AP)

The Nasdaq composite index and the Standard & Poor's 500 soared to record highs today on news that inflationary forces are remaining mild and the nation's unemployment is holding steady. The Dow Jones industrial average closed up 247.12 at 11,286.18. The S&P rose 24.26 to 1,433.30, while the Nasdaq was up 67.85 at 3520.63. Advancing issues outnumbered decliners 1,824-1,260 on the NYSE.

Judge Cites Potential Conflicts

WASHINGTON (AP)

Responding to complaints that prosecutions of two presidential friends were sent to Clinton judicial appointees, a federal appeals court judge said the way some cases are assigned is open to abuse. Appeals court Judge Stephen Williams made the comments in dismissing a complaint against nine Democratic judges, including Norma Holloway Johnson, chief judge for the District Court in Washington. Johnson has maintained that politics played no role when she assigned prosecutions against longtime Clinton friend Webster Hubbell and former Democratic fund-raiser Charlie Trie.

Arafat Says Peace Talks Are Stalled

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP)

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat said Friday that negotiations with Israel on a permanent peace treaty are deadlocked, and he urged the United States to force Israel to stop expanding Jewish settlements in the West Bank. Arafat made his comments shortly before a visit by Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. She is due to arrive Tuesday to meet Israeli and Palestinian leaders in an effort to help move the negotiations forward.

Clinton Limits Training on Vieques

WASHINGTON (AP)

President Clinton said today that Navy bombing practice on the Puerto Rican island of Vieques would resume next spring at a sharply reduced level and only with dummy bombs. He offered Puerto Rico \$40 million to go along with the plan, which includes phasing out all training on the island within five years. Puerto Rican Gov. Pedro Rossello quickly rejected the plan, leaving the Navy with no assurance it will ever regain full use of its "crown jewel" of training ranges.

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Clintons Celebrate Hanukkah

WASHINGTON (AP)

President Clinton and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton joined a group of schoolchildren today in lighting a menorah to commemorate the first night of Hanukkah. The first couple greeted 20 fourth-graders from Gesher Jewish Day School in suburban Virginia. The children recited a prayer and three blessings in Hebrew. Hanukkah is an eight-day celebration commemorating the Jewish uprising in the second century B.C. against the Greek-Syrian kingdom.

Els Leads Million Dollar Challenge

SUN CITY, South Africa (AP)

Ernie Els shot a 6-under 66 Friday and took a two-stroke lead over Colin Montgomerie halfway through the Million Dollar Golf Challenge at the Gary Player Country Club. Els was at 11-under 133 for 36 holes, while Montgomerie was second at 135 after a 69. Sergio Garcia began his round with five consecutive birdies and finished with a 67, tying for third at 138 with Lee Westwood.

WTO Protests Dwindle in Seattle

SEATTLE (AP)

Traffic was snarled once again in downtown Seattle today as protests against the World Trade Organization tapered off toward a quiet close. Three days of sometimes violent demonstrations led to the arrests of more than 590 people and millions of dollars in damage. Meanwhile, the WTO neared the close of its meetings today on course for a minimal agreement that lacked many prized U.S. objectives. Trade ministers from the 135 member countries appeared ready to commit to starting a new round of global trade talks aimed at reducing trade barriers in agriculture, manufactured goods and services, according to a draft of their ministerial statement.

NASA Still Waiting for Word From Mars

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)

NASA is still waiting for word from the Mars Polar Lander. So far, the spacecraft has failed to return signals that would tell scientists whether it's landed on Mars. In its 90-day mission, the spacecraft was to capture the sounds of Mars, analyze the atmosphere and gather samples of the frosty soil, searching for signs of water and other conditions necessary for life. Losing the craft would be devastating for NASA. Just 10 weeks ago the \$125 million Mars Climate Orbiter burned up in the planet's atmosphere because of engineers' failure to convert navigation data into metric units.

US Fears Spread of Chechen Conflict

WASHINGTON (AP)

The organization headed by terrorist suspect Osama bin Laden and groups allied are maintaining links with Islamic rebels in Chechnya, the State Department said today. It warned that the conflict could spread from the embattled Russian region southward to Georgia and oil-rich Azerbaijan. Spokesman James P. Rubin said support of the extremist groups extends to rebels throughout the former Soviet Union. Rubin said the United States shares Russia's worry about the need to contain terrorist groups, but he reaffirmed U.S. opposition to tactics Russia is using to achieve its objectives in Chechnya.

Billionaire Killed in Home Attack

MONTE CARLO, Monaco (AP)

Edmond Safra, one of the world's richest men, was killed Friday when two intruders burst into his Riviera penthouse before dawn and then set the place on fire after Safra sought refuge in a locked bathroom. The 67-year-old

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Lebanese banker and founder of the Republic National Bank of New York had clients in the United States, Latin America and Russia. The billionaire's bodyguard was being questioned by police Friday night.

Actress Madeline Kahn Dies at 57

NEW YORK (AP)

Madeline Kahn, an Oscar-nominated actress and comedian best known for her work in "Paper Moon" and "Blazing Saddles," died today of ovarian cancer. She was 57. Kahn was nominated for best supporting actress Academy Awards two years in a row: for her portrayal of a floozy named Trixie Delight in the 1973 film "Paper Moon" and for her role as a saloon singer in "Blazing Saddles" in 1974. She won a Tony Award for best actress in 1993 with her role as ditsy Jewish matron Gorgeous Teitelbaum in "The Sisters Rosensweig."

E-Mail Privacy Dangers Alleged

WASHINGTON (AP)

Consumer and privacy advocates asked regulators today to force software makers to seal an e-mail feature that they say enables companies to track World Wide Web sites people visit. The groups fear that companies could exploit the technology to match up people's e-mail addresses and possibly other personal information with their Internet surfing habits. Groups today filed a petition with the Federal Trade Commission. It asked that Microsoft, Netscape and other software makers change the situation that makes such tracking possible.

Nasdaq, S&P, Dow Soar

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No Signal Yet From Mars Lander

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So far, the Mars Polar Lander has failed to return signals that would tell scientists whether it's landed on Mars. "This is not entirely unexpected," said Richard Cook, operations project manager. Controllers planned to send up commands Friday night to try to get a response from the spacecraft. In its 90-day mission, the spacecraft was to capture the sounds of Mars, analyze the atmosphere and gather samples of the frosty soil, searching for signs of water and other conditions necessary for life.

US Says Iran Overtures Rebuffed

WASHINGTON (AP)

The Clinton administration said today its persistent push for a dialogue with Iran was not paying off. "We have not received from the government of Iran the kind of responses we have been hoping for," the State Department

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spokesman said. The overtures, promoted by Secretary of State Madeleine Albright as a way to settle longstanding differences, included a message last summer from President Clinton. He sought Iran's cooperation in solving the bombing of Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia in 1996, which killed 19 U.S. servicemen and wounded hundreds of others.

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Stevie Wonder Hopes To Gain Sight

LOS ANGELES (AP)

Stevie Wonder met with a specialist about undergoing experimental "eye chip" surgery to correct his blindness but was told the operation would probably not help him, a spokeswoman for a Baltimore eye institute said. The singer, who has been blind since birth, spoke a doctor about an intraocular retinal prosthesis, said a spokeswoman at Johns Hopkins University. The procedure involves placing a computer chip on the retina and stimulating cells that haven't completely deteriorated.

Gateway Shares Tumble on Speculation

SAN DIEGO (AP)

Speculation that Gateway founder Ted Waitt is preparing to step down from his role as CEO of the personal computer company caused shares to drop 5 percent today. A company spokesman said Waitt had no plans to leave Gateway, but he wouldn't confirm whether Waitt would remain chairman and pass the CEO baton to Jeffrey Weitzen, Gateway president and chief operating officer. Gateway has 19,300 employees and earned \$346 million on \$7.5 billion in sales last year.

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Wall St. Ends Week on High Note

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Columbine Football Team Seeks Title

LITTLETON, Colo. (AP)

Columbine High's football players head into tomorrow's state championship game against Cherry Creek High on a mission to win not only for their school, but for Matt Kechter, a teammate who was slain during the April 20 high school massacre. It will be the school's first trip to the state football championship since 1981. In honor of their fallen teammate, the Columbine Rebels wear Kechter's No. 70 on their helmets. Cherry Creek has won the state title seven times this decade.

N.Y.-Cuba Flight Service Resuming

NEW YORK (AP)

Despite the continuing debate over the U.S. embargo, regular, direct passenger flights from New York to Cuba are resuming for the first time in nearly four decades. Marazul Charters Inc. is organizing the weekly service, which starts tonight with a sold-out flight from New York's John F. Kennedy Airport. At JFK, about 100 people waited in line for the flight, some holding bags bulging with dolls, clothes and medicine. Only Cuban-Americans, journalists and others approved under strict U.S. regulations can fly with Marazul because of the U.S. economic embargo that precludes American tourists from spending money in Cuba.

FBI, Mexican Official Visit Graves

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico (AP)

The director of the FBI and Mexico's attorney general today toured the desert ranch where the two countries have dug up the bodies of at least six suspected victims of the drug war. The two officials announced that at least five people were being questioned in the killings, which are believed linked to the battle over the world's most lucrative drug corridor. Many more victims are believed buried at the site. Mexican Attorney General Jorge Madrazo said his office was investigating the possibility that federal judicial police under his own agency had been involved in kidnap-murders, which began in 1994.

Mars Lander Fails To Send Signal

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last summer from President Clinton. He sought Iran's cooperation in solving the bombing of Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia in 1996, which killed 19 U.S. servicemen and wounded hundreds of others.

Time Warner Challenges Limits

WASHINGTON (AP)

Cable TV giant Time Warner challenged limits on the number of customers a single company can control, arguing to a federal appeals court today that such a cap violates the First Amendment rights of cable operators. A decision by the court in Time Warner's favor could open the door to growth for cable companies. It also could lower hurdles for mergers within the industry, such as the currently proposed, \$58 billion acquisition of MediaOne by AT&T.

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Once Ruled Incompetent, Man Jailed

BRIDGEPORT, Conn. (AP)

A man who earned A's and B's in college after a court ruled he was too brain-damaged to stand trial for killing his ex-girlfriend was sentenced today to the maximum of 20 years in prison. Kenneth Curtis was originally charged in the killing of Donna Kalson in 1988, but courts determined that he was incompetent to stand trial and he was later discharged from custody. He was re-arrested in 1997 after he was found earning A's and B's at Southern Connecticut State University.

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Pierce Leads Celtics Past Heat 96-84

BOSTON (AP)

Paul Pierce made sure the Boston Celtics didn't waste another chance for their 2,500th win, scoring 26 points and tying a team record with nine steals in a 96-84 victory over the Miami Heat tonight. Boston, the winningest franchise in NBA history with a 2,500-1,616 record, broke a three-game losing streak. Voshon Lenard led Miami with 23 points. Alonzo Mourning, in foul trouble most of the night, finished with 21 points as Miami's four-game winning streak ended.

WTO Talks Go Into Overtime

SEATTLE (AP)

Besieged by demonstrators outside and deep negotiating divisions inside, the World Trade Organization went into overtime tonight in its effort to launch a new round of trade negotiations. Officials reported a battle between the United States and the 15-nation European Union over agriculture had tied up negotiators for much of the day. While the debate over agriculture was raging, other negotiating groups were reporting some progress on other issues.

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under discussion. But even in those areas, final compromise language had not been worked out, officials said, suggesting the talks could go well into tomorrow before wrapping up.

NASA Tries To Contact Mars Lander

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)

NASA controllers planned to send up commands tonight to try to get a response from the Mars Polar Lander after it failed to return signals that would tell whether it landed on the planet. The problem with the \$165 million spacecraft could be as simple as a mispointed antenna or as serious as a crash landing. Because of the motion of the planets, the spacecraft can be contacted from Earth only during certain periods. The spacecraft was to capture the sounds of Mars, analyze the atmosphere and gather samples of the frosty soil, searching for signs of water and other conditions necessary for life.

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Meat Plant Fails Salmonella Tests

WASHINGTON (AP)

A Texas meatpacking plant that supplies the national school-lunch program failed a series of salmonella tests and was shut down by the government before a judge allowed it to reopen, a decision that prompted protests today. Consumer advocacy groups said the Supreme Beef Processors Inc. plant in Dallas supplies at least 30 percent of the ground beef that USDA purchases annually for schools. Supreme Beef failed the testing on three separate occasions beginning this summer.

Hacker Forces Delay of DVD Machines

SAN JOSE (AP)

Japanese manufacturers are delaying the launch of a new DVD audio machine touted as the next generation of home music entertainment after a European hacker cracked codes that are supposed to prevent DVDs from being copied. Matsushita Electric Industrial Co. will delay for at least six months sales of DVD audio/video players from its Panasonic and JVC subsidiaries. The \$40 billion recording industry has been striving to combat widespread music piracy as technology makes it easy to spread digital music files across the Internet.

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Pacers Rock Jazz 100-75

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)

Reggie Miller scored 31 points and Jalen Rose had 17 as the Indiana Pacers beat the uninspired Utah Jazz 100-75 tonight, giving Indiana a sweep of its four-game road trip. It was Utah's worst defeat since a 105-78 loss to Houston on Feb. 23, 1993. Miller heated up in his last two games and the Pacers also beat Seattle, Portland and Vancouver during their six-day trek. After failing to reach 20 points for a seven-game span, Miller had 26 in Wednesday's win at Vancouver.

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Body

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Nude Swordsman Attacks Churchgoers

LONDON (AP)

A naked sword-wielding man burst into a south London church during Mass on Sunday, slashing and stabbing members of the congregation. Ten people were injured, three seriously. Six of the injured suffered stab wounds, including a man who lost part of a hand. The others were hurt in a stampede to get out of St. Andrew's Roman Catholic Church in Thornton Heath, a London suburb. Several men in the 400-member congregation wrestled the man to the ground as he lashed out with the 3-foot gold and silver sword, witnesses said.

Puerto Rico Won't Arrest Protesters

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)

Puerto Rico's police chief said Sunday his officers will not help the U.S. Navy clear out protesters camped out on an island bombing range. Police superintendent Pedro Toledo promised his officers will not cooperate with federal authorities or lend them boats and helicopters to help with arrests. Activists in the U.S. territory have camped out on the range since a Marine Corps jet dropped a bomb off target and killed a civilian security guard there on April 19.

Expert Sees Cooperation From China

HONG KONG (AP)

Beijing's decision to allow a U.S. surveillance plane to participate in a joint search-and-rescue exercise shows a willingness to normalize military ties after the NATO bombing of the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade, a defense

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expert said Sunday. Five U.S. military aircraft will join the Nov. 30-Dec. 3 maneuvers with China and Hong Kong next week in the South China Sea off the coast of Hong Kong. Beijing has been rejecting U.S. proposals to let the Orion make routine stopovers in Hong Kong ever since the NATO bombing incident in May, which Washington insists was accidental.

'Mein Kampf' Online Sales Addressed

BERLIN (AP)

Media giant Bertelsmann AG is being pressured from Germany's justice minister to exert influence over its U.S. business partner barnesandnoble.com to block online sales of Hitler's "Mein Kampf" in the country, according to a report Sunday. Bertelsmann pulled the book from its European services in August and asked online book company barnesandnoble.com not to ship banned Nazi titles to customers in Germany. Under German law, books espousing Nazi philosophy are banned from public display or sale, punishable by up to five years in prison.

Battle New Uruguay President

MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay (AP)

Uruguay's ruling party candidate for president, Jorge Batlle, thwarted a historic challenge Sunday by a maverick socialist in a runoff election. With 100 percent of the votes counted late Sunday, the Interior Ministry said Jorge Batlle, 72, won 52 percent of votes. Batlle appealed for unity and signaled his desire to work with a bicameral congress in which no party will have an outright majority. A huge street fiesta filled the capital of this small South American country of 3.2 million people after his victory speech.

Senator Bradley Back in Iowa

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)

Former New Jersey Sen. Bill Bradley touted his health care plan and pushed for more oversight of concentration in agribusiness during his return to Iowa during the holiday weekend. Bradley spent the day after Thanksgiving talking to 175 supporters the largest gathering for a presidential candidate since Gary Hart's visit in 1984, according to the town's mayor before polishing off a bowl of chili. "I think people who vote for a president want to have something to vote for, not against," Bradley said at a chili supper in Audubon.

Tokyo Stocks Fall in Early Trading

TOKYO (AP)

The Nikkei shed 46.09 points to 18,868.41 in early trading on Monday. On Friday, the average closed up 192.72 points, or 1.03 percent, at 18,914.50 a new 27-month closing high.

Panthers 34, Falcons 28

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)

Donald Hayes, pressed into duty because one of the Panthers' wide receivers was hurt and another is in jail, had five catches for 133 yards and a touchdown as Carolina defeated the Atlanta Falcons 34-28 on Sunday night. Hayes' contributions helped the Panthers win back-to-back games for the first time since December 1998 and end a three-game losing skid to their NFC West neighbors.

World's Rivers Said in Trouble

WASHINGTON (AP)

More than half the world's major rivers are going dry or are polluted, a panel studying global water problems reported Monday. The fouling of the waterways and surrounding river basins contributed to the total of 25 million

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environmental refugees last year, for the first time exceeding the world's 21 million war-related refugees, said the World Commission on Water for the 21st Century. The findings are part of a report the commission expects to complete at a two-day meeting beginning today at The Hague, Netherlands.

Historic Week Ahead for N. Ireland

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP)

Key Northern Ireland parties are ready to form an unprecedented Protestant-Catholic coalition that will bring together bitter enemies and, for the first time in a troubled generation, wield power in local hands. Monday's session of the Northern Ireland Assembly the only branch of local government yet formed under terms of last year's Good Friday accord is to confirm who will hold which posts in a 12-member Cabinet drawn equally from the province's British Protestant and Irish Catholic parties.

Batlle Wins Uruguay Presidency

MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay (AP)

Uruguay's ruling party soundly rebuffed a socialist challenger in a presidential vote, but official results showed a renewed left has come of age in this small South American nation. Jorge Batlle, 72, a senator of the Colorado Party whose surname is pronounced "Bat Jay," defeated Tabare Vazquez and his Broad Front coalition. Mounting the biggest threat ever from the left, Vazquez, a moderate socialist and 59-year-old doctor, sought to become Uruguay's first socialist president. While he struck a chord among voters disgruntled with politics as usual, victory proved elusive for his coalition.

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SuperSonics 102, Pacers 91

SEATTLE (AP)

Gary Payton scored 31 points and Horace Grant added 23 as the Seattle SuperSonics remained undefeated at home with a 102-91 victory over the Indiana Pacers on Sunday night. The Sonics, who are 6-0 at home, beat Indiana for the third straight time. Dale Davis had 19 points and 15 rebounds, Chris Mullin added 12 points and Austin Croshere had 10 for the Pacers, who lost for the fifth time in seven games.

Microsoft, Gov't To Resume Talks

WASHINGTON (AP)

Lawyers for Microsoft Corp. and the government plan to resume talks Tuesday with a federal appeals judge in Chicago to begin trying to negotiate an out-of-court settlement in the software giant's antitrust trial. The sides will meet with Richard Posner, the chief judge of the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals who agreed to serve as mediator, in a one-day introductory session. Three previous settlement attempts since the trial started have been unsuccessful.

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Nude Swordsman Attacks Churchgoers

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A naked sword-wielding man burst into a south London church during Mass on Sunday, slashing and stabbing members of the congregation. Ten people were injured, three seriously. Six of the injured suffered stab wounds, including a man who lost part of a hand. The others were hurt in a stampede to get out of St. Andrew's Roman Catholic Church in Thornton Heath, a London suburb. Several men in the 400-member congregation wrestled the man to the ground as he lashed out with the 3-foot gold and silver sword, witnesses said.

Puerto Rico Won't Arrest Protesters

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)

Puerto Rico's police chief said Sunday his officers will not help the U.S. Navy clear out protesters camped out on an island bombing range. Police superintendent Pedro Toledo promised his officers will not cooperate with federal authorities or lend them boats and helicopters to help with arrests. Activists in the U.S. territory have camped out on the range since a Marine Corps jet dropped a bomb off target and killed a civilian security guard there on April 19.

Japanese Stock Prices Fall

TOKYO (AP)

Japan's key stock index closed lower Monday. The Nikkei shed 64.23 points to close at 18,850.27.

San Jose 4, New Jersey 3, OT

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP)

Patrick Marleau's goal with 5.6 seconds left in overtime gave the San Jose Sharks a 4-3 victory over the New Jersey Devils on Sunday night. Marleau got the puck at center ice and skated in on New Jersey goalie Martin Brodeur. He missed the puck with his first shot, from about 10 feet away, but put it past Brodeur on his second shot from point-blank range.

Study Shows Elderly Care Costly

BOSTON (AP)

Time spent looking after an elderly relative can hurt a caregiver's career and pocketbook, according to a study released today. The study, conducted by the National Center for Women and Aging at Brandeis University and the

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National Alliance for Caregivers, found that two-thirds of people who act as caregivers had to pass up such gains as promotions, pay raises, training opportunities and pension benefits. But caregiving also satisfied a sense of family duty and love. The study centered on 55 people who spent more than eight hours per week providing unpaid care.

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Historic Week Ahead for N. Ireland

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP)

Key Northern Ireland parties are ready to form an unprecedented Protestant-Catholic coalition that will bring together bitter enemies and, for the first time in a troubled generation, wield power in local hands. Today's session of the Northern Ireland Assembly the only branch of local government yet formed under terms of last year's Good Friday accord is to confirm who will hold which posts in a 12-member Cabinet drawn equally from the province's British Protestant and Irish Catholic parties.

Battle Wins Uruguay Presidency

MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay (AP)

Uruguay's ruling party soundly rebuffed a socialist challenger in a presidential vote, but official results showed a renewed left has come of age in this small South American nation. Jorge Battle, 72, a senator of the Colorado Party whose surname is pronounced "Bat Jay," defeated Tabare Vazquez and his Broad Front coalition. Mounting the biggest threat ever from the left, Vazquez, a moderate socialist and 59-year-old doctor, sought to become Uruguay's first socialist president. While he struck a chord among voters disgruntled with politics as usual, victory proved elusive for his coalition.

President Clinton Faces Busy Week

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WASHINGTON (AP)

President Clinton faces a busy week aimed at nudging lawmakers to address unfinished business when they return to Capitol Hill next year. Congress wrapped up its session before Thanksgiving without passing an increase in the minimum wage or a patients' bill of rights. The president planned a Rose Garden ceremony this afternoon to sign the spending package passed by Congress in its final hours. The legislation includes funds for more teachers and police two administration priorities.

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Magic 108, Pistons 99

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. (AP)

Michael Doleac scored 20 points and Monty Williams had 18 as Orlando ended Detroit's five-game winning streak, 108-99 yesterday. Darrell Armstrong added 17 points and eight assists for the Magic, who have beaten the Pistons seven straight times. Grant Hill led the Pistons with 24 points, and Jerry Stackhouse added 21.

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Sharif's Prison Conditions Improve

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP)

An anti-terrorist court agreed today to improve deposed Premier Nawaz Sharif's prison conditions, giving him a television set, food from home, a private bathroom and a personal attendant. Sharif has been accused by the army that overthrew his elected government last month of trying to kill the army chief by refusing to allow his plane to land in Karachi on Oct. 12, the day of the coup. He has been in custody ever since. Sharif's lawyers have complained bitterly about Sharif's jail conditions, saying he is treated "like a common criminal."

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Russians Drops Bombs on Grozny

GROZNY, Russia (AP)

Russian warplanes bombed one of the main streets in Grozny and pounded residential areas today as part of a sustained assault on the besieged Chechen capital. The Russians have intensified their bombardment of Grozny in the past week, leaving hundreds dead or wounded, destroying scores of buildings and homes, and keeping residents trapped in their basement shelters. Today's bombing raid hit Grozny's Avtarkhanov Avenue, one of the city's main thoroughfares, as well as residential neighborhoods and a car market. Witnesses said there were casualties, but no figures were immediately available.

EU Finance Ministers Open Talks

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP)

European Union finance ministers opened talks today confronted by the falling value of their euro currency and the prospect of failure after months of negotiations on plans to shutdown cross-border tax dodges within the 15-nation bloc. The euro slumped Friday to its lowest level since its launch on Jan. 1 as the common currency of 11 EU nations. It hit 1.007 against the dollar, and a symbolic dip below one-to-one with the greenback seemed inevitable. Ministers arriving for the meeting were muted in their reaction to the currency's fall.

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Anti-WTO Activists Descend on Seattle

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Spanish Police on Maximum Alert

MADRID, Spain (AP)

Spanish police were on maximum alert today, a day after a Basque separatist group announced it will end a 14-month-old cease-fire, newspapers reported. Spain's Interior Ministry ordered forces to step up security in a bid to head off renewed separatist violence, and it canceled year-end vacations for police and Civil Guards, the newspaper El Mundo said. The government urged Spaniards to unite against the group, known as ETA. The separatist group has been blamed for nearly 800 deaths since 1968 in its campaign for a separate Basque nation centered in northern Spain and spilling into southern France.

China Said Holds 35,000 Sect People

BEIJING (AP)

Police in Beijing have detained more than 35,000 members of the banned Falun Gong spiritual movement in the Chinese government's four-month crackdown, a human rights group reported today, citing a speech by a senior Communist Party leader. Li Lanqing, a vice premier and member of the party's supreme decision-making body, told other officials on Friday that 35,792 people were detained in Beijing between July and October, the Hong Kong-based Information Center of Human Rights and Democratic Movement in China said.

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Baby Dies in Turkish Camp Fire

ANKARA, Turkey (AP)

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Clinton Set To Sign Budget Package

WASHINGTON (AP)

President Clinton prepared today to sign a \$390 billion budget package that meets his demand for money for local and state governments to hire 100,000 new teachers and 50,000 more community police officers. But the president is expected to address at a signing ceremony in the Rose Garden this afternoon the nation's "unfinished business" that Congress failed to tackle this year. Lawmakers ended their session before Thanksgiving without reaching final agreement on an increase in the minimum wage or a patients' bill of rights. Clinton, entering his last year in office, wants to see action on those issues in early 2000.

Microsoft, Gov't To Discuss Settlement

AP Top News at 1 a.m. EST Monday, Nov. 29, 1999

WASHINGTON (AP)

Lawyers for the government and Microsoft plan to meet tomorrow in Chicago with a federal appeals judge to begin trying to negotiate a settlement in the software giant's antitrust trial. A trial judge determined earlier this month that Microsoft, whose Windows software runs most of the world's personal computers, was a monopolist whose actions hurt consumers and stifled innovation in the technology industry by some of its biggest players, including IBM, Intel Corp. and the former Netscape Communications Corp.

Turkish Fire Kills Baby

ANKARA, Turkey (AP)

A 2-month-old-girl was killed today when a tent at a camp for Turkish earthquake survivors caught fire, news reports said. It was the third accident of its kind within a week. Hundreds of thousands of people still live in tent cities after two massive earthquakes devastated parts of western Turkey. Survivors have been using gas canisters to cook and gas heaters to keep warm as temperatures have fallen below freezing. More than 17,000 people were killed in the Aug. 17 quake that hit northwestern Izmit. The death toll in Turkey's second quake, which hit the nearby region of Bolu on Nov. 12, has reached 769.

Hand Transplant Man Can Use Fingers

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)

The nation's first recipient of a hand transplant is using his left hand to open doors and tie his shoes, says Anne Hodges, who was his physical therapist during his three-month recovery. Matthew Scott, 38, of Absecon, N.J., received his new hand during 15 hours of surgery in January. Scott couldn't be reached for comment but said in a Thanksgiving news release that he was "most thankful for the courage and generosity of the donor family. It was their compassion that made this unbelievable gift possible."

Dow Drops 78; Nasdaq Gains 4

NEW YORK (AP)

The Dow Jones industrial average is down 78 points in today's early going. Losers on the New York Stock Exchange hold a 3-2 lead over gainers. The Nasdaq Composite Index is down 12 points and the S&P 500 Index is down nine points.

Hamilton Downs Calgary 32-21

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP)

Darren Flutie had six catches for 109 yards and two touchdowns yesterday to help lead the Hamilton Tiger-Cats over the Calgary Stampeders 32-21 in the CFL's Grey Cup. His second touchdown ended a three-play, 69-yard drive early in the fourth quarter that put Hamilton ahead 32-14. Flutie, the 33-year-old younger brother of NFL quarterback and former CFL star Doug Flutie, had 14 points as Hamilton won their first Grey Cup in 13 years. The victory, before a crowd of 45,118, also helped atone for last year's 26-24 Grey Cup loss to Calgary on a last-play field goal.

Yeltsin Hospitalized With Pneumonia

MOSCOW (AP)

Boris Yeltsin was rushed to the hospital Monday with suspected pneumonia, just days after falling ill with what doctors had described as bronchitis, the Kremlin said. The 68-year-old president was taken to the Central Clinical Hospital in Moscow for examination and treatment. Doctors had examined him earlier Monday and decided to hospitalize him.

AP Top News at 1 a.m. EST Monday, Nov. 29, 1999

N. Ireland Assembly Chooses Cabinet

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP)

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Study Shows Elderly Care Costly

BOSTON (AP)

A new study says people who take care of elderly parents or relatives may suffer financially and at work. The study, released today, found that two-thirds of people who act as caregivers had to pass up such gains as promotions, pay raises, training opportunities and pension benefits. Among the 30 subjects who could provide detailed financial information, the average loss over a lifetime was \$659,139 in wages, pension and Social Security benefits, the study found. The impact of lost worker productivity due to elder caregiving on corporate America is estimated at between \$11 billion and \$29 billion annually.

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Court Weighs Hate-Crime Sentences

WASHINGTON (AP)

The Supreme Court today agreed to decide whether judges can impose longer sentences under state hate-crime laws based on their own determination that someone was motivated by bias to commit a crime. The court said it will hear a New Jersey man's argument that a jury, not the judge, must decide whether racial bias was a motive when he fired shots into a black family's home. Charles C. Apprendi Jr. was arrested in 1994 after shots were fired into the home of a black family living in his otherwise all-white neighborhood in Vineland, N.J. No one was injured in the shooting.

Trimble Chosen as Ireland's First Minister

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Report: America's Kids in Trouble

NEW YORK (AP)

Teen pregnancy, abuse and neglect at home, inadequate child care, poor schools and lack of health care are among the biggest dangers threatening America's children, according to a new report. The report, "Ten Critical Threats To America's Children: Warning Signs for the Next Millennium," also lists such threats as substance abuse, poverty, absent parents, crime and dangers in the environment. Each of the 10 threats is listed with possible solutions like raising the minimum wage and universal health care. The report was to be released today at a news conference in Washington, D.C.

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Greenpeace: Bhopal Contaminated

BOMBAY, India (AP)

The environmental group Greenpeace said today that toxic chemicals continue to poison soil near the site of a lethal gas leak in central India 15 years ago. The disaster at the former Union Carbide plant in Bhopal claimed at least 7,000 lives. Although the plant, which manufactured the pesticide Sevin, was shut down, Kevin Brigden, a Greenpeace scientist, recently examined soil samples and well water from the site and found high levels of contamination. Despite warning signs not to use wells near the site, residents use the water for drinking and washing, a Greenpeace report said.

17 Koreans Convicted in Fire at Camp

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)

Seventeen local officials and engineers were convicted today on charges related to a June fire at a youth camp that took 23 lives. The defendants were convicted on involuntary manslaughter and other charges. Prosecutors had sought prison terms of up to 7 1/2 years for each of them, but only nine were sentenced to prison time. Nineteen children and four adults were killed June 30 when fire swept through the Sealand Youth Training Center in Hwasung county, 60 miles southeast of Seoul. Prosecutors said local government officials took bribes in return for giving a license to the camp, which lacked basic fire prevention and alarm systems.

Stocks Fall; Dow Down 87.17

NEW YORK (AP)

Blue-chip stocks were sharply lower in early trading today as bond yields soared to their highest level in a month. In the first hour of trading on Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average was down 87.17 at 10,901.74. Declining issues outnumbered advancers on the New York Stock Exchange, 1,724-874. The Nasdaq composite index was up 9.08 at 3,456.89.

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Yeltsin Admitted to Hospital

MOSCOW (AP)

Russian President Boris Yeltsin has been hospitalized again with suspected pneumonia, the Kremlin said today. The 68-year-old president had been resting at his country residence outside Moscow after being diagnosed last Thursday with bronchitis. Doctors had said that his condition was not serious and he needed to rest, but his condition apparently deteriorated, forcing his hospitalization today. The Kremlin said the president would be hospitalized for about a week, according to the Interfax news agency, but Kremlin officials reached by The Associated Press said they could not confirm the report.

Court To Clarify Disability Rules

WASHINGTON (AP)

The Supreme Court today agreed to clarify when people can go to federal court to challenge the government's denial of Social Security disability benefits. The justices said they will hear a Mississippi woman's argument that she should be allowed to raise in court issues she had not pursued during an administrative appeal. An administrative law judge at the Social Security Administration denied her application for benefits, and the administration's Appeals Council agreed in 1997. Sims then took her case to federal court.

America's Children Face Many Dangers

NEW YORK (AP)

Teen pregnancy, abuse and neglect at home, inadequate child care, poor schools and lack of health care are among the biggest dangers threatening America's children, according to a new report. The report, "Ten Critical Threats To America's Children: Warning Signs for the Next Millennium," also lists such threats as substance abuse, poverty, absent parents, crime and dangers in the environment. Each of the 10 threats is listed with possible solutions like raising the minimum wage and universal health care. The report was to be released today at a news conference in Washington, D.C.

Panel: World's Rivers Are in Trouble

WASHINGTON (AP)

More than half the world's major rivers are going dry or are polluted, a panel studying global water problems reported today. The World Commission on the Water for the 21st Century concluded that of the 500 major rivers in the world, the Amazon in South America and the Congo in sub-Saharan Africa are the healthiest. By contrast, overuse and misuse of land and water resources in river basins elsewhere has is "degrading and poisoning" the rivers' surrounding ecosystems, "threatening the health and livelihoods of people who depend upon them for irrigation, drinking and industrial water."

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Group Says Bhopal Site Still Tainted

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Sales of Existing Homes Fall Again

WASHINGTON (AP)

Sales of existing homes fell in October to the lowest level in nearly two years as rising mortgage rates took a bite out of demand. But sales are still heading for a record year. The National Association of Realtors said today that sales of existing single-family homes declined for the fourth month in a row, falling a sharp 6.6 percent last month to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 4.79 million units. Despite the drop, existing-home sales are expected to total a record 5.20 million units this year, association officials said.

Dow Down 45.27; Nasdaq Rises 6.61

NEW YORK (AP)

Blue-chip stocks fell sharply today as bond yields soared to their highest level in a month. In morning trading on Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average was down 45.27 at 10,943.64. Declining issues outnumbered advancers 1,978-890 on the New York Stock Exchange. Just before noon EST, the Nasdaq composite index was up 6.61 at 3,454.42

Yankees Sign Stanton for 3 Years

NEW YORK (AP)

Mike Stanton and the New York Yankees agreed today to a three-year contract, completing a deal that had been in the works for weeks. The 32-year-old left-hander was 2-2 with a 4.33 ERA in 73 games this season. He is 12-4 with a 4.20 ERA and nine saves since joining the Yankees in December 1996. New York also has been negotiating with Arthur Rhodes, a left-hander seeking a four-year contract. Rhodes and Allen Watson, who joined the Yankees during the past season, are among the candidates to be the second left-hander in New York's bullpen.

President Signs Fiscal 2000 Budget

WASHINGTON (AP)

President Clinton signed a \$390 billion budget package today that provided funding for more teachers and police officers. Acknowledging it fell short on many of his goals, he nonetheless said the bill represented "real progress" for American families. "We value education and this budget truly puts education first, continuing our commitment to hire 100,000 highly qualified teachers to lower class size in the early grades," Clinton said. Funding to put more cops on the street "will make America a safer place," he said. The signing ceremony in the Rose Garden kicked off a busy week of activity for Clinton, who is heading west on Tuesday for fund-raising in California and the opening of the contentious World Trade Organization talks in Seattle.

N. Ireland Starts on New Government

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP)

AP Top News at 1 a.m. EST Monday, Nov. 29, 1999

Northern Ireland's rival parties today began forming a Protestant-Catholic government that requires bitter enemies to share power for the first time in history. After more than a year's delay, the 108 lawmakers in the Northern Ireland Assembly started the process of confirming who will hold which post in a 12-member Cabinet. The Cabinet's members were to be drawn equally from the Assembly's British Protestant and Irish Catholic blocs, and will receive substantial powers Thursday from the British Parliament in London. The complicated nomination process was expected to take several hours.

Yeltsin Rushed to Hospital

MOSCOW (AP)

Boris Yeltsin may have to stay in the hospital for a week for treatment of suspected pneumonia, the Interfax news agency reported today, but Kremlin officials reached by The Associated Press said they could not confirm the report. The 68-year-old president was rushed to the Central Clinical Hospital today for examination and treatment. He had been resting at his country residence outside Moscow after being diagnosed last Thursday with bronchitis. Yeltsin has been hospitalized several times in the past three years, usually with respiratory infections, including for pneumonia on two earlier occasions.

Suspect in Church Attack Charged

LONDON (AP)

The naked swordsman who allegedly went on a rampage during a Mass at a Catholic church was charged today with one count of attempted murder. Edward Strang, 26, is accused of slashing and injuring 11 people at the suburban south London church. Eight people remained hospitalized, including one with critical injuries. Scotland Yard said it knew of no motive for yesterday's attack at St. Andrew's Church in Thornton Heath, other than that the suspect was allegedly suffering from "severe depression."

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More than half the world's major rivers are going dry or are polluted, a panel studying global water problems reported today. The World Commission on the Water for the 21st Century concluded that of the 500 major rivers in the world, the Amazon in South America and the Congo in sub-Saharan Africa are the healthiest. By contrast, overuse and misuse of land and water resources in river basins elsewhere has is "degrading and poisoning" the rivers' surrounding ecosystems, "threatening the health and livelihoods of people who depend upon them for irrigation, drinking and industrial water."

Sanders Likely To Seek Re-Election

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP)

U.S. Rep. Bernard Sanders, I-Vt., has decided to seek re-election instead of challenging U.S. Sen. James Jeffords, R-Vt., Democratic congressional officials say. Sanders' plans to remain in the House is a victory for House Minority Leader Richard Gephardt, D-Mo., who is working to win back control from the Republicans, and has promised Sanders a seat on the House Appropriations Committee if the Democrats regain the majority. The GOP holds a 223-211 edge in the House. Sanders is the sole independent in the House but aligns himself with the Democrats.

Dow Down 42.21; Nasdaq Rises 11.25

NEW YORK (AP)

Just before 1 p.m. EST, the Dow Jones industrial average was down 42.21 at 10,946.70. Declining issues outnumbered advancers 2,041-886 on the New York Stock Exchange. Just before noon EST, the Nasdaq composite index was up 11.25 at 3,459.06.

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Arbitrator Won't Dismiss Umps' Case

NEW YORK (AP)

An arbitrator ruled the umpires' union can try to regain the jobs of 22 of its members through a grievance. Arbitrator Alan Symonette will start hearing the case Dec. 13 in Philadelphia, lawyers for umpires and owners said Sunday. Owners had argued that the umpires' labor contract said matters of hiring and firing were up to the sole discretion of the American and National league presidents and were not subject to arbitration. After hearing arguments Nov. 5 on the motion to dismiss, Symonette informed the sides Friday he was rejecting the motion and would hear the case Dec. 13-16.

President Signs Fiscal 2000 Budget

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President Clinton today signed a \$390 billion budget package he says represents "real progress" for American families. The omnibus spending bill includes money for more teachers and police officers and money to pay U.N. dues and protect more sensitive lands from development. But Clinton acknowledged that the package fell short of many of his goals, such as a prescription drug benefit for Medicare and changes to shore up the retirement system. Lawmakers also ended their session without completing work on a patients' bill of rights, a minimum wage increase, and several other issues.

Malaysian Incumbent Wins Election

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)

Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad was assured of a fifth consecutive term after his coalition won a majority of seats in Parliament. The 73-year-old Mahathir, who has ruled Malaysia for 18 years, easily defeated opposition candidate Subky Latif, a columnist for the opposition newspaper Harakah, taking nearly 65 percent of the vote cast in his district. Of the 124 seats announced so far, Mahathir's National Front had won 97 of 193, the Election Commission confirmed. Twenty-four seats went to the opposition coalition and a small regional party allied to the opposition won three.

WTO Activities Delayed

SEATTLE (AP)

Police delayed today for two hours the opening of the convention center where the World Trade Organization plans to hold a conference. WTO spokesman Hans-Peter Werner told reporters milling around outside the building that someone had tried to break in overnight, and the Secret Service was conducting another security sweep. Before the formal opening of the WTO meeting tomorrow, the WTO had planned a full day of discussions among more than 700 non-governmental organizations such as environmental groups and labor unions in an effort to reach out to groups that have been critical of WTO policies.

Chernobyl Plant To Reach Full Output

KIEV, Ukraine (AP)

Ukraine's Chernobyl nuclear power plant was set to reach its full operating output today, despite international criticism. Western governments and environmental groups have urged the former Soviet republic to shut down the plant completely since a reactor exploded in 1986, sending a radioactive cloud over much of Europe. An agreement between Ukraine and the Group of Seven said the plant should be closed by 2000. But Ukraine has said it doesn't have the \$1.2 billion needed to finish construction of two new reactors to replace the output that would be lost by closing Chernobyl.

Suspect Charged in Church Attack

AP Top News at 1 a.m. EST Monday, Nov. 29, 1999

LONDON (AP)

A man was charged with attempted murder today after police said he stormed naked through a Roman Catholic Mass in a sword-wielding rampage, injuring 11 people. Eden Strang, 26, was charged with attempting to kill Paul Chilton, 50, the most seriously injured of the congregants at St. Andrew's Roman Catholic Church in the southern London suburb of Thornton Heath. Doctors said the attacker cut through Chilton's jawbone with a 3-foot sword, slicing three front teeth off at the root. The blows severed his jugular vein and also cut off a thumb and a finger.

Y2K Fears May Bring More Glitches

NEW YORK (AP)

Many government and business leaders are concerned about last-minute stockpiling during the year's final weeks. Such moves repeated the world over could create bigger problems than computer bugs themselves, they say. Some 55 percent of Americans plan to withdraw from two to six weeks of cash in preparation for 2000, while 65 percent say they may sell shares of stock, according to a September study of 14,000 people from 40 different occupations by the Gartner Group. In addition, 67 percent plan to store seven to 18 days of food, the study said.

Dow Falls 33; Nasdaq Climbs 18

NEW YORK (AP)

Just before 2 p.m. EST, the Dow Jones industrial average was down 33.03 at 10,955.88. Declining issues outnumbered advancers 2,112-892 on the New York Stock Exchange. The Nasdaq composite index was up 18.32 at 3,466.13.

Judge Imposes Restrictions on IBF

NEWARK, N.J. (AP)

Federal prosecutors today moved a step closer to achieving a court takeover of the IBF, one of boxing's major governing bodies. A federal judge imposed spending restrictions on the IBF and barred its leaders from concealing funds or destroying records. The action stems from a racketeering indictment and a lawsuit brought against IBF president Robert Lee Sr., accusing him and others of taking \$338,000 in bribes to rig the organization's ratings.

Russia Urges Chechens To Flee

GROZNY, Russia (AP)

Russian officials today urged civilians hiding in basements beneath ruined homes in Grozny to flee the Chechen capital a risky endeavor with Russian rockets screaming relentlessly into the city. Meanwhile, the Kremlin has dismissed international criticism of its campaign in Chechnya as meddling in Russia's internal affairs. Russian forces have bombed the breakaway republic since August, saying they're aiming to wipe out Islamic rebels who twice invaded the neighboring Russian republic of Dagestan this summer. Russia has also blamed the rebels for apartment bombings that killed 300 people in several Russian cities.

Malaysia's Mahathir Wins 5th Term

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)

Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad's coalition won a two-thirds majority in parliamentary elections today, assuring him a fifth consecutive term in this Southeast Asian nation. Mahathir had insisted throughout the two-week campaign for the surprise elections that his coalition, which has ruled Malaysia since independence from Britain in 1957, would soundly defeat an unprecedented challenge by the opposition. The 73-year-old has ruled Malaysia for the last 18 years and easily defeated opposition candidate Subky Latif, a columnist for the opposition newspaper Harakah, taking nearly 65 percent of the vote cast in his district.

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Chicago Plays Big Role in Microsoft Success

WASHINGTON (AP)

Chicago, where lawyers plan to resume secret settlement talks tomorrow in the Microsoft antitrust trial, has played a crucial role in the software maker's successes of the past decade. The same city where these negotiations could realign Microsoft's role in the nation's technology industry also was the company's internal code-name "Chicago" for its most important version of the Windows operating system software. That software release, Windows 95, was the first to include Microsoft's Internet browser, code-named "O'Hare." Microsoft also negotiated a crucial alliance with IBM in Chicago in August 1994, that Big Blue eventually rejected during a meeting in the city.

Y2K Hoarding May Spur More Problems

NEW YORK (AP)

Last-minute stockpiling during the year's final week could create bigger problems than computer bugs themselves, experts say. Some 55 percent of Americans plan to withdraw from two to six weeks of cash in preparation for 2000, while 65 percent say they may sell shares of stock, according to a September study of 14,000 people from 40 different occupations by the Gartner Group. In addition, 67 percent plan to store seven to 18 days of food, the study said. The Y2K bug refers to a programming oversight in which software that records years by the last two digits could make computers think the new year is 1900, causing possible breakdowns.

Y2K Fears Hurting Caribbean

MONTEGO BAY, Jamaica (AP)

Many of Jamaica's largest and most popular resorts, usually booked solid by now, are running full-page ads hawking rooms for New Year's 2000. It's the same across the Caribbean, where hotels, airlines and cruises jacked up prices in anticipation of a windfall only to be confounded by consumer frugality and jitters over the Y2K computer bug. Jamaica is a favorite destination for U.S. travelers. But mid-market hotels, normally 90 percent booked for the New Year by now, have occupancy rates of only about 70 percent, despite a marketing blitz.

Dow Falls 37.62; Nasdaq Down 2.91

NEW YORK (AP)

Just before 3 p.m. EST, the Dow Jones industrial average was down 37.62 at 10,951.29. Declining issues outnumbered advancers 2,135-915 on the New York Stock Exchange. The Nasdaq composite index was down 2.91 at 3,444.90.

MetroStars Hire Zambrano As Coach

SECAUCUS, N.J. (AP)

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Chechen Civilians Urged To Flee

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Retirement Age Climbing to 67

WASHINGTON (AP)

The Social Security retirement age is going up from 65 to 67 and Americans will begin to feel the effects next year. The changes have been in the works for 16 years, but pollsters say most people have no idea they were approaching. Now 65, the normal Social Security eligibility age eventually will reach 67 for those born in 1960 or later. The retirement-age increase was agreed upon in 1983 by Republican President Reagan and Congress, then controlled by Democrats, as one of several changes to postpone looming Social Security cash shortages. Lawmakers reasoned that with life expectancies rising, Americans could manage to work a little longer.

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Bradley Airs Foreign Policy Views

MEDFORD, Mass. (AP)

In his first campaign event on foreign policy, Bill Bradley called today for more limited American intervention in ethnic wars overseas and said the Clinton-Gore administration had compromised U.S.-Russian relations with its singular focus on President Boris Yeltsin. Bradley also advocated the immediate start of new strategic-arms reduction talks with Russia to cut the number of nuclear warheads even deeper than proposed by President Clinton. Taking questions from seven Tufts University graduate students in an anything-can-happen format, Bradley hoped the event would showcase his mastery of world affairs.

Malaysian Incumbent Wins Election

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)

Malaysia's Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad's coalition won a two-thirds majority in parliamentary elections today, assuring him a fifth consecutive term in this Southeast Asian nation. The 73-year-old has ruled Malaysia for the last 18 years and easily defeated opposition candidate Subky Latif, a columnist for the opposition newspaper Harakah, taking nearly 65 percent of the vote cast in his district. Throughout the two-week campaign for the surprise elections Mahathir had insisted that his coalition, which has ruled Malaysia since independence from Britain in 1957, would soundly defeat an unprecedented challenge by the opposition.

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Y2K Hoarding May Cause More Problems

NEW YORK (AP)

Last-minute stockpiling during the year's final week could create bigger problems than computer bugs themselves, experts say. Some 55 percent of Americans plan to withdraw from two to six weeks of cash in preparation for 2000, while 65 percent say they may sell shares of stock, according to a September study of 14,000 people from 40 different occupations by the Gartner Group. In addition, 67 percent plan to store seven to 18 days of food, the study said. The Y2K bug refers to a programming oversight in which software that records years by the last two digits could make computers think the new year is 1900, causing possible breakdowns.

Dow Falls 47.41 ; Nasdaq Down 20.51

NEW YORK (AP)

Just before 4 p.m. EST, the Dow Jones industrial average was down 47.41 at 10,941.50. Declining issues outnumbered advancers 2,205-872 on the New York Stock Exchange. The Nasdaq composite index was down 20.51 at 3,427.30.

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Dow Closes Down 40.99

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Gore Slams Bradley, Bush on Economy

WASHINGTON (AP)

In a bipartisan trashing of his leading rivals, Vice President Al Gore suggested today that economic proposals from both Bill Bradley and George W. Bush would drive up interest rates and end the economy's unprecedented expansion. "In both cases, the economic future of the country is put at risk because of higher interest rates and ignoring the lessons of the last seven years," Gore said in a conference call with reporters.

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Judge Imposes Restrictions on IBF

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On a day many thought would never come, Protestant and Catholic adversaries on Monday formed an extraordinary Northern Ireland government that attempts to bring together every branch of opinion within this bitterly divided society. The unprecedented four-party administration due to receive powers Thursday from the British government includes Catholics who long vowed never to accept Northern Ireland's right to exist, and Protestants just as unwilling to accept Catholics as political equals.

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Bill Bradley called today for immediate talks with Russia to cut nuclear warheads to even lower numbers than the Clinton-Gore administration wants. Laying out his philosophy on American policy overseas, Bradley asserted: "We cannot give an open-ended humanitarian commitment to the world." In what aides billed as his first big campaign event on foreign policy, Bradley took questions from students at Tufts University Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy in an anything-can-happen format designed to show he could nimbly address the nuanced issues of world affairs.

Albright To Make Mideast Trip

WASHINGTON (AP)

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright will intensify U.S. efforts to promote a settlement between Israel and the Palestinians on a five-day trip to the Middle East beginning Sunday. Albright "is committed to a comprehensive peace in the Middle East, and the secretary will be working with the parties," State Department spokesman James P. Rubin said. Having set mid-February for concluding the outline of a settlement, Israel and the Palestinians have not yet resolved some tough issues, including Palestinian demands for a state and for part of Jerusalem to serve as its capital.

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Warner-Lambert Sues for Marketing

NEW YORK (AP)

Warner-Lambert sued Pfizer today, seeking to terminate Pfizer's rights to co-market and share profits from the blockbuster cholesterol lowering drug Lipitor. The pill, expected to reap \$3.6 billion in 1999 sales, is at the heart of an \$80 billion hostile takeover bid that Pfizer Inc. launched against Warner-Lambert Co. last month. Warner-Lambert, the fastest growing major drugmaker, is seeking to merge with American Home Products Corp., in a deal valued at \$67 billion.

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Pete Rose Starts Web Site Petition

NEW YORK (AP)

Pete Rose is launching an Internet petition and may sue baseball to end his lifetime ban. "You can't keep a guy from making a living," he said in an interview with The Associated Press. Following an investigation of his gambling, Rose agreed in August 1989 to a lifetime ban from the sport. Rose was in New York for tomorrow's launch of sportcut.com., which through Jan. 15 will contain a fan petition calling for Rose's admission to the Hall of Fame.

Protests Start in Earnest at WTO

SEATTLE (AP)

A French farmer passed out free Roquefort cheese outside a McDonald's and religious organizations scheduled prayer services and a "nonviolent human chain" as protests began in earnest today against the World Trade Organization meetings. Downtown Seattle was a street bazaar of social issues, with leaflets being passed out on corners, demonstrators chanting slogans and crowds of young people taking it all in. Police in riot gear and on horseback were stationed at key intersections, but no major conflicts broke out.

Clinton Eyes Parent Leave Expansion

WASHINGTON (AP)

President Clinton will propose tomorrow that states subsidize work absences for new parents using the same system that now pays temporary benefits to the unemployed, the White House said. Under the system, parents could draw at least a portion of their regular salaries during leaves timed to the birth or adoption of a child, the White House said. "We're in a time of prosperity, when we have the ability to look at more ways to help support working parents," a senior administration official involved in the proposal said today.

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Ex-Lawmaker: King Probe Incomplete

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MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)

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Texas Jumps to No. 9 in Basketball Poll

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)

After winning the Puerto Rico Shootout with two victories over ranked teams, the Texas Longhorns (4-0) jumped from No. 20 to No. 9 in this week's Associated Press Top 25 poll, their first visit to the Top Ten since 1982. Texas beat No. 8 Michigan State and No. 22 DePaul in Puerto Rico. Seven-foot center Chris Mihm was chosen the tournament's most valuable player. Cincinnati remained in the No. 1 spot.

Six Arrested in WTO Protest

SEATTLE (AP)

Six arrests were reported after environmental protesters scaled a giant construction crane in downtown Seattle today to drape an anti-World Trade Organization banner as the organization was preparing to meet. Critics contend the Geneva-based WTO puts trade promotion goals above other legitimate interests such as human and worker rights and environmental protection. The Clinton administration hopes the WTO sessions will showcase the benefits of free trade.

Cleanup Urged for World's Rivers

WASHINGTON (AP)

Governments must cooperate more to save the world's polluted rivers, says a panel formed to ensure the next century's water supply. The World Commission on Water for the 21st Century said today more than half the world's major rivers are going dry or are polluted. The commission said the main reason is lack of coordinated management of watersheds, which often cross national boundaries or, as with the heavily polluted Colorado River, several state boundaries. "All the success stories show that cooperation leads you everywhere," said Arienne Naber, a geologist and commission consultant.

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McCain Looks Beyond Early States

CLEVELAND (AP)

GOP presidential hopeful John McCain, looking for support beyond early-voting states, said he hoped to energize Ohioans who know little about him. McCain has focused most of his attention on New Hampshire and South Carolina, where primaries are set for February. "I think Ohio, like most states, is in a situation where a lot of the people don't know me," the Arizona senator said between campaign stops. Frontrunner George W. Bush, the Texas governor, has been to Ohio three times, but this was McCain's first visit.

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Japanese Stocks Slip

TOKYO (AP)

Japanese stocks slipped Tuesday following a decline on Wall Street. The Nikkei shed 38.13 points to 18,812.14 points in early trading. In New York, the Dow Jones industrial average fell 40.99 points to 10,947.92 at Monday's close.

Cincinnati Still No. 1; Texas Now No. 9

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Russia, IMF Tussle Over Chechnya

MOSCOW (AP)

Russia's military offensive in Chechnya shouldn't cause the International Monetary Fund to delay or suspend loan installments to Russia, officials in Moscow said Monday. Finance Minister Mikhail Kasyanov and others were responding to weekend comments by IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus, who said in Spain that the Chechen war, "has given Russia a very negative image internationally." But Kasyanov said the IMF had no business discussing politics with Russia. Russian forces showed no signs Monday of easing up raids on the breakaway republic.

U.S.: North Korea Fearful of West

WASHINGTON (AP)

North Korea fears that normalized relations with the United States would expose its people to Western ideas and threaten the communist government's control, President Clinton's envoy said today. "I told the president I cannot predict a happy outcome from this," William J. Perry said in a speech at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. The United States hopes the talks will lead to agreement by North Korea to stop production, export, testing and deployment of missiles with a range over 300 kilometers, or about 190 miles. In return, Perry said, North Korea might get improved relations not only with the United States but also with Japan and South Korea.

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Governments must cooperate more to save the world's polluted rivers, says a panel formed to ensure the next century's water supply. The World Commission on Water for the 21st Century said today more than half the world's major rivers are going dry or are polluted. The commission said the main reason is lack of coordinated management of watersheds, which often cross national boundaries or, as with the heavily polluted Colorado River, several state boundaries.

Clinton Pushes Parent Leave

WASHINGTON (AP)

President Clinton will propose tomorrow that states subsidize work absences for new parents using the same system that now pays temporary benefits to the unemployed, the White House said. Under the system, parents

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could draw at least a portion of their regular salaries during leaves timed to the birth or adoption of a child, the White House said. "We're in a time of prosperity, when we have the ability to look at more ways to help support working parents," a senior administration official involved in the proposal said today.

Clinton Signs Fiscal 2000 Budget

WASHINGTON (AP)

President Clinton, after a year of quarreling with Congress, got the last word on the budget today as he signed a mammoth \$390 billion spending plan. He said it represents progress but "leaves some challenges unmet." The measure earmarked \$1.3 billion for a seven-year plan to hire 100,000 teachers to reduce class size in early grades. It also included \$595 million for the first installment of a program to hire 50,000 community police by 2005.

McCain Looks Beyond Early States

CLEVELAND (AP)

GOP presidential hopeful John McCain, looking for support beyond early-voting states, said he hoped to energize Ohioans who know little about him. McCain has focused most of his attention on New Hampshire and South Carolina, where primaries are set for February. "I think Ohio, like most states, is in a situation where a lot of the people don't know me," the Arizona senator said between campaign stops.

Japanese Stocks Slip

TOKYO (AP)

Japanese stocks slipped Tuesday following a decline on Wall Street. The Nikkei shed 38.13 points to 18,812.14 points in early trading. In New York, the Dow Jones industrial average fell 40.99 points to 10,947.92 at Monday's close.

Dayton Upsets No. 13 Kentucky 68-66

CINCINNATI (AP)

Tony Stanley scored 23 points and hit a pair of clutch 3-pointers down the stretch as unbeaten Dayton rallied from a 10-point deficit to a 68-66 victory today over No. 13 Kentucky. The Wildcats (3-2) blew the double-digit lead with turnovers and then lost it because of their inability to hit a 3-pointer. Tayshaun Prince's 3-point attempt at the buzzer went off the rim.

Annan Eyes Quicker Response From UN

UNITED NATIONS (AP)

Secretary-General Kofi Annan urged the Security Council today to be more willing to step in to prevent wars from breaking out by dispatching fact-finding missions and giving greater weight to early warning systems. His call was supported by several members of the Security Council, who decried the inability of the 15-member body to respond quickly to stop conflicts before they develop into all-out wars or contain them once they do. Russia and China immediately cautioned against the use of such intervention, saying the council must be guided by the principle of not interfering in the internal affairs of a country.

Oil Shipment Blocked in Yugoslavia

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP)

Yugoslav authorities insisted Monday that they would provide heat this winter as they blocked a European Union shipment of 350 tons of heating oil from reaching two cities run by the opposition. Some 14 EU oil trucks remained stuck at the southern border with Macedonia for a fifth day, allegedly over legal irregularities. The convoy is the first

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in a series of shipments the EU plans to send to cities run by opponents of President Slobodan Milosevic in the "energy for democracy" project aiming to strengthen the opposition.

Russia, IMF Tussle Over Chechnya

MOSCOW (AP)

Russia's military offensive in Chechnya shouldn't cause the International Monetary Fund to delay or suspend loan installments to Russia, officials in Moscow said Monday. Finance Minister Mikhail Kasyanov and others were responding to weekend comments by IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus, who said that the Chechen war "has given Russia a very negative image internationally." But Kasyanov said the IMF had no business discussing politics with Russia. Russian forces showed no signs Monday of easing up raids on the breakaway republic.

Protesters Target WTO Meeting

SEATTLE (AP)

The World Trade Organization stumbled at the starting gate of its week of global talks today when authorities were forced to delay opening activities four hours for a bomb search. And while the Clinton administration hopes the WTO sessions will showcase the benefits of free trade, demonstrators tried to use the meeting to highlight a long list of grievances against the 135-nation organization that sets the rules for world trade. Critics contend the Geneva-based WTO puts trade promotion goals above other legitimate interests such as human and worker rights and environmental protection.

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Astronomers Find Six New Planets

WASHINGTON (AP)

Astronomers have found evidence of six new planets orbiting distant stars, bringing to 28 the planets known to exist outside of the solar system. An international team of astronomers announced today that all the newly discovered planets are about the size of Jupiter or larger and they all orbit stars 65 to 192 light years from Earth. At least five of them, given their distance from their stars, could have liquid water, a fundamental requirement for life, the researchers said.

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TOKYO (AP)

Japanese stocks slipped Tuesday following a decline on Wall Street. The Nikkei shed 101.62 to 18,745.65 at the end of the morning session. In New York, the Dow Jones industrial average fell 40.99 points to 10,947.92 at Monday's close.

Knicks Defeat Mavericks 107-82

NEW YORK (AP)

AP Top News at 1 a.m. EST Monday, Nov. 29, 1999

Charlie Ward made seven 3-pointers, tying the most in the NBA this season, and scored a career-high 25 points as the New York Knicks enjoyed a rare laughter tonight by beating the Dallas Mavericks 107-82. It was the most lopsided victory for the Knicks in more than two years. Ward scored 17 points in the third quarter alone, going 5-for-5 from behind the arc, to nearly match his previous career high of 19 set in March, 1998, against Portland.

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Body

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COLLEGE STATION, Texas (AP)

Texas A&M University students and alumni who normally would have gathered on campus to light the bonfire Thursday night instead quietly lighted candles to honor the 11 students and one recent graduate who died when the four-story tower of logs collapsed. Friday's game seems almost an afterthought following the deadly Nov. 18 collapse of the annual pre-game bonfire tower on the A&M campus. Heaps of maroon roses sagged over the fallen bonfire logs as the growing crowd walked around its muddy perimeter.

Holiday Shoppers Get Set

NEW YORK (AP)

With the day after Thanksgiving marking the start of the Christmas shopping season, it's estimated that Americans will spend an average of at least \$500 per family. Last year, merchants rang up more than \$170 billion in sales during the holiday period. Christmas sales at traditional stores are projected to rise 5 to 6 percent above last year. Electronic sales via the Internet are expected to at least double.

First Family Marks Thanksgiving

WASHINGTON (AP)

President Clinton, after a chilly, damp morning of golf, spent a quiet Thanksgiving with his family Camp David. The Clintons ate roasted turkey and baked ham. Millions of other Americans traveled hundreds of miles to share holiday dinner with relatives and friends.

Ex-British Defense Sec. Is Elected

LONDON (AP)

A former Conservative defense secretary who lost his British Parliamentary seat in the 1997 election that swept Prime Minister Tony Blair's Labor Party into power returned to politics Friday after winning a special election. Michael Portillo won 56 percent of the vote in a crowded field of 18 candidates in the wealthy district of Kensington and Chelsea in London. He is a potential leader of Britain's opposition Conservative Party.

Britain, France Seek Europe Force

LONDON (AP)

Britain and France, in a decisive step toward lessening Europe's military dependence on the United States, on Thursday urged the setting up of a new 50,000-60,000-strong European Union force capable of full deployment within 60 days. At a joint news conference, French President Jacques Chirac and British Prime Minister Tony Blair denied their initiative was a rebuff to the United States. They said in a statement that the U.S. led-NATO alliance "remains the foundation of our collective defense."

Japan Wary Over U.S. Economy

TOKYO (AP)

A U.S. economic downturn could wreck Asia's economic rebound, and the region must wean itself off exports to America to ensure a stable recovery, the Japanese government said in a report released Friday. Many Asian economies, including Japan, have slowly been emerging from their worst recession in decades. The upswing has largely been fueled by robust U.S. demand for their goods.

3 Cuban Refugees Survive

MIAMI (AP)

A 5-year-old boy was found clinging to an inner tube off the Florida coast Thursday, one of three survivors from a boat carrying 14 Cubans that sank two days earlier in the Atlantic. Two other survivors came ashore on another inner tube. But seven people were presumed drowned and three others were missing, the Coast Guard said.

Paris Unveils Millennium Lights

PARIS (AP)

Paris unveiled a stretch of glowing trees along the Champs Elysees on Thursday as part of celebrations to bring in the new millennium. Two hundred projectors bathed trees in pale violet light. The glowing trees, wrapped up in white veils and tied with red bows, stretched from the Tuileries Garden west to the lit-up Arc de Triomphe.

Tokyo Stocks Rise

TOKYO (AP)

Japanese share prices bounced back Friday on bargain-hunting following the previous day's slip. The Nikkei gained 24.80 points to 18,746.58 in early trading. U.S. markets were closed on Thanksgiving.

Panthers' Carruth Is Arrested

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)

Carolina Panthers wide receiver Rae Carruth was arrested Thursday and charged with taking part in a drive-by shooting that critically wounded his pregnant girlfriend nine days ago. Carruth, 25, was the Panthers' first-round draft choice in 1997.

Cowboys Blank Dolphins

IRVING, Texas (AP)

Dan Marino, playing for the first time in six weeks, tied a career-worst with five interceptions, one of them returned 46 yards by Dexter Coakley for a Dallas touchdown as the Cowboys beat Miami 20-0 Thursday. Dallas added two field goals from Richie Cunningham and a 65-yard touchdown pass from Troy Aikman to Raghib Ismail.

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Lions Fend Off Bears

PONTIAC, Mich. (AP)

Gus Frerotte threw two touchdown passes as Detroit jumped to a 21-0 lead, then held on for a 21-17 Thanksgiving Day win over the Chicago Bears. Detroit, 7-4, leads the NFC Central.

Mass Graves Found in East Timor

DILI, East Timor (AP)

The bodies of 25 people allegedly killed in the worst massacre in East Timor's transition to independence have been exhumed from graves in neighboring West Timor, officials said Friday. The victims, including three Catholic priests, allegedly were killed by anti-independence militias and Indonesian troops in East Timor. According to witnesses, dozens of people who took refuge in the churches of Ave Maria and Nossa Senhora de Fatima were shot or hacked to death by militiamen supported by Indonesian soldiers and police. A three-week militia rampage followed East Timor's overwhelming vote for independence from Indonesia in a U.N.-sponsored referendum on Aug. 30.

Deposed Pakistan PM Arrives in Court

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP)

Surrounded by security troops, Pakistan's deposed prime minister arrived at court on Friday, where he is expected to be formally charged with treason and hijacking. Nawaz Sharif was whisked inside the walled compound of the special anti-terrorist court in an armored personnel carrier. Also arriving were his codefendants including his younger brother, Shahbaz. Both men have said they are innocent and accused the military of fabricating the charges. Sharif and his codefendants are charged with trying to kill the army chief by allegedly refusing to allow the aircraft returning Gen. Pervez Musharraf to Pakistan from Sri Lanka to land.

Volunteers Help the Needy on Thanksgiving

NEW YORK (AP)

Millions of Americans shared Thanksgiving with friends and family, but for those far from home and those without homes, charities and restaurants opened their doors and hearts. Ten thousand volunteers served 62 tons of turkey, 28 tons of potatoes and 41 tons of stuffing for the homeless and poor at some 265 rescue missions across the country, according to estimates from the International Union of Gospel Missions. The missions served Thanksgiving dinner to an estimated 175,000 people.

Texas A&M Vigil Is Held

COLLEGE STATION, Texas (AP)

Texas A&M University students and alumni who normally would have gathered on campus to light a bonfire Thursday night instead quietly lighted candles to honor the 11 students and one recent graduate who died when the four-story tower of logs collapsed. Friday's game against the University of Texas seems almost an afterthought following the deadly Nov. 18 collapse of the annual pre-game bonfire tower on the A&M campus. Heaps of maroon roses sagged over the fallen bonfire logs as the growing crowd walked around its muddy perimeter.

Rockets Slam Chechen Capital

GROZNY, Russia (AP)

Hundreds of rockets screamed into the capital of breakaway Chechnya on Thursday night, slamming Grozny in the fiercest assault of Russia's three-month-long offensive. Russian units in Alkhan-Yurt, 5 miles southwest of Grozny, unleash four 20-second-long barrages of 100 rockets toward the city. Similar firing came from another direction.

There was no immediate information on casualties or damage in war-ravaged Grozny. Russia launched its offensive against Chechnya with the stated aim of wiping out Islamic rebels who twice invaded Dagestan this summer and who are blamed in apartment bombings that killed 300 people in Russia in September.

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Flames Defeat Blackhawks 2-1 in OT

CALGARY, Alberta (AP)

Cory Stillman scored at 2:05 of overtime to give the Calgary Flames a 2-1 victory over the Chicago Blackhawks on Thursday night. Calgary, which has an NHL-high six overtime victories this season, extended its season-high winning streak to three games. Stillman's goal, which came just five seconds after Chicago had killed off a penalty to Anders Eriksson, was the result of a couple lucky bounces. Phil Housley's shot from the blue-line deflected off Jeff Shantz's skate to the front of the net where it hit Stillman's skate and slipped past goaltender Jocelyn Thibault.

No.18 Miss. St. Beats Miss. 23-20

STARKVILLE, Ms. (AP)

Scott Westerfield hit a 44-yard field goal with four seconds left as No. 18 Mississippi State rallied for a 23-20 victory over No. 23 Mississippi on Thursday night. Mississippi State, which trailed throughout the game, scored 17 fourth-quarter points. After the game, thousands of State fans poured onto the field and tore down the goalpost that Westerfield sent his second game-winner of the season through. Minutes later, they toppled the goalpost at the other end of the field.

Shipwreck Off China Coast Kills 150

BEIJING (AP)

Thousands of rescuers scoured wind-whipped seas and shores Friday for survivors from a ferry that caught fire and sank off eastern China, killing more than 150 people and leaving more than 140 others missing. The chances of finding more survivors were growing slim due to the icy waters and freezing weather, officials said. Half of the passengers jumped into the sea after the ship foundered, and many froze to death, the official China Daily said Friday. Many of those who made it into lifeboats also were killed by freezing weather and high waves, it said.

Deposed Pakistan PM Arrives in Court

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP)

Surrounded by security troops, Pakistan's deposed prime minister arrived at court on Friday, where he is expected to be formally charged with treason and hijacking. Nawaz Sharif was whisked inside the walled compound of the special anti-terrorist court in an armored personnel carrier. Also arriving were his codefendants including his younger brother, Shahbaz. Both men have said they are innocent and accused the military of fabricating the charges. Sharif and his codefendants are charged with trying to kill the army chief by allegedly refusing to allow the aircraft returning Gen. Pervez Musharraf to Pakistan from Sri Lanka to land.

Critics Compare Chavez to Castro

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

AP Top News at Midnight EST Thursday, Nov. 25, 1999

Fresh from a week of bonding with Fidel Castro, President Hugo Chavez faces unfriendly fire at home from those who say he wants to turn one of Latin America's oldest democracies into a Cuba-like regime. Chavez's detractors say that a proposed constitution drawn up by his supporters and headed for a national vote is a blueprint for installing a social order where the military reigns supreme, free speech is squelched and the state meddles in the economy. Leading Venezuelan historian Guillermo Moron said earlier this week that Chavez "is going to try to install a socialist state in Venezuela copied from Cuba."

Mass Graves Found in East Timor

DILI, East Timor (AP)

The bodies of 25 people allegedly killed in the worst massacre in East Timor's transition to independence have been exhumed from graves in neighboring West Timor, officials said Friday. The victims, including three Catholic priests, allegedly were killed by anti-independence militias and Indonesian troops in East Timor. According to witnesses, dozens of people who took refuge in the churches of Ave Maria and Nossa Senhora de Fatima were shot or hacked to death by militiamen supported by Indonesian soldiers and police. A three-week militia rampage followed East Timor's overwhelming vote for independence from Indonesia in a U.N.-sponsored referendum on Aug. 30.

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Analysts Expect Christmas Sale Jump

NEW YORK (AP)

In a bid to get shoppers to buy rather than browse, merchants are starting the holiday season Friday by cutting prices. As stores and malls dangle discounts on the official kickoff of the holiday shopping season, Internet merchants are courting shoppers by offering deals to those who visit their Web sites. "Shoppers won't just be at the mall this weekend, but they will be checking things out online," said Britt Beemer, chairman of the consulting firm America's Research Group in Charleston, S.C. "Where they find the better deal is where they might actually make the purchase."

Tokyo Stocks Close Up

TOKYO (AP)

The Nikkei Stock Average closed at 18,914.50 points on the Tokyo Stock Exchange Friday, up 192.72 points from Thursday.

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Report: China Detains Foreigners

SHANGHAI, China (AP)

An American, two Australians and a Swedish exchange student were detained by Chinese police at a gathering of the banned Falun Gong sect, a human rights group and a diplomat said Friday. The foreigners were among 15 Falun Gong practitioners picked up Thursday in the southern city of Guangzhou, according to the Information Center of Human Rights and Democratic Movement in China, a rights group based in nearby Hong Kong. Thousands of Falun Gong practitioners have been detained since communist leaders banned the meditation group in July as a threat to their power.

ASEAN Leaders Focus on Security

MANILA, Philippines (AP)

Optimistic about their countries' economic recovery, Southeast Asian leaders today turned their attention to security issues, talks with China's visiting premier and a stronger safety net for the poor and disadvantaged. Meetings in advance of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations' summit have been upbeat about the rebound from the crisis that swept across the region two years ago. Some of the hardest-hit countries say their renewed economic growth will continue next year.

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Leaders To Discuss Somali Peace

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)

With the power of Somali warlords on the wane, African regional leaders are gathering to talk about peace in the violence-ridden nation. The leaders, all members of the regional Inter-governmental Authority on Development, will meet today in neighboring Djibouti to discuss a peace plan put forth by Djibouti President Ismael Omar Guelleh. Peace in Somalia has been an improbable prospect until now. The country has been divided into warring fiefdoms since political rivals ousted President Mohammed Siad Barre in 1991, and in the intervening years a dozen peace proposals have come to naught, scuttled by one warlord or another.

Colombia Extradites Drug Suspect

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)

For the second time in less than a week, Colombia braved a possible terrorist backlash and extradited a major drug suspect to the United States yesterday. Venezuelan Fernando Jose Florez, who faces a U.S. indictment for shipping cocaine to Florida on behalf of the Cali drug cartel, was whisked away in a U.S. government plane to Miami. On Sunday, the government extradited a suspected Colombian heroin kingpin, Jaime Orlando Lara. It was the first time since 1990 that Colombia had delivered one of its nationals to stand trial in the United States.

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Ukraine Restarts Chernobyl

KIEV, Ukraine (AP)

AP Top News at Midnight EST Thursday, Nov. 25, 1999

The Ukrainian authorities today restarted the last working nuclear reactor at the Chernobyl power plant, ignoring a strong international pressure to shut it down. Reactor No. 3 was restarted at 5:30 a.m. today after almost five months of repairs, and was gradually increasing output, said a spokeswoman for the plant who declined to give her name. Officials at Chernobyl insist that reactor No. 3 is safe and is free of any potential Y2K bugs, whereby a computer might misread the last two digits of a date and mistake the year 2000 for 1900.

Court Delays Charges Against Sharif

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP)

A judge agreed today to wait another week before filing charges of treason and hijacking against deposed Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. Sharif, who has been in custody since the Oct. 12 military coup that toppled his government, was ordered to return to jail. He will be back in court on Dec. 4. The prosecution sought the delay to prepare its case against the Sharif and six other people accused of trying to bring down army chief Gen. Pervez Musharraf's plane the day of the coup. Musharraf is now Pakistan's military ruler.

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Merchants are starting the holiday season today by cutting prices. As stores and malls dangle discounts on the official kickoff of the holiday shopping season, Internet merchants are courting shoppers by offering deals to those who visit their Web sites. "Shoppers won't just be at the mall this weekend, but they will be checking things out online," said Britt Beemer, chairman of the consulting firm America's Research Group in Charleston, S.C. It's been a blockbuster year for retailers, but a lot is riding on the next five weeks, when most store owners tally a significant portion of their annual sales.

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Texas Rivalry Tempered By Mourning

COLLEGE STATION, Texas (AP)

Candles lit in tribute replaced the roar of the Texas A&M bonfire as Aggies prepared for today's football game against rival University of Texas mindful of 12 lives lost honoring the storied pregame tradition. Traditionally, a tall bonfire would blaze on the eve of the biggest college football game of the season for the schools. Most years, an orange outhouse representing UT would have crowned a tower of flames as admiring Aggies looked on.

Doctor Charged in Vaccine Case

SAN RAFAEL, Calif. (AP)

The attorney for a California doctor charged with cruelty to children for allegedly diluting vaccines says his client is innocent. "We absolutely and completely deny the charges," said John Wagner, attorney for Dr. William Liebman, who is accused of using saline solution to weaken vaccines for hepatitis, polio, diphtheria and other diseases. Both Wagner and Marin County Assistant District Attorney Edward Berberian declined to discuss a possible motive. But Wagner told the Bay City News Service that it wasn't a cost-cutting move.

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Pistons Defeat Pacers 107-99

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)

Jerry Stackhouse scored 26 points and Grant Hill had 22 in Detroit's 107-99 comeback triumph over Indiana last night. The Pistons rallied from a 12-point deficit in the second half to earn their fourth consecutive victory. Rik Smits had a season-high 23 points for Indiana and Dale Davis scored 21. Reggie Miller scored seven points as he struggled from the field hitting just 2-of-11 shots.

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Spacecraft Galileo Overcomes Setback

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)

Continuing to explore the solar system nearly two years after the end of its primary mission, NASA's Galileo spacecraft made its closest-ever pass above the fiery moon of Io after surviving a crippling computer malfunction induced by Jupiter's intense radiation. Four hours before Galileo was scheduled to pass 186 miles above Io on yesterday, radiation triggered a fault in the onboard computer's memory, shutting down all nonessential operations aboard the craft, said Jane Platt, a spokeswoman for NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. A team of engineers managed to salvage most of the mission by quickly transmitting new commands.

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Court Delays Charges Against Sharif

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP)

A judge agreed today to wait another week before filing charges of treason and hijacking against deposed Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. Sharif, who has been in custody since the Oct. 12 military coup that toppled his government, was ordered to return to jail. He will be back in court on Dec. 4. The prosecution sought the delay to prepare its case against the Sharif and six other people accused of trying to bring down army chief Gen. Pervez Musharraf's plane the day of the coup. Musharraf is now Pakistan's military ruler.

Texas Rivalry Tempered By Mourning

COLLEGE STATION, Texas (AP)

Candles lit in tribute replaced the roar of the Texas A&M bonfire as Aggies prepared for today's football game against rival University of Texas mindful of 12 lives lost honoring the storied pregame tradition. Traditionally, a tall bonfire would blaze on the eve of the biggest college football game of the season for the schools. Most years, an orange outhouse representing UT would have crowned a tower of flames as admiring Aggies looked on.

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Campbell Leads Australian Open

SYDNEY, Australia (AP)

New Zealand's Michael Campbell birdied his last four holes to finish with a 7-under 65 and take a one-shot lead today after two rounds of the \$640,000 Australian Open. Campbell, who snapped Tiger Woods' four-tournament winning streak on Nov. 14 by taking the Johnnie Walker Classic, came back from a four-shot deficit at Royal Sydney Golf Club.

Chechens Search for Survivors After Attack

GROZNY, Russia (AP)

Chechen authorities had the grim task of searching for the dead and wounded today after hundreds of rockets bombarded Grozny, slamming Chechnya's capital in the fiercest assault of Russia's offensive. Also today, Russian media reported that drunken Russian soldiers opened fire in a refugee-packed village in neighboring Ingushetia, killing a 21-year-old woman and injuring two other people. Last night, Russian units five miles southwest of Grozny unleashed four barrages of 100 rockets each toward the city.

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Mass Graves Found in East Timor

DILI, East Timor (AP)

The bodies of 25 people allegedly killed in the worst massacre in East Timor's transition to independence have been exhumed from graves in neighboring West Timor, officials said today. The victims, including three Catholic priests, allegedly were killed by anti-independence militias and Indonesian troops in East Timor. According to witnesses, dozens of people who took refuge in the churches of Ave Maria and Nossa Senhora de Fatima were shot or hacked to death by militiamen supported by Indonesian soldiers and police.

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Japan Fears U.S. Economic Slowdown

TOKYO (AP)

Asia's recent economic upswing has been largely fueled by exports to America, and a U.S. economic downturn could send the region plummeting back into recession, the Japanese government said today. Asia must wean itself off exports to the United States to ensure a stable recovery, the government's Economic Planning Agency said in its annual report on the world economy. Many Asian economies, including Japan, have slowly been emerging from their worst recession in decades. Robust U.S. demand for their goods deserves much of the credit, the report said.

Spacecraft Galileo Overcomes Setback

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)

NASA's Galileo spacecraft made its closest-ever pass above the fiery moon of Io after surviving a crippling computer malfunction induced by Jupiter's intense radiation. Radiation yesterday triggered a fault in the onboard computer's memory, shutting down all nonessential operations aboard the craft, said Jane Platt, a spokeswoman

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ZAGREB, Croatia (AP)

Croatia's highest court today declared critically ill President Franjo Tudjman temporarily incapacitated. The decision by the Constitutional Court automatically gives presidential power to Vlatko Pavletic, the Parliament speaker, who also is a member of Tudjman's ruling party. Pavletic, 69, is to act as the head of the state for an interim period, which can be renewed every 60 days. Tudjman, 77, is fighting for his life in a Zagreb clinic after intestinal surgery.

Nov. 1. There was no word on Tadjman's condition today, but his doctors acknowledged this week that his condition was grave.

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Ukraine Restarts Chernobyl

KIEV, Ukraine (AP)

The Ukrainian authorities today restarted the last working nuclear reactor at the Chernobyl power plant, ignoring strong international pressure to shut it down. Reactor No. 3 was restarted at 5:30 a.m. today after almost five months of repairs. It was initially running at about 5 percent of capacity and was gradually increasing its output, said a spokeswoman for the plant who declined to give her name. She would not say when the reactor was expected to reach full power. Officials at Chernobyl insist that reactor No. 3 is safe and is free of any potential Y2K computer bugs.

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Personal Income Surges in October

WASHINGTON (AP)

Personal income in the United States posted its biggest jump in more than five years in October and rose more than twice as fast as spending. Personal income which includes wages, interest and government benefits surged by 1.3 percent from September's level, the Commerce Department said today. Income was boosted by such factors as a big jump in federal subsidy payments to farmers and union contract signing bonuses for some manufacturing industries, the government said. The gain far exceeded many analysts' forecasts.

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repairs. It was initially running at about 5 percent of capacity and was gradually increasing its output, a spokeswoman for the plant said.

Report: China Detains Foreigners

SHANGHAI, China (AP)

Police detained an American, two Australians and a Swedish student in southern China at a gathering of the banned meditation sect Falun Gong, a human rights group and diplomats said today. The foreigners were among 15 Falun Gong practitioners picked up yesterday in the city of Guangzhou, near Hong Kong, according to the Hong Kong-based Information Center of Human Rights and Democratic Movement in China. The group identified the American as Sun Jie, 30, a Chinese-born software engineer. It said the Australians were Jiang Xili and Jiang Huijie. The fourth, 31-year-old Anne Hakosalo of Sweden, was released yesterday after 10 hours in custody, a diplomat said.

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ASEAN Leaders Focus on Security

MANILA, Philippines (AP)

Southeast Asian leaders discussed security issues, talks with China's visiting premier and creating a stronger safety net for the poor and disadvantaged today. They gathered in advance of a meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in an atmosphere of optimism as regards their economic recovery from financial crisis. Some of the hardest-hit countries expect their renewed economic growth to continue next year. But Philippine Finance Minister Edgardo Espiritu warned them: "We cannot afford to be complacent."

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Shoppers Turn Out in Droves

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Merchants are dangling bargains at shoppers at malls and on Web sites today as the holiday shopping season gets under way, with many shoppers showing up before dawn. All the shopping carts were taken by 7:15 a.m. at a discount store in Revere, Mass., and at a store in Bowie, Md., lines began to form around 10:30 last night. It has been a blockbuster year for retailers, but a lot is riding on the next five weeks, when most store owners tally a significant portion of their annual sales.

New Kohl Finance Charges Levelled

BERLIN (AP)

New charges were leveled today against former chancellor Helmut Kohl over allegedly shady financial dealings during his tenure as chairman of the conservative Christian Democrats. The Sueddeutsche Zeitung reported prosecutors investigating party finances have confiscated records indicating that the party's tax adviser split up large corporate contributions among anonymous escrow accounts to hide their origin. The money was then transferred from the "slush funds" to state branches of the party at Kohl's direction, according to the newspaper report.

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U.S. to Japan: Shut Waste Facility

TOKYO (AP)

A senior U.S. defense official today asked Japan to close a waste disposal facility because it was spouting high levels of cancer-causing dioxin near a U.S. naval base, a news report said. Visiting U.S. Deputy Defense Secretary John Hamre asked Foreign Minister Yohei Kono to close the facility near the Atsugi Naval Air Facility south of Tokyo, Kyodo News reported. A U.S.-Japan study conducted over the summer found dioxin levels almost 10 times the accepted level set by the Japanese government near the Atsugi base.

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Nasdaq Opens Higher on Wall Street

NEW YORK (AP)

Just before 10 a.m. EST, the Dow Jones industrial average was unchanged at 11,008.17. Advancing issues on the New York Stock Exchange led decliners 855-788. The Nasdaq composite index was up 28.54 at 3,449.04.

Texas A&M-Texas Rivalry To Go On

COLLEGE STATION, Texas (AP)

After a week of mourning, the biggest football game in Texas almost seems like an afterthought. But today is the 106th meeting between No. 7 Texas (9-2) and No. 24 Texas A&M (7-3) and the game will go on. A&M's campus was ripped by tragedy Nov. 18 when the buildup for the state's biggest rivalry was just getting started. Twelve people 11 Aggie students and a recent graduate were killed when the 40-foot stack of logs for the traditional pre-game bonfire collapsed.

Ocalan To Appeal Death Sentence

ISTANBUL, Turkey (AP)

Lawyers for Kurdish rebel leader Abdullah Ocalan said today they would appeal a verdict that upheld their client's death sentence. The lawyers said they'll take the case to Turkey's chief prosecutor, and if needed, to the European Court of Human Rights. Turkey's national appeals court yesterday let stand Ocalan's death sentence on charges of treason and separatism.

France Denies Milosevic Plot Claim

PARIS (AP)

The French Foreign Ministry today denied a Yugoslav official's claim that the French secret service had ordered a hit team to try to kill Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic. Yugoslav police arrested five people allegedly working as a group called "Pauk" or "Spider," Goran Matic, Yugoslavia's information secretary, announced yesterday. Matic alleged the group was formed under direct orders from the French secret service, an accusation that France denied.

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Olympus, IBM Make Wearable Computer

TOKYO (AP)

Olympus and IBM came out with a prototype "Wearable PC" today and said the gadget could hit stores soon. The 13-ounce computer has an Intel Pentium processor, 64 megabytes of memory and runs the Microsoft Windows operating system. The tiny screen flips out from a headset and covers one eye, projecting the image of a much larger monitor. A handle with a touchpad and two buttons is used to select icons in the virtual screen.

Berlusconi Gets Second Indictment

MILAN, Italy (AP)

Conservative opposition leader Silvio Berlusconi was ordered today to stand trial on charges of corruption and false accounting, the second indictment against him this week. Prosecutors charge that Berlusconi and several associates tried to bribe judges in Rome to sway the outcome of a ruling on the sale of former state-controlled food group SME. The media magnate also was charged with doctoring company books to hide the alleged bribes. Berlusconi has denied any wrongdoing.

Mass Graves Found in East Timor

DILI, East Timor (AP)

A top U.N. investigator vowed to bring the killers of 25 people including three Roman Catholic priests to justice. The bodies reportedly have been exhumed from graves in West Timor. The finding is seen as evidence of what is believed to be the worst massacre of East Timor's September upheaval. The victims allegedly were killed by anti-independence militias and Indonesian troops in East Timor in the days after the territory voted on Aug. 30 vote to become independent from Indonesia.

Dow Unchanged; Nasdaq Up 47.71

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Just before 11 a.m. EST, the Dow Jones industrial average was unchanged at 11,008.17. Advancing issues on the New York Stock Exchange led decliners 1,270-1,108. The Nasdaq composite index was up 47.71 at 3,468.21.

Bond Set for Panthers' Carruth

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)

A judge today set bond at \$1.5 million for Carolina Panthers wide receiver Rae Carruth, one of three men charged in the drive-by shooting of the player's pregnant girlfriend. The judge rejected an argument by defense attorney Leonard Kornberg that Carruth was not a threat to flee because he is a recognized athlete. Carruth, 25, the Panthers' first-round draft choice in 1997, was arrested yesterday and charged with conspiracy to commit first-degree murder, attempted murder and shooting into an occupied vehicle.

Trimble Optimistic About Irish Peace

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP)

AP Top News at Midnight EST Thursday, Nov. 25, 1999

David Trimble, the leader of Northern Ireland's biggest Protestant party, predicted today that his divided followers will endorse a compromise plan intended to salvage the province's faltering peace accord. The Ulster Unionist party will vote tomorrow on whether to accept the American-mediated compromise. The plan would clear the way for a joint Catholic-Protestant government for Northern Ireland the central point of the 1998 Good Friday peace accord in exchange for promises that the **Irish Republican Army** will gradually disarm.

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Sanders Seen Seeking Re-Election

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP)

U.S. Rep. Bernard Sanders, I-Vt., has decided to seek re-election instead of challenging U.S. Sen. James Jeffords, R-Vt., Democratic congressional officials say. Sanders' plans to remain in the House are a victory for House Minority Leader Richard Gephardt, D-Mo., who is working to win back control from the Republicans, and has promised Sanders a seat on the House Appropriations Committee if the Democrats regain the majority. Sanders is the sole independent in the House but aligns himself with the Democrats.

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Dow Up 34.87; Nasdaq Up 38.57

NEW YORK (AP)

Just before noon EST, the Dow Jones industrial average was up 34.87 at 11,043.04. Declining issues on the New York Stock Exchange led advancers 1,261-1,257. The Nasdaq composite index was up 38.57 at 3459.07.

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Small Plane Crashes in New Jersey

NEWARK, N.J. (AP)

A small plane crashed into a residential neighborhood this morning, killing all three people on board and leaving a fiery trail as it hit at least two buildings. At least 10 people on the ground were injured. The single-engine 1964 Beech Bonanza 35 took off from Linden Airport at 10:45 a.m. EST and was en route to Dulles International Airport in Chantilly, Va., a Federal Aviation Administration spokesman said. Air traffic controllers lost radio and radar contact with it five minutes later.

Airline Safety Pact Planned

NEW YORK (AP)

The Transportation Department reportedly is drafting safety guidelines that would raise the scrutiny of foreign airlines involved in ticket-sharing pacts with U.S. carriers. The guidelines would force U.S. airlines to routinely assess the training, maintenance and other practices of their foreign partners, The Wall Street Journal reported today, citing government and industry sources. A department spokesman said that Transportation Secretary Rodney Slater has pushed for the development of "code-share safety guidelines that he hopes to announce shortly."

Retailers to Shoppers: Buy Early

NEW YORK (AP)

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Dow Up 20.88; Nasdaq Up 39.58

NEW YORK (AP)

Just before the early close for the holiday weekend on Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average was up 20.88 at 11,029.05. Advancing issues on the New York Stock Exchange led decliners 1,366-1,298. The Nasdaq composite index was up 39.58 at 3,460.08.

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Hokies Eye National Title Shot

BLACKSBURG, Va. (AP)

Even if unbeaten Virginia Tech beats No. 22 Boston College this afternoon, the second-ranked Hokies are not guaranteed a spot opposite Florida State in the national championship game Jan. 4. Virginia Tech, however, received good news earlier this week when the Bowl Championship Series ruled that it will not count Division I-AA playoff games in determining a team's strength of schedule. The ruling could help No. 2 Virginia Tech and hurt No. 3 Nebraska because the Hokies earlier this season defeated James Madison, who qualified for I-AA playoffs.

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Croatia Transfers Tudjman's Powers

ZAGREB, Croatia (AP)

President Franjo Tudjman was stripped of his powers today when the country's highest court ruled that his critical condition currently prevents him from performing his duties. The 77-year-old leader, who is fighting for his life in a Zagreb suburban clinic, remains the president. But his powers are transferred to the speaker of parliament, Vlatko Pavletic, for an interim period of 60 days. Tudjman, who has almost single-handedly ruled over all walks of Croatian life since 1991, has for years been rumored to have cancer. He underwent emergency intestinal surgery on Nov. 1 and has remained hospitalized since with complications.

More China Ferry Survivors Unlikely

BEIJING (AP)

Just 22 of more than 300 passengers and crew aboard a Chinese ferry that caught fire and capsized managed to find a lifeboat or rope in the icy, storm-pounded sea and make it to safety, authorities said today. Scores of bodies washed up on shore after the Dashun ferry sank Wednesday night off the northeastern Chinese port of Yantai, and authorities confirmed immediately that more than 150 had died. But with gale-force winds and relentless snow falling around the wreckage, Yantai officials said there was little hope of finding more survivors.

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Ailing Yeltsin Resting in Country

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Holiday Shoppers Get Started

NEW YORK (AP)

The holiday season kicked off today with shoppers packing the stores for toys, appliances and electronic items. Throngs of bargain hunters flocked to malls across the country on the day after Thanksgiving. Analysts project holiday sales at traditional stores will rise 5 percent to 6 percent to more than \$180 billion, while online sales are expected to at least double to \$6 billion. The Internet still only represents about 3 percent of total holiday sales, but E-retailers are spending hundreds of millions of dollars on ads for their Web sites.

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U.S. Crash Investigators Leave Egypt

CAIRO, Egypt (AP)

U.S. investigators were headed home on Friday after a weeklong visit to Egypt as part of a probe into the Oct. 31 crash of EgyptAir's Flight 990 into the Atlantic, airport officials said. The Americans met with aviation officials and reviewed files concerning the crew of the jetliner. They believe co-pilot Gameel El-Batouty may have intentionally caused the crash, which killed all 217 people aboard.

Norway Ferry Sinking Kills Several

OSLO, Norway (AP)

Several people aboard a passenger ferry died today after it ran aground in the North Sea off western Norway and sank fast in cold, heavy seas and high winds. Eleven still were missing hours later. There were 80 passengers and eight crew aboard the high-speed catamaran. Rescue ships and helicopters raced to the scene north of Stavanger, 300 miles west of the capital Oslo.

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Sudan, Opposition Sign Peace Deal

CAIRO, Egypt (AP)

Sudan's government signed a peace agreement Friday with an exiled opposition party, promising to establish a "democratic regime" in the country and to end a 16-year-old civil war within four years. Sudan Television reported that the agreement with the Umma Party was signed in the east African country of Djibouti, where Sudanese President Lt. Gen. Omar el-Bashir and Umma Party leader Sadiq el-Mahdi held previously unannounced talks on Thursday.

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American Incomes Surge

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New Zealanders Go to the Polls

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)

Prime Minister Jenny Shipley of the rightist National Party wants New Zealand to stick with her free market policies. Her rival in Saturday's general election, Labor leader Helen Clark, has pledged to raise taxes to help fund improvements in social and health services. It is New Zealand's first general election to feature two women battling for the premiership.

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Poll: Bush, McCain Tied in N.H.

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GOP presidential campaign front-runner George W. Bush remains in a dead heat with John McCain in New Hampshire, according to a Time-CNN poll released today. It shows Bush and McCain statistically even in New Hampshire, 37 percent for McCain to 35 percent for Bush. Steve Forbes was at 8 percent and others were in the low single digits. In South Carolina, Bush led McCain 62 percent to 15 percent That's about the same as the lead Bush has in most national polls over the Arizona senator.

Holiday Shopping Gets Under Way

NEW YORK (AP)

With Americans jamming stores to buy toys, clothes and electronic gadgets, the holiday shopping season began today. Bargain hunters filled malls nationwide on the day after Thanksgiving. Holiday spending at retail stores in 1999 is expected to rise 5-to-6 percent to over \$180 billion. Spending via the Internet is expected to at least double to \$6 billion.

American Incomes Surge

WASHINGTON (AP)

Americans' personal income vaulted ahead in October at the fastest pace in more than five years, giving consumers plenty of cash to spend as they head into the holiday shopping season. The Commerce Department reported that personal income which includes wages, interest and government benefits _ rose 1.3 percent last month, more than twice as fast as spending. It was the biggest monthly gain since April 1994.

Newark, N.J., Plane Crash Kills 4

NEWARK, N.J. (AP)

A small plane that took off in fog and rain crashed in a Newark neighborhood today, hurling flaming debris across a city block. All three people aboard were killed and 20 on the ground were injured. The plane broke apart as it skidded down the block and smashed into the side of a Kentucky Fried Chicken that was closed. The pilot, his wife and teen-age daughter were killed, a Newark official said. The Beech Bonanza 35 took off from Linden Airport bound for Washington. Two airport employees had advised the pilot against taking off in rain and fog, according to Linden mayor John Gregorio.

Norway Ferry Sinking Kills 10

OSLO, Norway (AP)

A passenger ferry ran aground today in the North Sea off western Norway and sank fast in heavy seas and high winds. The Norwegian news agency NTB said 10 bodies had been recovered. Eleven people still were missing hours later. There were 80 passengers and eight crew aboard the high-speed catamaran. Rescue ships and helicopters raced to the scene north of Stavanger, 300 miles west of the capital Oslo.

Ocalan To Appeal Death Sentence

ANKARA, Turkey (AP)

Abdullah Ocalan's lawyers promised Friday to fight a Turkish death sentence against the guerrilla, while some of his fellow Kurds warned that hanging Ocalan would jeopardize moves toward reconciliation and could lead to bloodshed. "He must not be executed," Kemal Bilgic, one of Ocalan's lawyers said a day after Turkey's appeals court reaffirmed the death sentence.

Croatia's Tudjman Loses Power

ZAGREB, Croatia (AP)

AP Top News at Midnight EST Thursday, Nov. 25, 1999

Croatia's highest court effectively stripped President Franjo Tudjman of his powers Friday, ruling that the man who led his country to independence eight years ago was too ill to perform his duties. The 77-year-old leader, who is fighting for his life in a Zagreb suburban clinic, remains the president. But the decision transferred all of his powers for now to the speaker of parliament, Vlatko Pavletic.

New Zealanders Go to the Polls

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)

Prime Minister Jenny Shipley of the rightist National Party wants New Zealand to stick with her free market policies. Her rival in Saturday's general election, Labor leader Helen Clark, has pledged to raise taxes to help fund improvements in social and health services. It is New Zealand's first general election to feature two women battling for the premiership.

Dow Ends Off 19.26; Nasdaq at High

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Texas A&M Edges Texas

COLLEGE STATION, Texas (AP)

With flags at half-staff, No. 24 Texas A&M rallied today to edge No. 7 Texas 20-16. The football game was played amid mourning for the 12 people who died setting up logs for the Aggies' traditional bonfire rally. Texas A&M triumphed after Ja'Mar Toombs ran for 126 yards and two touchdowns and Matt Bumgardner caught a 14-yard scoring pass in the fourth quarter. Texas led 16-6 at the half. In other games, No. 2 Virginia Tech beat No. 22 Boston College 38-14 and No. 3 Nebraska beat Colorado 33-30.

Poll: McCain-Bush Tie in N.H.

WASHINGTON (AP)

A Time-CNN poll released today shows John McCain and GOP presidential campaign front-runner George W. Bush in a dead heat in New Hampshire. Bush and McCain are statistically even, with 37 percent for McCain and 35 percent for Bush, the poll finds. Steve Forbes was at 8 percent and others had low single digits. In South Carolina, Bush leads McCain 62 percent to 15 percent. That's about the same as the lead Bush has in most national polls over the Arizona senator.

3 Cuban Survivors Can Stay

MIAMI (AP)

A 5-year-old Cuban boy and two adults who floated to Florida on inner tubes after their boat went down in the Atlantic will be allowed to remain in the United States, a Border Patrol official said today. The boy was picked up by fishermen a short time after the adult man and woman washed up on Key Biscayne. Authorities have recovered the bodies of at least seven others who drowned after the boat sank on Tuesday, and three others were missing. The boy's mother was among the dead.

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Cops Kill Man After 3-Hour Chase

SAN DIEGO (AP)

A man was fatally shot by police on live television after leading them on a 200-mile freeway chase through Southern California today. A sheriff's deputy initially had tried to stop him for driving with expired tags. Before he was shot, the man waved a handgun. The man, whose name was not released, died at Scripps Mercy Hospital within 40 minutes of the shooting on Interstate 805. He had multiple gunshot wounds. The highway patrol chased the man on at least four different freeways, creating traffic gridlock on the busiest shopping day of the year.

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killings, which occurred Sept. 6 in two churches in the town of Suai, are considered the deadliest incident to have occurred during the three-week militia rampage that followed East Timor's Aug. 30 vote for independence.

Russia Keeps Up Chechnya Barrage

GROZNY, Russia (AP)

Rocket after rocket pounded into Grozny Friday as Russian forces shook Chechnya with the fiercest assault since the campaign began. Amid the flames of the shattered city, a top rebel commander warned of full-scale retaliation. Many civilians were killed in the barrage, said dazed and frightened residents who made it out of the chaos. When it was over, many sections of the Chechen capital were ablaze.

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Companies Stockpile Y2K Drugs

NEW YORK (AP)

Major drug companies are boosting their year-end stockpiles in case of hoarding by people afraid Y2K trouble will cut off their supply of life-sustaining medication. Drug manufacturers and pharmacies say they have fixed their computers to correctly read the date in the new year. Their main fear instead is overreaction by senior citizens, diabetics and other patients. Pharmaceutical companies are also hoping their stockpiling discourages hoarding.

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With merchants wondering whether this is the year when the Internet finally hurts them, the holiday shopping season kicked off today with consumers packing the stores for \$99 TV sets and Pokemon freebies. Shoppers are quickly embracing the Internet. About 10 percent say they will use the Web for gift buying, up from about 5 percent last year, according to a survey by Deloitte & Touche for the National Retail Federation. But Americans aren't abandoning traditional bricks-and-mortar stores yet as witnessed by the throngs of shoppers who piled their kids into the minivan and headed to the mall today.

Developing Nations Close Conference

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP)

Leaders from developing nations demanded today that the world's poorest countries be allowed to export goods duty-free to wealthy economies, closing a conference that highlighted a gulf of bitterness apparently made worse by globalization. The demand by representatives of 71 developing countries is to be presented to a meeting of trade ministers from member states of the World Trade Organization that begins in Seattle on Tuesday. The talks are to set the agenda for a new round of trade discussions expected to further liberalize the global economy.

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ATM User Trapped for 9 Hours

RARITAN TOWNSHIP, N.J. (AP)

An ATM lobby, activated to lock automatically on Thanksgiving evening, trapped a man as he completed a withdrawal, holding him inside until a bank employee arrived for work this morning. James Kahlke, 36, spent nine hours at a Raritan Township branch of Commerce Bank pounding on a door, pacing, making periodic withdrawals and finally curling up on a rug to sleep. From 9 p.m. yesterday, when he heard the door click behind him, until 6 a.m. today, when the bank's assistant manager arrived, Kahlke was trapped in the ATM lobby.

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Bucks Edge Celtics 114-112

BOSTON (AP)

Sam Cassell had 28 points and Ray Allen hit a go-ahead jumper with 44 seconds left as the Milwaukee Bucks overcame a 21-point deficit to defeat the Celtics 114-112 tonight. After Vitaly Potapenko gave the Celtics a 108-103 lead with 3:20 left, the Bucks used an 8-2 run to take a 111-110 lead on Allen's jumper. Allen, who finished with 18 points, hit one free throw for the final margin as the Bucks ended a four-game road losing streak.

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Analysts Predict Holiday Sales Jump

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The holiday shopping season began Friday as retailers both traditional and online forecast solid sales, thanks to high levels of consumer confidence, strength in the stock market and the unemployment rate at a 30-year low.

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Analysts project holiday sales at traditional stores will rise 5 percent to 6 percent to more than \$180 billion, while online sales are expected to at least double to \$6 billion. While anecdotal evidence from shoppers Friday indicated that buying was up this year, retailers know that anything can turn today's fickle customers away whether it be unusually warm weather or an overloaded Web site.

Ex-Officer Wins Niger Elections

NIAMEY, Niger (AP)

A retired military officer has won presidential elections to restore civilian rule in Niger, election officials said Saturday. Tandja Mamadou won 60 percent of the ballots cast Wednesday in the second round of voting for a president to replace junta leader Daouda Malam Wanke, according to provisional results announced by the independent electoral commission. His opponent, former Prime Minister Mahamadou Issoufou, received 40 percent of the vote.

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Cuba Expects 1.6 Million Tourists

HAVANA (AP)

Cuba will draw more than 1.6 million tourists this year, continuing steady growth in what has become the communist island's largest industry, Cuban state television reported Friday. The television quoted officials as saying that tourism contracts signed through the end of the year guarantee the number of foreign visitors will reach 1.65 million, up from about 1.4 million last year and 1.2 million in 1997.

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Panthers Defeat Rangers 6-2

SUNRISE, Fla. (AP)

Florida scored four goals in an 11-minute span in the second period and Trevor Kidd made 39 saves as the Panthers beat the New York Rangers 6-2 Friday night. Radek Dvorak and Ray Whitney scored goals in the opening minutes of the second, sending goalie Mike Richter to the bench and giving the Panthers a 3-1 lead. Richter's replacement, Kirk McLean, did not fair much better.

Hill Leads Pistons Past Hawks 93-91

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. (AP)

Grant Hill scored 30 points and the Detroit Pistons won their fifth straight with a 93-91 victory over the Atlanta Hawks Friday night. Jim Jackson had 18 points for the Hawks, who are 1-7 on the road. The Pistons took a 92-88 lead on two free throws by Hill with 1:21 remaining, but Jackson hit a 3-pointer from the left side with 3.5 seconds left to make it 92-91. Lindsey Hunter, who scored 20 points, was fouled with 2.5 seconds left, but hit just one of his two free throws. The Hawks, after a time out, tried to inbound the ball to Dikembe Mutombo in the lane, but Hunter knocked the ball away to preserve the victory.

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End of Document

AP News Digest

Associated Press International

February 18, 2000; Friday

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Section: International news

Length: 5297 words

Body

WORLD AT 0000 GMT:

NEW:

US-STOCKS. Stocks slide, Dow down almost 300 points.

RUSSIA-BANKS. Testimony in money-laundering case poses test for Putin.

WORLD TRADE-WHAT NEXT. Will a new spirit of goodwill be reflected by concrete progress in trade talks?

US-PRESIDENTIAL-THE WIVES. It's tough on the wives as husbands swap charges.

BRAZIL-DROUGHT. Chronic drought blights Brazil's northeast; farmers turn to new technology including low-cost, Israeli hydroponics method.

MAIN SPOT NEWS:

TEHRAN, Iran Officials start counting millions of ballots after Iranians voted for a new Parliament, expected to be controlled by reformists who want to loosen 21 years of strict Islamic rule. IRAN-ELECTIONS. Recap moving by 0300 GMT. First results expected Sunday. By Afshin Valinejad. AP Photos XTEH101-107.

ALSO MOVED :

IRAN-CHRONOLOGY.

IRAN-ELECTION-ISSUES.

IRAN-ELECTION-FASHION.

IRAN-ELECTION-CANDIDATES.

IRAN-ELECTION-GLANCE.

NEWBERRY, South Carolina After two weeks of intense campaigning, Saturday's South Carolina presidential primary boiled down to whether John McCain's growing appeal could survive the sheer force of George W. Bush's party support. US-PRESIDENTIAL ROUNDUP. Recap moving by 0200 GMT. By Ron Fournier. AP Photos available.

WITH:

CLINTON, South Carolina It wasn't easy for the wives watching their husbands trade charges in the heated campaign leading up to Saturday's Republican presidential primary in South Carolina. US-PRESIDENTIAL-THE WIVES. Moving by 0300 GMT. By Glen Johnson. AP Photos XELG102 XED103-104 MSG107, SES107.

NEW YORK Stocks plunge with the Dow down almost 300 points after a warning from Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan that he will raise interest rates to fight inflation. US-STOCKS. Recap moving by 0300 GMT. AP Photo NYSE101.

MOSCOW For most Russians, banks are not symbols of solidity. They exist not for lending or protecting money, but rather to serve the needs of business, which sometimes require hiding income from the government. RUSSIA-BANKS. Recap moving by 0400 GMT. By Vladimir Isachenkov.

ALSO MOVED:

US-BANKS-RUSSIA. The U.S. government plans to boost charges against a former Bank of New York employee already accused of perjury in a dlrs 7 billion Russian money laundering scam.

MIAMI A U.S. immigration official charged with spying for Cuba was arrested after falling straight into a trap, investigators say. The FBI says it fed Mariano Faget phony information about an impending defection and then caught him passing it on just 12 minutes later to a contact with ties to the Cuban government. US-INS-ESPIONAGE. Recap moving by 0300 GMT. By Meg Richard. AP Photo MH101.

STARIYE ATAGI, Russia Chechen rebels and Russian troops clash in the fighters' southern mountain stronghold, but Russian advances are shrinking the area in which the rebels can mount hit-and-run attacks, a top general says. RUSSIA-CHECHNYA. New story expected by 1000 GMT. By Alexander Zemianichenko. AP Photos MOZD101-102.

BANGKOK, Thailand The U.N. Conference on Trade and Development ends Saturday on an upbeat note with a four-year program of action aimed at increasingly trade opportunities to lift billions of people out of poverty. BC-WORLD TRADE. Expectable 0500 GMT. By Dirk Beveridge.

WITH:

BANGKOK, Thailand Nearly every speaker at the U.N.'s big trade meeting this week talked of how it could heal the rifts of the World Trade Organization debacle in Seattle. But will a new spirit of goodwill be reflected by concrete progress in trade talks? BC-WORLD TRADE-WHAT NEXT. Expectable 0500 GMT. By Naomi Koppel.

ALSO MOVED:

WORLD TRADE-THE POOREST.

WORLD TRADE-EU.

WORLD TRADE-AFRICA.

WORLD TRADE-THE POOREST.

CHINA-WTO.

BEZERROS, Brazil Chronic drought has devastated Brazil's northeastern outback for as long as anyone can remember, and is a key reason the region remains the poor, undernourished cousin of Brazil's prosperous southeast. Now, some northeasterners are looking for new strategies in the daily struggle for water, including a low-cost, Israeli hydroponics method. BRAZIL-DROUGHT. Moving by 0300 GMT. By Harold Olmos. AP Photos RIOX107-108,110.

AP News Digest

LOOKING AHEAD: On Saturday, Republican voters in South Carolina choose between George W. Bush and John McCain in the party primary.

FEATURES: Travel

CAMPO NELL'ELBA, Italy After 10 days in mainland Italy, my husband and I were thrilled to be basking in the sun on a vast expanse of sandy beach. We were on the island of Elba, onetime home-in-exile to Napoleon. I soon learned that Elba has countless variety of beaches. BC-TRAV-ITALY-ELBA. To move as wire time permits. By Alison Fitzgerald. AP Photos NY406-408.

With BC-TRAV-ELBA-TIPS.

KEALAKEKUA BAY, Hawaii There's a corner of a Hawaiian island that is forever England. Each time a Royal Navy vessel comes visiting, a work party goes ashore to wash and tidy up the two-story white obelisk that memorializes Capt. James Cook and the spot where he died. TRAV-US-COOK'S CORNER. To move as wire time permits. By Hugh A. Mulligan. AP Photos NY363-364; HIKAT362.

BRECKENRIDGE, Colorado With the ski industry in the worst slump of recent memory, the slopes, shops and restaurants in this Victorian-style resort are defying the odds. Officials say businesses are busier than last year, and skier visits are up, too. BC-TRAV-US-SKI TOWN. To move as wire time permits. By Robert Weller. AP Photos NY410-412.

Also Moving:

TRAV-Travel Briefs

YOUR QUERIES: World Service editors in charge are Peter James Spielmann and Paisley Dodds. Suggestions and story requests to The Associated Press World Service are welcome. Contact your local AP bureau or the AP International Desk in New York, telephone (1) 212-621-1650, fax (1) 212-621-5449.

Bangkok, Thailand U.N. Conference on Trade and Development wraps up week-long meeting.

Sunday, Feb. 20:

Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan Parliamentary elections.

Kuwait Treason trial begins for Alaa Hussein, the Kuwaiti appointed by Iraqis as head of interim government after their 1990 invasion.

Jerusalem International conference of Jewish war veterans. Through Feb. 23.

Jerusalem Nicole Fontaine, President of the European Parliament, arrives for two-day visit to Israel and Palestinian territories, meeting leaders of both sides to discuss Middle East peace negotiations.

Tel Aviv, Israel U.S. Energy Secretary Bill Richardson begins three-day visit to Israel and Palestinian territories.

Osaka, Japan Ceremony to support Osaka's bid to host the 2008 Olympics.

Moyers, Oklahoma A group of school children dedicate memorial to four British airmen killed nearby while training during World War II.

Monday, Feb. 21:

Port-of-Spain, Trinidad Prince Charles begins 10-day visit to the former British colonies of Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana and Jamaica.

Cairo, Egypt German President Johannes Rau begins five-day visit.

AP News Digest

Cairo, Egypt Conference on water security sponsored by the Arab-European Center. Through Feb. 23.

Moscow British Foreign Minister Robin Cook arrives for two days of meetings with Russian officials.

Tuesday, Feb. 22:

London Deadline for the four countries seeking the extradition of former Chilean dictator Gen. Augusto Pinochet (Spain, Belgium, France and Switzerland) to file comments on a medical report finding him mentally unfit to stand trial. Britain's top law enforcement official could issue his final ruling on extradition immediately after the deadline.

Wednesday, Feb. 23:

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia Oil ministers from Gulf Cooperation Council member nations meet to coordinate policy before OPEC meets in Vienna in March 27.

Cairo, Egypt Conference on reserving elected offices for women, sponsored by the United Nations Development Program and Egypt's independent Group for Democratic Development. Through Feb. 24.

New Delhi, India Parliament begins budget session. President K.R. Narayanan addresses two houses. Session ends May 17.

Vatican City Pope John Paul II dedicates general audience to Ur, birthplace of Abraham.

Jerusalem French Prime Minister Lionel Jospin arrives for three-day visit.

Thursday, Feb. 24:

Cairo, Egypt Pope John Paul II arrives for visit. Through Feb. 26.

Bogota, Colombia One-day ban on private cars in Bogota, with tens of thousands expected to pedal to work in mayor's drive to highlight cars' ill effects.

Friday, Feb. 25:

No major events added.

Saturday, Feb. 26:

No major events added.

Sunday, Feb. 27:

No major events added.

WORLD AT 0700 GMT:

NEW:

US-INS ESPIONAGE. Immigration official arrested on charges of spying for Cuba.

UGANDA-GOOD TIMES. With their economy flourishing, Ugandans enjoy the good life.

MAIN SPOT NEWS:

TEHRAN, Iran For the first time in two decades, Iranian voters are expected Friday to give reformists a majority in the powerful parliament that has traditionally been a bastion of conservatism. IRAN-ELECTIONS. Has moved. Polls open at 9 a.m. (0530 GMT) and close at 7 p.m. (1530 GMT). By Afshin Valinejad. AP Photos TEH101-106.

ALSO MOVED:

IRAN-ELECTION-ISSUES.

IRAN-ELECTION-CANDIDATES.

IRAN-ELECTION-GLANCE.

MALGOBEK, Russia Chechen refugees incarcerated in military camps describe torture at the hands of Russian soldiers standing with their arms in the air for hours, crawling on hands and knees to interrogators' offices, running a gauntlet of masked men delivering blows with truncheons. RUSSIA-CHECHNYA-TORTURE. Has moved. By Andrew Kramer.

ALSO MOVED:

RUSSIA-CHECHNYA. Chechen rebels retreat and regroup deeper in the mountains, the military says. AP Photos MOSB103-106; MOZD101-102, NAZ101-104.

RUSSIA-POLITICS. Russia's elections commission refuses to register ultranationalist Vladimir Zhirinovsky as a presidential candidate. AP Photos MOSB101, 102, 105.

WITH:

NAZRAN, Russia Surgeon Hasan Baiyev, a Chechen, operated on Russian soldiers and rebel fighters alike during months of work in a village hospital, only to have both sides declare him an enemy. RUSSIA-ENEMY. Has moved. By Andrew Kramer.

KAMPALA, Uganda To Quinto Ebony, it seems only yesterday that the Ugandan capital was a war zone, contested by thousands of drunken fighters who proved more adept at looting houses and shaking down civilians than fighting each other. UGANDA-GOOD TIMES. Expected by 0730 GMT. AP Photos NY108. By Hrvoje Hranjski.

KAMPALA, Uganda In his 14 years as president, Yoweri Museveni has never eased his tight grip on power. That could all change if Ugandans vote to scrap his self-styled "no-party democracy" and permit political parties to run candidates. UGANDA-WHAT NEXT? Has moved. By Hrvoje Hranjski. AP Photo KAM102.

MIAMI A U.S. immigration official with access to classified documents is arrested and charged with spying for the Cuban government, the FBI says. Mariano Faget, 54, was arrested Thursday and was being held at the Federal Detention Center in Miami. He was to appear in court Friday, the FBI said in a statement. US-INS-ESPIONAGE. By Meg Richard. Has moved, will update with after news conference that starts at 1600 GMT Friday.

ZAGREB, Croatia When Stipe Mesic takes the oath as president Friday, he will do it not only before Croats, but also in front of more than 70 top foreign officials the largest and most prominent international gathering in the country's nine-year history. CROATIA-PRESIDENT. Has moved. Ceremony scheduled for 1200 GMT. By Snjezana Vukic. AP Photos ZAG101-102.

DHARMSALA, India Thousands of Tibetans join Friday to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the enthronement of the Dalai Lama. INDIA-DALAI LAMA. Story expected by 1300 GMT. By Lynsey Addario. AP Photos DRM101-104.

BANGKOK, Thailand As a U.N. trade conference ponders ways to lift the fortunes of poor nations, one of the poorest Ethiopia _ offers an economic perspective that focuses more on fickle nature, and farmers hoping for rain, than the red hot Internet. WORLD TRADE-THE POOREST. has moved. By Dirk Beveridge. AP Photo BGK 108.

BANGKOK, Thailand Saying Africa risked being erased from the world economic map, Algeria's president Friday appeals to rich countries to widen programs to forgive the debts of poor nations and prevent them sliding into abject poverty. BC-WORLD TRADE-AFRICA. Has moved. By Naomi Koppel.

KUWAIT He was an army lieutenant plucked from obscurity, appearing on Kuwaiti TV as head of an "interim government" days after Iraq invaded this oil-rich state in August 1990. Alaa Hussein, 41, goes on trial for treason

AP News Digest

Sunday a week before Kuwait marks the ninth anniversary of its liberation. KUWAIT-TREASON TRIAL. Has moved. By Diana Elias. AP Photo KUW101.

LOOKING AHEAD: On Friday, parliamentary elections take place in Iran. Croatia's newly elected president, Stipe Mesic, is to be inaugurated in Zagreb. Tibetans celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Dalai Lama's enthronement.

FEATURES:

DIAMOND MOUNTAIN, North Korea At the icy foot of the mountain, the North Korean guides wore tennis shoes and drab anoraks. The South Korean trekkers had flashier gear: aluminum canes, brightly colored windbreakers and, of course, cameras. FEA-NORTH KOREA-DIAMOND MOUNTAIN. To move as wire time permits. By Christopher Torchia. AP Photos SEL107-110.

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT:

ARTS-US-JANE RUSSELL. With BC-ARTS-JANE RUSSELL-BIO BOX.

ARTS-US-GRAMMY AWARDS.

With BC-ARTS-GRAMMY-RCA's ROLL.

ARTS-US-LARAMIE PROJECT.

Also Moving:

ARTS-English Violinist AP Photo NY381

ARTS-English Reggae Band AP Photo NY379

ARTS-US-Dr. Doolittle at Yale AP Photos NY413-NY414

ARTS-US-Chip Taylor AP Photo NY346

ARTS-US-Aida's Siblings AP Photo NY395

ARTS-US-Lonestar

ARTS-US-Faith Hill AP Photo NY423

ARTS-Entertainment Flashbacks

ARTS-Celebrity Birthdays

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ARTS-US Top Ten

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WORLD AT 1100 GMT:

NEW:

RUSSIA-POLITICS. Putin favors referendum on property guarantees.

AP News Digest

ESTONIA-NUCLEAR WASTE. After chemical spill, concerns over Soviet-era waste.

EAST TIMOR. Annan shocked by destruction in East Timor.

MAIN SPOT NEWS:

TEHRAN, Iran At polling stations in mosques and schools, Iran's 38.7 million voters on Friday choose between liberals promising social and political reforms, and conservatives who want Iran to stick to the ideals of the 1979 Islamic Revolution. IRAN-ELECTIONS. Has moved. Polls close at 1530 GMT. By Afshin Valinejad. AP Photos XTEH101-109.

WITH:

TEHRAN, Iran Neckties are out in force, haute couture is on display and plenty of hair peaks out from women's head scarves. At many polling booths in Tehran Friday, politics are a fashion statement. IRAN-ELECTIONS-FASHION. Expected by 1300 GMT. By Vijay Joshi.

TEHRAN, Iran Parliamentary elections in Iran have become a family affair, at least among the top candidates. The brothers of the president, the supreme leader and top jailed reformists are running, so are a former president and his daughter. IRAN-ELECTIONS-ALL IN THE FAMILY. Expected by 1300 GMT. By Afshin Valinejad.

ALSO MOVED:

IRAN-ELECTION-ISSUES.

IRAN-ELECTION-CANDIDATES.

IRAN-ELECTION-GLANCE.

GROZNY, Russia Russian troop advances are shrinking rebel-controlled areas in Chechnya but up to 7,000 militants are still resisting federal forces in the breakaway republic, a top military official says Friday. RUSSIA-CHECHNYA. By Alexander Zemianichenko.

IRKUTSK, Russia Acting President Vladimir Putin tries to buff up his reform credentials on Friday, saying he favors guarantees for private property and limitations on parliamentary immunity from prosecution. Firm legal protection of property-owners' rights is essential to the country's economic development, he says. RUSSIA-POLITICS. Has moved. By Katya Trunova. AP Photos MOSB101-104.

WITH:

NAZRAN, Russia Surgeon Hasan Baiyev, a Chechen, operated on Russian soldiers and rebel fighters alike during months of work in a village hospital, only to have both sides declare him an enemy. RUSSIA-ENEMY. Has moved. By Andrew Kramer.

MIAMI A U.S. immigration official who had power over decisions that affected immigrants is arrested and facing charges of spying for the Cuban government. He is expected in court on Friday. US-INS-ESPIONAGE. By Meg Richard. Has moved, will update with after news conference that starts at 1600 GMT Friday.

DILI, East Timor U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan leaves East Timor on Friday saying he had been shocked by its devastation and warning that an international war crimes tribunal could still be set up if Indonesia fails to prosecute those responsible. EAST TIMOR. Has moved. By Heather Paterson. DIL101,102,104.

SILLAMAE, Estonia When they withdrew from this seaside Estonian town that for five decades supplied the Soviet Union with enriched uranium to make nuclear bombs, the Soviet military left behind something to remember them by: 12 million tons of greenish-brown radioactive waste. ESTONIA-NUCLEAR WASTE. Has moved. By Michael Tarm.

AP News Digest

KAMPALA, Uganda To Quinto Ebony, it seems only yesterday that the Ugandan capital was a war zone, contested by thousands of drunken fighters who proved more adept at looting houses and shaking down civilians than fighting each other. UGANDA-GOOD TIMES. Has moved. AP Photos NY108. By Hrvoje Hranjski.

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DHARMSALA, India A young Buddhist leader who recently fled Chinese-controlled Tibet joins the Dalai Lama Friday in the first joint appearance of Tibetan Buddhism's two most important spiritual figures. INDIA-DALAI LAMA. Has moved. By Lynsey Addario.

KUWAIT He was an army lieutenant plucked from obscurity, appearing on Kuwaiti TV as head of an "interim government" days after Iraq invaded this oil-rich state in August 1990. Alaa Hussein, 41, goes on trial for treason Sunday a week before Kuwait marks the ninth anniversary of its liberation. KUWAIT-TREASON TRIAL. Has moved. By Diana Elias. AP Photo KUW101.

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A summary of news from The Associated Press. Some items have moved on this circuit in expanded form with "i" or "f" or "s" category codes:

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)

From the president to students, Iranians voted Friday in a parliamentary election pitting reformers promising social and political change against conservatives who want Iran to stick to the ideals of the two-decade-old Islamic revolution. The hard-liners have a slight majority in the outgoing parliament, and a victory for reformers in Friday's polls would strengthen the hand of President Mohammad Khatami, who came to power in 1997 on promises of more individual freedom. "Parliament has an extraordinarily important position in the Islamic Republic especially now that the country has started a new era. And the more people vote today the more the parliament comes to represent their will," Khatami told reporters after voting Friday at the Jamaran mosque in Tehran, next to the former residence of the late revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. The current supreme leader, Ali Khamenei, the ultimate power in Islamic Iran and the hard-liners' main backer, voted in a mosque near his office in central Tehran. (IRAN-ELECTIONS)

GROZNY, Russia (AP)

Russian troop advances are shrinking rebel-controlled areas in Chechnya but up to 7,000 militants are still resisting federal forces in the breakaway republic, a top military official said Friday. Col. Gen. Valery Manilov, Russia's deputy chief of staff, also reiterated previous Russian claims that the five-month-old war was nearing its end. "The whole military phase of the operation will surely be completed in the nearest future," he said. Manilov said the Russians now controlled most strategic areas in Chechnya and could easily follow the militants' movements, the Interfax news agency reported. "The area where the militants can still stay is shrinking," Manilov said. Fighting continued to rage in Chechnya's southern mountains. Russian forces and rebels clashed outside the village of Elistanzhi, near the Vedeno gorge, and the military claimed to have repelled a rebel attack Thursday near Serzhen-Yurt, near the entrance to the gorge. (RUSSIA-CHECHNYA)

DILI, East Timor (AP)

U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan left East Timor on Friday saying he had been shocked by its devastation and warning that an international war crimes tribunal could still be set up if Indonesia fails to prosecute those responsible. "The devastation I have been able to see so far is far worse than what I had imagined from the reports and what I saw on television," he told a crowd of about 5,000 in the capital, Dili. His 24-hour stay was Annan's first visit to the half-island territory, which is now being administered by the world body. Before leaving for neighboring Australia, he said Indonesia must live up to promises that it will punish those responsible for last year's murder, rape and destruction following an overwhelming independence vote in a U.N.-sponsored plebiscite. Hundreds of thousands of people were forced to flee their homes after pro-Jakarta militias, backed by Indonesian soldiers, went on a rampage. The bodies of up to 300 people killed during the violence have been recovered so far. (EAST TIMOR)

LONDON (AP)

Confronting a deepening crisis just four months into his job, Britain's governor for Northern Ireland said Thursday that he still didn't know whether the **Irish Republican Army** would ever disarm "and that is the problem." Briefing American journalists in his London office, Northern Ireland Secretary Peter Mandelson defended his high-stakes decision a week ago to strip powers from the province's 2-month-old Catholic-Protestant administration and resume direct British rule. Mandelson emphasized that if he hadn't made the move, the four-party coalition's key Protestant party and its leader, David Trimble, would have withdrawn within hours. That in turn would have collapsed the Cabinet, the key objective of the province's 1998 Good Friday accord. "David Trimble would have resigned. If he hadn't resigned, he would have been sacked," Mandelson said. He added that it was "an elementary fact of life" that without the Ulster Unionists, the Cabinet would be "a one-legged stool on its way to certain collapse." (NORTHERN IRELAND)

SILLAMAE, Estonia (AP)

When they withdrew from this seaside Estonian town that for five decades supplied the Soviet Union with enriched uranium to make nuclear bombs, the Soviet military left behind something to remember them by: 12 million tons of greenish-brown radioactive waste. The sludge is in a pond-sized deposit that lies behind a mud-and-rock containment wall just yards from the Baltic Sea. Chemical wastes and nitrates seep around and through the wall into the sea, which during storms can slap up against the dam, pulling parts of it off. In Romania, a Jan. 30 cyanide spill from a containment dam at a gold mine killed tons of fish and contaminated rivers in neighboring Hungary and Yugoslavia. That focused public attention on the lethal residue left behind by the Soviet Union in its former republics after it collapsed a decade ago. The European Union included Sillamae, 110 miles (177 kilometers) east of the capital Tallinn, on a list of about 800 hazardous waste deposits in the former communist bloc. (ESTONIA-NUCLEAR WASTE)

WORLD SPORTS AT 1430 GMT

SOCCER:

LOS ANGELES Emilio Mora scores in the first half and goalkeeper Christian Martinez makes six saves as Mexico draws with Guatemala 1-1 to eliminate the tiny Central American nation from the CONCACAF Gold Cup Thursday night.

Slug Sports-Soccer-Gold Cup. Has moved.

ALSO:

BANGKOK, Thailand Sports-Soccer-World Cup-Germany. Has moved.

RUGBY UNION:

LONDON The first ever Six Nations rugby union championship could be over on Saturday just two weeks after it started. France and England meet in the second of five rounds of matches for what effectively could be the decisive game for the title.

Slug Sports-RugbyU-Six Nations. Expected by 1600 GMT.

By Robert Millward

ALSO:

BRISBANE, Australia Sports-RugbyU-World Sevens. Has moved.

ATHLETICS:

AP News Digest

BIRMINGHAM, England World record holder Maurice Greene runs against friend and rival Ato Boldon in the 60 meters while world 200-meter champion Inger Miller and Romania's 5,000-meter star Gabriela Szabo are the leading women competing at Sunday's CGU Indoor Grand Prix meet.

Slug Sports-Track-Birmingham Indoors. Expected by 1600 GMT.

SKIING:

ADELBODEN, Switzerland Hermann Maier had a trouble-filled weekend on home snow, and his opponents on the World Cup may well hope the Austrian's problems continue as the circuit moves to Switzerland for giant slalom and slalom races Saturday and Sunday.

Slug Sports-Skiing-Men's World Cup. Has moved.

By Erica Bulman.

OLYMPICS:

SYDNEY, Australia The International Olympic Committee complete a week of meetings in Sydney by declaring the city had the best stadium in the history of the games and would likely stage the best Olympics.

Slug Sports-Olympics-IOC Meetings. RECAP expected by 1500 GMT.

By Mike Corder.

SYDNEY, Australia A test to detect the banned super drug EPO is almost foolproof and could be ready in time for the Sydney Olympics, the Australian Institute of Sport says Friday.

Slug Sports-Olympics-Sydney-EPO. Has moved.

TENNIS:

HANNOVER, Germany Top-seeded Serena Williams plays Patty Shnyder and third-seeded Amelie Mauresmo battles Anna Smashnova in the Faber Grand Prix quarterfinals.

Slug: Sports-Tennis-Hannover Indoor. Expected by 1900 GMT.

ALSO:

MEMPHIS, Tennessee Sports-Tennis-Kroger St. Jude. Has moved.

ROTTERDAM, Netherlands Sports-Tennis-Rotterdam. Early lead expected by 1800 GMT.

SAILING:

AUCKLAND, New Zealand Auckland and the rest of the country will be bustling Saturday when New Zealand opens defense of the America's Cup.

Slug Sports-Sailing-America's Cup. Has moved.

CRICKET:

BULAWAYO, Zimbabwe All-rounder Craig White takes a career best five for 21 Friday, helping bowl out Zimbabwe for 131 and putting England in command of their second one-day international.

Slug Sports-Cricket-Zimbabwe-England. Has moved; WILL be UPDATED with England innings.

ALSO:

AP News Digest

BOMBAY, India Sports-Cricket-India-South Africa. Has moved.

GOLF:

PENINA, Portugal England's John Bickerton and Wales' Philip Price share the lead going into the second day of the dlr 992,000 Portuguese Open.

Slug Sports-Golf-Portuguese Open. Expected by 1900 GMT.

By Alan Page.

ALSO:

LOS ANGELES Sports-Golf-Nissan Open. By Ken Peters. Has moved.

MELBOURNE, Australia Sports-Golf-Australian Women's Open. Has moved.

SYDNEY, Australia Sports-Golf-Canon Challenge. Has moved.

ALSO:

UNDATED Sports-Basketball-NBA Roundup. Has moved.

UNDATED Sports-Ice Hockey-NHL Roundup. Has moved.

YOUR QUERIES: Sports stories carry the "s" category code or, in some cases, the "i" category code. Questions and story requests are welcome. Contact your local AP bureau or the AP International Desk in New York, telephone (1) 212-621-1857, fax (1) 212-621-5449.

WORLD SPORTS AT 0000 GMT

SAILING:

AUCKLAND, New Zealand Five years after winning the America's Cup in San Diego, Team New Zealand starts its defense Saturday in the Hauraki Gulf against challenger series winner, the Italian Prada syndicate.

Slug Sports-Sailing-America's Cup. Expected to move 0400 GMT.

ATHLETICS:

BIRMINGHAM, England World record holder Maurice Greene runs against his friend and rival Ato Boldon in an indoor 60-meter dash on Sunday. What he really wants is an outdoor 200m showdown with Michael Johnson.

Slug Sports-Track-Birmingham Indoors. Has moved.

CRICKET:

AUCKLAND, New Zealand Australia and New Zealand hope to play their first match of a six-game limited-overs cricket series on Saturday after rain washed out the Wellington date on Thursday.

Slug Sport-Cricket-New Zealand-Australia. Expected by 1000 GMT.

BULAWAYO, Zimbabwe All-rounder Craig White's career best performance of five for 21 followed by a solid innings of 26 enables England to scrape to an unexpectedly difficult one-wicket victory over Zimbabwe.

Slug Sports-Cricket-Zimbabwe-England. Has moved.

RUGBY UNION:

AP News Digest

LONDON Olivier Magne vs. Lawrence Dallaglio. One of rugby Union's biggest heavyweight battles will have a significant impact on the destiny of the first Six Nations title when France meets England on Saturday.

Slug Sports-RugbyU-Six Nations. Has moved.

By Robert Millward.

ALSO:

BRISBANE, Australia Sports-RugbyU-World Sevens. Expected by 1100 GMT.

TENNIS:

HANOVER, Germany Serena Williams reaches the semifinals of the Faber Grand Prix without dropping a set in two matches. Her next opponent, Amelie Mauresmo, only had to play one match to reach the last four.

Slug Sports-Tennis-Hanover Indoor. Has moved

ALSO:

MEMPHIS, Tennessee Sports-Tennis-Kroger St. Jude. Expected by 0500 GMT.

ROTTERDAM, Netherlands Sports-Tennis-Rotterdam. Lead has moved.

AUTO RACING:

DAYTONA BEACH, Florida A terrifying crash at the first-ever truck race at Daytona sent flames and debris into the grandstand, injuring nine fans and two drivers.

Slug Sports-Auto Racing-US-Fiery Crash. Has moved.

By Dick Brinster.

GOLF:

MELBOURNE, Australia Australia's Karrie Webb takes a two-stroke lead into Saturday's third round of the Australian Women's Open golf tournament at Yarra Yarra.

Slug Sports-Golf-Australian Women's Open. Expected by 1100 GMT.

Also:

SYDNEY, Australia Sports-Golf-Canon Challenge. Expected by 1100 GMT.

LOS ANGELES Sports-Golf-Nissan Open. By Ken Peters. Expected by 0600 GMT.

PENINA, Portugal Sports-Golf-Portuguese Open. By Alan Page. Has moved.

SKIING:

ARE, Sweden Norway's Ingeborg Helen Marken tops the final training run for a women's World Cup sprint downhill, edging Melanie Turgeon of Canada by 15 hundredths of a second.

Slug Sports-Skiing-Women's Downhill. Has moved. Saturday's sprint downhill runs scheduled for 0830 GMT, 1130 GMT.

ALSO:

AP News Digest

ADELBODEN, Switzerland Sports-Skiing-Men-Giant Slalom. By Erica Bulman. Saturday's runs scheduled for 0915 GMT, 1215 GMT.

ALSO:

UNDATED Sports-Basketball-NBA Roundup. Expected by 0700 GMT.

NEW YORK Sports-Ice Hockey-NHL Roundup. Expected by 0700 GMT.

YOUR QUERIES: Sports stories carry the "s" category code or, in some cases, the "i" category code. Questions and story requests are welcome. Contact your local AP bureau or the AP International Desk in New York, telephone (1) 212-621-1857, fax (1) 212-621-5449.

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End of Document

AP News Digest

Associated Press International

January 25, 2000; Tuesday

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Section: International news

Length: 5337 words

Body

WORLD AT 1800 GMT:

NEW:

US-PAKISTAN. Kashmir group may have staged hijacking.

IVORY COAST-ELECTIONS. Military junta announces October elections.

BOSNIA-ARREST. Peacekeepers arrest suspected war criminal.

MAIN SPOT NEWS:

GUDERMES, Russia Chechen rebels hit back hard Tuesday as Russian forces struggle to capture Grozny's town square and thousands of refugees flee the capital city. RUSSIA-CHECHNYA. Lead has moved. By Yuri Bagrov. AP Photos MOSB101-106; NAZ101-105; VLA101-102.

ALSO MOVED:

UN-CHECHNYA-REFUGEES. U.N. says refugees flow out of Chechnya.

RUSSIA-CHECHNYA-HUMAN RIGHTS. Helsinki group accuses Moscow of rights violations.

RUSSIA-POLITICS. Opposition party agrees on return to Duma.

RATCHABURI, Thailand Two rebels with a history of hostage-taking are among 10 Myanmar insurgents killed Tuesday during a commando raid to free hundreds of people trapped in a hospital siege. THAILAND-HOSPITAL SIEGE. Lead has moved. By Thaksina Khaikaewap. AP Photos RAT105-107,115,118; TOK201.

ALSO MOVED:

THAILAND-HOSPITAL SIEGE-SURVIVOR. Freed hostage says grenade-juggling captors were polite youths.

WASHINGTON The hijackers of an Indian Airlines plane last month may have been linked to a terrorist group that operates in Kashmir, the U.S. State Department says Tuesday. US-PAKISTAN. Has moved. By Barry Schweid.

WITH:

AP News Digest

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan Responding to U.S. requests, Afghanistan's hard-line Taliban militia says it won't extradite suspected terrorist Osama bin Laden and neighboring Pakistan declines to crack down on militant groups. PAKISTAN-US-TERRORISM. Expected by 2100 GMT. By Kathy Gannon.

WISEGRAD, Bosnia-Herzegovina NATO peacekeepers on Tuesday arrest a suspected war criminal charged with "extermination" of Muslim men, women and children and other atrocities. BOSNIA-ARREST. Moved to some points, upcoming to others. By Irena Gajic.

VIENNA, Austria Its looking more likely on Tuesday that Joerg Haider's far right-wing Freedom Party will enter the Austrian government. AUSTRIA-GOVERNMENT. Lead has moved. By Robert H. Reid. AP Photo NY109.

BERLIN A German prosecutor says the statute of limitations may have run out for pursuing a probe into allegations that secret French money flowed to Helmut Kohl's party while he was chancellor. GERMANY-KOHL PROBE. Has moved. By Tony Czuczka. AP Photos BER101,103.

LONDON Human rights groups on Tuesday join Belgium in launching a court challenge to prevent Britain from releasing former Chilean dictator Gen. Augusto Pinochet. BRITAIN-PINOCHET. Expected by 1900 GMT. By Mara D. Bellaby. AP Photos BRU106; LON103; MAD101.

JERUSALEM In a gesture apparently meant to woo the Syrians back to the negotiating table, Prime Minister Ehud Barak praises Syrian President Hafez Assad on Tuesday. ISRAEL-SYRIA. Lead has moved. By Dina Kraft.

SABANG, Indonesia Indonesia's president leads a peace mission to strife-torn Aceh province Tuesday just hours after nine people are killed in gunbattles between security forces and rebels. INDONESIA-VIOLENCE. Lead has moved. By Slobodan Lekic. AP Photos JAK101-103,106-107.

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia Supporters of jailed former Deputy Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim protest Tuesday as the politician's sex trial resumes after a two-month recess. MALAYSIA-ANWAR TRIAL. AP Photos KL101-111. By Jocelyn Gecker. KAL101,104,107,111.

ZAGREB, Croatia Voters dump the nominee of late President Franjo Tudjman's party and overwhelmingly support two presidential candidates who will face each other in a run-off. CROATIA-ELECTIONS. Lead has moved. By Danica Kirka. XZAG101-103.

UNITED NATIONS The Security Council begins drafting a resolution Tuesday to send the initial installment of a U.N. peacekeeping force into the Congo after African heads of state complained that the United Nations wasn't shoring up a faltering cease-fire agreement. UN-CONGO. Lead has moved. By Nicole Winfield.

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast Ivory Coast's coup leaders announce October elections to restore the country to civilian rule. IVORY COAST-ELECTIONS. Has moved.

DES MOINES, Iowa Last-place Republican finisher Orrin Hatch quits as Iowa caucus winners Democrat Al Gore and Republican George W. Bush turn their attention Tuesday to New Hampshire. US-PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN. Lead has moved. By Mike Glover. AP Photos JDA102; XJSC103; XED112,115.

LONDON The Church of England takes a step Tuesday toward approving remarriages for divorcees an issue that may be of keen interest to Britain's next king. BRITAIN-CHURCH DIVORCE. Lead has moved. By Robert Barr.

WASHINGTON As support grows for legislation to grant U.S. citizenship to Elian Gonzalez, the 6-year-old boy's grandmothers meet with lawmakers Tuesday to press for his return to Cuba. US-CUBAN BOY. Has moved. By Tom Raum. AP Photos WX103-104.

WITH:

HAVANA Cuba on Tuesday accuses the Miami relatives of Elian Gonzalez of derailing a meeting between the 6-year-old and his grandmothers. CUBAN BOY-PROTEST. By Anita Snow. AP Photo MH102.

AP News Digest

LOOKING AHEAD: On Thursday, U.S. President Bill Clinton holds his annual State of the Union address.

FEATURES:

FEA-JAPAN-MAD ABOUT MATSU-KIYO. AP Photos NY331-332.

FEA-ROMANIA-STARTING GATE. By Robert H. Reid.

FEA-US-COWBOY TECHNOLOGY. AP Photo DX801.

YOUR QUERIES: World Service editors in charge are Scott Neuman and Ian Mader. Suggestions and story requests to The Associated Press World Service are welcome. Contact your local AP bureau or the AP International Desk in New York, telephone (1) 212-621-1650, fax (1) 212-621-5449.

WORLD AT 0000 GMT:

NEW:

CROATIA-FRESH COURSE. Former president's party suffers stinging defeat

WAR CRIMES-BOSNIA. Tadic case set to wind up Wednesday.

MAIN SPOT NEWS:

GUDERMES, Russia Chechen fighters fiercely resist Russian forces' attempts to take a key square in the rebel capital Grozny, attacking from the front and the rear. RUSSIA-CHECHNYA. Lead expected by 1200 GMT. By Yuri Bagrov. AP Photos MOSB101-106; NAZ101-105; VLA101-102.

SABANG, Indonesia Indonesia's president accuses disgruntled army generals and radical Muslims of provoking violence that threatens his fledgling democratic government. INDONESIA-VIOLENCE. Lead has moved. By Slobodan Lekic. JAK101-103,106-107; AP Graphic Indonesia Sabang.

RATCHABURI, Thailand Two student rebels with a history of hostage-taking were among 10 Myanmar insurgents killed during an operation by Thai security forces to free hundreds of people trapped in a hospital siege, officials say. THAILAND-HOSPITAL SIEGE. Lead has moved. By Thaksina Khaikaewap. AP Photos RAT105-107,115,118; TOK201.

THE HAGUE, Netherlands The longest running case at the Yugoslav tribunal is set to end Wednesday with an appeals ruling on a Bosnian Serb convicted of torture and murder. WAR CRIMES-BOSNIA. Expected by 0200 GMT. By Jerome Socolovsky.

WITH:

WAR CRIMES-BOSNIA-CHRONOLOGY

BOSNIA-ARREST. NATO peacekeepers arrest a suspected war criminal under a U.N. tribunal indictment charging him with "extermination" of Muslim men, women and children.

ZAGREB, Croatia Two elections have set this Balkan nation on a new course. CROATIA-FRESH COURSE. Expected by 0200 GMT. By Snjezana Vukic. AP Photo ZAG102,104, XZAG103.

WASHINGTON The hijackers of an Indian Airlines plane last month may have been linked to a terrorist group that operates in Kashmir, the U.S. State Department says. US-PAKISTAN. Has moved. By Barry Schweid.

WITH:

AP News Digest

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan Afghanistan's ruling Taliban and Pakistan's military leaders have rebuffed U.S. appeals to crack down on terrorism, and one militant group is warning of a violent backlash if they try. PAKISTAN-US-TERRORISM. Has moved. By Kathy Gannon. AP Photos ISL101-102.

JERUSALEM With only three weeks to go before a crucial deadline in the peace talks, Israel and the Palestinians accuse one another of not taking the process seriously. ISRAEL-PALESTINIANS. Recap expected by 0200 GMT. By Laurie Copans.

WITH:

ISRAEL-SYRIA. The freeze in Israel-Syria talks extends to low-level technicians when Israel follows Syria in scuttling consultations with U.S. officials. Moved.

VIENNA, Austria Austria's Social Democratic chancellor is giving up efforts to form a minority coalition, raising chances that controversial Joerg Haider's far-right party will join the next government. AUSTRIA-GOVERNMENT. Recap expected by 0300 GMT. By Roland Prinz. VIE133,140.

STOCKHOLM, Sweden The Swedish government turns the spotlight on the Holocaust on Wednesday as Jewish leaders and heads of state gather to remember and discuss ways to keep genocide from happening again. SWEDEN-HOLOCAUST CONFERENCE. Expected by 0400 GMT; opening ceremony at 1330 GMT.

LONDON Human rights groups on Tuesday join Belgium in launching a court challenge to prevent Britain from releasing former Chilean dictator Gen. Augusto Pinochet. BRITAIN-PINOCHET. Lead has moved. By Mara D. Bellaby. AP Photos BRU106; LON103; MAD101.

BELFAST, Northern Ireland Ireland's security chief warns that *Irish Republican Army* dissidents are actively planning to wreck the peace in Northern Ireland and likely will evade police surveillance sooner or later. NORTHERN IRELAND. Lead has moved. By Shawn Pogatchnik.

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia Supporters of jailed former Deputy Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim protest as the politician's sex trial resumes after a two-month recess. MALAYSIA-ANWAR TRIAL. Lead has moved. By Jocelyn Gecker. KL104-111.

UNITED NATIONS Responding to African leaders' requests, the U.N. Security Council lays groundwork for an eventual U.N. peacekeeping force to shore up Congo's faltering cease-fire. UN-CONGO. Lead has moved. By Glenn McKenzie. AP Photos NYR108-109.

DES MOINES, Iowa Last-place Republican finisher Orrin Hatch quits as Iowa caucus winners Democrat Al Gore and Republican George W. Bush turn their attention to New Hampshire. US-PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN. Lead has moved. By Mike Glover. AP Photos JDA102; XJSC103; XED112,115.

WASHINGTON As support grows for legislation to grant U.S. citizenship to Elian Gonzalez, the 6-year-old boy's grandmothers meet with lawmakers to press for his return to Cuba. US-CUBAN BOY. Has moved. By Tom Raum. AP Photos WX103-104, FLTG101-103.

LOOKING AHEAD: On Thursday, U.S. President Bill Clinton holds his annual State of the Union address.

FEATURES:

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti Haiti's upcoming elections could fall apart in an orgy of violence. The key to preventing that is a small fledgling police force in a land once controlled by the now-disbanded army and its paramilitary auxiliaries and terrorist militias. FEA-HAITI-POLICE AND POLITICS. Expected by 0300 GMT. By Michael Norton. AP Photo NY303

VRANJE, Yugoslavia More than six months after the Kosovo war, some 180 Serb refugees live in a collective shelter hoping for their return home. Still, Christmas is a time for celebration. So, they shared a modest Christmas

AP News Digest

Eve dinner on Jan. 6 and thought of all they lost. FEA-KOSOVO-THINKING OF HOME. Expected by 0300 GMT. AP Photos NY334-341.

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WORLD AT 0700 GMT:

NEW:

CUBA-OTHER CHILD. Ill-fated trip from Cuba separated another child, parent.

MALAYSIA-ANWAR TRIAL. Police arrest activists as Anwar's trial resumes.

CANADA-GENE TALKS. Negotiators struggle over basic issues in early talks.

MAIN SPOT NEWS:

RATCHABURI, Thailand Ending a 22-hour standoff, Thai security forces storm a hospital Tuesday and kill 10 heavily armed insurgents from a Myanmar rebel group who had trapped hundreds of patients, visitors and staff there as hostages. THAILAND-HOSPITAL SIEGE. Lead has moved. By Matthew Pennington. AP Photos BK101-102, RAT101-111. AP Graphic THAILAND HOSTAGES.

DES MOINES, Iowa Democrat Al Gore and Republican George W. Bush wins the Iowa caucuses, validating their front-runner status in the opening contest of the 2000 presidential election season. US-PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN. Lead has moved. By Ron Fournier. AP Photos planned.

WITH:

US-IOWA-SCENE. It was the troubled farm economy that dominated the talk in rural Creston, Iowa. Moved.

US-NEXT CAMPAIGN. In New Hampshire, the races between the top Republican and Democratic presidential candidates are too close to call. Moved.

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia Riot police on Tuesday break up protests by hundreds of activists gathered near the capital's main courthouse and arrest several people as the sex trial of jailed politician Anwar Ibrahim resumes after a two-month recess. MALAYSIA-ANWAR TRIAL. AP Photos KL101-102. By Jocelyn Gecker.

ZAGREB, Croatia Seizing control of Croatia's destiny, voters dump the nominee of the late president Franjo Tudjman's party and overwhelmingly support two presidential candidates who promised to lead the country in a new direction. CROATIA-ELECTIONS. Lead has moved. By Danica Kirka. ZAG101-105, XZAG101-105.

WITH:

CROATIA-MESIC. Stipe Mesic is optimistic, friendly, offers quick solutions to everyday problems and speaks in a way people understand. And Croats respond to his style in the country's presidential election. Moved.

CROATIA-BUDISA. Budisa's serious manner may have worked against him in first round. Moved.

JERUSALEM The usher said "All rise," and Ezer Weizman entered the plenum of the parliament he once intimately knew to an abrupt, awkward silence. It was a sign of how far the president has fallen from grace. ISRAEL-WEIZMAN'S FALL. Moved. By Dina Kraft. JRL101,104.

JERUSALEM With three weeks to go and not even a draft of an agreement in sight, Palestinian and Israeli negotiators launch a series of marathon negotiating sessions Monday to meet a Feb. 13 deadline on the outline of a final status agreement. ISRAEL-PALESTINIANS. Lead has moved. By Samar Assad. JRL105-106.

AP News Digest

MIAMI Elian Gonzalez's grandmothers fly to Miami in hopes of meeting with their 6-year-old grandson before they return to Cuba, but the women leave town without seeing the boy because of a dispute over the site of the get-together. US-CUBAN BOY. Lead has moved. By Alex Veiga. AP Photos NYR108, XLF101-102, WX109-110, MH106-107.

CARDENAS, Cuba As the world watches an international custody battle over Cuban shipwreck survivor Elian Gonzalez, another child who started out on the same boat is at the center of a debate across the Florida Straits. CUBA-OTHER CHILD. Moved. By John Rice. AP Photos NY107-108.

GROZNY, Russia Russian troops and Chechen rebels fight house-to-house in the frigid ruins of parts of the Chechen capital on and Russian shells scream into rebel-held neighborhoods, while Russian aircraft slam rebel regions south of the capital. RUSSIA-CHECHNYA. Lead expected by 1200 GMT. By Yuri Bagrov. MOSB101-105, NAZ101-105.

ALSO MOVED:

US-SPY CLAIMS. Ex-spy testifies in hearing on Russian espionage, purported weapon stashes.

UNITED NATIONS African leaders involved in Congo's war pledge to uphold a faltering cease-fire and work for peace but demand the United Nations do its part by sending a peacekeeping force. UN-Congo. Recap has moved. Lead expected after Kabila press conference, scheduled to begin at 1230 GMT. By Nicole Winfield. NYR105,107,110.

QUITO, Ecuador Ecuador's long-respected military is divided between young radical officers and the top brass. And that division could be a roadblock to re-establishing stable civilian rule in the wake of last week's coup. ECUADOR-DIVIDED MILITARY. Moved. By Monte Hayes. QTO101-110,113-115.

VIENNA, Austria Prospects for Joerg Haider and his Freedom Party to enter the Austrian government have increased with a decision by the far-rightwing group to begin coalition talks with one of the partners in the previous administration. AUSTRIA-GOVERNMENT. Recap has moved. By Robert H. Reid.

MONTREAL Negotiators from 138 countries are wrestling over the Biosafety Protocol, a proposed international agreement that would regulate trade in genetically modified products. CANADA-GENE TALKS. By Matt Crenson.

LOOKING AHEAD: On Tuesday, an International Monetary Fund delegation arrives in Moscow for two-week mission; Congo meetings continue at United Nations. On Thursday, U.S. President Bill Clinton holds his annual State of the Union address.

FEATURES:

TOKYO The Matsumoto Kiyoshi, a discount drugstore with outlets around the Tokyo area that has emerged as fad-loving Japan's latest darling, reflects the growth of discount retail in general in the country apparent in the recent rise of 100-yen (dlrs 1) shops, used-clothing chains and outlet stores. FEA-JAPAN-MAD ABOUT MATSU-KIYO. By Yuri Kageyama. AP Photo NY331-332.

BUCHAREST, Romania With a new, reform-minded government and the prospect of European Union membership, some believe Romania has finally reached the starting gate on the road to a market economy. FEA-ROMANIA-STARTING GATE. By Robert H. Reid.

ALSO MOVED:

FEA-US-COWBOY TECHNOLOGY. AP Photo DX801

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AP News Digest

WORLD AT 1100 GMT:

NEW:

BRITAIN-PINOCHET. Pinochet opponents to challenge health report.

GERMANY-KOHL PROBE. Too late to probe French funds: prosecutor.

BRITAIN-CHURCH DIVORCE. Divorcees may be allowed to remarry in church.

THAILAND-HOSPITAL SIEGE-SURVIVOR. Captors were polite.

ISRAEL-SYRIA. Seeking to revive talks, Barak reaches out to Assad.

INDONESIA-VIOLENCE. Seven dead in Aceh as president holds peace talks.

MAIN SPOT NEWS:

RATCHABURI, Thailand Thai authorities on Tuesday conclude their successful rescue of hundreds of hostages from a provincial hospital with a macabre display of the bodies of the 10 Myanmar insurgents who had staged the takeover. THAILAND-HOSPITAL SIEGE. By Matthew Pennington. AP Photos RAT101-109. AP Graphic THAILAND HOSTAGES.

ALSO MOVED: THAILAND-HOSPITAL SIEGE-SURVIVOR. Freed hostage: Grenade-juggling captors were polite youths. By Thaksina Khaikaew.

DES MOINES, Iowa Democrat Al Gore and Republican George W. Bush post victories in the first voting of the 2000 presidential campaign and quickly turn their attention to the next contest in New Hampshire exactly one week away. US-PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN. Lead has moved. By Mike Glover. With AP Photos.

LONDON Human rights groups and the Belgian government file suit Tuesday challenging a report by British doctors that the former Chilean dictator is unfit to stand trial in Spain. BRITAIN-PINOCHET. Expected by 1200 GMT. By Mara D. Bellaby.

JERUSALEM In a gesture apparently meant to woo the Syrians back to the negotiating table, Prime Minister Ehud Barak praises Syrian President Hafez Assad on Tuesday as a strong and serious leader. ISRAEL-SYRIA. Moved. By Dina Kraft.

BERLIN Allegations that secret French money flowed to Helmut Kohl's party while he was chancellor in the early 1990s go back too many years for German authorities to launch a criminal probe, a prosecutor says. GERMANY-KOHL PROBE. Expected by . By Tony Czuczka. AP Photos BER101-103.

SABANG, Indonesia Indonesia's president leads a peace mission to strife-torn Aceh province Tuesday just hours after seven people are killed in gun battles between security forces and rebels. INDONESIA-VIOLENCE. Lead has moved. By Slobodan Lekic.

ZAGREB, Croatia Seizing control of Croatia's destiny, voters dump the nominee of the late president Franjo Tudjman's party and overwhelmingly support two presidential candidates who promised to lead the country in a new direction. CROATIA-ELECTIONS. Lead has moved. By Danica Kirka.

WITH:

CROATIA-MESIC. Politician seen as Tudjman's antipode may succeed him.

CROATIA-BUDISA. Budisa's serious manner may have worked against him.

AP News Digest

GUDERMES, Russia Chechen rebels in Grozny fight ferociously Tuesday to prevent Russian forces from capturing a key square as federal commanders admit their drive to take the city center still faces strong resistance. RUSSIA-CHECHNYA. Lead has moved. By Yuri Bagrov. AP Photos MOSB101-105.

ALSO MOVED: RUSSIA-CIS. Summit of former Soviet republics set to boost Putin's status.

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia Defying riot police and arrests, supporters of Anwar Ibrahim protest near the Malaysian capital's main courthouse Tuesday as the jailed politician's sex trial resumes after a two-month recess. MALAYSIA-ANWAR TRIAL. AP Photos KL101-111. By Jocelyn Gecker.

UNITED NATIONS African leaders involved in Congo's war pledge to uphold a faltering cease-fire and work for peace but demand the United Nations do its part by sending a peacekeeping force. UN-Congo. Recap has moved. Lead expected after Kabila press conference, scheduled to begin at 1230 GMT. By Nicole Winfield. NYR105,107,110.

LONDON A Church of England report Tuesday recommends that some divorcees be allowed to remarry in church a break with the church's official teaching that would, however, acknowledge a growing practice. BRITAIN-CHURCH DIVORCE. Has moved. Will be led after 1500 GMT news conference.

MIAMI An election-year Congress enters the festering debate over Elian Gonzalez's future, as legislation to declare the 6-year-old Cuban refugee a U.S. citizen draws support in both chambers. US-CUBAN BOY. Lead has moved. By Tom Raum. AP Photos WX103-104.

ALSO MOVED: CUBA-OTHER CHILD. Ill-fated trip from Cuba separated another child from parent. AP Photos NY107-108.

VIENNA, Austria The center-right Austrian People's Party are planning talks with the far-right Freedom Party of populist Joerg Haider toward forming a new government. AUSTRIA-GOVERNMENT. Developing; expected by 1400 GMT.

MONTREAL Negotiators from 138 countries are wrestling over the Biosafety Protocol, a proposed international agreement that would regulate trade in genetically modified products. CANADA-GENE TALKS. By Matt Crenson.

LOOKING AHEAD: On Tuesday, an International Monetary Fund delegation arrives in Moscow for two-week mission; Congo meetings continue at United Nations. On Thursday, U.S. President Bill Clinton holds his annual State of the Union address.

FEATURES:

FEA-JAPAN-MAD ABOUT MATSU-KIYO. AP Photo NY331-332.

FEA-ROMANIA-STARTING GATE. By Robert H. Reid.

FEA-US-COWBOY TECHNOLOGY. AP Photo DX801

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Indonesia's president led a peace mission to strife-torn Aceh province Tuesday just hours after nine people were killed in gun battles between security forces and rebels. Six Indonesian marines and three guerrillas died Monday night in two separate firefights in the region, 1,750 kilometers (1,100 miles) northwest of Jakarta, local military commander Lt. Col. Suyatno said. Six marines were wounded. Many Indonesians use only one name. (INDONESIA-VIOLENCE)

ZAGREB, Croatia (AP)

AP News Digest

Seizing control of Croatia's destiny, voters dumped the nominee of late President Franjo Tudjman's party and overwhelmingly supported two presidential candidates who promised to lead the country in a new direction. Stipe Mesic, a 65-year-old former member of Yugoslavia's collective presidency, and Drazen Budisa, co-leader of a left-leaning coalition that won this month's parliamentary election, led the nine-candidate field in Monday's balloting. They will face each other in a runoff Feb. 7. (CROATIA-ELECTION)

BEIJING (AP)

A librarian from a U.S. college harmed China's national security by taking large batches of secret documents out of the country and has confessed, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Tuesday. Song Yongyi, who worked at Dickinson College in Pennsylvania and had planned to become an American citizen in September, was on a summer trip to China to collect source material on the 1966-76 Cultural Revolution. Police detained him and his wife in August, but allowed his wife to return to the United States in November. (CHINA-DETAINED RESEARCHER)

JERUSALEM (AP)

In a gesture apparently meant to woo the Syrians back to the negotiating table, Prime Minister Ehud Barak praised Syrian President Hafez Assad on Tuesday as a strong and serious leader. The statement released by Barak's office was the first overture by the prime minister to Assad himself since peace talks between the sides broke down last week. "During a recent closed meeting with his security advisers, the prime minister repeated his view that President Assad is a strong leader, who is serious and trustworthy and honors his word," the statement said. (ISRAEL-SYRIA)

GUDERMES, Russia (AP)

Chechen rebels in Grozny fought ferociously Tuesday to prevent Russian forces from capturing a key square as federal commanders admitted their drive to take the city center still faced strong resistance. Both Russian and Chechen commanders reported intensified fighting where the Russian advance on the city center has been stalled for days. The square is near a key Russian-held bridge across the Sunzha River that bisects Grozny. Aslanbek Ismailov, the rebel commander in Grozny, said that in some districts of the Chechen capital his fighters had switched from trying to hold on to fixed positions to hit-and-run attacks, striking Russian troops from the rear. (RUSSIA-CHECHNYA)

WORLD SPORTS AT 1345 GMT

SOCCER:

ACCRA, Ghana Much-fancied Morocco opens its African Nations Cup campaign against outsider Congo in Group D, while Senegal takes on Burkina Faso in what should be an evenly-balanced match in Group C.

Slug Sports-Soccer-African Cup. Expected by 2100 GMT.

By Andreas Evagora.

CAIRO, Egypt Egypt's French coach Gerard Gili, chided for his tactics as well as his dlr\$ 25,000 monthly salary, appears to have won a reprieve from the scourge of Egyptian fans thanks to Sunday's 2-0 win over Zambia that revived the Pharaohs' hopes of retaining their African title.

Slug Sports-Soccer-Gili-Honeymoon. Expected by 1800 GMT.

By Hamza Hendawi.

GLASGOW, Scotland Former England striker Ian Wright is in trouble again. The Celtic forward, whose long career with Arsenal was marred by frequent disciplinary problems, was reported to the Scottish Football Association on Tuesday for violent conduct towards a match official.

AP News Digest

Sports-Soccer-Wright-Misconduct. Has moved.

CAGLIARI, Sardinia AS Roma, in the thick of the Serie A title race, looks to overturn a 1-0 deficit Tuesday night against struggling Cagliari in an Italian Cup quarterfinal second-leg match.

Slug Sports-Soccer-Italian Cup. Expected by 2200 GMT.

ALSO:

BIRMINGHAM, England Sports-Soccer-British Roundup. Expected by 2200 GMT.

TENNIS:

MELBOURNE, Australia Two years ago, Olympic champions Andre Agassi and Jennifer Capriati measured progress in terms of climbing back into the top 100. Going into the Australian Open semifinals, Agassi is a confident No. 1, and Capriati giggling in delight over her resurgence is a championship contender again.

Sports-Tennis-Australian Open. Has moved.

By Phil Brown.

WITH:

MELBOURNE, Australia Sports-Tennis-Australian Open-Davenport-Capriati. By John Pye. Has moved.

MELBOURNE, Australia Sports-Tennis-Australian Open-Arazi. By Christopher Torchia. Has moved.

MELBOURNE, Australia Sports-Tennis-Australian Open-Sugiyama. Has moved.

MELBOURNE, Australia Sports-Tennis-Australian Open-Notebook.

AUTO RACING:

LONDON Former Formula One champion Jackie Stewart resigns Tuesday as chairman and chief executive officer of the new Jaguar team.

Slug Sports-Auto Racing-Stewart-Jaguar. Has moved.

BOXING:

LONDON Four days before his fight against Julius Francis in Birmingham, Mike Tyson holds an open training session and meets with reporters.

Slug Sports-Boxing-Tyson-England. Expected by 1800 GMT.

By Stephen Wade

CRICKET:

ADELAIDE, Australia India wins its first match in the tri-series limited-overs cricket tournament Tuesday, beating Pakistan by 48 runs to keep alive its slim hopes of making the finals against Australia.

Sports-Cricket-India-Pakistan. Has moved.

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka India defeats Australia by 170 runs Tuesday to set up a clash with Sri Lanka for the title at Under-19 Cricket World Cup.

Slug Sports-Cricket-Under-19 World Cup. Has moved.

AP News Digest

ALSO:

AUCKLAND, New Zealand Sports-Sailing-America's Cup. By Howard Ulman. Has moved.

TOKYO Sports-Olympics-Japan Bid. Has moved.

BANGKOK, Thailand Sports-Olympics-Thailand Bid. Has moved.

HAKUBA, Japan Sports-Ski Jumping-World Cup. Has moved.

UNDATED Sports-Basketball-NBA Roundup. Has moved.

ATLANTA Sports-Ice Hockey-NHL Roundup. Has moved.

YOUR QUERIES: Sports stories carry the "s" category code or, in some cases, the "i" category code. Questions and story requests are welcome. Contact your local AP bureau or the AP International Desk in New York, telephone (1) 212-621-1857, fax (1) 212-621-5449.

WORLD SPORTS AT 0000 GMT

TENNIS:

MELBOURNE, Australia Three-time women's defending champion Martina Hingis plays Spain's Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario and men's defending champion Yevgeny Kafelnikov meets Morocco's Younes El Aynaoui in quarterfinals Wednesday at the Australian Open.

Slug Sports-Tennis-Australian Open. Play starts at 0001 GMT; Hingis, Kafelnikov matches expected to start after 0200 GMT.

By Steve Wilstein

NEW YORK Martina Navratilova, whose power game reshaped women's tennis and perhaps all of women's sports, enters the International Tennis Hall of Fame.

Slug Sports-Tennis-Hall of Fame. Has moved.

By Bob Greene.

SOCCER:

ACCRA, Ghana Late substitute Salaheddine Bassir scores an 84th-minute winner to earn much-fancied Morocco a 1-0 win against underdog Congo, while Senegal beats Burkina Faso 3-1 in the African Nations Cup.

Slug Sports-Soccer-African Cup. Has moved.

By Andreas Evagora.

WITH:

CAIRO, Egypt Sports-Soccer-Gili's Honeymoon. By Hamza Hendawi. Has moved.

HAVANA Sports-Soccer-Cuba-Maradona. Has moved.

ROME Fabian O'Neill volleys in the winner with 10 minutes to go as unheralded Cagliari stuns AS Roma 1-0 to advance to the Italian Cup semifinals.

Slug Sports-Soccer-Italian Cup. Has moved.

ALSO:

AP News Digest

LONDON Sports-Soccer-British Roundup. By Robert Millward. Has moved.

CRICKET:

ADELAIDE, Australia India plays Australia on Wednesday in a tri-series limited-overs cricket match at the Adelaide Oval.

Slug Sports-Cricket-Australia-India. Expected by 1400 GMT.

SAILING:

AUCKLAND, New Zealand The America's Cup challenger finals, delayed 24 hours by heavy seas and high winds, begin between AmericaOne and Prada of Italy with the opening race of the best-of-9 series.

Slug Sports-Sailing-America's Cup. Race scheduled to begin at 0015 GMT.

By Howard Ulman.

AUTO RACING:

LONDON Former Formula One driving champion Jackie Stewart resigns as chairman and chief executive officer of the new Jaguar team.

Slug Sports-Auto Racing-Stewart-Jaguar. Has moved.

BOXING:

LONDON Mike Tyson wants to fight on a world tour. But will his travels ever cross with undisputed world champion Lennox Lewis?

Slug Sports-Boxing-Tyson-England. Expected by 0015 GMT.

By Stephen Wade.

SKI JUMPING

HAKUBA, Japan Defending World Cup series champion Martin Schmitt of Germany and Olympic gold medalist Kazuyoshi Funaki of Japan are among 56 ski jumpers competing in a World Cup individual event Wednesday.

Slug Sports-Ski Jumping-World Cup. Expected around 1100 GMT.

By K.P. HONG.

BASKETBALL:

DALLAS Dennis Rodman, winner of seven rebounding titles and five NBA championships, interviews with the Mavericks and might rejoin the NBA with his hometown team.

Slug Spors-Basketball-Mavericks-Rodman. Expected by 0200 GMT.

By Jaime Aron.

ATHLETICS:

NEW YORK In 1995, Allen Johnson used the Millrose Games as a springboard to his first national and world titles. This year, he hopes to use the event as a springboard to a second Olympic gold medal.

Slug Sports-Track-Millrose-Johnson. Has moved.

AP News Digest

By Bert Rosenthal.

ALSO:

UNDATED Sports-Basketball-NBA Roundup. Expected by 0600 GMT.

UNDATED Sports-Ice Hockey-NHL Roundup. Expected by 0600 GMT.

YOUR QUERIES: Sports stories carry the "s" category code or, in some cases, the "i" category code. Questions and story requests are welcome. Contact your local AP bureau or the AP International Desk in New York, telephone (212-621-1857, fax (1) 212-621-5449.

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Court decision in California protects bloggers from libel suits - Correction Appended

The Associated Press

Correction Appended

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SAN FRANCISCO (AP) - A federal appeals court has extended the First Amendment protections to do-it-yourself online publishers.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, the nation's largest appeals court, said that online publishers can post material generated by others without liability for its content - unlike traditional news media, which are held responsible for such information.

"It clarifies the existing law," said Eric Brown, who represented the defendant. "It expands it in the sense that no court had really addressed bloggers, list serve operators and those people yet, certainly not on the level of the 9th Circuit Court."

Blogs, short for Weblogs, are online diaries updated frequently by writers who use the medium to comment on current events and everyday life.

Online publishers and free speech advocates lauded the court's decision.

"The decision is a real victory for free speech," said Jeralyn Merritt, a lawyer and blogger who manages talkleft.com, a Web site about crime-related news and politics. "Now we can publish information we receive from someone else without fear of getting sued."

Merritt said it would be impossible to monitor the nearly 200 messages posted on her site every day.

"I can't be responsible for the content of those comments," she said.

The decision recently was the most discussed topic according to Daypop.com, a current events search engine that crawls the Web and identifies the topics that are generating the most interest in the blogging world.

The recent decision was based on the 1996 Communications Decency Act, Brown said.

Other cases have said commercial service providers on the Internet are not responsible for information posted by a third party. And this decision says noncommercial Web site hosts are liable only when they post information that a reasonable person would have known wasn't meant to be published.

Court decision in California protects bloggers from libel suits

This case involved a North Carolina handyman, Robert Smith, who said he'd overheard a lawyer, Ellen Batzel, say she was the descendent of a top Nazi politician. Smith said Batzel also had what looked like old European paintings in her house.

Smith e-mailed Ton Cremers, who runs the Museum Security Network, sharing his suspicion that the paintings in Batzel's house were looted Nazi goods. Cremers' Web site tries to find stolen artwork by sending information to museums and law enforcement personnel.

Cremers posted Smith's e-mail to his listserve - and Batzel saw it.

She denied the claims, sued Smith, Cremers, and the Museum Security Network for defamation, and won.

Cremers appealed, and the federal appeals court found that "a service provider or user is immune from liability when a third person or entity that created or developed the information in question furnished it to the provider or user under circumstances in which a reasonable person in the position of the service provider would conclude that the information was provided for publication on the Internet."

It was significant that even though Cremers made minor edits to Smith's message, he was still entitled to the immunity, said Lee Tien, senior staff attorney at the Electronic Frontier Foundation, a nonprofit concerned with the protection of digital rights.

"It was a reaffirmation of this trend in other cases," said Tien. "You don't have to be a passive conduit to have this protection."

The decision is a relief for bloggers and other online publishers.

"We write for the enjoyment of it," said Merritt. "If we could get sued, I'm not sure it would be worth it."

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) - A federal judge has dismissed two defendants from a \$ 6.4 billion defamation lawsuit over a CBS "60 Minutes" report about Jefferson County's reputation for large jury awards.

The two - florist Beau Strittman and Wyatt Emmerich, who owns Emmerich Newspapers Inc. - were among defendants in the lawsuit by nine former Jefferson County jurors over the "60 Minutes" segment "Jackpot Justice."

In his order June 30, U.S. District Judge David Bramlette said he dismissed the two because their comments were not clearly directed toward the plaintiffs. Bramlette also refused the plaintiffs' request to send the case back to state court, where it was originally filed.

Strittman - who won a nonjury settlement in a lawsuit over the obesity drug Redux - had said juries "awarded these people this money because they felt as if they were going to get a cut off of it."

Strittman said he was joking and thought he was off camera when he made the comment.

Emmerich described Jefferson County jurors as disenfranchised residents who want to stick it to Yankee companies.

"The African Americans feel like it's payback for disenfranchisement. And the rednecks, shall we say, it's like, 'Hey, you know, get back at' - revenge for the Civil War. And it's very easy to weave this racial conflict and this class conflict into a big money pot for the attorneys."

Emmerich said his remarks were aimed at the jury system in general, not any specific jury.

The plaintiffs served on juries that awarded \$ 150 million in separate asbestos and diet drug cases. They are seeking \$ 597 million in actual damages and \$ 5.9 billion in punitive damages.

The lawsuit continues against Media General Operations, which owns CBS-affiliate WJTV, and "60 Minutes" producers Don Hewitt, Deirdre Naphin and Jennifer Breheny and reporter Morley Safer.

Court decision in California protects bloggers from libel suits

Marvin Muhammad, spokesman for the law firm that filed the lawsuit, said the judge's decision will be appealed.

Florida high court won't consider appeal in Earnhardt case

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) - Florida's highest court refused July 1 to hear a challenge to a law restricting access to autopsy photos - a measure that was passed after the death of race car driver Dale Earnhardt.

The Independent Florida Alligator, a student-run newspaper that covers the University of Florida, was trying to have the law overturned, but the state Supreme Court declined without explanation to take up the case.

Earnhardt was killed in a crash in 2001 at the Daytona 500.

The Alligator and other papers asked for the autopsy photos as questions arose over how he died and whether better safety equipment might have saved him. They also objected to the way the law restricted access to what had been public records.

Under the 2001 law, those who view or copy autopsy photos without authorization can be fined \$ 5,000. Proponents said the measure protects families from seeing their relative's autopsy photos published or posted on the Internet.

Webber's lawyer wants sports writer to testify in criminal trial

DETROIT (AP) - Chris Webber's attorney asked a federal judge to order a Detroit Free Press columnist to testify at the NBA star's criminal trial.

In a motion filed July 1 with U.S. District Judge Nancy Edmunds, Steve Fishman said Mitch Albom's testimony could discredit prosecutors' claims that Webber received \$ 280,000 from Ed Martin while he played at Michigan. Edmunds scheduled a hearing on the request for July 8.

The Free Press opposes any effort to compel Albom to testify, Executive Editor Carole Leigh Hutton said.

"The Free Press remains committed to keeping its journalists off the witness stand," Hutton said. "We don't share unpublished information with anyone."

Fishman said he wants Albom to testify about what he observed while writing about Webber, not to learn anything about the columnist's sources.

The Sacramento Kings' star attended Michigan in 1992 and 1993. He and his father, Mayce Webber Jr., 56, face trial July 15 on charges of lying to a federal grand jury about the money Chris Webber allegedly received from Martin, who died in February.

Mayce Webber's attorney, Robert Morgan, joined in Fishman's request.

Media groups drop lawsuit to obtain Twins financial records

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) - News media groups have dropped a lawsuit seeking to review financial documents on a computer disk belonging to the Minnesota Twins.

The disk, containing 9,000 pages, had been turned over to the Metropolitan Sports Facilities Commission, which operates the Metrodome, during the commission's lawsuit to keep the Twins in Minneapolis.

After that lawsuit was settled last year, Hennepin County District Judge Harry Crump ordered the disk returned to the Twins, and the media groups appealed. Crump was upheld by the state Court of appeals, and the state Supreme Court refused to hear the case.

Court decision in California protects bloggers from libel suits

In a separate case started last year, four media groups - the Star Tribune, The Associated Press, KARE-11 TV and the Milwaukee Journal - had sued to review the records. The groups notified Crump on July 3 that they were dropping the lawsuit. Crump dismissed it.

The media groups had argued that they were entitled to the documents under state open records laws. "We believe very strongly in the principles, but if the courts aren't cooperating, you have to know when to stop," said Star Tribune Executive Editor Anders Gyllenhaal.

Media lawyers ask Calif. court to intervene in corruption trial

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) - Lawyers for several news organizations petitioned a state appellate court to intervene in an Oakland police misconduct trial involving former policemen known as "The Riders."

On July 1, a judge overseeing the trial denied courtroom access to the media and public while defense attorneys presented a motion for mistrial, which the judge rejected.

Lawyers representing organizations including The Associated Press, Hearst Corp. and ANG Newspapers Inc. asked the California State Court of Appeal to grant immediate access to transcripts of the July 1 hearing.

The attorneys also asked the appellate court to rule that the Alameda County Superior Court's closure of courtroom proceedings was unconstitutional.

The appeal's court agreed July 2 to look into the petition. The parties in the trial were given until July 8 to comment before the state court made its decision.

The three fired officers standing trial are accused of kidnapping and beating young men suspected of dealing drugs, then writing false reports to cover up their actions.

The criminal trial, which began in May 2002, is the longest in Alameda County history. The July 1 mistrial hearing came after deliberations broke off when court officials were handed a note from one of the jurors.

The judge barred prosecutors and defense lawyers from disclosing the note's contents.

Chicago reporters agree to turn in tapes in Irish terrorism case

CHICAGO (AP) - Bowing to a court order, three Chicago newspaper reporters agreed July 3 to hand over tape recordings of interviews with a key witness in a terrorism trial under way in Ireland, attorneys said.

Attorneys for Michael McKevitt want the tapes for possible use at his trial.

McKevitt, 53, faces a possible life sentence if convicted of directing terrorism, a charge stemming from an August 1998 car bombing in Omagh, Northern Ireland, that killed 29 people and wounded more than 300 others.

He is accused of being the leader of the Real IRA, a breakaway faction of the **Irish Republican Army** that claimed responsibility for the bombing.

McKevitt's attorneys hope the tapes can be used to cast doubt on the testimony of David Rupert, a one-time Wheatfield, Ind., trucking agent who spied on the IRA for the FBI and Britain's MI5 intelligence service.

Reporters Abdon M. Pallasch of the Chicago Sun-Times and Flynn McRoberts of the Chicago Tribune arranged with Rupert to interview him and write a book about his life and experiences.

McRoberts later bowed out of the plan and Sun-Times reporter Robert C. Herguth took his place.

Court decision in California protects bloggers from libel suits

The reporters objected to turning tapes of the interviews over to McKevitt's defense with their attorneys citing an Illinois shield law that protects reporters and their sources from court-ordered disclosure.

U.S. District Judge Ronald A. Guzman ordered the reporters to turn over the tapes July 3. Instead, they sought an emergency stay from the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Moving with unusual speed, the appeals court refused the stay within about two hours. The court issued an order in the case and said it would produce a written opinion at an unspecified time.

The reporters said they debated the idea of going to jail for contempt of court if necessary to keep control of the tapes.

In the end, though, they decided to comply with Guzman's order on the advice of their attorneys, Kathleen Roach and Damon Dunn.

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) - Laos may soon free two European journalists and a Hmong-American if their governments petition to have their 15-year sentence commuted in a murder case, the Laotian foreign minister said July 3.

French cameraman Vincent Reynaud, Belgian photojournalist Thierry Falise and their interpreter, the Rev. Naw Karl Mua, were convicted and sentenced June 30 for the killing of a Laotian man in a northern Lao village.

Foreign Minister Somsavath Lengsavath said his deputy minister advised the ambassadors of France, Belgium and the United States during a meeting July 2 to submit a formal petition for the release of the three men.

"So far we do not have an official request. We advised them to submit it as soon as possible, and we will consider their request for the sake of good relations between our countries," he told The Associated Press in a telephone interview from the Laotian capital, Vientiane.

The two Bangkok-based freelance journalists say they were in northern Laos with their Hmong-American interpreter to report on a little-known insurgency by the ethnic Hmong minority against Laos' communist government.

They were apparently caught in a firefight June 3 between the rebels and villagers in which one person was killed. They were arrested the next day along with two Hmong fighters, who also received 15-year sentences.

Laos' secretive government says the dead man was a village security official. But it has not allowed foreign journalists into the country to cover the trial or verify the facts of the case. The three men also were found guilty of illegal possession of firearms.

Somsavath said relations between Laos and the three countries in question are good. "And if their governments ... guarantee that their citizens will not do this again we will consider their request (for release)."

The 15-year sentence has been condemned by human rights including Amnesty International, press freedom groups and the U.S. government.

Press groups say the three are being punished for reporting on Hmong rebels, a highly sensitive subject for the government, which even refuses to acknowledge that a Hmong insurgency exists.

The rebels are the remnants of a CIA-backed army that fought the communists during the Vietnam War before the communists came to power in 1975.

Iran says it's blocking access to opposition, sex sites on Web

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) - Iran is blocking access to Web sites containing pornographic material and opposition-driven dissent against the country's Islamic establishment, an official said July 1.

Court decision in California protects bloggers from libel suits

More than 140 Web sites promoting dissent, dancing and sex have been blocked since the crackdown began last month, said Farhad Sepahram, an official at the Telecommunications Ministry.

Religious hard-liners are increasingly concerned about Iranians' access to information from the outside world, a sign of worry such communications are playing a role in stirring pro-reform sentiment, such as the recent anti-government protests by young people.

Sepahram said most of the blocked Web sites belong to opposition groups. Among them is one run by Reza Pahlavi, son of the late Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, who was toppled by the 1979 Islamic Revolution, and one by Abolhassan Banisadr, Iran's first elected president after 1979 who now opposes the cleric-dominated establishment.

Also blocked are the Voice of America's Farsi-language service and radiofarda.com, a U.S.-financed, Farsi audio program.

The United States cut off diplomatic relations with Iran in 1979 after militant students stormed its embassy in Tehran. Washington has also imposed trade sanctions on Iran, which it accuses of aiding terrorist groups.

Sepahram said his ministry also is blocking some pornographic sites run by Iranians from outside the country, but he conceded it is impossible to close access to all sex-related sites.

He said the list of sites to be blocked came from the Supreme Cultural Revolution Council, an unelected body controlled by hard-line clerics.

The council was set up by the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, leader of the 1979 revolution. Reformist President Mohammad Khatami is the chairman, but most members are appointed by Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Khomeini's successor, and conservatives outnumber reformists on the panel.

Hanif Mazrouei, a writer for a reformist Web site and the son of a leading reformist legislator, predicted the crackdown will fail.

"In the 1980s, the government banned videos. In recent years, it went on to impose restrictions on satellite dishes, but none worked," he said. "Blocking Web sites is more difficult to do. They can't deny a nation impatient for change from information they like to know."

Venezuela accuses human rights group of meddling

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) - Venezuela accused Human Rights Watch of meddling in its domestic affairs after the group voiced concerns regarding press freedoms in the South American country.

In a July 3 letter sent to the New York-based organization, Vice President Jose Vicente Rangel accused the group of "meddling in affairs" of Venezuelan institutions.

Rangel was responding to Jose Vivanco, executive director of Human Rights Watch's Americas Division, who expressed concern regarding attacks against journalists by President Hugo Chavez's backers in a recent letter.

A journalist frequently critical of Chavez recently charged that she was attacked on her way to work. Many reporters, photographers and cameramen claim that they are often harassed by Chavez's supporters.

Vivanco also urged the president and his allies to reject or revise a proposed law that would impose harsh restrictions on television and radio.

Rangel said the group's statements "constituted a total distortion of the truth and an inexcusable solidarity" with media-related and economic groups that allegedly supported a 2002 coup against Chavez.

Court decision in California protects bloggers from libel suits

The president, whose term ends in 2007, was briefly ousted in April 2002 and defied demands he step down during a ruinous two-month general strike that collapsed last February.

NEW YORK (AP) - Columbia University named four winners of the 2003 Maria Moors Cabot Prize for outstanding coverage of the Western Hemisphere and gave a special citation for courage and professionalism to a Cuban magazine.

The winners announced July 1 are Joao Antonio Barros, special reporter for Jornal O Dia in Brazil; Raul Kraiselburd, editor of El Dia in Argentina; Mac Margolis, special correspondent for Newsweek International, and Michael Reid, Americas editor for The Economist. The citation went to La Sociedad de Periodistas Manuel Marquez Sterling.

The awards, in their 65th year, are administered by the Graduate School of Journalism. They are presented to reporters and editors who have, "through their coverage, demonstrated commitment to freedom of the press and inter-American understanding," Columbia said in a statement.

Barros was praised for his work investigating police corruption in Rio de Janeiro over the last decade. Kraiselburd's paper reported on disappearances and other political turmoil despite threats and the killings of his father and son. Margolis has spent 21 years covering Brazil's culture, politics and environment. Reid has covered Latin America for 20 years and guides the group of reporters who cover the region for The Economist.

La Sociedad is a 2-year-old magazine that published two issues before many of its staff were arrested and sentenced to prison in a recent crackdown on dissidents in Cuba.

The awards were founded by Godfrey Lowell Cabot, of Boston, as a memorial to his wife. They will be presented at a ceremony at Columbia on Oct. 9.

Three or four medalists from the United States, Latin America and Canada are selected each year, according to Columbia's Web site. Each prize winner receives a Cabot medal, \$ 5,000 and travel expenses to New York for the presentation ceremony. The winners' news organizations receive bronze plaques.

On the Net:

Cabot Prize: <http://www.jrn.columbia.edu/events/cabot>

Loeb Awards announced by UCLA business school

LOS ANGELES (AP) - The annual Gerald Loeb Awards honored business journalists for stories ranging from the demise of WorldCom to shady business deals in a small town.

Floyd Norris, chief financial correspondent of The New York Times, was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award. Glenn Kramon, business editor of The New York Times, received a special career achievement award for editing.

Seven reporters from The Wall Street Journal received the award for deadline writing for stories about the fall of WorldCom, including first news of the resignation of WorldCom CEO Bernard Ebbers.

Alec Klein of The Washington Post received the award in the large newspaper category for stories about the accounting practices of America Online.

A group of reporters at ABC News was honored for stories about the Enron investigation, while Hal Lux of Institutional Investor won in the magazine category for articles on offshore corporations.

The awards were given at a ceremony in New York on July 1. The Loeb Awards are presented by The Anderson School at the University of California, Los Angeles.

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Awards were also given to small and medium newspapers, commentary, beat writing and other categories.

On the Net:

Gerald Loeb Awards: <http://loeb.anderson.ucla.edu>

MELVILLE, N.Y. (AP) - Newsday Editor Anthony Marro will retire next month after 16 years as head of the Long Island-based newspaper's news operations.

He will be succeeded by Howard Schneider, one of Newsday's three managing editors, Publisher Raymond A. Jansen said July 2.

Jansen said Marro, 61, had told him "some time ago that he felt it was time to pursue other things."

He called Marro "an invaluable partner," adding: "I will miss him enormously."

Schneider, a 34-year Newsday veteran, has been a key player in the paper's new ventures, including multimedia, electronic publishing and books, Jansen said.

He expressed confidence that Schneider would lead Newsday "with the same sense of independence and vitality that has always made this a very different and successful newspaper."

Schneider, 57, is a graduate of Syracuse and Columbia universities. He joined Newsday as a reporter in 1969 after teaching English in New York City for two years. As a supervising editor, he was in charge of the team that won a 1984 Pulitzer Prize for coverage of the Baby Jane Doe case, which detailed legal and ethical issues surrounding a disabled newborn.

He led the paper's well-regarded "Long Island: Our Story" and "Queens: Our Story" history projects, and he created Newsday's FutureCorps, which involves schoolchildren in service projects in their communities.

Marro has been editor since 1987. He joined the newspaper in 1968, leaving for stints at Newsweek and The New York Times before returning in 1979 as Washington bureau chief. He was named managing editor in 1981.

One of the nation's largest dailies, Newsday is a subsidiary of Chicago-based Tribune Co.

It has won 17 Pulitzers, most recently in 2002 for Justin Davidson's classical music criticism.

Banner named executive producer of ABC's "World News Tonight"

NEW YORK (AP) - Jon Banner, executive producer of ABC's "This Week" Sunday morning show, will be returning to New York to fill the same chief behind-the-scenes role on "World News Tonight."

Banner succeeds Paul Slavin at the helm of the Peter Jennings-anchored broadcast, which is a solid No. 2 in the ratings behind NBC's "Nightly News." Slavin was recently promoted to senior vice president of ABC News, in charge of the network's newsgathering.

The promotion, announced June 30, leaves a hole at the ratings-challenged Sunday talk show anchored by George Stephanopoulos. That job was expected to be filled by "Nightline" executive producer Tom Bettag.

Before heading to Washington last year, Banner was the No. 2 executive at "World News Tonight." While second in the ratings, "World News Tonight" no longer routinely challenges NBC for the lead the way it did a few years ago.

Banner revamped "This Week" to reflect Stephanopoulos' ascension. Though the changes haven't led to improved ratings, he's well-liked by ABC executives.

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"Jon's creativity, energy and intellect make him the ideal choice to join Peter at the helm of our flagship broadcast," ABC News President David Westin said. "He is both tuned to the daily rhythms of 'World News Tonight' and has had experience in many different parts of the news division."

ABC hires CNN congressional correspondent Kate Snow

NEW YORK (AP) - Kate Snow, one of CNN's most visible Washington correspondents, is leaving for ABC News.

Snow has been CNN's congressional correspondent and covered such events as the Enron hearings and the discovery of anthrax at the Capitol.

"Kate is a first-rate journalist," said CNN spokeswoman Stacie Paxton. "We wish her great success and are grateful for her many contributions to CNN."

Snow will serve as a White House correspondent on ABC's "Good Morning America" and help Terry Moran on other broadcasts, an ABC executive said, speaking on condition of anonymity. Snow, who has been out on maternity leave, is expected to start at the network later this month.

ABC is expected to announce her hiring this week.

Strean named managing editor at Santa Barbara News-Press

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. (AP) - Linda Strean, a former deputy managing editor at the San Francisco Chronicle, was named managing editor of the Santa Barbara News-Press.

Strean, 51, has worked as a reporter, editor and newsroom executive, primarily in Northern California.

"Linda is among the most talented editors in California," said Executive Editor Jerry Roberts. "She personifies excellence in craft, leadership and judgment and sees the news the way readers do."

Before leaving the Chronicle last year, Strean handled local, national and international news. From 1982 to 1996, she held various editing positions at the San Francisco Examiner.

A Long Beach native, Strean graduated from the University of California, Santa Barbara, with a bachelor's degree in sociology and attended the Graduate School of Journalism at the University of California, Berkeley.

She returned to the campus last fall to teach journalism. Berkeley's student newspaper named Strean Alumnus of the Year in 1999.

Neal taking leave as Indianapolis Star editorial page editor

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) - Andrea Neal, The Indianapolis Star's editorial page editor for three years, plans to leave the job in August to become a middle school teacher.

Neal will teach history to seventh- and eighth-graders this fall at St. Richard's School of Indianapolis, a school of about 300 students affiliated with the Episcopal Church. She has the option to return to the newspaper in an undetermined role after one year.

Neal, 44, joined the Star in 1989 as assistant city editor and was a reporter and editorial writer before being promoted to editor of the editorial pages in May 2000.

The Star is Indiana's largest newspaper, with a daily circulation of 254,000 and 368,000 on Sundays.

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Dennis Ryerson, the Star's editor and vice president, said Neal was responsible for bringing a wider array of views to the section.

"Andrea has worked hard to open the pages to more community voices and younger readers," Ryerson said.

The Star will conduct a national search for Neal's replacement, as well as consider candidates from the newspaper's staff, Ryerson said.

Martin named editor in Galesburg, Ill.

GALESBURG, Ill. (AP) - Tom Martin, editor of the Bureau County Republican in Princeton, was named editor of the Register-Mail, effective July 28, Publisher Don Cooper announced.

He succeeds Jeff Rogers, who resigned effective June 27 and will return to his hometown of Freeport to become editor of two weeklies.

Martin, 43, was editor of the three-day-a-week newspaper in Princeton for more than four years. Before that, he was editor of the Macomb Daily Journal and the Hancock County Journal-Pilot in Carthage.

A Carthage native, Martin is a graduate of Carl Sandburg College in Galesburg and the University of Iowa. He is first vice president of the Northern Illinois Press Association and will become president of the group next year.

Obermueller named managing editor in Junction City, Kan.

JUNCTION CITY, Kan. (AP) - Andy Obermueller, a native Kansan and University of Kansas graduate, was named managing editor at The Daily Union.

He replaces Mike Heronemus, who had been managing editor since 1999. Heronemus has been named senior reporter for Fort Riley and defense issues.

Obermueller came to the newspaper from The Star-Ledger in Newark, N.J., where he had been a business desk copy editor. He earlier worked at The Gazette in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Obermueller was born in Salina, grew up in Wichita and graduated from the University of Kansas in 1998.

ANDREW HEISKELL, 87, a former chairman and CEO of Time Inc., July 6 at his home in Darien, Conn.

Heiskell spent 43 years with Time Inc., where he rose to chairman and chief executive before embarking on a career in philanthropy in which he raised hundreds of millions of dollars for the New York Public Library system.

During the late 1960s, after riots tore through many American cities, Heiskell helped found the Urban Coalition, an organization of community coalitions that addressed urban problems.

Later, as chairman of the Enterprise Foundation advisory board, Heiskell helped provide \$ 600 million worth of housing in blighted areas of the city.

Heiskell joined the board of the New York Public Library in 1978 and launched a rescue effort for the ailing system. Along with director Vartan Gregorian and fellow philanthropist Brooke Astor, he began a campaign to transform the city's libraries.

He later teamed up with writer and urban scholar William Whyte in a 12-year project to rehabilitate Bryant Park behind the main public library in Manhattan.

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His journalism career began in 1937 when he produced and edited pictorial articles on science and medicine for Life magazine. He later moved from editorial responsibilities to business duties. At 30, he became publisher of Life, and in 1960, he was named chairman of the entire Time Inc. media conglomerate.

Survivors include his wife, a sister, a son, a daughter, a stepson and two stepdaughters.

ALBERT L. MCCREADY, 85, former managing editor of The (Portland) Oregonian, June 30 at Portland home.

McCready, an avid sailor, outdoorsman, storyteller and railroad and transit advocate, spent 44 years at The Oregonian.

The son of a streetcar motorman, McCready started at the paper in 1938 as a copy boy. Later, he became a library clerk, assistant market reporter, police reporter, Southwest Washington correspondent and general assignment reporter.

After serving in the Navy during World War II, McCready returned to reporting. He covered the Oregon legislature and became an assistant city editor and editorial writer. He was named associate editor in 1956, assistant managing editor in 1971 and managing editor in 1976. He retired in 1982.

Survivors include three daughters.

JIMMY CARNAHAN, 73, a former state and city editor for The (Nashville) Tennessean, July 1 of injuries suffered after falling off a ladder at his Nashville home.

Carnahan retired from The Tennessean in July 1993, after a career that spanned six decades. He started at the newspaper in 1947, working as a part-time correspondent and photographer. He became a staff reporter in 1965.

"He was a great character, a great journalist and a great friend," said John Seigenthaler, chairman emeritus of The Tennessean.

Carnahan was considered a teacher, insisting that young reporters pull up a chair as he edited their stories, often pushing them to make one more call for information.

"Jimmy was indeed an old school, gruff journalist, but one of his values endures through all generations: accuracy," said Tennessean Editor Frank Sutherland.

Survivors include a niece and a nephew.

BEN H. COWDERY, 94, a former publisher and board chairman of the Omaha (Neb.) World-Herald, July 1 in Omaha.

Born and raised in Omaha, he attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln before joining the newspaper in 1934 as a classified ad salesman. He retired in 1974.

In 1935, he married Peggy Doorly, daughter of Henry Doorly and granddaughter of Gilbert Hitchcock, both former publishers and chief executive officers of the World-Herald.

Cowdery moved to the World-Herald's newsroom where he started as a reporter. He became assistant publisher in 1947 and publisher in 1950. He was the company's chairman of the board when he retired 24 years later.

He also served as president of the World-Herald's television station, KETV, from 1957 to 1964 and continued as a consultant until the station was sold in 1976.

Survivors include three daughters.

BERNARD A. GOLDBIRSH, 63, who turned his interests in sailing and small business into the successful publications Sail and Inc. Magazine, June 29 of complications from a brain tumor in Boston.

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Goldhirsh, who became interested in sailing as a student at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, began publishing Sail magazine in 1970.

The magazine's circulation passed 100,000, and he sold it for an estimated \$ 10 million in 1980. He used the proceeds to found Inc. Magazine.

Circulation of that magazine reached about 650,000 in 2000, when he sold it for an estimated \$ 200 million, giving 10 percent to his employees. Goldhirsh also published Technology Illustrated magazine.

Survivors include a daughter, a son, two brothers and his parents.

SHIRLEY SHEPLER BENTLEY, 79, owner of The Lawton (Okla.) Constitution, July 1 in Lawton.

She was the widow of Bill F. Bentley, longtime publisher of the paper. Her grandfather, John Shepler, purchased the Constitution in 1910 and her father, Ned Shepler, was publisher from 1918 to 1967.

She attended Sullins College in Bristol, Va., and married Bentley in 1944.

They became partners in Lawton Publishing Co. in 1953. The company later incorporated and she became president of the corporation.

Survivors include sons Donald S. and Stephen F. Bentley, co-publishers of the newspaper.

GERTRUDE SAMUELS, 93, a photojournalist and author who wrote articles, books and plays and traveled widely to report on a wide range of subjects, July 3 in New York.

Samuels worked for the New York Post, Newsweek and Time magazine before joining The New York Times in 1943. She wrote news summaries for the newspaper's Week in Review section before becoming a writer, photographer and editor for The New York Times Magazine.

Samuels traveled throughout Europe, the Middle East and the United States on assignments ranging from displaced-persons camps to school desegregation in the South. She won a 1955 George Polk Award for education reporting.

In 1975, Samuels began working as a freelancer, and remained a United Nations correspondent for The New Leader magazine until a few years ago.

She is featured in "On the Front Line: Women Journalists on War and Politics," an exhibit in the Mugar Library of Boston University.

Survivors include a son.

ROBERT BATSCHA, 58, president of the Museum of Television and Radio in New York for more than 20 years, July 4 in New York of cancer.

Batscha became president of the museum, which covers radio and television history, in 1981. He also served on the board of directors of New Yorkers for Children, a child welfare advocacy organization, and taught at Columbia University's School of Journalism.

Survivors include his son.

PETER T. FARLEY, 82, retired sports editor of The Enterprise of Brockton, Mass., June 29 in Middleboro, Mass.

Farley worked at the paper for 36 years, retiring in 1991.

Court decision in California protects bloggers from libel suits

A tribute to heavyweight boxing champion and Brockton native Rocky Marciano won Farley the top sports writing award from United Press International in 1970, and he received several awards from the New England Press Association. He wrote a column called "For Pete's Sake."

Survivors include his wife, two daughters, two sons and three sisters.

TOM GIBB, 49, a reporter who covered Pennsylvania for 26 years, including the crash of United Flight 93 and the rescue of nine miners trapped in a coal mine, July 4 of organ failure in Pittsburgh after a heart attack.

Colleagues and co-workers said they would remember Gibb for his tenacity, humor, pathos and knack for finding quirky stories amid the mountains of central Pennsylvania.

Gibb, who had worked for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette since 1998, began his career with the Altoona Mirror in 1976. Later, he became the paper's city editor and managing editor.

He left the Mirror in 1993 and freelanced for newspapers and The Associated Press before joining the Post-Gazette.

In his Post-Gazette biography, Gibb listed among his accomplishments five statewide press awards, a Golden Quill from the Press Club of Western Pennsylvania, and getting his Toyota to last 300,000 miles.

Gibb is survived by twin older brothers and his companion, Kay Stevens, whom he met when they worked at the Altoona Mirror.

TOM KELLEY, 88, a Washington Post news photographer who covered every president from Franklin D. Roosevelt to Richard Nixon, June 25 in Washington after a stroke.

Kelley, who worked for the Post from 1938 until his retirement in 1973, had a wide range of assignments, including sports, in addition to White House coverage.

The White House News Photographer' Association honored Kelley with its first-place prize for sports photography in 1945, and President Truman presided over the awards ceremony.

Survivors include two daughters.

ROB SUNDE, 66, a retired broadcast journalist who also led the Radio Television News Directors Association, July 2 of a blood disorder.

Sunde had a long career as a broadcast news executive, producer and educator, including a stint as news director at WCBS radio in the 1980s.

In 1990, he was elected chairman of the 3,000-member Radio Television News Directors Association.

In 1998, he became executive producer of the investigative team at WWOR-TV in Secaucus, N.J. He also worked at CNBC as a senior editor and supervisor of daytime programming.

He was named assistant news director at WCBS in 1975 and became the news director in 1982.

Survivors include his wife, a daughter, two sons and a sister.

LLOYD HAWKINS, 83, founder of the Texas Association of Broadcasters, July 1 in McAllen, Texas.

Hawkins, who began his broadcast career in 1945, owned and managed several radio stations in New Mexico and Texas. He owned KURV radio in Edinburg until its sale in 1983.

He also was a director and the president of the New Mexico Association of Broadcasters.

In 1950, he helped form the Texas Association of Broadcasters and was on its original board of directors.

Court decision in California protects bloggers from libel suits

Survivors include his wife, two sons and a brother.

NOTES FROM EVERYWHERE:

Radio giant and concert promoter Clear Channel Communications Inc. has launched a free magazine that it plans to distribute at music venues in more than 30 markets this summer. The company plans to print 1.5 million to 2 million copies of Music Guide Live! in editions dated June and August. ... The Chicago Cubs observed a moment of silence before the July 4 home game against the St. Louis Cardinals in memory of longtime sportscaster Vince Lloyd, who died July 3 at his home in Arizona of stomach cancer. Lloyd, who was 86, had broadcast Cubs games for WGN-TV and WGN radio for 38 years. ... Sharon Stone and her husband, San Francisco Chronicle Executive Editor Phil Bronstein, are divorcing after five years. Bronstein cited irreconcilable differences in his petition for divorce, filed July 3 in San Francisco County Superior Court; a copy of the document was obtained by "Entertainment Tonight." ... The publisher of The National Enquirer and other tabloids has launched a division to create magazines and books for the growing Hispanic-American market. ... The city of Chicago dedicated its annual Fourth of July holiday fireworks show to longtime advice columnist Esther "Eppie" Lederer. Known to readers across the country as Ann Landers, Lederer was 83 when she died of bone marrow cancer June 22, 2002.

Correction

In a July 7 item in AP Industry News about a 9th Circuit appellate ruling extending libel protections for Internet self-publishers, The Associated Press reported erroneously that Ellen Batzel won her defamation suit against Robert Smith and Ton Cremers, who runs a Web site that published an e-mail Smith had written about Batzel and art works she owns. Batzel's suit is still pending. The appellate ruling involved a pretrial motion by Cremers to dismiss the case, sending it back to a federal judge for reconsideration.

Correction-Date: July 18, 2003, Friday

Load-Date: July 8, 2003

End of Document

AP News Digest

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Section: International news

Length: 6054 words

Body

WORLD AT 0000 GMT:

NEW:

TURKEY-NEW PRESIDENT. Turkey inaugurate's reform-minded judge as president.

CONGO-HUMAN RIGHTS. Group accuses Rwandan army of rape and slayings.

JAPAN-OBUCHI. Funeral held for former prime minister.

MAIN SPOT NEWS:

RAMALLAH, West Bank Teetering on the edge of a full scale conflict, Israelis and Palestinians treat their wounded and bury their dead from a day of armed clashes, but pledge to move ahead with peace efforts. ISRAEL-PALESTINIANS. Recap expected by 0200 GMT. By Samar Assad.

WITH:

US-ISRAEL-PALESTINIANS. The Clinton administration acknowledges that Yasser Arafat has had "some difficulties" in restraining Palestinian militants, but says the Palestinian leader is committed to peace. RECAP expected by 0200 GMT.

TOKYO A private funeral is held Tuesday for former Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi, two days after his death from complications due to a stroke he suffered last month. JAPAN-OBUCHI. Funeral scheduled to begin 0530 GMT.

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone More than 100 U.N. peacekeepers freed by Sierra Leone's rebels are stranded in a remote corner of neighboring Liberia as negotiators work for the release of hundreds of others still being held captive. SIERRA LEONE. Lead has moved. By Tim Sullivan. XBL101-103;LAB101-103, 105-106; AP Graphic SIERRA LEONE KEEPER.

WITH:

UNITED NATIONS The United Nations needs to review its policies in Sierra Leone, in particular in its relations with rebel leader Foday Sankoh, whose forces are fighting again and holding U.N. forces hostage, officials and diplomats say. UN-SIERRA LEONE. Expected by 0200 GMT. By Harmonie Toros.

AP News Digest

UNITED NATIONS With Ethiopia and Eritrea engaging in heavy fighting for a fourth day, the United States introduces a Security Council resolution calling for an arms embargo against the warring Horn of Africa neighbors. Russia strongly objects. UN-HORN OF AFRICA. Expected by 0200 GMT. By Edith M. Lederer.

WITH:

ETHIOPIA-WAR. More than 100,000 people stage a noisy, sometimes violent, demonstration against the United States and Britain for their role in drafting a U.N. resolution condemning the latest flare-up in Ethiopia's conflict with neighboring Eritrea. Moved. ADD101-102.

ANKARA, Turkey Turkey is inaugurating a reform-minded judge Tuesday as its 10th president, raising expectations that the country will press forward in its efforts to broaden democracy and increase personal liberties. TURKEY-NEW PRESIDENT. Expected by 0200 GMT; Sezer to be sworn in 1200 GMT. By Ayla Jean Yackley.

KIGALI, Rwanda The U.S.-based Human Rights Watch has accused the Rwandan army and its allied Congolese rebels of raping and killing civilians who are caught in eastern Congo in a 1 1/2-year civil war. CONGO-HUMAN RIGHTS. Expected by 0200 GMT.

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic Voters head for the polls Tuesday to choose among a populist politician, a free-market advocate and a 93-year-old ex-president in presidential elections in this Caribbean nation of 8 million. DOMINICAN ELECTIONS. Polls open 1000-2200 GMT. Results expected early Wednesday GMT. By Susannah Nesmith.

WASHINGTON Worried that a booming economy is about to spawn inflation troubles, the Federal Reserve on Tuesday will administer double its normal dose of interest rate medicine, many economists are predicting. FED-INTEREST RATES. Recap expected by 0100 GMT. By Martin Crutsinger.

HARARE, Zimbabwe Zimbabwe will hold parliamentary elections June 24-25, the government has announced, setting up a contest that poses the greatest challenge to President Robert Mugabe's 20-year grip on power. ZIMBABWE-VIOLENCE. Lead has moved. By Ravi Nessman.

GOLDEN, Colorado Authorities release a minute-by-minute account of the Columbine High School blood bath, showing that the 12 students killed by teen-age gunmen were dead within 16 minutes. US-COLUMBINE. Has moved. By Robert Weller. DZX101-105.

CANNES, France George Clooney is proud of how well he kept the secret of his surprise return to "ER" last week. ARTS-CANNES CLIPS. Expected by 0200 GMT.

LOOKING AHEAD: On Sunday, Haiti holds elections; Italy holds referendum on changing the electoral system and other issues; Switzerland holds referendum on whether to accept seven treaties to facilitate trade and other links with the 15-nation European Union.

FEATURES: Business and Finance:

JERUSALEM Diamonds could soon be sparkling in the overcrowded, impoverished Gaza Strip. Business executives with an eye toward peace are planning to train Palestinians to cut diamonds on the heavily guarded, fenced border between Israel and Gaza. This is the new Middle East of which some peacemakers dream. FEA-MIDEAST-GEMS OF PEACE. By Sara Bashi. AP Photos NY311-312.

PHILADELPHIA With faster processors and sharper flat-panel screens arriving regularly in homes and offices, a new breed of recyclers is developing across the United States to handle the glut of outdated computers and monitors and the toxic materials they contain. FEA-US-COMPUTER DUMPING. By Bill Bergstrom. AP Photo NY359

AP News Digest

BATTLE CREEK, Michigan The ready-to-eat cereal market has shrunk in recent years as fewer Americans have the time to sit down for breakfast. And competition in the cereal aisle has become more intense. But Kellogg looks for a comeback. FEA-US-KELLOGG COMEBACK. By Lisa Singhania.

RALEIGH, North Carolina Suddenly, in a place better known for tobacco, barbecue and basketball, there are chi-chi restaurants and hip entrepreneurs tooling around in BMWs and Porsches. FEA-TWO NORTH CAROLINAS. By Martha Waggoner and Joe Wheelan. AP Photo RAX201.

YOUR QUERIES: World Service editors in charge Ian Mader and Charles Gans. Suggestions and story requests to The Associated Press World Service are welcome. Contact your local AP bureau or the AP International Desk in New York, telephone (1) 212-621-1650, fax (1) 212-621-5449.

WORLD AT 0600 GMT:

NEW:

UN-HORN OF AFRICA. Security Council to consider arms embargo against Ethiopia, Eritrea.

EU-EUROPEAN SECURITY. Western European Union prepares for its own demise.

PHILIPPINES-HOSTAGES. Philippine government, kidnappers exchange demands over start of negotiations.

US-CONGRESS-KOSOVO. Clinton facing showdown votes on Kosovo peacekeepers.

INDONESIA-SUHARTO. Prosecutors try to question Suharto at his home.o

INDIA-KASHMIR-EXPLOSION. Suspected rebels kill state minister, four others in Kashmir

MAIN SPOT NEWS:

MONROVIA, Liberia More than 130 of the 500 U.N. peacekeepers held captive by Sierra Leone's brutal rebel movement have been released into Liberian custody, President Charles Taylor says. SIERRA LEONE. Has moved; developments will be expedited. By Jonathan Paye-Layleh. AP Photos LAB101-105, XBL104.

WITH:

US-SIERRA LEONE-ARMS. The United Nations has failed to enforce an arms embargo on Sierra Leone, enabling its feared rebels to prolong a civil war and undermine a fragile peace treaty, a human rights group says.

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia Ethiopian troops capture several strategic spots in continued fighting with Eritrea, a government spokeswoman says. Meanwhile, Ethiopians vote in general elections that reportedly turned deadly, with security forces allegedly opening fire on protesters. ETHIOPIA-ELECTIONS. Has moved; developments will be expedited. By Andrew England. AP Photos ADD101-106.

UNITED NATIONS With Ethiopia and Eritrea ignoring a U.N. demand to stop fighting, the Security Council is likely to consider an arms embargo and other sanctions against the warring Horn of Africa neighbors. UN-HORN OF AFRICA. Expected by 1500 GMT; no time set yet for council meeting Monday. By Edith M. Lederer.

ENSCHDEDE, Netherlands At first, it looked like a spectacular fireworks display. Suddenly, a massive explosion shattered the bliss, obliterating a whole working class neighborhood and leaving at least 20 people dead and 589 injured. NETHERLANDS-EXPLOSION. Has moved; developments will be expedited. By Jerome Socolovsky. AP Photos, AP Graphic ENSCHDEDE EXPLOSION.

ALSO MOVED:

NETHERLANDS-EXPLOSIVES WAREHOUSE. Many residents in Enschede's working-class North area had no idea one of their neighbors was a fireworks depot.

AP News Digest

SRINAGAR, India A state government minister in Indian-controlled Kashmir and four others are killed Monday when suspected Islamic militants set off a land mine, police say. INDIA-KASHMIR-EXPLOSION. Has moved.

TOKYO Analysts say former Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi's death will set off an outpouring of public sympathy that could give Japan's ruling party a boost in upcoming elections. JAPAN-OBUCHI. Has moved. By Joji Sakurai. AP Photos NY113,116,118,181-184; TOK103.

ALSO MOVED:

JAPAN-OBIT-OBUCHI. Obuchi was an unassuming ruling party stalwart who defied early predictions of failure as premier.

JAPAN-OBUCHI-CHRONOLOGY.

NEW DELHI, India The Sri Lankan government accuses Tamil Tiger rebels of firing artillery and mortars into populated areas of the key northern city of Jaffna after air force bombing raids block the insurgents' assault to retake their former capital. SRI LANKA-CIVIL WAR. Recap expected by 0700 GMT. By Ashok Sharma.

JOLO, Philippines The government and Muslim guerrillas both set new conditions Monday for the start of talks on freeing 21 Western and Asian hostages being held by the rebels in a southern Philippine jungle. PHILIPPINES-HOSTAGES. Has moved; developments will be expedited. By Jim Gomez. AP Photo MLA101.

ALSO MOVED:

PHILIPPINES-MUSLIM REBELS. Philippine Muslim rebels announce withdrawal from contested highway.

JERUSALEM Prime Minister Ehud Barak asks his Cabinet to approve the transfer of three West Bank suburbs of Jerusalem to Palestinian rule, putting his wobbly coalition to its most important test yet on the road to a peace treaty. ISRAEL-PALESTINIANS. Expected by 0800 GMT. By Karin Laub.

ALSO MOVED:

PALESTINIAN-REMEMBRANCE. Palestinians say there will be no peace until the fate of 3 million Palestinian refugees is resolved. AP Photos JRL115-116.

BEIRUT, Lebanon Hezbollah guerrillas have threatened bloody revenge on pro-Israeli militiamen in southern Lebanon, but also promise leniency for turncoats who kill their commanders or Israeli soldiers. LEBANON-ISRAEL. Has moved. By Sam F. Ghattas. AP Photos.

ALSO MOVED:

LEBANON-SLA'S LAST DAYS? With Israel's withdrawal from south Lebanon set to be complete within a matter of weeks, the fate of the SLA is still unknown. AP Photos XJD101-104.

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia President Slobodan Milosevic's government is threatening a major crackdown on government opponents, blaming them for the slaying of a ruling Socialist party leader. Tensions soar in Serbia on the eve of a planned central opposition rally. YUGOSLAVIA-ATTACK. Has moved; developments will be expedited. By Misha Savic. AP Photos BEL101-102.

WASHINGTON This week could be a decisive one for President Bill Clinton's policy of keeping U.S. troops in Kosovo, with showdowns likely in the Senate and House that could ultimately force withdrawal of the peacekeepers next year. US-CONGRESS-KOSOVO. Expected by 0900 GMT. By Alan Fram.

CAIRO, Egypt Dozens of family and friends, their dusty faces streaked with tears, stood stunned outside the remains of a collapsed apartment building, grieving each victim unearched from the wreckage and questioning who was responsible. At least 17 bodies have been pulled from the wreckage in downtown Cairo, and at least three

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more people are feared dead beneath tons of concrete and metal rods. EGYPT-BUILDING COLLAPSE. has moved; developments will be expedited. By Tarek El-Tablawy. AP Photos CAI101-104.

OPORTO, Portugal The Western European Union, a moribund defense alliance that briefly found new life as military arm of the European Union, begins preparing for its own demise Monday. Its foreign and defense ministers intend to organize the transfer of its functions to the EU. EU-EUROPEAN SECURITY. Lead expected after start of meeting at 1500 GMT. By Jeffrey Ulbrich. AP Photos planned.

JAKARTA, Indonesia Prosecutors enter the home of former President Suharto on Monday to question him about alleged corruption during his 32 years in power, even though his lawyer said he would be too ill to be interrogated. INDONESIA-SUHARTO. Has moved. By Jamie Tarabay.

BEIJING With a growing middle class, a tradition of revering education and 21 million new babies every year, it should be a cinch to sell educational toys in China. Yet manufacturers say demand for such toys is lukewarm. An American company hopes to change that by telling new parents about the needs of small children. CHINA-SELLING FOR BABIES. Has moved. By Renee Schoof. AP Photo NY199, Graphic GLOBAL LOGO.

SAN PABLO, Colombia Two years after taking a key northern region rich in oil, gold and cocaine, paramilitary commander Gustavo Alarcon is cool to a proposal that would hand it back to rival leftist rebels without so much as a skirmish. COLOMBIA-IMPERILED PEACE. Has moved. By Jared Kotler. AP Photos NY108-113.

LOOKING AHEAD: On Monday, the 191-nation governing assembly of the World Health Organization meets in Geneva to discuss latest efforts to fight disease. On Tuesday, British and Irish governments hold talks in London with three key Northern Ireland parties in hopes of salvaging 1998's Good Friday peace accord; presidential election in Dominican Republic.

FEATURES MOVED:

FEA-YEMEN'S JEWS. Dwindling of Jewish community ending an ancient culture in Yemen. AP Photos NY320-321; AP Graphic YEMEN'S JEWS.

With: FEA-IMPOVERISHED YEMEN; FEA-YEMEN GENDER CLASH. AP Photo NY322.

FEA-BRAZIL-AMAZON LINGUIST. American linguist finding clues to Amazon prehistory.

AP Photo NY360.

FEA-MEXICO-LOYAL POOR. Loyalty of rural poor an advantage for Mexico's governing party. AP Photos NY315-319.

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WORLD AT 1000 GMT:

NEW:

ETHIOPIA-WAR. Ethiopians protest against U.S., Britain over U.N. resolution.

ERITREA-ETHIOPIA. In war with Ethiopia, Eritreans say they will not knuckle under.

IRAN-JEWS. Lawyers for Iranian Jews threaten to sue if more confessions are televised.

INDONESIA-ECONOMY. Indonesia's economy grows more slowly than expected.

RUSSIA-ST. PETERSBURG ELECTION. Yakovlev wins re-election by large margin in St. Petersburg.

AP News Digest

NORTHERN IRELAND Inspections of IRA secret arms

G8-INTERNET CRIMES. International conference on fighting Internet crime opens.

MAIN SPOT NEWS:

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone Sierra Leonean rebels holding 500 U.N. peacekeepers have released 139 of their captives into Liberian custody, U.N. officials say Monday. SIERRA LEONE. Has moved; developments will be expedited. By Tim Sullivan.

WITH:

US-SIERRA LEONE-ARMS. The United Nations has failed to enforce an arms embargo on Sierra Leone, enabling its feared rebels to prolong a civil war and undermine a fragile peace treaty, a human rights group says.

ASMARA, Eritrea It's a conflict a U.S. diplomat once reportedly called the "stupidest war on the planet." Fought by two of the world's poorest nations, the two-year border dispute between Ethiopia and Eritrea has already cost tens of thousands of lives. ERITREA-ETHIOPIA. Has moved. By Craig Nelson.

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia More than 100,000 people stage a noisy, sometimes violent, demonstration in central Meskel Square Monday against the United States and Britain for their role in drafting a U.N. resolution condemning the latest flare-up in Ethiopia's two-year conflict with neighboring Eritrea. ETHIOPIA-WAR. Expected by 1200 GMT. By Andrew England. AP Photo ADD101.

UNITED NATIONS With Ethiopia and Eritrea ignoring a U.N. demand to stop fighting, the Security Council is likely to consider an arms embargo and other sanctions against the warring Horn of Africa neighbors. UN-HORN OF AFRICA. Expected by 1500 GMT; no time set yet for council meeting Monday. By Edith M. Lederer.

NEW DELHI, India The Sri Lankan military rushes hundreds of commandos to Jaffna on Monday as warplanes bomb positions held by rebels poised for an assault on the besieged northern city, according to military officers in Colombo. SRI LANKA-CIVIL WAR. Has moved; developments will be expedited. AP Photos COL101-102.

JERUSALEM Prime Minister Ehud Barak's government on Monday approves the transfer of two Jerusalem suburbs to the Palestinians, clearing a major hurdle on the way to a peace treaty in September. ISRAEL-PALESTINIANS. Lead has moved. By Karin Laub, AP Photos JRL101.

BEIRUT, Lebanon Fighting flares in south Lebanon on Monday, with Israeli airstrikes and guerrilla attacks forcing the closure of all schools in the Israeli-occupied zone, Lebanese security officials say. LEBANON-ISRAEL. Lead has moved. By Sam F. Ghattas.

TOKYO A state funeral for former Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi will be held in early June, the government announces Monday, almost certainly adding to a sympathy vote in favor of Japan's ruling party in national elections planned for two weeks later. JAPAN-OBUCHI. Has moved; developments will be expedited. By Mari Yamaguchi. AP Photos TOK101,103.

SRINAGAR, India A state government minister in Indian-controlled Kashmir and four others are killed Monday when suspected Islamic militants trigger a land mine, police say. INDIA-KASHMIR-EXPLOSION. Has moved; developments will be expedited.

BELFAST, Northern Ireland Two international statesmen begin a confidential mission to inspect the **Irish Republican Army**'s secret arms dumps, a crucial component in making Northern Ireland's 2-year-old peace accord work. NORTHERN IRELAND. Expected by 1200 GMT. By Shawn Pogatchnik. AP Photo XAG101-102, LON102-103.

AP News Digest

PARIS France's Interior Minister opens a three-day international conference on fighting Internet crime by urging governments and business leaders to cooperate in fighting cybercriminals. G8-INTERNET CRIMES. Expected by 1300 GMT. By Deborah Seward.

ENSCHDEDE, Netherlands Forensic teams Monday resume the search for remains of bodies from a fireworks warehouse blast that killed at least 20 people as firefighters continue to spray the smoldering rubble. NETHERLANDS-EXPLOSION. Expected by 1100 GMT. By Anthony Deutsch. AP Photo ENS101.

JOLO, Philippines The government and Muslim guerrillas both set new conditions Monday for the start of talks on freeing 21 Western and Asian hostages being held by the rebels in a southern Philippine jungle. PHILIPPINES-HOSTAGES. Has moved; developments will be expedited. By Jim Gomez. AP Photo MLA101.

ALSO MOVED:

PHILIPPINES-MUSLIM REBELS. Philippine Muslim rebels announce withdrawal from contested highway.

BERLIN Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder's Social Democrats make plain Monday they want to continue an often stormy alliance with the Greens party after winning elections in Germany's biggest state. GERMANY-STATE ELECTION. Has moved; developments will be expedited. By Tony Czuczka . AP Photos BER101,105,107,108,110,111.

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia Defying threats of arrest by President Slobodan Milosevic's government, opposition leaders urge supporters to attend a rally Monday in the capital, Belgrade, despite a government crackdown. YUGOSLAVIA-ATTACK. Lead expected by 1100 GMT. Opposition rally scheduled to begin at 1300 GMT. By Jovana Gec.

WASHINGTON This week could be a decisive one for President Bill Clinton's policy of keeping U.S. troops in Kosovo, with showdowns likely in the Senate and House that could ultimately force withdrawal of the peacekeepers next year. US-CONGRESS-KOSOVO. Has moved. By Alan Fram.

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia Vladimir Yakovlev overwhelmingly wins re-election as governor of Russia's second-largest city, election officials say Monday, after a campaign marked by allegations of dirty tricks and ties to organized crime. RUSSIA-ST. PETERSBURG ELECTION. Has moved. By Kristina Shevory.

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SHIRAZ, Iran Lawyers defending 13 Iranian Jews accused of spying for Israel threaten to file lawsuits Monday if any more confessions of their clients were shown on television without permission. IRAN-JEWS. Has moved; developments will be expedited. By Afshin Valinejad. AP Photos planned.

JAKARTA, Indonesia After doctors say he is healthy enough to be interrogated, prosecutors question former President Suharto at his home Monday about alleged corruption during his 32 years in power. INDONESIA-SUHARTO. Has moved; developments will be expedited. By Jamie Tarabay. AP Photo JAK103.

ALSO MOVED:

INDONESIA-ECONOMY. Indonesia's economy grows more slower than expected in the first quarter, leading a senior government official to warn that political instability and a weak judicial system could set back the country's recovery from the Asia crisis. AP Photos JAK101-102.

CAIRO, Egypt Prosecutors have charged a contractor with wrongful death and violation of building regulations in connection with the collapse of an apartment block that killed at least 17 people, police officials say Monday. EGYPT-BUILDING COLLAPSE. Lead expected by 1200 GMT. By Tarek el-Tablawy.

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FEA-BRAZIL-AMAZON LINGUIST. American linguist finding clues to Amazon prehistory.

AP Photo NY360.

FEA-MEXICO-LOYAL POOR. Loyalty of rural poor an advantage for Mexico's governing party. AP Photos NY315-319.

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Sierra Leonean rebels holding 500 U.N. peacekeepers have released 139 of their captives into Liberian custody, U.N. officials said Monday. Fifteen of the freed captives were flown by a government-chartered helicopter to Liberia's capital, Monrovia, on Sunday while the remaining 124 were waiting to be evacuated from the town of Foya on Liberia's border with Sierra Leone, said U.N. spokesman David Wimhurst. In Monrovia, Liberian President Charles Taylor briefly introduced two smiling but tired-looking men the president said were freed Kenyan and Zambian peacekeepers. West African and U.N. officials, including Secretary-General Kofi Annan's envoy to Liberia, Felix Downes-Thomas, stood by silently during the meeting. Taylor said the 139 captives had been held in Sierra Leone's eastern Kailahun district, but did not specify exactly where. Taylor, the Revolutionary United Front rebels' closest ally in the region, had been asked by West African leaders to mediate for the U.N. captives' release. (SIERRA LEONE)

NEW DELHI, India (AP)

The Sri Lankan military rushed hundreds of commandos to Jaffna on Monday as warplanes bombed positions held by rebels poised for an assault on the besieged northern city, according to military officers in Colombo. Nearly 600 soldiers from elite anti-terrorist commando units were flown to Jaffna to flush out Tamil rebel fighters who may have infiltrated the city of half-million people, the officers said on condition of anonymity. Meanwhile, Some 40,000 Sri Lankan troops have been retreating for the last three weeks since they lost Elephant Pass, the causeway linking the Jaffna Peninsula with the mainland. Tamil Tiger rebels claimed to be on the outskirts of Jaffna, a city rich in Tamil history and culture, which the army captured in 1995. (SRI LANKA-CIVIL WAR)

JERUSALEM (AP)

Prime Minister Ehud Barak's government on Monday approved the transfer of two Jerusalem suburbs to the Palestinians, clearing a major hurdle on the way to a peace treaty in September. The National Religious Party, one of six coalition members, announced that it is leaving the government over the land transfer. Cabinet ministers from two other factions voted against the plan, but did not say whether they would bolt the coalition. After weeks of hesitation, Barak hastily convened the Cabinet on Monday to present the transfer of the suburbs to a vote, even though he was aware of the strong opposition by several hawkish coalition members. In the end, 15 ministers supported Barak and six from the NRP, the ultra-Orthodox Shas party, Israel B'Aliya, a party representing immigrants voted against the plan. It was not immediately clear why Barak decided to push the transfer idea through the Cabinet at this time. There was speculation that his move was linked to developments in secret peace talks being held in Stockholm, Sweden. (ISRAEL-PALESTINIANS)

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP)

Guerrillas fired rockets and mortars Monday at Israeli troops and allied militiamen in southern Lebanon, prompting retaliatory airstrikes by Israeli warplanes, Lebanese security officials said. Three people were wounded in the exchanges, and schools in the Israeli-occupied zone were closed for fear of casualties for the first time in 12 months, the officials said. The escalating hostilities come in advance of Israel's planned troop withdrawal from the zone and a day after threats of bloody revenge against Israel-allied Southern Lebanon Army militiamen after the pullout. "By God, we will enter your homes and slaughter you in your beds," Hezbollah leader Sheik Hassan Nasrallah said Sunday in remarks aimed at members of the South Lebanon Army, Israel's allied militia. But Hezbollah also said Sunday it would help obtain government pardons for SLA men who kill an Israeli or one of their own officers and then desert their units. (LEBANON-ISRAEL)

ENSCHDEDE, Netherlands (AP)

Forensic teams Monday resumed the search for bodies from a fireworks warehouse blast that killed at least 20 people as firefighters continued to spray the smoldering rubble. Deputy Mayor Eric Helder said the owners of the S.E. Fireworks warehouse, identified as R. Bakker and W. Pater, had finally contacted authorities through their lawyer Sunday night, a day after the blast. They promised to cooperate in the investigation, he said. Rescue crews had recovered 15 bodies when the search was abandoned Sunday night after the explosion that turned an entire working-class neighborhood into a pile of charred rubble. Officials did not say Monday whether anyone was still believed alive. The deputy mayor said that 601 people were injured in the blast in a low-income neighborhood of Enschede, 135 kilometers (85 miles) east of Amsterdam. Mayor Jan Mans said officials were still trying to track down 200 people from the neighborhood who had not answered pleas to report their whereabouts to City Hall. Officials stressed that most of these people were not believed dead. (NETHERLANDS-EXPLOSION)

WORLD SPORTS AT 1400 GMT:

SOCCER:

COPENHAGEN, Denmark Danish police say they have mounted the largest soccer security operation ever, with thousands of English and Turkish soccer fans arriving for this week's UEFA Cup final between Arsenal and Turkey.

Slug Sports-Soccer-UEFA Cup-Security.

By Jan M. Olsen.

ISTANBUL, Turkey With Galatasaray looking to claim Turkey's first European cup title by beating Arsenal in Wednesday's UEFA Cup final, the entire nation is holding its breath.

Slug Sports-Soccer-Galatasaray-Dream. Expected by 1400 GMT.

By Selcan Hacaoglu

ALSO:

ISTANBUL, Turkey Sports-Soccer-Galatasaray-Hagi. Expected by 1400 GMT

ISTANBUL, Turkey Sports-Soccer-Galatasaray-Coach. Expected by 1400 GMT.

LISBON, Portugal Sporting Lisbon's first title in 18 years unleashed frenzied celebrations across the country as tens of thousands of jubilant fans partied in the streets till dawn, while FC Porto and Benfica had the more sobering task of examining what went wrong.

Slug Sports-Soccer-Sporting's Feat. Has moved.

By Barry Hatton.

AP News Digest

ROME Lazio no longer can be translated as "loser", after the Rome squad surprised the soccer world with its first Serie A championship since 1974. Italy reacts with shock and a bit of relief following a week in which a bad officiating call looked as though it would cost Lazio the title, and put in question the credibility of professional soccer.

Slug Sports-Soccer-Italy-Lazio Celebrates. Expected by 1100 GMT.

By Jeff Israely

OLYMPICS:

LAUSANNE, Switzerland Australian Olympic executive Kevan Gosper is cleared of misconduct allegations Monday in connection with the Salt Lake City bid scandal.

Slug Sports-Olympics-Gosper Ethics. Has moved.

By Stephen Wilson

TENNIS:

ROME With most top players getting a first-round bye, Jennifer Capriati leads the opening day's line-up of matches at the women's Italian Open.

Slug Sports-Tennis-Italian Open.

HAMBURG, Germany -- Cedric Pioline of France battles Jiri Novak and Thomas Enqvist plays Karol Kucera in the opening round of the German Open.

Slug Sports-Tennis-German Open. Expected by 1700 gmt.

SWIMMING:

SYDNEY, Australia Australia's Ian Thorpe sets his third world record in three days, clocking 1 minute 45.51 seconds in the final of the 200 meters freestyle at the Australian Olympic selection trials.

Slug Sports-Swimming-World Record. Has moved.

GOLF:

IRVING, Texas Sweden's Jesper Parnevik wins the Byron Nelson Classic at the expense of hard-luck Davis Love III, who misses two short putts on the 18th hole in a span of 50 minutes to extend his winless streak on the PGA Tour to 47 events.

Slug Sports-Golf-Nelson Classic. Has moved.

By Doug Ferguson.

CRICKET:

LONDON Racial segregation, political isolation and worsening economic crisis haunt Zimbabwe as the Africans earnestly prepare for their historic Lord's test against England Thursday part of a two-match series.

Slug Sports-Cricket-Zimbabwe. Expected by 1400 GMT

By Ihithisham Kamardeen

BASKETBALL:

AP News Digest

INDIANAPOLIS The investigation of Indiana University basketball coach Bob Knight is over, and whether he keeps his job will be decided Monday by the university president.

Slug Sports-Basketball-Knight Investigation. Has moved.

By Steve Wilstein.

RUGBY UNION:

SYDNEY, Australia Defending champion Canterbury reached its third successive Super 12 semifinal despite a loss Friday to the Brumbies, while Golden Cats gatecrashed the final four by thrashing Waikato. SPORTS-RUGBYU-SUPER 12 ROUNDUP.

WITH: Sports-RugbyL-Australian Roundup

ALSO:

Sports-Sumo-Roundup. Has moved.

Sports-Ice Hockey-NHL Playoff Roundup. Has moved.

Sports-Baseball-NL Roundup. Has moved.

Sports-Baseball-AL Roundup. Has moved.

YOUR QUERIES: Sports stories carry the "s" category code or, in some cases, the "i" category code. Questions and story requests are welcome. Contact your local AP bureau or the AP International Desk in New York, telephone (1) 212-621-1857, fax (1) 212-621-5449.

WORLD SPORTS AT 0000 GMT:

SOCCER:

ISTANBUL, Turkey Galatasaray is looking to claim Turkey's first European cup title when it faces England's Arsenal in Wednesday's UEFA Cup final. That means all of Turkey is holding its breath.

Sports-Soccer-Galatasaray-Dream. Has moved.

By Selcan Hacaoglu.

FARUM, Denmark A few hundred Turks wave Galatsaray's red and yellow flags and scarves and chant their team's nickname outside a stadium north of Copenhagen, where the visiting team was training ahead of Wednesday's UEFA Cup final against Arsenal.

Sports-Soccer-UEFA Cup Final. Has moved.

By Jan M. Olsen.

WITH:

ISTANBUL, Turkey Sports-Soccer-Galatasaray-Coach. Has moved. By Selcan Hacaoglu.

ISTANBUL, Turkey Sports-Soccer-Galatasaray-Hagi. Has moved. By Selcan Hacaoglu.

ROME In the rough-and-tumble world of Italian soccer, Lazio no longer means "loser." Following the Rome squad's surprise Serie A championship in the final game of the season, Lazio fans keep celebrating a victory commentators say may have salvaged the credibility of Italian professional soccer.

Sports-Soccer-Italy-Lazio Celebrates. Has moved.

By Jeff Israely

ALSO:

PARIS Sports-Soccer-PSG-Dalmat. Has moved.

LEEDS, England Sports-Soccer-Leeds-Dacourt. Has moved.

BASKETBALL:

BLOOMINGTON, Indiana Indiana University basketball coach Bob Knight, accused of choking a player and being abusive to others, will be fined dlr\$ 30,000 and suspended for three games under an agreement announced Monday with the university.

Sports-Basketball-Knight Investigations. Has moved.

By Steve Wilstein.

ALSO:

INDIANAPOLIS Sports-Basketball-NBA Playoff Roundup. Expected by 0300 GMT. By Steve Herman.

PHILADELPHIA Sports-Basketball-Croce-Fine. Has moved. By Rob Maaddi.

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina Sports-Basketball-Wesley Trial. Has moved. By Paul Nowell.

BOXING:

LONDON Mike Tyson has applied for a visa to return to Britain for a bout in June, the Home Office confirms. But the former heavyweight champion may find his way barred because of an immigration law that bars anyone who has served a jail sentence of a year or more.

Sports-Boxing-Tyson-Britain. Has moved.

OLYMPICS:

SYDNEY, Australia Overcoming migraine and stomach pains, Ian Thorpe sets his third world record within three days Monday, bettering his own 200 meters freestyle mark for the second time in 24 hours.

Sports-Olympics-Swimming-Australian Trials. Has moved.

By John Pye.

ALSO:

HOUSTON Sports-Olympics-Rudy's Dream Team. By Tim Dahlberg.

HOUSTON Sports-Olympics-Marion's Mission. By Tim Dahlberg.

CRICKET:

LONDON Racial segregation, political isolation and worsening economic crisis haunt Zimbabwe as the Africans earnestly prepare for their historic Lord's test against England Thursday, part of a two-match series.

Sports-Cricket-Zimbabwe. Has moved.

By Ihithisham Kamardeen.

AP News Digest

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados Fast bowler Mervyn Dillon takes a career-best six wickets for 40 to slice through the Pakistan batting and set up a 65-run win for the West Indies "A" on the fourth and final day of their first-class tour match.

Sports-Cricket-WIndies-Pakistan. Has moved.

By Craig Cozier.

TENNIS:

ROME Tennis has given Jennifer Capriati moments of glory as well as severe disappointments since she made her European professional debut in Rome a decade ago at the age of 14, setting the sport abuzz. Monday was definitely not one of her glory days.

Sports-Tennis-Italian Open. Has moved.

By Victor Simpson.

HAMBURG, Germany Fourth-seeded Cedric Pioline of France, looking for his second major clay-court title, moves into the second round of the German Open along with No. 7 Thomas Enqvist of Sweden, No. 8 Tim Henman of Britain and No. 12 Marat Safin of Russia.

Sports-Tennis-German Open. Has moved.

By Nesha Starcevic.

ICE HOCKEY:

MONTREAL Jean Beliveau, who won 10 Stanley Cups during a 20-year career with the National Hockey League's Montreal Canadiens, has a malignant tumor in his neck and will soon begin therapy.

Sports-Ice Hockey-Beliveau-Tumor. Has moved.

ALSO:

DALLAS Sports-Ice Hockey-NHL Playoff Roundup. Expected by 0300 GMT. By John Marshall.

PITTSBURGH Sports-Ice Hockey-Penguins-Lemieux. Has moved. By Alan Robinson.

GRIDIRON FOOTBALL:

WAUKESHA, Wisconsin Mark Chmura of the National Football League's Green Bay Packers is charged with sexual assault after his 17-year-old baby sitter said he had sex with her at a party following a high school prom.

Sports-Football-Chmura-Assault. Has moved.

By Todd Richmond.

ALSO:

ATLANTA Sports-Football-Lewis Trial. Has moved. By Patricia LaHay.

HOBOKEN, New Jersey Sports-Football-Quarterback Charged. Has moved. By Amy Westfeldt.

ALAMEDA, California Sports-Football-Raiders-Turner. Has moved.

ALSO:

UNDATED Sports-Baseball-NL Roundup. Expected by 0700 GMT.

AP News Digest

UNDATED Sports-Baseball-AL Roundup. Expected by 0700 GMT.

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky Sports-Horse Racing-Fusaichi Pegasus-Preakness. Has moved.

HIGH POINT, North Carolina Sports-Auto Racing-Petty Funeral. Has moved. By Randall Chase.

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Weekend : FAITH, HATE AND MURDER: Martin O'Hagan was the first journalist to be killed in the recent Troubles in Northern Ireland. He'd been in the Maze prison and was a fearless reporter on crime and the paramilitaries. Susan McKay describes his life as a marked man - and the revival of religious fundamentalism among the loyalists who claim they murdered him

The Guardian (London)

November 17, 2001

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Section: Guardian Weekend Pages, Pg. 19

Length: 6033 words

Byline: Susan McKay

Body

On Friday September 28 at around eight o'clock in the evening, Martin O'Hagan went for a drink with his wife, Marie. It was what they always did on a Friday night. They walked, hand in hand, from their house at Westfield Gardens on the edge of town, to the Carnegie Inn. Better known as Father Joes, or Fa' Joes, the handsome old Victorian pub is on Lurgan's main street. The couple had met in Fa' Joes 29 years previously. He was Catholic, she was Protestant. They'd raised three daughters since then. He worked in the Belfast office of the Dublin-based tabloid newspaper, the Sunday World.

Lurgan, in County Armagh, is one of those Northern Irish towns with an invisible dividing line through its centre. Catholic shops on one side of the line, Protestants on the other. A bitter town, in an area which earned the name "murder triangle" during the violent years of the 1970s and 1980s. Its housing estates are dominated by paramilitary factions, Kilwilkie republican, Mourneview loyalist. Fa' Joes was one of the few venues in Lurgan where "mixed" company felt comfortable.

Shortly after 10, the O'Hagans left the pub and headed for home. They'd bought the house a year previously, selling their old house to their eldest daughter, Cara, who was about to get married. They took a slightly different route from their normal one. O'Hagan had been a bit rattled by an incident in the town just over a week previously. A loyalist he knew had accosted him. "You have been clocked walking down here," he'd said. Meaning, noted. Assuming this was a warning, O'Hagan had said, "Thanks for the tip-off." He'd been startled by the vehemence of the man's reply. "It's not a fucking tip-off," he'd snarled.

Westfield Gardens is a terrace of pebble-dashed houses, facing on to playing fields. Behind it lies Mourne-view. The O'Hagans passed by the road leading into the estate. There was a poster stuck on the wall at the corner. It advertised a "Grand Protestant Rally" which was on that night, in the town hall in Ballymena, about an hour's drive to the north: "All true patriots welcome."

They were nearly home. They walked past a vehicle parked a few doors down from their house. Behind them, it started to crawl forward. The gunman was in the back. He leaned out of the window and started shooting. Marie thinks her husband must have flung her to safety in the hedge of their neighbours' garden while the bullets flew.

Weekend : FAITH, HATE AND MURDER: Martin O'Hagan was the first journalist to be killed in the recent Troubles in Northern Ireland . He'd been in the Maze prison....

O'Hagan fell, caught in the back by three bullets. He was able to tell Marie to get an ambulance but by the time she got back, her husband was dead.

The Grand Protestant Rally in Ballymena started with a prayer. "Our forefathers who gave their lives for Ulster" were invoked, and then the preacher turned to what he called history. "God never makes any mistakes. I am a loyalist and a Protestant. I have a Bible," he said. "We have to look at the persecution of those that would not bow the knee. Northern Ireland is the last bastion of Protestantism. I don't care what anyone says. The papacy is up to its neck in this."

The most evil men in history were Roman Catholics, he went on. Hitler. Mussolini. Tony Blair was "a sympathiser with the ***Irish Republican Army*** and a Roman Catholic". He had got rid of Peter Mandelson "the only secretary of state with any backbone" to replace him with John Reid - "another RC". Talk about fanatics, he said. "Talk about the Taliban."

While Martin and Marie O'Hagan were enjoying what were to be their last few drinks together, 500 or so loyalists, including a sizeable contingent from Lurgan, were assembled at the rally. Ballymena, County Antrim, is the main town in the heartland of Reverend Ian Paisley's constituency, Northern Ireland's Bible Belt. In 1997, it became notorious for the Harryville protest which followed the banning of a loyalist parade through a nearby Catholic village. On that occasion, loyalists, many of them drunk, grunted like pigs, roared abuse and hurled missiles at Catholics attending Saturday evening mass at Harryville church. The priest's house was firebombed. Homes were attacked and people beaten up in their beds. A preacher declared that this was "the ancient battle between the true church, Protestantism, and the Whore, the Beast and the Baal worshippers within Catholicism."

In Ballymena's town hall, men in baseball hats with strong, tattooed arms sat alongside girls in belly tops with union flags picked out in rhinestones and neat ladies with handbags. A drummer battered a big Lambeg drum. There was trouble over the handful of journalists who'd turned up. One of the organisers, Mark Harbinson, had urged us to come, but now, he said, there was a problem. There'd been a "scurrilous" article that day in the Irish News (the Northern Irish daily favoured by Catholics). People were angry, he said, but he'd do his best for us. We were sent to the minor hall, where security men with shaved heads grinned at us and didn't talk. A woman appeared from a side door. "Does any of youse want tea?" she asked. Harbinson came back and said we could come in, but there was to be no recording, and no photographs.

Harbinson is an Orangeman who came to prominence at the protests at Drumcree, which he described in a speech as "Ulster's Alamo". He is a member of Stoneyford Orange Lodge, at Lisburn, near Belfast. In 1999 its Orange Hall was raided by police, who took away intelligence files on 400 or so republican suspects. The material had been downloaded from computers at the British army's NI headquarters in Lisburn. Harbinson later told me no documents had been found. The whole incident had been contrived "to blacken my name", he said.

When Harbinson took the stage in Ballymena, he urged the crowd to make sure to sign the "Ulster Protestant Covenant" which had been distributed. "There's major things planned," he said. "The media is here so there are some things that won't be discussed in their presence." He denounced the Irish News article: "Let me tell you, we are not terrorists - the terrorists are in government at Stormont." He introduced Jim Dixon, who was critically injured when the IRA bombed the cenotaph in Enniskillen in 1987, killing 11 people. The crowd rose, cheering and clapping.

Dixon, whose face is permanently ravaged by his injuries, said he was inspired by the "zeal" of the organisers of the rally. He spoke about watching the IRA prisoners, "those evil people", leaving prison as a result of the Good Friday Agreement of 1998. "It would make your blood curdle," he said. "The rot began when they were let into government. Our country is in peril. Let us look at the treachery that has been visited upon us. What sort of government tells us that sodomy is good? That abortion should be allowed? Have they forgotten about justice?"

"Our forefathers spared neither blood, sweat nor tears to provide our heritage. We want an end to power-sharing, an end to cross border bodies. Our enemies are the pan nationalist front. We have to face the truth, that Britain no

Weekend : FAITH, HATE AND MURDER: Martin O'Hagan was the first journalist to be killed in the recent Troubles in Northern Ireland . He'd been in the Maze prison....

longer wants us and we need some form of independence. The republic wants our country but not our people." Dixon said Tony Blair was a weakling, and an evil man. "I told him the blood of this country is upon his hands."

The pan nationalist front is the term used by unionists for the combined forces of the Catholic church, the Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP), Sinn Fein and the Gaelic Athletic Association. In other words, Catholics.

Then Harbinson was back, to give the main speech of the evening. "This is not about the saving of souls. This is about organising the fightback of the loyalist people," he said, to roars of approval. "George Bush said countries that harbour terrorists would not be spared. If that's the case, I'll be waiting for the B52s to flatten Dublin." The crowd cheered and stamped. "The Orange Order is the last bastion of our defence. The order was not set up as a Christian organisation but as a defender for the Protestant faith."

Harbinson said this was the start of a new movement. "We are building towards a united show of Protestant defence for early next year. Have courage, brothers and sisters. No surrender!" He returned to the covenant. It was modelled, he said, on the Solemn League and Covenant of 1912. The original covenant, launched by unionism's leaders, pledged opposition to Home Rule for Ireland, and was signed by almost 500,000 Protestants. At the ceremony to launch it in Belfast, the then Presbyterian moderator had declared that, "the Irish question is at bottom a war against Protestantism".

"The covenant says we will use all means necessary to achieve our ends. Those are the exact words of the original," said Harbinson. "And remember. It is every democrat's right to raise arms in defence of democracy. Never let it be said otherwise." They closed with what Harbinson called Ulster's traditional battle hymn, "Oh God our help in ages past". This too, had been sung in 1912. This time, although copies of the hymn were circulated, few among the crowd even knew the tune. Dixon played an electric accordion with flashing lights.

Afterwards, the organisers were ecstatic. "We now have a massive mandate," said Harbinson. "Everything is being considered. Wait and see. We are fighting for our very existence. The only time the loyalist people was successful was the Ulster Workers Council strike in 1974." That strike, the muscle for which was provided by the loyalist paramilitaries, brought down the previous attempt at powersharing in Northern Ireland. Harbinson said that even if 99% of the people in NI voted for a United Ireland, he would oppose it: "Who said I was a democrat?" Few among the departing crowd were willing to talk to journalists. "The media is against us," said a woman. "The whole world is against us."

Owen Martin O'Hagan, known to all as Marty, was the first journalist to be murdered in the course of 30 years of Northern Ireland's most recent "Troubles". His reporting career had included scrapes that would have frightened less brave souls into early retirement long ago.

The eldest of six children, he was born in 1950. His father, a Lurgan man, was a British soldier. It wasn't an unusual career choice for Catholics back then. O'Hagan's early childhood was spent in army bases around Germany. The family moved back to Lurgan when he was four. His father left the army and ran a television repair shop, and Martin left school at 15 to work for him. His parents separated, his father leaving for London.

Martin was 18 when the civil rights marchers were battered by the RUC on the streets of Derry. He'd already joined official Sinn Fein, known as the Stickies, drawn by its republican socialism. His mother, worried about the rising tide of political strife, urged him to go and live in Dublin for a while. The then secretary of Official Sinn Fein, Mairin de Burca, recalled what happened when US President Richard Nixon came to town. "Martin and I went out and bought six eggs which we started to throw. We didn't run fast enough and we got arrested. Luckily for us, the judge didn't seem to like Nixon either. He fined us pounds 2 each and let us go. Marty was a grand lad. He had a good heart."

Back in Lurgan, O'Hagan got into more serious weapons. He was interned in 1971 and spent a year in the Official IRA compound in the Maze prison. He was frequently arrested and interrogated by the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC). In 1973 he was convicted on arms offences and sentenced to seven years in prison. He was released from the Maze in 1978. Like many others of that prison generation, he educated himself. After his release, he did a sociology degree through the Open University and the University of Ulster.

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Andy Pollak, then the editor of the left-wing Belfast magazine, Fortnight, said Martin just walked in one day in 1982 and said he wanted to be a journalist. Pollak took him on. "He was full of enthusiasm and hugely committed. We had almost no money so everyone did everything. Martin would write - he'd also drive the van to Dublin and take the magazine from shop to shop.

"He had a courage bordering on recklessness. He'd go and get the stories other people were afraid to touch. Very few journalists have risked going in among these really heavy guys in the paramilitary and criminal worlds. Martin lived cheek by jowl with them. He was the original muckraker - and they hated him for it." He was also, Pollak recalled, "anti-establishment, utterly unsectarian and with a great sense of humour. Lovely."

Lurgan is a small town, its rancours shockingly intimate. O'Hagan knew everyone. He was good company, and he drank in working-class bars. He and Marie were by this time living in the house they bought for pounds 400 on Clara Street, a Catholic enclave near the railway station, where they stayed until the move to Westfield Gardens. O'Hagan converted the old toilet in the backyard into a tiny office.

The journalist Kevin Toolis, then working for the Irish News, met him at this time, and described him as having a "suicidal bravery". He recounted how O'Hagan had brought him on a tour of Lurgan on the "eleventh night", the night before the big Orange celebrations of the 12th of July. The tour included an attempt to have a drink in a loyalist bar, which ended swiftly in a running fight.

O'Hagan came into his own as a journalist after he met the man he regarded as his mentor, Jim Campbell, who was running the Belfast office of the Sunday World from his home in north Belfast. "It was a strange relationship," said Campbell. "We were almost of an age, but I was a sort of father figure." The two men started running stories on loyalist paramilitaries in mid-Ulster, focusing in particular on a leading Ulster Volunteer Force figure known as the Jackal, who'd been involved in several of what remain the worst massacres of the Troubles.

In 1984, the UVF hit back. They shot and critically injured Campbell. "Marty blamed himself because he'd provided a lot of the information we were working on," he said. They moved the paper's offices into two rooms in the Europa Hotel, famous for the number of times it has been bombed.

"Marty really rattled the paramilitaries because he had such good contacts," said John Keane, a friend and colleague of O'Hagan's. "He'd be able to tell you what they had for breakfast before they went out to kill. He had a cynical eye and he was very aware of the sub-structure of society, the unusual alliances, the way people weren't always what they seemed. He was an atheist and a Marxist, liable to start spouting Hegel if you gave him a chance. He used to say, my enemy's enemy is my friend. Very little that happened in Northern Ireland would have surprised Marty."

The paper moved again, to offices in Belfast's High Street. In 1991, the Sunday World ran several stories about an "inner circle" of policemen collaborating with loyalist killers in mid-Ulster. With O'Hagan as one of his researchers, London-based reporter Sean McPhilemy vastly expanded on this in a TV documentary, which also implicated top unionist politicians and business people.

This work would eventually lead to the controversial book, The Committee. Published in the US in 1998, it advances a massive Northern Ireland-wide conspiracy theory, and names many individuals.

O'Hagan had upset the Provisional IRA, too. In 1990, after he'd written a series of articles about splits in the republican movement, he got a call from a republican contact who tricked him into travelling to South Armagh. Kevin Toolis interviewed O'Hagan about the episode for his book, Rebel Hearts. O'Hagan recounted how he was accosted by a masked gunman, hooded, bundled into a car and driven off. When he was taken out of the car, he asked them what they wanted to talk about. They laughed. "You," they said. "I heard the click of guns," he told Toolis.

He remained blindfolded while they interrogated him for 14 hours about his informants. It emerged later that they had found his phone number in a notebook on the body of an RUC man they had murdered. O'Hagan was

Weekend : FAITH, HATE AND MURDER: Martin O'Hagan was the first journalist to be killed in the recent Troubles in Northern Ireland . He'd been in the Maze prison....

impressed at their interrogation techniques, which were, he said, as good, if not better than the RUC's. However, with a journalist's detachment, O'Hagan noted the narrowness of their minds, the "cocoon world" they inhabited.

They told him they were going to kill him, and he believed them. He knew their form. "Nothing so concentrates the mind as the prospect of being shot dead in a few hours," he told Toolis. In the end they put him in the car they told him was a hearse: "I panicked and said, 'You bastards are going to kill me now.' " Again, they laughed and told him he was lucky: "But there are a lot of others who lay where you are lying now who were shot."

Undeterred, the following year, O'Hagan revealed that a young woman called Margaret Perry, who had disappeared from her home in Portadown, had been murdered by the IRA and buried in a shallow grave in the Republic. The IRA denied it, but her body was later found.

By the early 1990s, O'Hagan was writing about a brutal young man called Billy Wright, a rising star of the Ulster Volunteer Force in its mid-Ulster powerbase of Portadown, a few miles from O'Hagan's home. Wright's gang liked to call themselves the Bratpack. O'Hagan renamed them the "ratpack", and gave Wright the name under which he was to become notorious: King Rat.

In 1992, the Ulster Volunteer Force bombed the Sunday World's Belfast offices. Campbell recalled that O'Hagan wasn't there that morning. "He was actually in the Maze, getting beaten up by a loyalist prisoner. This guy had contacted him and claimed he had a story for him. When Marty got there, the guy grabbed him and gave him a doing."

Within hours of the bombing, the Ulster Volunteer Force issued a death threat against everyone who worked for the Sunday World in Belfast. Reporter Jim McDowell (now Northern Editor) was summonsed to a meeting in the paramilitary army's headquarters. Billy Wright said O'Hagan's stories had to stop, and delivered a personal threat: "If anything happens to Billy Wright or his family, he will visit the same tenfold on Martin O'Hagan and his family."

The paper moved O'Hagan south of the border to Dublin, and then to Cork. It was an unhappy time for him. He felt his employers had capitulated to intimidation. He was living alone in hotels and bedsits. Marie and the three girls had stayed in Lurgan. He wanted home, and two years later he was back.

Drumcree has become the symbol of Protestant resistance to the new power-sharing political order in Northern Ireland. It began in 1995 when nationalist residents of the Garvaghy Road in Portadown (a few miles from Lurgan) demanded that the Orange Order parade from Drumcree church through their area be re-routed. In the stand-off that ensued, the Reverend Ian Paisley declared that it was a matter of "Ulster or the Irish Republic . . . freedom or slavery". The protest - which has taken place on an annual basis ever since - represents a revival of the old order within unionism, with Orangeism, which is explicitly anti-Catholic, as the organising principle.

In 1995, after two days of violence, mediation between local nationalists and the Order took place and a limited parade was allowed. In 1996, the parade was banned. While police and soldiers held the Orangemen back behind steel barricades, Billy Wright - who by this time had a terrifying reputation throughout mid-Ulster - sent his gang to murder a Catholic. The chief constable changed his ruling. The parade would be allowed, he said, because otherwise too many lives might be lost.

The Ulster Volunteer Force had ordered Wright not to get involved in the Drumcree dispute. The murder was his answer. The UVF, then on ceasefire, expelled him, giving him 24 hours to leave the country or face execution. Among those who stood up for his right to "freedom of speech" was one of the Reverend Ian Paisley's right hand men, Free Presbyterian preacher, Pastor Willie McCrea.

Wright formed a new paramilitary group, the Loyalist Volunteer Force, denouncing his old leaders in the Ulster Volunteer Force as " communists" (this was because the UVF's political wing had talked of making common cause with working class nationalists) . He started preaching old-style Protestant fundamentalism - in keeping with the ideology of the Orange Order and the theology of Paisley's Free Presbyterian Church. He also ran a lucrative drugs

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business and protection racket. That same year, he was jailed for intimidation; he was murdered in prison by republican dissidents in 1997. But his legacy lived on.

The Drumcree parade was forced through in 1997. Afterwards the chief constable again cited the fear that loyalists would kill Catholics. However other Orange parades - traditionally a way of showing Catholics "who is master" - were banned, and the ban stuck. To loyalists, it looked like the government was capitulating to republicans. A humiliation too far. The killings continued.

In 1998, the new parades commission banned Drumcree. Loyalists caused mayhem across Northern Ireland. The ban was upheld. In the early hours of the July 12, loyalists petrol bombed a house in Ballymoney, burning to death three little boys, Mark, Richard and Jason Quinn. Nevertheless, to the fury of unionists, the parades commission has continued to ban Drumcree and other contentious parades in the three years which have followed. Each summer now, ugly graffiti proliferate on walls in towns and villages across Northern Ireland, including the initials, KAT, meaning Kill All Taigs. And each year loyalist groups have held rallies upholding the "God given right to march". At one such rally in County Antrim, a self-styled pastor called Clifford Peeples burned a copy of the recently signed Good Friday Agreement. There were speakers from Paisley's party. A few hours later a student was murdered in Crumlin, a village in Antrim, once predominantly Protestant, that now has a Catholic majority. More than 40% of Northern Ireland's present population is Catholic. For loyalists, the fear of being engulfed, overrun, outbred, ethnically cleansed, is a potent one.

Pastor Peeples, the owner of a Belfast fish and chip shop, is currently in jail, convicted in 1999 of possession of guns and pipe bombs. He once painted the name "Ichabod" on to the wall of a leisure centre in Belfast, and told the police God had instructed him to do it. Ichabod was the son of an Old Testament prophet. His name means the glory that has departed from Israel.

The RUC chief constable, Ronnie Flanagan, dubbed Peeples and his associates "the demon pastors". They specialise in recounting lurid stories of Catholic savagery towards Protestants, and in finding biblical justifications for Protestant retaliation.

It was loyalists inspired by this kind of rhetoric who revived the Orange Volunteers, a "Doomsday" organisation which first appeared in 1972, and devised the so-called Red Hand Defenders. The Red Hand was not an organisation but a flag of convenience allowing paramilitaries meant to be observing ceasefires, to claim responsibility for acts of violence, without losing the privileges they got from the Good Friday Agreement. Those who have rallied under this flag include members of all the main groups opposed to the Agreement and supportive of the Orange Order at Drumcree - the Loyalist Volunteer Force, the Ulster Defence Association, and the Orange Volunteers. Their hero is Billy Wright. "He did what he had to do to ensure that our faith and culture were kept intact," according to a gunman during a paramilitary display in Portadown during Drumcree in 2000. To date approximately a dozen people have been murdered in parades-related violence.

In 1999, the Red Hand Defenders claimed the murder of Lurgan solicitor Rosemary Nelson, who had represented the nationalist residents of the Garvaghy Road in Portadown in their legal battles with the Orange Order. Leaflets circulated before her death linked her with a Jesuit plot to massacre Protestants.

They have also threatened to kill the parents of the girls at the Holy Cross Primary School in north Belfast, who have in any case, during the past two months, run the gauntlet of loyalist protesters hurling sectarian abuse and plastic bags full of urine at them. Speakers at the Grand Protestant Rally in Ballymena expressed solidarity with the protesters. If the Orange Order couldn't walk the Garvaghy Road in Portadown, they argued, why should these people be allowed walk to school through a Protestant street in Belfast?

O'Hagan came back to Lurgan in 1994, and resumed work for the Sunday World in Belfast. The IRA and the loyalist paramilitaries had declared ceasefires. "He knew he was still at risk, but he was desperate for home and decided to brazen it out," said Jim Campbell.

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He returned to his old beat - paramilitaries and crime. In the last two years of his life, he wrote, for example, about how the neo-Nazi Combat 18 group had been circulating a leaflet about the late Rosemary Nelson. The leaflet, headed "monster mashed", claimed that Protestants were being "ethnically cleansed" from Portadown. O'Hagan incensed dissident loyalists when he interviewed "Crip" McWilliams, one of the republicans who murdered Billy Wright. He then went on to write a prominent article accusing McWilliams of having stalked a schoolgirl.

He wrote about one of the "disappeared" - a woman who had been abducted - revealing that the IRA man responsible tried, years later, to force her family to pay for information about where her body is hidden. He wrote about Ministry of Defence efforts to block the interrogation of an undercover soldier. And he wrote about loyalist drug dealing.

O'Hagan was a tabloid writer through and through. "All he wanted was to be a hack," said Jim McDowell. "And we are white knuckle hacks." He wrote stories with headlines like "Alien-snatch DJ gets French letter". Another tale featured two pictures - one of an Orangeman in suit and sash, the other, taken from a sex contact magazine, of the same man, naked and with a box number covering his private parts.

O'Hagan was the joint Belfast secretary of the National Union of Journalists, and insisted that his employers abide by proper procedures on issues such as contracts and bullying. In 1999, he campaigned on behalf of the distinguished journalist Ed Moloney who was brought to court in a failed attempt to get him to hand over notebooks. (These contained details of an interview with a loyalist alleging security force collusion in the murder of the prominent lawyer, Pat Finucane.)

He gave evidence on behalf of Sean McPhilemy in his successful libel case against the Sunday Times. Afterwards, he wrote in the NUJ's magazine that he felt vindicated. Colleagues said when trainee reporters came into the office, it was O'Hagan who took them under his wing. "He was a thoroughly decent guy," said his news editor, Richard Sullivan.

'It's nice to see Martin's making the news instead of writing it. Keep up the good work! LVF. Lead the way.' (from the guest book of the Orange Volunteers website, dated September 30, two days after the murder of Martin O'Hagan).

'Shove ur (sic) dove, and Marty.'

(new graffiti in Mourneview).

The Irish News article which so angered the Grand Protestant Committee had drawn attention to the fact that the Ballymena rally was advertised on a loyalist website which promotes the Orange Volunteers. And the poster for the event in fact included the website address. The town hall was booked by the "Loyalist Cultural Society" which is the registered owner of the site.

At the website, you can read the OV's "back to war" statement, issued in February this year. "We don't want to lift the gun," it said. "But any democrat has the right to lift arms in the defence of democracy." This echoed the 1912 Ulster Covenant, in the words also chosen by Harbinson. The statement was given to a television reporter at a meeting which began with a Bible reading and ended with prayers. In between, men in balaclavas showed off guns.

The site's "guest book" is full of messages about "fenian scum" and "spawn of Rome". Many written before September 28 enthuse about the forthcoming rally. One, posted on September 26, by "Big C", starts: "Friday night can't come soon enough for many people. I see the Sunday World were at their work at the weekend but sure we can expect nothing less from the rag that first reported the existence of the 'committee' laughable as it was. I only wish it had been true as we wouldn't have to fight again, the war would have been over long ago." The "committee" referred to is the subject of Sean McPhilemy's book of the same name, with which O'Hagan was connected. The weekend before the Ballymena rally, the Sunday World, O'Hagan's paper, had reported that "loyalist terror gangs" planned to hijack it, and that one of the organisers had said paramilitaries would be welcome.

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One message, from "Coleraine loyalist", asks if there is a local Orange Volunteers branch, adding, "I'm interested in joining." The editor replies, "Have you been to any of the rallies? There are three more coming up soon. Maybe you could make yourself known (private message) or to the security staff on the night and what you are about."

Big C has another message, three days after the murder of O'Hagan, promising to reveal "what this man was like". He claims that O'Hagan wrote a story alleging that his Orange Lodge was a recruiting ground for the Loyalist Volunteer Force. This was, he said, "a scurrilous lie". Republicans had been seen near the lodge since, "so I say good riddance to someone who lived off stories from the dregs of society and who himself was a member of the official IRA and an enemy of Ulster".

When O'Hagan told him he was going to buy the house at Westfield Gardens, his former editor and friend, Jim Campbell warned against it. "I said to Marty, you and I will always be targets," he said. Campbell lives in the Republic. "But Marty thought things had changed." Marie O'Hagan's mother lives in Mourneview, and the house was a good price, because of its location, on what is known in NI as a "frontline". By all accounts, O'Hagan loved his new home. He was planning to install a pond with a fountain in the back garden.

And yet. A five minute walk from his house, O'Hagan must have seen in Mourneview - a twisted tribute to his way with words - gable walls painted with graffiti boasting that the "Mid Ulster Rat Pack" remained defiant. He knew that vicious loyalist feuding meant that many of Billy Wright's gang in the Loyalist Volunteer Force had moved from Portadown to Lurgan. He knew his killers. Like Rosemary Nelson, his attachment to the intimacy of small town Lurgan, kept him close to those he knew hated him.

Within hours of the murder, the RUC said the Loyalist Volunteer Force was suspected. The gun had been used before in a feud murder. It is believed that it was in the keeping of two brothers in Antrim, one of whom had been involved in a previous parades-related murder. The gun was brought to Lurgan by a man from Dungannon, Co Tyrone. The theory is that the man who pulled the trigger was a leading figure in the LVF, one of the original rat pack, a man who first killed as a teenager.

Why was O'Hagan killed? As with Rosemary Nelson, there is a range of reasons, any or all of which may have contributed. Wright had cursed him, and the grudge was still held by those for whom King Rat is a dead hero, a martyr for Ulster. The gangsters didn't like what he wrote, and loyalists are notoriously aggressive towards journalists. It appears he was working on a new story about collusion between loyalists and the security forces. Then again, O'Hagan was an "uppity taig" moving into a nice house in a Protestant part of town. Above all, he was a soft target. Since his murder, there have been two attempted murders of Catholic taxi drivers in Mourneview.

However, more disturbing than the mindset of the extremists on the fringes of unionist society in Northern Ireland, is the fact that many of their views are close to mainstream. It was Paisley, whose views on the current political regime are shared by around half of Northern Irish protestants, who spoke of Drumcree as "a matter of life or death". He also said that "the entire pan nationalist front" backed the "beast of fascism, the IRA", and called the Good Friday Agreement "a prelude to genocide".

It is against the rules of the Orange Order for a member of the brethren to marry a Catholic. Yet Orangemen who have murdered Catholics have been honoured. The Orange Order won't meet nationalist leaders who are former IRA men. But rallies planned by Orangemen are advertised on posters bearing the addresses of websites with information on illegal paramilitary organisations.

After the murder of a policeman in connection with the parades, the Ulster Unionist MP and then Grand Master of the Orange Order, Martin Smyth, said he regretted that "there were men on the ground receiving the consequences of a wrong decision by a senior police officer". After another, an Orange spokesman said, "Unfortunately when you are standing up for liberties, sometimes the cost of those liberties can be very high." UUP leader and First Minister, David Trimble, is an Orangeman, as are many of his UUP colleagues. His position as First Minister of the Assembly in Belfast is precarious, and a majority of his party's MPs at Westminster are against the Agreement he upholds. He is to a considerable degree a hostage to the hardliners.

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All summer loyalist paramilitaries hid behind the Red Hand Defenders flag to carry out hundreds of pipe bombings. They killed two young Catholics, and orchestrated serious rioting and the Holy Cross "protest". Hours before O'Hagan was murdered, secretary of state John Reid had pulled back from declaring that the Ulster Defence Association, the largest loyalist group, had broken its ceasefire, but warned that if there was any more violence, he would proscribe it. The next day, after the murder, he dithered. He condemned the murder, as did the local MP, David Trimble, but neither attended O'Hagan's funeral.

"Many of the things that are said about Catholics in Northern Ireland couldn't legally be said about, say, black people, or women. Try exchanging the words," said commentator and historian, Brian Feeney. "But the only legislation available is the incitement to hatred order, and it doesn't work - a complainant has to prove that there was an intention to incite. Back in 1972, Lord Scarman wrote in his report on the causes of the civil disturbances in 1969: 'Those who live in a free country must accept as legitimate the powerful expression of views opposed to their own, even if it is accompanied by exaggeration, scurrility and abuse.' That remains the case."

Reid has since proscribed both the Loyalist Volunteer Force and the Ulster Defence Association. The Red Hand Defenders and Orange Volunteers were proscribed in 1999.

Support for the movement for an independent Ulster is minimal, and few believe that a mass mobilisation such as was seen in 1912 and again in 1974 will happen again. There is no going back to the old unionist state. But speeches such as those heard at the Grand Protestant Rally heighten fear, encourage anger, and, in the end, do not empower Protestants to deal with the new political realities.

Atavistic terrors and sectarian hatreds are easily ignited into paranoia and violence in a Northern Ireland far from settled into peace. There will always be soft targets for the new breed of fundamentalist loyalist paramilitaries, who are rallying around the "God given right to march" issue. They are at once serving their own criminal interests, and obeying "ancestral voices, prophesying war".

The Red Hand Defenders claimed they killed Martin O'Hagan for his "crimes against the loyalist people". Their statement ended, as their statements always do: "God save Ulster." Three further Grand Protestant Rallies are planned; the final one is to be in Craigavon Civic Centre, close to both Portadown and Lurgan. The scheduled date is March 15: the anniversary of the murder of Rosemary Nelson

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AP News Digest

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Body

WORLD AT 1700 GMT:

NEW:

ISRAEL-PALESTINIANS. U.S. mediator heads to Israel to join Middle East peace talks.

US-WHY VIEQUES. U.S. Navy defends need for live-fire training on Puerto Rican island.

RUSSIA-CHECHNYA. Militants attack eight Russian posts in south.

ISRAEL-HOLOCAUST. Moment of silence to remember millions killed in Holocaust.

SOUTH ASIA-DROUGHT. U.N.: millions in Pakistan, Afghanistan facing dire conditions.

JAPAN-OBUCHI. Condition of comatose prime minister remains a mystery.

MAIN SPOT NEWS:

EILAT, Israel Flipflopping positions, Israel says Tuesday it would accept any role the United States chooses to play in peace treaty talks, while the Palestinians say they want to limit U.S. involvement. U.S. envoy Dennis Ross arrives Tuesday. ISRAEL-PALESTINIANS. Lead has moved. By Dana Budeiri.

ALSO MOVED:

ISRAEL-LEBANON. Army trucks loaded with water tank parts, fences and mobile homes roll south Tuesday as Israel begins dismantling outposts in south Lebanon ahead of its July troop withdrawal.

VIEQUES, Puerto Rico With goggles, petroleum jelly and rags soaked in vinegar and water to protect from tear gas, protesters opposing the U.S. Navy bombing of Vieques island prepare Tuesday for a showdown. PUERTO RICO-NAVY BOMBING. Lead has moved; developments will be expedited. By Chris Hawley. AP Photos VIQ101-102, AP Graphic PUERTO RICO VIEQUES.

WITH:

US-WHY VIEQUES. The Navy insists it has no alternative but to use the inhabited island of Vieques for live-fire training. Critics say the showdown with local residents is occurring because the military hasn't looked hard enough for a less dangerous target range. Expected by 1900 GMT.

AP News Digest

TALIPAO, Philippines Rebels holed up in the hills and surrounded by troops threaten Tuesday to behead two foreign hostages if the military does not back off, but a government spokesman says the encirclement of the area will continue. New clashes between government forces and Muslim rebel groups worsen prospects for the release of two groups of hostages totaling 48 people. PHILIPPINES-HOSTAGES. Lead has moved. By Aaron Favila. AP Photos TOK201-211.

ALSO MOVED:

PHILIPPINES-HOSTAGE INTERVIEWS. Excerpts from interviews with foreign hostages seized from Malaysian resort.

LONDON British Prime Minister Tony Blair and his Irish counterpart meet Tuesday with the three largest parties in Northern Ireland, seeking a way out of the disarmament deadlock that has stalled the peace process. NORTHERN IRELAND. Lead has moved; developments will be expedited. By Robert Barr. AP Photos LMN102-102, 106-109.

BERLIN The longtime head of East Germany's powerhouse Olympics program goes on trial Tuesday on charges that he injured the superathletes he helped create by feeding them steroids without their knowledge, ignoring health risks in pursuit of more gold medals. GERMANY-DOPING TRIAL. Lead has moved. By Paul Geitner. AP Photos YBER101-102.

LONDON Under pressure from Britain to take a tough stance on the crisis in Zimbabwe, Commonwealth ministers meet Tuesday to decide how to respond to the occupation of white-owned farms and harassment of opposition groups in the southern African state. COMMONWEALTH-ZIMBABWE. Lead expected by 1900 GMT after news conference. By Sue Leeman.

ALSO MOVED:

ZIMBABWE-PHOTOGRAPHER ARRESTED. AP photographer Obed Zilwa returns home to South Africa on Tuesday, nearly a week after he was arrested by Zimbabwean police.

WASHINGTON Sponsors of granting China permanent trade benefits are showing new optimism Tuesday that they will prevail in a showdown later this month. Democratic defections appear to have slowed during the recess, despite heavy labor pressure. US-CHINA-TRADE. Expected by 1900 GMT.

JERUSALEM Sirens wail across Israel on Tuesday as the nation pays tribute to the 6 million Jews who died in the Nazi Holocaust. ISRAEL-HOLOCAUST. Lead has moved. By Laurie Copans. AP Photos XED102, JRL101.

ALSO MOVED:

POLAND-MARCH OF THE LIVING. Thousands of young people, joined Tuesday by the presidents of Poland and Israel, retrace the steps Holocaust victims took to the gas chambers. OSW151,154,156.

SHIRAZ, Iran Iranian Jews wait warily Tuesday to see how one televised confession will affect the trial of all 13 Jews charged with spying for Israel and how it will affect their community. Another hearing in the espionage trial is scheduled for Wednesday. IRAN-JEWS. Lead expected by 1800 GMT. By Afshin Valinejad.

SLEPTSOVSKAYA, Russia Chechen militants attack eight Russian posts Tuesday, narrowly missing a top Russian official. Meanwhile, federal jets and helicopters pound rebel positions in southern Chechnya, the military says Tuesday. RUSSIA-CHECHNYA. Lead has moved. By Yuri Bagrov.

TOKYO When Japan's prime minister suddenly collapsed after a stroke last month, reporters rushed to the hospital, awaiting word of his condition. Word never came. One month later after Keizo Obuchi's collapse set off a political succession crisis in Japan, information about his condition remains scant. JAPAN-OBUCHI. Has moved. By Ginny Parker. AP Photo.

AP News Digest

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan Conditions are worsening for millions of people in drought-ravaged areas of Pakistan and Afghanistan, the United Nations warns Tuesday. More than 50 million are affected in India's western states of Rajasthan and Gujarat. SOUTH ASIA-DROUGHT. Has moved. By Kathy Gannon. AP Photo DEL102.

LOOKING AHEAD: On Wednesday, trial begins for two Libyans charged in the bombing of a Pan Am jetliner over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988.

FEATURES MOVED:

FEA-EUROPE-REFUGEES. AP Photo KLA117.

FEA-EGYPT CALLS. AP Photo ANY196, Graphic GLOBAL LOGO. With FEA-EGYPT CALLS-GLANCE.

FEA-BRITAIN-E-GROCERIES. AP Photo NY321.

FEA-MEXICO-NOT-SO-SLIM BUSINESS. AP Photos NY303-304.

FEA-US-NET GENERATION. AP Photos NY110-111.

YOUR QUERIES: World Service editors in charge are Jean H. Lee and Ian Mader. Suggestions and story requests to The Associated Press World Service are welcome. Contact your local AP bureau or the AP International Desk in New York, telephone (1) 212-621-1650, fax (1) 212-621-5449.

WORLD AT 0000 GMT:

NEW:

ASIAN FISH WARS. Tough regional conflicts focus on fish.

UN-CHEAPER SOFTWARE. Companies pushing for online servers providing software.

SWEDEN-FIRE TRIAL. Arson trial begins for suspects in nightclub deaths.

MAIN SPOT NEWS:

TALIPAO, Philippines Two foreign hostages die in a clash early Wednesday between military troops and Muslim rebels who are holding 21 people on Jolo island in the southern Philippines, a guerrilla leader claims. PHILIPPINES-HOSTAGES. Lead expected by 0700 GMT. By Aaron Favila. AP Photos; AP Graphic PHILIPPINES HOSTAGES.

CAMP ZEIST, Netherlands With the trial of the world's worst airliner bombing opening Wednesday at a Scottish court in the Netherlands, prosecutors dismiss reports of weakness in the case and insist they are ready with sufficient proof to convict the two men. LOCKERBIE TRIAL. Expected by 0200 GMT; trial to open 0830 GMT. By Jerome Socolovsky. AMS101-105.

With: LOCKERBIE TRIAL-PECULIAR LAWS; LOCKERBIE TRIAL-BOX.

TOKYO Squid. Snow crabs. Mackerel. The waters off eastern Asia boast some of the world's richest fishing grounds and one of the hottest competitions for the spoils of the sea. The conflict over fish has emerged as one of the region's toughest problems in the post-Cold War era. ASIAN FISH WARS. Expected by 0100 GMT. By Joseph Coleman. TOK108-109; NY191-192.

EILAT, Israel U.S. Mideast envoy Dennis Ross arrives in Israel to help nudge along the Mideast peace talks and finds that the tables have turned Israel says it will accept any U.S. role to help strike a peace deal, while the Palestinians say they want limited American involvement. ISRAEL-PALESTINIANS. Lead has moved. By Dana Budeiri. XED105.

AP News Digest

GENEVA Some of the biggest names in computers and communications have asked the United Nations to help oversee a system they claim will ease the headache and cost of keeping up with software advances, spokesmen said Wednesday. UN-CHEAPER SOFTWARE. Expected by 0200 GMT; to be held for release until 0900 GMT. By Alexander G. Higgins.

GOTEBORG, Sweden Four men face aggravated arson charges Wednesday as Sweden braces for an emotional trial about a year and a half after the country's worst fire killed 63 youths. SWEDEN-FIRE TRIAL. Trial scheduled to open about 0730 GMT. By Kim Gamel. AP Photos planned.

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil Thousands of landless farmworkers invade Brazilian government buildings in cities across the country in a new wave of protests aimed at speeding up land reform. BRAZIL-LANDLESS PROTESTS. Has moved. By Peter Muello. SAO101-104, BSB101-102

VIEQUES, Puerto Rico With goggles, petroleum jelly and rags soaked in vinegar and water to protect from tear gas, protesters opposing the U.S. Navy bombing of Vieques island prepare for a showdown. PUERTO RICO-NAVY BOMBING. Lead has moved. By Chris Hawley. AP Photos VIQ101-108, AP Graphic PUERTO RICO VIEQUES.

LONDON Commonwealth foreign ministers rebuke Zimbabwe for failing to bring a peaceful end to the crisis over land reform, but stopped short of any action against the southern African state, saying they want dialogue to continue. COMMONWEALTH-ZIMBABWE. Lead has moved. By Sue Leeman. XAG103-104.

SLEPTSOVSKAYA, Russia Chechen militants attack eight Russian posts, narrowly missing a top Russian official, while federal jets and helicopters pound rebel positions in southern Chechnya. RUSSIA-CHECHNYA. Lead expected by 1100 GMT. By Yuri Bagrov.

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan The United Nations warns of dire conditions for millions of people in drought-ravaged regions of Pakistan and Afghanistan, where thousands of people are on the move in search of water and entire herds of animals have died. SOUTH ASIA-DROUGHT. Has moved. By Kathy Gannon. DEL102, ISL103.

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone Rebels seize U.N. workers as the West African intervention force that defended the government during eight years of bloody civil war completes its pullout of Sierra Leone, U.N. officials say. SIERRA LEONE-UN. Lead has moved. By Clarence Roy-Macaulay.

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka Sri Lanka's president has asked India for help in evacuating some 40,000 troops trapped by Tamil Tiger rebels advancing on the rebels' former capital, a television station reports. SRI LANKA-CIVIL WAR. Lead has moved. By Dilshika Jayamaha.

LOOKING AHEAD: On Thursday, balloting takes place for London's first elected mayor and a 25-member London assembly.

FEATURES:

OTTAWA Several consecutive deficit-cutting budgets have reduced defense spending, leaving the Canadian military a shadow of its former self. Yet it is under pressure both internationally and domestically to maintain significant participation in U.N.-sponsored peace operations. FEA-CANADA-KEEPING THE PEACE. To move as wire time permits. By Ian Stewart. AP Photo NY305; Graphic CANADA PEACEKEEPERS.

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia As one of Southeast Asia's oldest languages, Malay has lived for 1,300 years and survived centuries of European colonization. But suddenly, linguistic controversies are sweeping over Malaysian politics, education and the news media. FEA-MALAYSIA-MINDING LANGUAGE. To move as wire time permits. By Sean Yoong. AP Photos NY300-301.

KINGSTON, Jamaica Over the last decade, Dr. Jeffrey Meilman, a plastic surgeon from Buffalo, New York, has taken two weeks off each year from his private practice and traveled to poor countries around the world to help deformed and mutilated children. "It's a worthwhile cause," he says. FEA-JAMAICA-HELPING KIDS. To move as wire time permits. By Matthew J. Rosenberg. AP Photo NY302.

AP News Digest

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Lynette Muggeridge believes she's the victim of a real life witch hunt.

The self-styled witch is complaining to New Zealand's Human Rights Commission after a regional council stopped her from setting up a shop in Hamilton, 330 kilometers (200 miles) north of the capital, Wellington.

Muggeridge said she was refused a tenancy in a building because her shop, Forever Now, could "offend rate payers."

She said she was discriminated against because of her religion _ witchcraft.

Her shop which sells candles, crystals, oils, incense, books on witchcraft and advertises classes in witchcraft, numerology and pagan craft enjoyed a five-year spell in another suburb of the city without any problems, she said.

Asked if she would put a curse on the council, Muggeridge replied, "No, everything comes back threefold. I don't need to do that."

WORLD AT 0600 GMT:

NEW:

KOREAS-SUMMIT COURTSHIP. Koreas summit talk has North Korean negotiators smiling.

MAIN SPOT NEWS:

TALIPAO, Philippines A group of 21 hostages abducted from a Malaysian diving resort ask the Philippine government to pull back troops encircling the mountain hideout where they are being held by Muslim rebels to avoid clashes and allow the kidnappers to obtain food for them. PHILIPPINES-HOSTAGES. Expected by 0700 GMT. By Aaron Favila. AP Photos TOK203-209.

ALSO MOVED:

PHILIPPINES-HOSTAGE INTERVIEWS. Excerpts from interviews with foreign hostages seized from Malaysian resort.

UNITED NATIONS Disarmament groups and countries without nuclear weapons are criticizing a new pledge by the five key nuclear powers to get rid of their nuclear arsenals, saying it isn't enough after 30 years of similar promises that haven't been kept. UN-NUCLEAR TREATY. Has moved. By Nicole Winfield.

WITH:

UN-IRAQ-NUCLEAR. Iraq castigates Israel as the destabilizing atomic power in the Middle East. Has moved.

CAMP ZEIST, Netherlands More than 11 years after the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103, victims' families were heading toward a former U.S. Air Force base to witness the trial of two Libyan suspects. Scottish court authorities said they were trying to keep the trial, opening Wednesday, as routine as possible. LOCKERBIE TRIAL. Has moved. By Jerome Socolovsky. AP Photos AMS101-102.

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka As Tamil rebels prepared to attack the last military bastion defending Jaffna, pressure grew on the Sri Lankan government Tuesday to seek military help from India. SRI LANKA-CIVIL WAR. Expected by 0700 GMT. By Dilip Ganguly.

BERLIN After convicting East German coaches, doctors and other sports functionaries of systematically doping athletes for the glory of communism, prosecutors are aiming their sights at the men allegedly responsible for the

AP News Digest

top-secret program. GERMANY-DOPING TRIAL. Lead expected after opening of trial scheduled for 0700 GMT. By Paul Geitner. AP Photo FRA501.

EILAT, Israel Israelis and Palestinians are taking a day-long break Tuesday from negotiations that have made little progress and are awaiting the arrival of a U.S. envoy to help bridge the gaps. ISRAEL-PALESTINIANS. Has moved; developments will be expedited. By Dana Budeiri. AP Photos XED101-103, JRL101-103, 105.

SHIRAZ, Iran In a case that has raised Western concerns, one of 13 Iranian Jews on trial for espionage appears on state television and confesses to spying for Israel. IRAN-JEWS. Has moved; developments will be expedited. By Afshin Valinejad. AP Photos TEH101-104.

WASHINGTON The United States announces it is planning to file World Trade Organization cases against Brazil, Romania, India, Philippines, Argentina and Denmark, accusing the countries of unfair trade practices that are hurting American businesses. US-TRADE FIGHTS. Has moved. By Martin Crutsinger.

SEOUL, South Korea In 1994, amid a nuclear crisis, a North Korean negotiator threatened to turn Seoul into a "sea of fire." In Beijing last year, the same envoy and his aides snubbed South Korean diplomats, refusing to shake their hands. These days, the North Koreans are full of smiles and compliments for their counterparts as the two Koreas prepare for a first-ever summit between their leaders in June. Negotiators planned a third meeting Wednesday in the border village of Panmunjom. KOREAS-SUMMIT COURTSHIP. Expected by 0800 GMT. By Christopher Torchia.

VIEQUES, Puerto Rico With helicopters hovering overhead and U.S. warships looming offshore, protesters brace for federal agents to evict them from a contested U.S. Navy bombing range. PUERTO RICO-NAVY BOMBING. Has moved; developments will be expedited. By Chris Hawley. AP Photos VIQ101-107; AP Graphic PUERTO RICO VIEQUES.

WASHINGTON Three countries courted by the United States for a better relationship Iran, Syria and North Korea are again branded as sponsors of terrorism by the State Department along with Cuba, Iraq, Libya and Sudan. US-TERRORISM REPORT. Has moved. By Barry Schweid.

WASHINGTON The government's new religious advisory panel took strong stands against two nations it accuses of abusing Christians and others, calling for possible aid to Sudanese rebels and rejection of permanent normal trade status for China. US-RELIGIOUS FREEDOM. Has moved. By David Briscoe.

MOSCOW Russian forces find the bodies of nine soldiers allegedly captured and executed by Chechen rebels in an ambush that undercut Moscow's claims that Chechnya's insurgents are close to defeat. RUSSIA-CHECHNYA. Has moved; developments will be expedited. By Yuri Bagrov. AP Photos MOSB108-109.

LOOKING AHEAD: On Tuesday, the British and Irish governments hold talks in London with three key Northern Ireland parties in hopes of salvaging 1998's Good Friday peace accord. On Wednesday, the trial is expected to begin in Camp Zeist, Netherlands, for two Libyans charged in the bombing of a Pan Am jetliner over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988.

FEATURES MOVED:

FEA-EGYPT CALLS. Privatization, competition enliven Egypt's telecommunications.

AP Photo NY196; Graphic GLOBAL LOGO.

With: FEA-EGYPT CALLS-GLANCE.

FEA-BRITAIN-E-GROCERIES. Online grocery shopping at front line of retail war in Britain. AP Photo NY321.

FEA-MEXICO-NOT-SO-SLIM BUSINESS. Expansion into U.S. market tests heirs of Mexican conglomerate. AP Photos NY303-304.

AP News Digest

FEA-US-NET GENERATION. Teen-age consultants aiding middle-aged Microsoft with new strategies. AP Photos NY110-111.

YOUR QUERIES: World Service editors in charge are Charles Gans and Malene Arce. Suggestions and story requests to The Associated Press World Service are welcome. Contact your local AP bureau or the AP International Desk in New York, telephone (1) 212-621-1650, fax (1) 212-621-5449.

WORLD AT 1000 GMT:

NEW:

NORTHERN IRELAND. British and Irish prime ministers try to break deadlock in Northern Ireland peace process.

IRAQ-SHELLING. Eight injured in Baghdad in rocket attack blamed on Iranian agents.

ISRAEL-HOLOCAUST. Israelis mark Holocaust Remembrance Day .

HONG KONG-LOOTED ANTIQUES. Auction house sells looted Chinese treasure back to China.

MAIN SPOT NEWS:

TALIPAO, Philippines Muslim extremists threaten Tuesday to behead two of the 21 hostages, including 10 foreign tourists, they are holding in a mountain hideout unless the Philippine military withdraws troops encircling the area. PHILIPPINES-HOSTAGES. Has moved; developments will be expedited. By Aaron Favila. AP Photos TOK201-211.

ALSO MOVED:

PHILIPPINES-HOSTAGE INTERVIEWS. Excerpts from interviews with foreign hostages seized from Malaysian resort.

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka Tamil Tiger rebels attack a northern navy camp Tuesday in a lightning advance to retake their former capital of Jaffna as pressure grows on the government to seek military help from neighboring India. SRI LANKA-CIVIL WAR. Has moved; developments will be expedited. By Dilip Ganguly.

LONDON British Prime Minister Tony Blair and his Irish counterpart, Bertie Ahern, are holding talks Tuesday aimed at kick-starting the moribund Northern Ireland peace process. NORTHERN IRELAND. Will be led after talks conclude, expected after 1400 GMT.

CAMP ZEIST, Netherlands Relatives of American victims of the 1988 Lockerbie tragedy voice deep skepticism Tuesday about the imminent trial of the two Libyans accused of bombing Pan Am Flight 103, killing 270 people. LOCKERBIE TRIAL. Has moved; developments will be expedited. By Jerome Socolovsky. AP Photos AMS101-104.

BERLIN After convicting East German coaches, doctors and other sports functionaries of systematically doping athletes for the glory of communism, prosecutors aim their sights Tuesday at the men allegedly responsible for the top-secret program. GERMANY-DOPING TRIAL. Lead has moved. Also moved as sports story. By Paul Geitner. AP Photos YBER101-102.

EILAT, Israel Israeli and Palestinian peace negotiators hold only informal talks Tuesday, in deference to Holocaust Remembrance Day, and await the arrival of a U.S. envoy to help bridge what they say are wide gaps. ISRAEL-PALESTINIANS. Has moved; developments will be expedited. By Dana Budeiri.

ALSO:

AP News Digest

ISRAEL-HOLOCAUST. Sirens wail across Israel on Tuesday, bringing the nation to a standstill for two minutes as it pays tribute to the 6 million Jews who perished in the Nazi Holocaust. Expected by 1100 GMT. AP Photo XED101-102, JRL101.

SHIRAZ, Iran In a case that has raised Western concerns, one of 13 Iranian Jews on trial for espionage appears on state television and confesses to spying for Israel. IRAN-JEWS. Has moved; developments will be expedited. By Afshin Valinejad. AP Photo LON126 of May 1.

BAGHDAD, Iraq Iranian agents fire six rockets on a residential quarter in Baghdad, injuring eight civilians and damaging several houses, the official Iraqi News Agency reports Tuesday. IRAQ-SHELLING. Has moved; developments will be expedited.

UNITED NATIONS Disarmament groups and countries without nuclear weapons are criticizing a new pledge by the five key nuclear powers to get rid of their nuclear arsenals, saying it isn't enough after 30 years of similar promises that haven't been kept. UN-NUCLEAR TREATY. Has moved. By Nicole Winfield.

VIEQUES, Puerto Rico Helicopters hover overhead and U.S. warships loom offshore Vieques Island amid reports that federal agents are planning to evict protesters from a contested U.S. Navy bombing range. PUERTO RICO-NAVY BOMBING. Has moved; developments will be expedited. By Chris Hawley AP Photos; AP Graphic PUERTO RICO VIEQUES.

SEOUL, South Korea In 1994, amid a nuclear crisis, a North Korean negotiator threatened to turn Seoul into a "sea of fire." In Beijing last year, the same envoy and his aides snubbed South Korean diplomats, refusing to shake their hands. These days, the North Koreans are full of smiles and compliments for their counterparts as the two Koreas prepare for a first-ever summit between their leaders next month. Negotiators are expected to debate the summit agenda at a third meeting Wednesday in the border village of Panmunjom. KOREAS-SUMMIT COURTSHIP. Has moved. By Christopher Torchia.

HONG KONG Protesters scuffle with police Tuesday outside a hotel where auction house Sotheby's sells a looted 18th century Chinese imperial vase back to the Chinese for the equivalent of U.S. dlr\$ 2.44 million despite objections from Beijing. HONG KONG-LOOTED ANTIQUES. Has moved. By Priscilla Cheung. AP Photos HK101-105.

LOOKING AHEAD: On Tuesday, the British and Irish governments hold talks in London with three key Northern Ireland parties in hopes of salvaging 1998's Good Friday peace accord. On Wednesday, the trial is expected to begin in Camp Zeist, Netherlands, for two Li

FEATURES:

NEW:

LONDON When Joerg Haider's far-right Freedom Party joined Austria's coalition government this year, the nations of the European Union were united in their condemnation. Now, European governments are discovering that Haider's brand of xenophobia sells. FEA-EUROPE-REFUGEES. Has moved. By Jill Lawless. AP Photo KLA117.

FEATURES MOVED:

FEA-EGYPT CALLS. Privatization, competition enliven Egypt's telecommunications.

AP Photo NY196; Graphic GLOBAL LOGO.

With: FEA-EGYPT CALLS-GLANCE.

FEA-BRITAIN-E-GROCERIES. Online grocery shopping at front line of retail war in Britain. AP Photo NY321.

AP News Digest

FEA-MEXICO-NOT-SO-SLIM BUSINESS. Expansion into U.S. market tests heirs of Mexican conglomerate. AP Photos NY303-304.

FEA-US-NET GENERATION. Teen-age consultants aiding middle-aged Microsoft with new strategies. AP Photos NY110-111.

YOUR QUERIES: World Service editors in charge are Charles Gans and Jean H. Lee. Suggestions and story requests to The Associated Press World Service are welcome. Contact your local AP bureau or the AP International Desk in New York, telephone (1) 212-621-1650, fax (1) 212-621-5449.

Muslim extremists threatened Tuesday to behead two of 21 hostages they are holding in a mountain hideout unless the Philippine military withdraws troops encircling the area. Abu Escobar, a leader of the Abu Sayyaf rebels, said the troops were so close that the kidnappers could see them. If the government does not pull back the soldiers, "We will surprise them," he said in an interview with local radio station DXRZ. "Maybe two heads for tomorrow." The hostages were kidnapped April 23 from a Malaysian diving resort by Philippine Muslim extremists and brought to Jolo island in the Philippines, about one hour away by boat. (PHILIPPINES-HOSTAGES)

LONDON (AP)

British Prime Minister Tony Blair and his Irish counterpart, Bertie Ahern, planned fresh talks Tuesday aimed at kick-starting the moribund Northern Ireland peace process. Blair and Ahern were scheduled to hold separate meetings at Blair's Downing Street offices with representatives of the province's main pro-British Protestant party, the Ulster Unionists, and the major Catholic forces, the Social Democratic and Labor Party and the **Irish Republican Army**-linked Sinn Fein. The talks came just weeks before a May 22 deadline for the disposal of weapons by all paramilitary groups linked to the eight parties participating in 1998's Good Friday peace accord a deadline almost no one believes can be met, since the IRA refuses to give up its arms. (NORTHERN IRELAND)

CAMP ZEIST, Netherlands (AP)

Relatives of American victims of the 1988 Lockerbie tragedy voiced deep skepticism Tuesday about the imminent trial of the two Libyans accused of bombing Pan Am Flight 103, killing 270 people. "I am hoping for justice and truth, but I don't think we'll get either," said Rosemary Wolfe, whose 20-year-old step-daughter Miriam Luby Wolfe died in the Dec. 21, 1988, terror attack. About a dozen relatives of the 189 American victims arrived at Amsterdam's Schiphol International Airport Tuesday morning to attend the proceedings, which open Wednesday at a Scottish court on this former U.S. air base. (LOCKERBIE TRIAL)

BERLIN (AP)

After convicting East German coaches, doctors and other sports functionaries of systematically doping athletes for the glory of communism, prosecutors aimed their sights Tuesday at the men allegedly responsible for the top-secret program. Manfred Ewald, the longtime East German sports chief and president of East Germany's gold medal-winning National Olympic Committee, went on trial on charges stemming from years of state-sponsored doping of young **female** athletes usually without their consent or even knowledge. On trial with him is his former medical director, Dr. Manfred Hoepfner. Both are charged with 142 counts of being an accessory to causing bodily harm the side effects of performance-enhancing drugs, ranging from excessive body hair and deep voices to liver and kidney problems. The court scheduled only one day for testimony; a verdict could come as early as Tuesday afternoon. (GERMANY-DOPING TRIAL)

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP)

Six rockets were fired on a residential quarter in Baghdad, injuring eight civilians and damaging several houses, the official Iraqi News Agency reported Tuesday. INA blamed Iranian agents for the attack and said it took place Monday evening. It coincided with a mortar attack on the headquarters of the national police in the Iranian capital, Tehran, and surrounding areas. The Iraq-based rebel group, Mujahideen Khalq, claimed responsibility for the Tehran attack, which injured several people. The Iraqi News Agency blamed the Baghdad attack on a "stray group

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of hirelings connected to the organs of the Iranian regime." It quoted an unnamed security spokesman and said six guided rockets fell on houses and apartment buildings, injuring eight women and children. It said Iraq holds "the Iranian authorities responsible for this criminal operation and reserves the right to revenge at the appropriate time." (IRAQ-SHELLING)

WORLD SPORTS AT 1300 GMT:

SOCCER:

VALENCIA, Spain Barcelona and Valencia, two of the three Spanish teams in the semifinals of the European Champions League, face off in their first leg game Tuesday.

Slug Sports-Soccer-Valencia-Barcelona. Kickoff scheduled for 1845 GMT.

LONDON Former Wimbledon midfielder Vinnie Jones has accused fired manager Egil Olsen of tearing the "heartbeat from the club" and offered himself as the man to save the crisis-hit Premier League side from relegation.

Slug Sports-Soccer-Wimbledon Fallout. Has moved.

LONDON Middlesbrough manager Bryan Robson is charged with misconduct by the Football Association for criticizing the referee following his side's 2-1 defeat at Coventry on April 15.

Slug Sports-Soccer-Robson Charged. Has moved.

ALSO:

SEOUL, South Korea Sports-Soccer-World Cup-Koreas. Has moved.

CRICKET:

LONDON The International Cricket Council opens a two-day emergency meeting Tuesday to deal with the match-fixing crisis which has rocked the sport.

Slug Sports-Cricket-ICC-Match-Fixing. Has moved.

ICE HOCKEY:

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia Sweden plays Ukraine and last year's runner-up Finland takes on Austria in key games at the World Ice Hockey Championships.

Slug Sports-Ice Hockey-Worlds. Early lead expected 1900 GMT. Belarus-Latvia, Slovakia-Italy began at 1230 GMT; Sweden-Ukraine, Finland-Austria scheduled for 1630 opening faceoff.

By Stephan Nasstrom.

DOPING:

BERLIN After convicting East German coaches, doctors and other sports functionaries of systematically doping athletes for the glory of communism, prosecutors are aiming their sights at the men allegedly responsible for the top-secret program.

Slug Sports-Germany-Doping Trial. Has moved. Updates will be expedited.

By Paul Geitner.

TENNIS:

AP News Digest

PALMA DE MALLORCA, Balearic Islands Russian Marat Safin, fresh off winning the Seat Godo tournament, will face Adrian Voinea of Romania on Tuesday in the second day of play of the dlr\$ 500,000 Mallorca Open ATP Tour tournament.

Slug Sports-Tennis-Mallorca Open. Expected by 1700 GMT.

HAMBURG, Germany Amanda Coetzer faces Ruxandra Dragomir at the dlr\$ 535,000 Betty Barclay Cup, a tournament where Martina Hingis and Venus Williams are also entered.

Slug Sports-Tennis-Barclay Cup. Expected by 1800 GMT.

ALSO:

MUNICH, Germany Sports-Tennis-BMW Open. Expected by 1700 GMT.

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Florida Sports-Tennis-Men's Clay Courts. Has moved.

BOL, Croatia Sports-Tennis-Bol Ladies Open. Expected by 1800 GMT.

RUGBY:

SYDNEY, Australia All Blacks winger Jonah Lomu will spend the next two weeks on the sidelines after a Super 12 committee on Tuesday dismissed his appeal against his ban for a dangerous tackle.

Slug Sports-RugbyU-Lomu. Has moved.

CAPE TOWN, South Africa Former Springbok player Robbie Kempson is charged with the attempted rape of a 17-year-old girl after a party celebrating a rugby victory.

BC-Sports-RugbyU-Rape Arrest. Has moved.

By Mike Green.

ALSO:

BRISTOL, England Sports-RugbyU-Hanley. Has moved.

RUGBY LEAGUE:

SYDNEY, Australia St. George Illawarra's walkaway five-eighth Anthony Mundine returns to Sydney after disappearing without explanation to spend a week with friends in California.

Slug Sports-RugbyL-Mundine. Has moved.

SWIMMING:

SYDNEY, Australia Far from clarifying the legality of the controversial Fastskin neck-to-ankle swimsuits, a Court of Arbitration for Sports advisory opinion has further muddled the issue, says Australian Olympic Committee president John Coates.

Slug Sports-Swimming-Bodysuits. Has moved.

By John Pye.

ALSO:

PHILADELPHIA Sports-Basketball-NBA Playoff Roundup. Has moved.

TOKYO Sports-Baseball-Japan Roundup. Has moved.

AP News Digest

UNDATED Sports-Baseball-AL Roundup. Has moved.

UNDATED Sports-Baseball-NL Roundup. Has moved.

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey Sports-Ice Hockey-NHL Playoff Roundup. Has moved.

YOUR QUERIES: Sports stories carry the "s" category code or, in some cases, the "i" category code. Questions and story requests are welcome. Contact your local AP bureau or the AP International Desk in New York, telephone (1) 212-621-1857, fax (1) 212-621-5449.

WORLD SPORTS AT 0000 GMT:

SOCCER:

VALENCIA, Spain An injury-time goal by Argentine striker Claudio 'Piojo' Lopez help Valencia stun mighty FC Barcelona 4-1 Tuesday in the semifinal first leg of the European Champions League. The victory boosted Valencia's chances of reaching its first-ever Champions cup final.

Slug Sports-Soccer-Valencia-Barcelona. Has moved.

MADRID, Spain After trouncing Real Madrid twice already this season, Bayern Munich coach Ottmar Hitzfeld is warning his players against overconfidence when they face off a third time in Wednesday's European Champions Cup first leg semifinal.

Slug Sports-Soccer-Munich Cautious. Has moved.

By Ciaran Giles.

BERLIN It's a deal even Bayern Munich can love. Germany's top clubs will significantly increase their revenue next season thanks to a new television contract between the Bundesliga and media mogul Leo Kirch that more than doubles annual revenue to the German league to over 750 million marks (dlrs 350 million).

Slug Sports-Soccer-Germany-TV Contract. Has moved

By Roy Kammerer.

ALSO:

LONDON Sports-Soccer-Wimbledon Fallout. Has moved.

AUTO RACING:

LYON, France A small plane carrying Formula One star David Coulthard crashed at Lyon's airport Tuesday, killing the pilot and co-pilot but sparing the race car driver who escaped with minor injuries.

Slug Sports-Auto Racing-Coulthard-Air Crash. Has moved.

ICE HOCKEY:

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia Gone are the days that hockey's world powers could simply breeze through the opening rounds of the world championships. It's a reality that has become painfully obvious since the start of these championships, where upsets have become the plat du jour.

Slug Sports-Ice Hockey-Worlds. Expected by 0400 GMT.

By Erica Bulman.

ALSO:

AP News Digest

UNDATED Sports-Ice Hockey-NHL Playoff Roundup. Expected by 0700 GMT.

CRICKET:

LONDON The International Cricket Council opens a two-day emergency meeting Tuesday to deal with the match-fixing crisis which has rocked the sport.

Slug Sports-Cricket-ICC-Match-Fixing. Has moved.

RUGBY UNION:

DUBLIN, Ireland Rugby Union's International Board will rule on Wednesday whether New Zealand-born Shane Howarth and Brett Sinkinson should have played for Wales and Englishman David Hilton was right to have played 41 times for Scotland.

Slug Sports-RugbyU-Eligibility Scandal. Has moved.

LONDON Versatile French rugby union star Thomas Castaignede will play for English club Saracens next season.

Slug Sports-RugbyU-Castaignede-Saracens. Has moved.

ATHLETICS:

NEW YORK Moroccan-born Khalid Khannouchi is sworn in as an American citizen in Houston on Tuesday, making the world record-holder in the marathon eligible to compete in Sunday's U.S. Olympic marathon trials.

Slug Sports-Track-Khannouchi-US. Has moved.

By Bert Rosenthal.

TENNIS:

PALMA DE MALLORCA, Balearic Islands Fresh from his weekend Barcelona Open victory, Russian Marat Safin continues his successful run, winning his tournament-opening game Tuesday against Romanian Adrian Voinea at the dlrs 500,000 Mallorca Open.

Slug Sports-Tennis-Mallorca Open. Has moved.

HAMBURG, Germany South Africa's Amanda Coetzer rolls past Ruxandra Dragomir in straight sets Tuesday at the Betty Barclay Cup, where Venus Williams will make her comeback from injury after a six-month injury layoff.

Slug Sports-Tennis-Barclay Cup. Has moved.

ALSO:

MUNICH, Germany Sports-Tennis-BMW Open. Has moved.

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Florida Sports-Tennis-Men's Clay Courts. Expected by 0200 GMT.

BOL, Croatia Sports-Tennis-Bol Ladies Open. Expected by 1800 GMT.

DOPING:

BERLIN After convicting East German coaches, doctors and other sports functionaries of systematically doping athletes for the glory of communism, prosecutors are aiming their sights at the men allegedly responsible for the top-secret program.

Slug Sports-Germany-Doping Trial. Has moved.

AP News Digest

By Paul Geitner.

ALSO:

LOCARNO, Switzerland Sports-Cycling-Tour de Romandie. Has moved.

LAS VEGAS Sports-Boxing-David Tua. By Tim Dahlberg.

UNDATED Sports-Baseball-AL Roundup. Expected by 0700 GMT

UNDATED Sports-Baseball-NL Roundup. Expected by 0700 GMT

UNDATED Sports-Basketball-NBA Playoff Roundup. Expected by 0700 GMT.

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AP Top News at 6 p.m. EDT Tuesday, April 18, 2000

Associated Press Online

April 18, 2000; Tuesday

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Section: Domestic, non-Washington, general news item

Length: 6312 words

Byline: PAULINE M. MILLARD

Body

Michigan Shooting Suspect in Custody

LINCOLN PARK, Mich. (AP)

A Michigan man was taken into custody today after allegedly shooting and killing two women and wounding another in his senior citizen apartment house. Apartment officials had summoned the man to a meeting after other residents complained of inappropriate language, said Phyllis McLenon, deputy director of the Housing Commission in the suburb 10 miles south of Detroit. McLenon did not explain what she meant by inappropriate language. McLenon said the man left the meeting and was gone for about 10 minutes, and then the building's maintenance man warned by radio that the man was coming back shooting.

Nasdaq Repeats Record Day, Rises 254

NEW YORK (AP)

Technology stocks drove the Nasdaq composite index to its biggest point gain ever today as investors flocked back to the names that were devastated by last week's rout. Blue-chip stocks also advanced sharply. The Nasdaq composite index rose 254 to 3,743, while the Dow Jones industrial average rose 179 to close at 10,762. Broader stock indicators were also higher, with advancers leading decliners 1,983-1,011 on the NYSE.

Doctor: Elian Suffering Abuse

MIAMI (AP)

As the wait for a court ruling in the Elian Gonzalez case dragged on today, a pediatrician advising the government said the boy is being psychologically abused by his Miami relatives and should be removed from their care immediately. "This child ... continues to be horrendously exploited in this bizarre and destructive ambiance," Dr. Irwin Redlener wrote to Attorney General Janet Reno and Doris Meissner, the commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service. His comments were the first time someone on the government side has criticized how the 6-year-old Cuban boy is being treated, and were quickly attacked by doctors for the family.

Death Row Reviews Limited by Court

WASHINGTON (AP)

AP Top News at 6 p.m. EDT Tuesday, April 18, 2000

The Supreme Court, struggling to clarify its own past rulings and a 1996 law enacted by Congress, made it harder today for federal judges to overturn tainted convictions and sentences in state courts. But the justices' splintered reasoning left in doubt the court's ultimate intent in a decision that potentially affects more than 3,600 death row inmates and hundreds of thousands of other prisoners nationwide. At issue was the effect of the Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act, a 1996 law aimed in part at cutting the time between sentencing and executions in capital punishment cases.

Vermont Senate Backs Gay Union

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP)

The Vermont Senate approved a bill today that would create the closest thing in America to gay marriage after a debate watched by people wearing either white ribbons or pink stickers to show where they stood. The measure would enable gay couples to form "civil unions" that would entitle them to all 300 or so rights and benefits available under state law to married couples. No other state has gone as far as Vermont to give gay couples something approximating marriage. The bill will be up for final approval in the Senate on Wednesday.

R.I. Officers Cleared in Cop's Death

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)

Two white policemen who fatally shot an off-duty black officer they mistook for a suspect were cleared of criminal wrongdoing by a state grand jury today. The January shooting death of Sgt. Cornel Young Jr. sparked protests, accusations that the Providence police were racist and led to a federal civil rights inquiry that remains ongoing. Solitro and Saraiva were responding to a fight outside a Providence restaurant Jan. 28, when Young, in street clothes, saw the confrontation, drew his gun and rushed outside to help the officers. Solitro and Saraiva said they repeatedly told Young to drop the weapon but he did not comply and they shot him.

Microsoft To Unveil New Pocket PC

SEATTLE (AP)

Microsoft Corp. and three computer manufacturers are set to announce a new generation of handheld organizers on Wednesday that will not only keep appointments and organize phone numbers, but will play music, record sound, balance checkbooks and surf the Internet. In addition to a datebook, calendar, calculator and memo pad, the Pocket PC will include a slimmed-down but useable version of Internet Explorer, an e-book reader that uses ClearType technology to make it easy on the eyes, a digital voice recorder, and a Windows Media Player for music and video files.

Two Disqualified in Wheelchair Marathon

BOSTON (AP)

In a first for an event that has already survived the most notorious cheating scandal in running, the Boston Marathon has disqualified two able-bodied competitors for entering the wheelchair race. "To the best of my knowledge, that's never happened before," said Marja Bakker, a member of the Boston Athletic Association's adjudication committee. The names of the two competitors were not immediately available.

Michigan Shooting Suspect Arrested

LINCOLN PARK, Mich. (AP)

A tenant at a senior-citizen apartment house opened fire with a rifle today after he was summoned to a meeting because of neighbors' complaints about his vulgar language, authorities said. Two women were killed and a third woman was critically wounded. The man was taken into custody about 3:20 p.m. when police stormed his room,

AP Top News at 6 p.m. EDT Tuesday, April 18, 2000

said police Lt. Donald Gentner. The man did not resist and was not injured, but was on narcotics and taken to the hospital for observation, he said. The suspect's name was not released, and no immediate charges were filed.

Nasdaq Repeats Record Day, Rises 254

NEW YORK (AP)

Technology stocks drove the Nasdaq composite index to its biggest point gain ever today as investors flocked back to the names that were devastated by last week's rout. Blue-chip stocks also advanced sharply. The Nasdaq composite index rose 254 to 3,743, while the Dow Jones industrial average rose 179 to close at 10,762. Broader stock indicators were also higher, with advancers leading decliners 1,983-1,011 on the NYSE.

U.S., Russia End Round of Missile Talks

GENEVA (AP)

U.S. and Russian arms negotiators ended the first round of their new attempt to reduce ballistic missiles today without any hint of progress. U.S. officials declined to characterize the talks between U.S. disarmament specialist John Holum and Russian arms control official Yuri Kapralov, which lasted for a day and a half as scheduled. Russian officials, who spent the day at the U.S. Mission to U.N. offices in Geneva, could not be contacted Tuesday evening. The kickoff of START III talks came just days after Russia's parliament approved the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty II, which had been languishing in the legislature since 1993.

Court Rules on Death Row Reviews

WASHINGTON (AP)

The Supreme Court made it harder today for federal judges to overturn tainted convictions and sentences in state courts, in a decision that potentially affects more than 3,600 death row inmates and hundreds of thousands of other prisoners nationwide. The justices, struggling to clarify their own past rulings and a 1996 law enacted by Congress, left in doubt their ultimate intent. "We have to wait and see how lower courts utilize this ruling," said Texas Tech law professor Timothy Floyd. "It's now harder for state defendants to get into federal court but it remains to be seen how much harder."

Columbine Lawsuit Filed Against Sheriff

GOLDEN, Colo. (AP)

The parents of a slain Columbine High School student sued the sheriff and several deputies today, alleging they ignored warnings about the teen-age killers that could have prevented the massacre. Michael and Vonda Shoels' lawsuit was the first of several expected to be filed by Thursday, the one-year anniversary of the attack that left 15 dead, including the Shoels' son Isaiah and the two student gunmen.

Bush Eyes McCain for Vice President

DEARBORN, Mich. (AP)

George W. Bush said today he would consider offering the No. 2 spot on the GOP ticket to John McCain, the rival he defeated in this year's rugged primaries, and the subject may well come up when they meet next month. McCain's spokesman said in reply, "Talk like this is always flattering whether it's from Governor Bush or Jesse Ventura. However, Senator McCain has made it more than clear that he is not interested in being vice president." McCain last month suspended his bid for the GOP nomination after falling far behind in a sometimes-brutal campaign against Bush.

White Zimbabwe Farmers Vilified

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)

AP Top News at 6 p.m. EDT Tuesday, April 18, 2000

Zimbabwe's president vilified white farmers as "enemies of our people" Tuesday, hours after dozens of gunmen besieged a farm and killed a white rancher during the worst spasm of violence in two months of land occupations. On the country's 20th anniversary of independence from white rule, Mugabe accused the farmers of "mobilizing, actually coercing" their workers against his rule and wanting to turn the clock back to the colonial era. Tuesday's violence on several farms and Mugabe's stepped-up rhetoric escalated the standoff that began in February when landless blacks started occupying white-owned land. Squatters now occupy more than 900 farms.

76ers Put Iverson on Injured List

PHILADELPHIA (AP)

Allen Iverson was put on the injured list today with an inflamed elbow and a broken toe, but he was expected back for the beginning of the playoffs. The 76ers' leading scorer remained in Philadelphia on Monday night to get treatment on his right elbow while the team traveled to Chicago for today's regular-season finale. Iverson, who has been nursing his left big toe since mid-March, is second in the league in scoring at 28.4, behind Shaquille O'Neal's 29.7. Iverson led the league last season.

Michigan Shooting Suspect Arrested

LINCOLN PARK, Mich. (AP)

A tenant at a senior-citizen apartment house opened fire with a rifle today after he was summoned to a meeting because of neighbors' complaints about his vulgar language, authorities said. Two women were killed and a third woman was critically wounded. The man was taken into custody about 3:20 p.m. when police stormed his room, said police Lt. Donald Gentner. The man did not resist and was not injured, but was on narcotics and taken to the hospital for observation, he said. The suspect's name was not released, and no immediate charges were filed.

Nasdaq Repeats Record Day, Rises 254

NEW YORK (AP)

Technology stocks drove the Nasdaq composite index to its biggest point gain ever today as investors flocked back to the names that were devastated by last week's rout. Blue-chip stocks also advanced sharply. The Nasdaq composite index rose 254 to 3,743, while the Dow Jones industrial average rose 179 to close at 10,762. Broader stock indicators were also higher, with advancers leading decliners 1,983-1,011 on the NYSE.

U.S., Russia End Round of Missile Talks

GENEVA (AP)

U.S. and Russian arms negotiators ended the first round of their new attempt to reduce ballistic missiles today without any hint of progress. U.S. officials declined to characterize the talks between U.S. disarmament specialist John Holum and Russian arms control official Yuri Kapralov, which lasted for a day and a half as scheduled. Russian officials, who spent the day at the U.S. Mission to U.N. offices in Geneva, could not be contacted Tuesday evening. The kickoff of START III talks came just days after Russia's parliament approved the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty II, which had been languishing in the legislature since 1993.

Court Rules on Death Row Reviews

WASHINGTON (AP)

The Supreme Court made it harder today for federal judges to overturn tainted convictions and sentences in state courts, in a decision that potentially affects more than 3,600 death row inmates and hundreds of thousands of other prisoners nationwide. The justices, struggling to clarify their own past rulings and a 1996 law enacted by Congress, left in doubt their ultimate intent. "We have to wait and see how lower courts utilize this ruling," said Texas Tech law

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professor Timothy Floyd. "It's now harder for state defendants to get into federal court but it remains to be seen how much harder."

Columbine Lawsuit Filed Against Sheriff

GOLDEN, Colo. (AP)

The parents of a slain Columbine High School student sued the sheriff and several deputies today, alleging they ignored warnings about the teen-age killers that could have prevented the massacre. Michael and Vonda Shoels' lawsuit was the first of several expected to be filed by Thursday, the one-year anniversary of the attack that left 15 dead, including the Shoels' son Isaiah and the two student gunmen.

Bush Eyes McCain for Vice President

DEARBORN, Mich. (AP)

George W. Bush said today he would consider offering the No. 2 spot on the GOP ticket to John McCain, the rival he defeated in this year's rugged primaries, and the subject may well come up when they meet next month. McCain's spokesman said in reply, "Talk like this is always flattering whether it's from Governor Bush or Jesse Ventura. However, Senator McCain has made it more than clear that he is not interested in being vice president." McCain last month suspended his bid for the GOP nomination after falling far behind in a sometimes-brutal campaign against Bush.

White Zimbabwe Farmers Vilified

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A pediatrician advising the government said today that 6-year-old Elian Gonzalez is being psychologically abused by his Miami relatives and should be removed from their care immediately. Questions about the boy's mental health intensified as all sides waited for a federal appeals court in Atlanta to decide whether the government should be kept from letting the boy leave the country. The Miami relatives have been fighting for custody ever since Elian was found clinging to an inner tube off the Florida Coast. His mother and 10 others drowned in an attempt to flee Cuba.

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No Progress in U.S., Russia Arms Talks

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Blair Seeks Ireland Peace Accord Rescue

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP)

Prime Minister Tony Blair met with Northern Ireland political leaders and the Irish prime minister on Tuesday in a new effort to salvage the province's faltering peace accord. He said he did not expect any breakthroughs in the complex issues, but hoped to work out a plan that would lead to restoration of powers to the Protestant-Catholic Cabinet suspended in February because of a deadlock over Irish Republican Army weapons. John Hume, leader of Northern Ireland's main nationalist party, the Social Democratic and Labor Party, said he put forward a plan to break the impasse and that his meeting with Blair was "very positive."

U.S. Approves New Antibiotic

WASHINGTON (AP)

Doctors are getting an important new weapon in the growing battle against drug-resistant infections: The government today approved a long-awaited drug called Zyvox, described as the world's first entirely new type of antibiotic in 35 years. Zyvox seems to cure some infections impervious to all other antibiotics, even a longtime drug of last resort called vancomycin. Consequently, Zyvox could help prevent hundreds, perhaps even thousands, of life-threatening infections every year. Plus, it is being made in both oral and intravenous forms meaning when hospitals discharge infected patients, they might go home with pills instead of an IV unit.

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Flyers' Lindros Status Questionable

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP)

The return of Eric Lindros, the sidelined Philadelphia Flyers center, is still uncertain because of lingering headaches. Lindros, recovering from a Grade 2 concussion, remained in Philadelphia today while his teammates were in Buffalo for Game 4 of their Eastern Conference playoff series. Lindros has missed 17 games, including the final 14 of the regular season.

Plane Crashes in Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP)

An Air Philippines passenger plane carrying about 120 people crashed Wednesday in the southern Philippines, Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado said. The plane, which began its flight in Manila, circled the city of Davao before crashing on nearby Samal Island, he said.

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Fed Court Shuts Down Megan's Law

TRENTON, N.J. (AP)

A federal appeals court has ordered a freeze on sex offender notifications in New Jersey until it has time to review the fairness of procedures being used by officials who issue the warnings. U.S. District Judge Joseph Irenas last week ruled that the state's Megan's Law guidelines, as revised by Attorney General John Farmer, provided a reasonable system for warning neighbors about sex offenders while making sure the privileged information was not leaked to the community at large. But the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia issued an order today saying it wanted to review these facts for itself.

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China Steps Up Arms Sales Position

BEIJING (AP)

China called on the United States to end all arms sales to the rival Taiwanese government Tuesday, a day after Washington went part way in meeting China's demands by deciding not to sell Taiwan advanced Aegis destroyers. Word that President Clinton will forgo the Aegis sale disappointed Taiwanese leaders, but it brought hope for a cooling of tensions with China. While denying Taiwan the Aegis-equipped warships, U.S. officials said they would sell the island long-range radar to detect missile launches as well as provide training and technical help.

Microsoft Insists It Broke No Laws

WASHINGTON (AP)

Microsoft president Steve Ballmer insisted today his company acted "with integrity" and disagreed with a federal judge who ruled the software giant broke the law by abusing its monopoly power. Earlier this month, U.S. District Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson ruled that Microsoft violated antitrust law by illegally using its monopoly power. The case stems from a lawsuit filed by the Justice Department and 19 states. Ballmer also told his audience that the federal government is one of Microsoft's top clients.

Nasdaq Has Record Rise of 254

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Atlanta Low-Key on Rocker's Return

ATLANTA (AP)

With hardly a hint of protest from the crowd, John Rocker rejoined the Atlanta Braves tonight, hoping fans remember his fastball more than his foul mouth. The game against the Philadelphia Phillies seemed just like another nondescript, midweek contest except for a lot more reporters. The reliever returned for his first game of the season after a two-week suspension for comments about minorities, gays and immigrants.

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Plane Crashes in Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP)

An Air Philippines jetliner carrying 130 people crashed in the southern Philippines Wednesday and rescuers said there were no signs of survivors. The Boeing 737-200, which began its flight in Manila, circled the city of Davao, 625 miles southeast of Manila, before going down on nearby Samal Island, said Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado. There was no immediate word on what caused the crash. The airline said the plane was given its normal maintenance check before taking off and it checked out OK. Weather conditions at the time of the crash were good, the government weather bureau said.

McCain To Back S.C. Flag Removal

WASHINGTON (AP)

Sen. John McCain intends to tell an audience in South Carolina tomorrow he favors removing the Confederate flag from atop the state Capitol in Columbia, and regrets failing to say so while campaigning for the White House, according to Republican officials. The flag issue flared briefly during the presidential campaign, when Bush and McCain were competing for votes in the South Carolina Republican primary in February. The state is home to thousands of veterans and has a strong conservative streak. McCain settled on a strategy designed to avoid offending possible supporters, and declined to state a personal preference on the flag.

Cops Probe Cuban Mission Attack

WASHINGTON (AP)

District police said today they have launched a criminal investigation into allegations that some 15 people from the Cuban diplomatic mission here assaulted Cuban-American protesters who were demanding that 6-year-old Elian Gonzalez remain in the United States. Some of the protesters suffered minor injuries in the fracas just before nightfall last Friday and were treated at local hospitals. The disclosure came as the State Department summoned a top Cuban diplomat here to express "extreme concern" over the beatings. If Cuban diplomats were involved, they would not be subject to prosecution because of diplomatic immunity.

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Microsoft Unrepentant for Practices

AP Top News at 6 p.m. EDT Tuesday, April 18, 2000

CHICAGO (AP)

The government next week will present its proposed penalties against Microsoft Corp. for violating federal antitrust law, but the giant software company remains unrepentant. Company executives at a computer trade show here demonstrated Microsoft's Windows Millennium consumer operating system due out later this year which continues to closely tie in the Microsoft Internet Explorer browser that led to the company being branded a monopoly. Analysts say Microsoft's strategy has been to continue with business as usual, including bundling new media software that is becoming increasingly popular with consumers.

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Celtics Beat Wizards 114-81

WASHINGTON (AP)

In a game between losing teams playing out the string, the Boston Celtics outhustled the Washington Wizards and led from start to finish in a 114-81 victory today. Reserve forward Danny Fortson had 17 points and 12 rebounds to lead seven players in double figures for the Celtics, who posted their biggest margin of victory for the season. Boston broke a seven-game road losing streak and will finish the season Wednesday night at home against the New York Knicks. Chris Whitney scored 25 points for the Wizards.

Philippines Jet Crashes, 130 Aboard

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An No survivors were reported after an Air Phillipines jetliner carrying 130 passengers crashed in the southern Phillipines Wednesday. The Boeing 737-200, which began its flight in Manila, circled the city of Davao, 625 miles southeast of Manila, before going down on nearby Samal Island, said Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado. There was no immediate word on what caused the crash. The airline said the plane was given its normal maintenance check before taking off and it checked out OK. Weather conditions at the time of the crash were good, the government weather bureau said.

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Feds: Autism Cluster Found in N.J.

BRICK, N.J. (AP)

A federal investigation of a possible autism cluster here found that worried parents who pushed for the study were right: The neurodevelopmental disorder is far more common here than once thought. But the investigation stopped short of finding an autism cluster, a higher-than-average rate of the disorder in an area. Officials said there is not enough data on autism nationwide to say that a cluster exists. The investigation did find that the water was not contaminated. After the most intensive federal study of autism prevalence ever conducted, researchers said Tuesday that they found a rate of 4 in 1,000 children with autism in Brick and 2.7 in 1,000 with autism-like disorders.

U.S. Approves New Antibiotic

WASHINGTON (AP)

Doctors are getting an important new weapon in the growing battle against drug-resistant infections: The government on Tuesday approved a long-awaited drug called Zyvox, described as the world's first entirely new type of antibiotic in 35 years. Zyvox seems to cure some infections impervious to all other antibiotics, even that longtime drug of last resort called vancomycin. Consequently, Zyvox could help prevent hundreds, perhaps even thousands, of life-threatening infections every year. The Food and Drug Administration approved Zyvox, made by Pharmacia Corp., today for use by adults with pneumonia and skin infections.

Japan Stocks Slip

TOKYO (AP)

The benchmark 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average shed 8.21 points to 18,961.31 in early trading. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 179 to closed Tuesday at 10,762.

Hornets Beat Cavaliers 103-88

CLEVELAND (AP)

David Wesley scored 23 points, including 14 in the decisive third quarter, to spark the Charlotte Hornets to a 103-88 victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers tonight. Wesley scored the first four points of a 9-0 run that put Charlotte firmly in command at 79-63 late in the third quarter. Derrick Coleman had 21 points and 11 rebounds and Anthony Mason 16 points and 11 rebounds for Charlotte. Bob Sura led Cleveland with 20 points, Andre Miller scored 16 and Shawn Kemp had 15 points and 14 rebounds.

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AP Top News at 4:25 p.m. EDT Thursday, April 6, 2000

Associated Press Online

April 6, 2000; Thursday

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Section: Domestic, non-Washington, general news item

Length: 6192 words

Byline: BRADLEY BROOKS

Body

Company Sequences Human Genome

WASHINGTON (AP)

A private company mapping the human genetic blueprint said today it has decoded all of the DNA pieces that make up the genetic pattern of a single human being. The milestone puts the company, Celera Genomics, ahead of an international government effort to map the human genome. There are about 3 billion DNA subunits in virtually every human cell. This DNA contains about 100,000 genes. The gene sequencing done thus far lines up small segments of the DNA. Assembly of the entire genome will involve putting these segments in proper order.

Nasdaq Rises 98.53; Dow Up 80.35

NEW YORK (AP)

Technology stocks led the Nasdaq composite index to a solid, broad advance today as investors sought bargains and rewarded companies with strong prospects for future growth. The Nasdaq composite index rose 98.53 to close at 4,267.75. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 80.35 to 11,114.27. NYSE advancers led decliners 1,866-1,140.

FDA Approves Stomach 'Pacemaker'

WASHINGTON (AP)

The government has approved a novel pacemaker-like device to zap the stomachs of a few thousand Americans a year who are at risk of literally starving to death from a mysterious stomach disorder. Patients with severe gastroparesis cannot eat, sometimes even drink, because of continual nausea, vomiting and pain. Their stomachs do not churn properly to move food down the digestive tract. Until now, the sickest patients have survived only with feeding tubes inserted into the intestine or total intravenous nutrition.

Elian's Dad Secluded in D.C. Suburb

BETHESDA, Md. (AP)

Touches of Cuban and American culture mingled in a suburban Washington neighborhood today, where Juan Miguel Gonzalez secluded himself in a diplomat's home to await a reunion with his son Elian. Gonzalez arrived at

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the Bethesda home and came out of the house about two hours later to shake hands and say goodbye to several visitors. Neither he nor his wife, Nercy Carmenate Castillo, spoke to the nearly 100 journalists who had set up cameras and parked a dozen satellite trucks in the usually quiet neighborhood.

Pakistan's Sharif Sentenced

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP)

Pakistan's former prime minister today received a life prison term but escaped the death penalty for trying to down a passenger plane carrying the man who unseated him in last year's army coup. An antiterrorist court found Nawaz Sharif guilty of hijacking and terrorism for the events of Oct. 12, when he refused to let a commercial airliner with army chief Gen. Pervez Musharraf aboard land in Pakistan. The army deposed Sharif the same day.

Mothers To March for Gun Control

WASHINGTON (AP)

Organizers of the Million Mom March said today they expect about 100,000 mothers to converge on the nation's capital this Mother's Day and a total of a million to demonstrate for gun control across the country at rallies in 20 cities. Organizers are urging America's mothers to attend in an effort to shame Congress into enacting gun control. The May 14 event is expected to draw a million mothers at rallies in 20 cities, including Atlanta; Los Angeles; Portland, Ore.; Tulsa, Okla.; and Austin, Texas.

Lesbian 'Ex' Gets Visitation Rights

TRENTON, N.J. (AP)

The state Supreme Court ruled today that a lesbian who helped raise her then-lover's twins has rights akin to a parent's and can have visitation now that they have split up. The case involved a woman who became pregnant by artificial insemination and gave birth to twins in 1994 that she and her lesbian partner, identified only as V.C., raised together for two years.

MetLife To Become Widest Held Stock

NEW YORK (AP)

MetLife's decision to go public is making it the most widely held stock in the United States. This week, MetLife became the latest insurance company to convert from mutual ownership by its policyholders to public ownership. In the second part of its conversion, MetLife will issue shares to about 9 million policyholders in exchange for their former ownership stake. That will make MetLife the most widely held stock, surpassing Lucent Technologies Inc., which has about 4.7 million shareholders.

Lehman Has On-Course Lead at Masters

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP)

Tom Lehman has moved into the on-course lead in the first round of the Masters. Gusty winds, more rough and slick greens combined to make Augusta National a treacherous test today, though Lehman managed to navigate the first 13 holes at 4 under and without a bogey. Masters rookie Dennis Paulson was 3 under through 14 holes. Sergio Garcia had the early clubhouse lead, making three straight birdies beginning at No. 13 to shoot a 2-under 70.

Elian's Father in U.S. To Reclaim Son

WASHINGTON (AP)

AP Top News at 4:25 p.m. EDT Thursday, April 6, 2000

Juan Miguel Gonzalez stood on U.S. soil today and laid claim to son Elian, the 6-year-old Cuban shipwreck survivor who sparked a four-month international tug of war over his fate. "I hope I will soon be able to embrace my son," he said. Gonzalez said his son had been forced to live for 137 days with distant relatives who had never seen him before. "I am truly impatient to have him returned to me as soon as possible and go back to Cuba together immediately," he said through an interpreter.

Company Decodes DNA Pieces of Human

WASHINGTON (AP)

A private company mapping the human genetic blueprint said today it has completed a major step: Decoding all of the DNA pieces that make up the genetic pattern of a single human being. The milestone puts the company, Celera Genomics of Rockville, Md., far ahead of an international government effort to map the human genome using a different method. "We've now completed the gene sequence plan of one human being," said Craig Venter, chief scientist for the company.

Warrants Issued in Ugandan Deaths

KAMPALA, Uganda (AP)

Ugandan authorities issued arrest warrants today for leaders of the deadly doomsday cult, saying they assumed the six had survived the sect's fiery end and gone into hiding. Meanwhile, documents obtained by The Associated Press show national officials warned local police about the cult in January. The local police dismissed the reports of children's kidnappings and mass graves as "a little bit unfounded," according to the documents.

U.S. Posts \$5M for Terror Suspect

WASHINGTON (AP)

The State Department posted a \$5 million reward today for information leading to the arrest and conviction of a suspected Algerian terrorist, Abdelmajid Dahoumane. Dahoumane, 33, was indicted in January in federal court in Washington state on charges of entering the United States from Canada to commit terrorism and planting an explosive at a ferry terminal. Describing Dahoumane as "potentially dangerous," State Department spokesman James P. Rubin said, "We will not rest until terrorist criminals, such as Mr. Dahoumane, are located and brought to justice."

General in Sex Case Was Promoted

WASHINGTON (AP)

The two-star general accused of sexual harassment by the Army's highest-ranking **female** had been chosen for the No. 2 job in the Army office responsible for investigating wrongdoing, officials said today. Since the accusation was leveled last fall, Maj. Gen. Larry G. Smith's move into the job of deputy inspector general has been on hold, even though the Army publicly refuses to say that he is the subject of investigation. The accusation of sexual harassment was made by Lt. Gen. Claudia Kennedy, the Army's only **female** three-star general and its top intelligence officer.

Debate Around Census Long Form

WASHINGTON (AP)

The Census Bureau is looking into eliminating the long form it sends out to millions of households every 10 years in favor of a similar survey that would ask essentially the same, detailed information but from fewer homes every year. Census officials have been working on the proposed "American Community Survey" for several years, but interest in it has increased in light of recent criticism from citizens and congressional Republicans that some questions on current census forms are too intrusive.

AP Top News at 4:25 p.m. EDT Thursday, April 6, 2000

Widest Held Stock Now MetLife

NEW YORK (AP)

MetLife's decision to go public is making it the most widely held stock in the United States. This week, MetLife became the latest insurance company to convert from mutual ownership by its policyholders to public ownership. In the second part of its conversion, MetLife will issue shares to about 9 million policyholders in exchange for their former ownership stake. That will make MetLife the most widely held stock, surpassing Lucent Technologies Inc., which has about 4.7 million shareholders.

Nasdaq Rises 98.53; Dow Up 80.35

NEW YORK (AP)

Technology stocks led the Nasdaq composite index to a solid, broad advance today as investors sought bargains and rewarded companies with strong prospects for future growth. The Nasdaq composite index rose 98.53 to close at 4,267.75. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 80.35 to 11,114.27. NYSE advancers led decliners 1,872-1,150.

Pirates' Cordova Just Misses No-Hitter

PITTSBURGH (AP)

Francisco Cordova lost his no-hitter with one out in the eighth, his shutout one batter later, but that didn't diminish how he dominated the Houston Astros again. Cordova, who teamed with Ricardo Rincon for the only two-pitcher extra-inning no-hitter in major league history in 1997, kept Houston hitless for 7 1-3 innings before yielding two hits in the eighth inning of the Pittsburgh Pirates' 10-1 romp today.

Eliau's Father Speaks Out in U.S.

WASHINGTON (AP)

On U.S. soil today, Juan Miguel Gonzalez declared his love for son Elian and chastised those who are trying "to obtain political advantage" from the custody battle over the 6-year-old shipwreck survivor. He received immediate assurances that the U.S. government is eager to reunite the Cuban father and his son. "It is simply the right thing to do," said Deputy Attorney General Eric Holder. "The father and his son need to be together."

American Held on Spying Charges

MOSCOW (AP)

U.S. officials said today they were closely following the case of an American citizen arrested in Moscow on spying charges, but said the man did not have diplomatic immunity and couldn't say when he might be released. The case was the latest in a string of spying arrests in Russia and the United States, and seemed likely to further strain already tense relations between the two countries. Russian authorities arrested the man Wednesday on suspicion that he developed contacts with Russian scientists in an effort to steal state secrets, Russia's Federal Security Service said. His name was not released.

DNA Pieces of Human Decoded

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Ugandan Sect Deaths Prompt Warrants

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Too Many High-Tech Visas Said Given

WASHINGTON (AP)

Auditors have concluded federal officials mistakenly doled out more visas for skilled foreign workers last year than the government previously estimated. An analysis by KPMG Consulting determined the Immigration and Naturalization Service exceeded the congressionally mandated limit by 21,888 to 23,385 visas for the fiscal year ended Sept. 30. INS, which discovered the overcount last summer, told Congress several months ago the excess was expected to be between 10,000 and 20,000 visas, but probably nearer the lower end.

Gore Taps Christopher To Find Running Mate

WASHINGTON (AP)

Former Secretary of State Warren Christopher will lead Al Gore's effort to select a running mate, Gore announced today, launching a vice presidential sweepstakes that till now had been more of a political parlor game. The job is a familiar one for Christopher, who did the same chore in 1992 for Bill Clinton in a process that ended with the Arkansas governor picking Gore to join him on the Democratic ticket.

Church Urges Catholics Who've Had Abortions

BOSTON (AP)

The Roman Catholic Church has begun a nationwide campaign urging women who have had abortions and now feel estranged from the faith to undergo counseling and return to the fold. Because the Vatican considers abortion the taking of a human life and a mortal sin, many women who have terminated a pregnancy feel unwelcome in church. The church's goal is to reassure these women and bring them back to Catholicism.

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Paulson Leads Masters; Woods Has 75

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP)

On a day when even Tiger Woods found that disaster lurked everywhere on a toughened Augusta National, a Masters rookie who has struggled to make a living playing golf shot a 4-under 68 for the first round lead. Dennis Paulson watched from the press room as Tom Lehman made double bogey on the 18th hole to Paulson sole possession of the lead.

U.S. Gives Assurances To Elian's Dad

AP Top News at 4:25 p.m. EDT Thursday, April 6, 2000

WASHINGTON (AP)

The father of 6-year-old Elian Gonzalez received assurances today that the U.S. government is eager to reunite him with his son. "It is simply the right thing to do," said Deputy Attorney General Eric Holder. "The father and his son need to be together." Elian's father, Juan Miguel Gonzalez, arrived on U.S. soil today, and is staying in a Washington suburb awaiting his son. Juan Gonzalez declared his love for his son and chastised those who are trying "to obtain political advantage" from the custody battle over the shipwreck survivor.

Israel Rejects Lebanese Conditions

JERUSALEM (AP)

Israel's deputy defense minister rejected new conditions set by Lebanon for an Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon and warned today that without an understanding further fighting could erupt. Deputy Defense Minister Efraim Sneh said Syria the main power broker in Lebanon was behind the conditions in an effort to sabotage Israel's plan to end its 18-year military presence in Lebanon. In a letter to U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, Lebanese President Emile Lahoud made it clear that Lebanon will not coordinate with the United Nations over a withdrawal before its concerns are addressed.

Summer Gas Forecast Cut to \$1.46

WASHINGTON (AP)

Gasoline prices should peak this month and decline to an average of \$1.46 a gallon for the summer, the government said today, revising dramatically its previous expectations of soaring fuel prices going into the heavy driving season. While the forecast dampened the prospect of \$2 per gallon of regular grade gasoline even in high-price areas, as once feared, motorists still will be paying about 25 percent more for gasoline this summer than last year, the forecast said.

Survey: More Sickness in Cities

ATLANTA (AP)

A new survey has found that city dwellers get sick more often than their rural counterparts, that people who live in areas of high unemployment are more likely to feel unhealthy, and that people living in poverty are sick most often. A five-year study released today by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found those trends. The government asked adults how many days in the prior month they were unhealthy and compiled results from 1993 through 1997. Those numbers were compared to factors such as population, income levels and unemployment rates.

Rebels Attack Russian Convoy

URUS-MARTAN, Russia (AP)

Acting boldly in the face of numerically superior Russian forces, Chechen rebels mounted an attack on a Russian convoy, the military said today. Meanwhile, Russian soldiers in the mountains searched for comrades missing from another ambush. Although the rebels have suffered heavy losses and have been driven out of much of Chechnya in the seven-month war, they recently have launched a series of attacks on federal forces.

DNA Pieces of Human Decoded

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map the human genome using a different method. "We've now completed the gene sequence plan of one human being," said Craig Venter, chief scientist for the company.

Microsoft Unveils Web Privacy Tools

TORONTO (AP)

Microsoft promised free Internet tools today based on emerging privacy standards for controlling how much information Web users reveal. Coming from the world's largest software company, the tools could give impetus for Web sites and other companies to embrace the Platform for Privacy Practices, or P3P. The World Wide Web Consortium, an Internet standards group, may finalize P3P this summer. A Microsoft officer said the tools will help consumers better understand how sites track visits and pass along information to other parties.

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Master's Rookie Leading Tournament

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP)

On a day when even Tiger Woods found that disaster lurked everywhere on a toughened Augusta National, a Masters rookie who has struggled to make a living playing golf shot a 4-under 68 for the first round lead. Dennis Paulson watched from the press room as Tom Lehman made double bogey on the 18th hole to Paulson sole possession of the lead.

Elian Protests Heating Up in Miami

MIAMI (AP)

Demonstrators streamed into the increasingly tense neighborhood of Elian Gonzalez's great-uncle last night, linking arms in a quiet, symbolic human chain to show the government they won't permit the child to be taken. By evening, some 300 people were protesting on the Little Havana street of small houses where Lazaro Gonzalez lives. Cuban truckers, in a now-familiar form of protest, honked and drove their rigs around the area to show support. Nearly 100 women, many carrying Cuban flags, trooped around the block from behind a police barricade and approached from the other direction, linking arms in front of the house.

Company Out Front on Genetic Blueprint

WASHINGTON (AP)

A private company mapping the human genetic blueprint said today it has completed a major step decoding all of the DNA pieces that make up the genetic pattern of a single human being. The milestone puts the company, Celera Genomics of Rockville, Md., far ahead of an international government effort to map the human genome using a different method. A company official said that human being was an unidentified male, and added that the company hopes to finish the gene sequence for a female by next week.

Support for China Measure Wavers

WASHINGTON (AP)

AP Top News at 4:25 p.m. EDT Thursday, April 6, 2000

The top House Democrat says he's not ready to embrace President Clinton's plan to extend permanent trade privileges to China, a top administration priority with wide support among Republicans. The proposal has little support within the president's own party in the House. "It's a controversial question and there are facts on both sides that people ought to look at," said Minority Leader Dick Gephardt, D-Mo. Lack of backing from top Democrats for the measure to grant China "permanent normal trade relations" is complicating the administration's effort to build support.

Lesbian 'Ex' Gets Visitation Rights

TRENTON, N.J. (AP)

In a ruling on the parental rights of same-sex couples hailed as the strongest to date, the New Jersey Supreme Court declared today that lesbian partners who raise children have the same legal rights of any parent when deciding custody issues. The court unanimously ruled that a lesbian who helped raise her then-lover's twins was a "psychological parent" with legal standing akin to the biological mother, and granted the woman visitation now that the couple has split up.

Service Allows Benefit Estimation

WASHINGTON (AP)

The Social Security Administration is offering a new Internet service for Americans who want to get an online estimate of future retirement benefits. Three increasingly detailed levels of estimates are available, each requiring the user to type in more information about themselves. The simplest, "quick calculator," asks only for a person's age and current-year earnings. The most sophisticated requires the user to download software onto their home computer and allows him or her to try out various retirement scenarios. The service is available at <http://www.ssa.gov/retire>.

McCain To Retrace Steps in Vietnam

WASHINGTON (AP)

Sen. John McCain will retrace his steps as a prisoner of war in Vietnam during a return trip to the Southeast Asian country later this month. McCain spokeswoman Nancy Ives said the Arizona Republican plans a series of meetings with Vietnamese government officials to discuss relations with the United States. McCain also will hold a televised town hall meeting in Ho Chi Minh City to be broadcast by MSNBC's "Hard Ball with Chris Matthews."

U.N.: Safe Blood Access Needed

GENEVA (AP)

More than half of the world's countries fail to perform full tests on donated blood, increasing the risk of spreading AIDS and other diseases, the World Health Organization said Friday. From 5 to 10 percent of people with the AIDS virus are estimated to be infected via blood transfusions, said Yasuhiro Suzuki, director of WHO's health technologies division.

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Four Horses Die on Opening Day

AP Top News at 4:25 p.m. EDT Thursday, April 6, 2000

LIVERPOOL, England (AP)

Three horses died from falls Thursday and a fourth died from a breathing problem in races leading up to the grueling Grand National steeplechase. Strong Promise and Lake Kariba died in the second event, the Martell Cup Chase, on the opening day of the meet at Aintree. Rossell Island died in the next race, the Martell Foxhunters Chase, after falling at the first fence on the National course and injuring his spine.

Miami Talks Over Elian Break Down

WASHINGTON (AP)

On U.S. soil, Juan Miguel Gonzalez said today he was "truly impatient" to reclaim his son Elian, but his hopes for an orderly transfer of custody were dimmed when government negotiations with the 6-year-old Cuban boy's Miami relatives broke down. The father declared his love for Elian and chastised those who are trying "to obtain political advantage" from the custody battle over the shipwreck survivor. He received immediate assurances that the U.S. government is eager to reunite him with his son. "It is simply the right thing to do," said Deputy Attorney General Eric Holder. "The father and his son need to be together."

Clinton Pessimistic on Gun Bill

WASHINGTON (AP)

President Clinton wants Congress to pass gun safety legislation by the April 20th anniversary of the tragic school shooting in Colorado, but he acknowledged today that it's not likely to happen. "We're making progress, but this is a brutal fight," Clinton told CBS News anchor Dan Rather in a 25-minute interview at the White House. "We have a majority for it in both Houses, I think. But the Republican leadership in the Senate may be able to keep it from coming to a vote."

S.C. Flag Removal Demanded

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP)

With the Confederate flag fluttering from the dome, hundreds of demonstrators demanding its removal converged on the Statehouse today after a five-day, 120-mile march from Charleston, S.C. "We must, as South Carolinians, move forward and get this issue resolved, and we must move the flag from the dome," Gov. Jim Hodges told a crowd of 2,000 people. On the Capitol's opposite side, flag supporters, who see the banner as a symbol of Southern heritage that honors Confederate war dead, sang "Dixie" and demanded that it stay.

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Feds Accuse Lockheed in China Deal

WASHINGTON (AP)

The State Department is accusing Lockheed Martin Corp. of illegally giving a conglomerate owned partly by the Chinese government a scientific assessment designed to improve a flawed Chinese-made satellite motor. A spokesman for the largest aerospace and defense firm, which has its headquarters in Bethesda, Md., denied it had violated U.S. export laws with the 1994 assessment. But the State Department said Lockheed provided the Chinese

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company with a document nearly 50 pages long even before the Defense Department said it would have to be reduced to about 5 pages of information.

Suit Filed Over GOP Protest Permits

PHILADELPHIA (AP)

Two groups filed a federal lawsuit today in hopes of forcing the city to grant them permits to demonstrate downtown during the Republican National Convention. Protesters maintain the decision can only be made by a court or in a meeting with Mayor John F. Street, since the city twice has denied a permit for one group and never responded to the other's request. They sent Street a letter last week, but he has not responded, they said. The groups involved are Unity 2000, a coalition of groups ranging from environmentalists to gay activists, and the Ad-Hoc Committee to Defend Health Care.

Fla. Fires Force Prison Evacuation

MIAMI (AP)

Two wildfires burned through 3,550 acres of Miami-Dade County, forcing the evacuation today of 1,450 inmates from a prison and destroying three houses. No one was injured in either fire, one of 50 acres and the other of 3,500 acres.

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Griffey Jr. Gets First Hit With Reds

CINCINNATI (AP)

Ken Griffey Jr. is no longer hitless in Cincinnati. Junior got his first hit for his hometown team tonight, an RBI single in the first inning off Milwaukee's Jaime Navarro. Griffey got a standing ovation from the crowd when he softly lined a 3-2 pitch to left-center, scoring Pokey Reese from third base. That ended an 0-for-10 slump that started Griffey's NL career.

Castro: Elian Back in Cuba Soon

HAVANA (AP)

Exhausted but satisfied, Fidel Castro predicted today that Elian Gonzalez will return to Cuba within 10 days to two months, now that his father has traveled to the United States to claim him. As for Juan Miguel Gonzalez getting temporary custody of the six-year-old refugee, "it seems to me that will be resolved rapidly," the Cuban president told reporters at the airport shortly after the father's plane took off for Washington. But more time will need to pass before Gonzalez can return to the island with his boy, Castro said.

D.C. Seeks To Avoid Seattle Repeat

WASHINGTON (AP)

The protest groups on the streets as the World Trade Organization meetings collapsed in a cloud of tear gas in Seattle are taking aim at an even bigger target: the April 16-17 meetings of the world's largest multinational lending agencies. Organized under the umbrella name Mobilization for Global Justice, the protest groups, ranging from the

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AFL-CIO to Friends of the Earth and the Forum of Indian Leftists, are planning 10 days of teach-ins and street protests starting Saturday. All the activity will be aimed at a massive rally on the Ellipse, the park across the street from the White House, on April 16.

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Navy Defends Anti-Sub Exercise

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)

The U.S. Navy denied today accusations by environmentalists that an anti-submarine exercise in the Bahamas in March caused 11 whales to beach themselves. Four of the stranded whales were discovered four hours before the exercise began on March 15, and the others were found more than 75 miles away, Rear Adm. Paul Gaffney said in a letter to the Washington-based U.S. Humane Society. The Navy has said it was testing upgrades of a buoy system used to track submarines.

Protests Over Confederate Flag in S.C.

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP)

With the Confederate flag fluttering from the dome, hundreds of demonstrators demanding its removal converged on the Statehouse today after a five-day, 120-mile march from Charleston, S.C. "We must, as South Carolinians, move forward and get this issue resolved, and we must move the flag from the dome," Gov. Jim Hodges told a crowd of 2,000 people. On the Capitol's opposite side, flag supporters, who see the banner as a symbol of Southern heritage that honors Confederate war dead, sang "Dixie" and demanded that it stay.

Dissidents Eyed in N. Ireland Bombing

LONDONDERRY, Northern Ireland (AP)

The ***Irish Republican Army***'s political ally blamed dissidents for a bomb attack Thursday on a British army barracks in Londonderry that caused no injuries. The Sinn Fein party said police had told them that death threats had been made against 17 of their local party officials, and a pro-British politician warned of a "cycle of violence." Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams urged members to be "extremely vigilant."

Summer Gas Forecast Cut to \$1.46

WASHINGTON (AP)

Gasoline prices should peak this month and decline to an average of \$1.46 a gallon for the summer, the government said today, revising dramatically its previous expectations of soaring fuel prices going into the heavy driving season. While the forecast dampened the prospect of \$2 per gallon of regular grade gasoline even in high-price areas, as once feared, motorists still will be paying about 25 percent more for gasoline this summer than last year, the forecast said.

Tokyo Stocks Rise

TOKYO (AP)

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Tokyo stocks rose moderately Friday following a recovery on Wall Street. The Nikkei Stock Average gained 175.89 points to 20,399.50 points in early trading. On Wall Street Thursday, the Nasdaq composite index rose 98.34 to close at 4,267.56. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 80.35 to 11,114.27.

Expos Beat Dodgers 11-3

MONTREAL (AP)

Orlando Cabrera and Chris Widger hit three-run homers and Vladimir Guerrero had a two-run shot tonight to lead the Montreal Expos to an 11-3 win over the Los Angeles Dodgers. Carl Pavano (1-0) gave up one run and five hits in eight strong innings. He struck out three and walked one.

U.S. Reassures Elian's Dad

WASHINGTON (AP)

Elian Gonzalez's father, Juan Miguel Gonzalez, received immediate assurances today that the U.S. government is eager to reunite him with his son. Deputy Attorney General Eric Holder said, "The father and his son need to be together." Still, the father, now in the United States, said his hopes for an orderly transfer of custody were dimmed when government negotiations with the 6-year-old Cuban boy's Miami relatives broke down. The father declared his love for son Elian and chastised those who are trying "to obtain political advantage" from the custody battle over the shipwreck survivor.

U.S.-China Trade Viewed With Caution

WASHINGTON (AP)

The top House Democrat says he's not ready to embrace President Clinton's plan to extend permanent trade privileges to China, a top administration priority. The measure would extend to China the same low-tariff access to U.S. markets that nearly all other U.S. trading partners have. China already has this access, but it must be renewed annually. The bill would end these annual reviews and ease China's entry into the World Trade Organization. The proposal has wide support among Republicans. The bill is scheduled for a House vote the week of May 22.

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Lesbian 'Ex' Gets Visitation Rights

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Investment Banks Settle Charges

NEW YORK (AP)

In one of the largest settlements ever with the Securities and Exchange Commission, 17 investment companies have agreed to pay \$138 million to end federal and industry investigations into civil charges that they gouged government agencies in municipal bond deals. The settlement announced today brings to rest investor fears that the Internal Revenue Service would revoke the tax-exempt status for billions of dollars of municipal bonds involved in the deals. "As a result of today's actions, a dark cloud has been lifted from the municipal securities market," said SEC Chairman Arthur Levitt.

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Miami Beats Charlotte 76-70

MIAMI (AP)

Alonzo Mourning scored 26 points, grabbed 17 rebounds and had six blocks as the Miami Heat beat the Charlotte Hornets 76-70 tonight for their season-high fifth straight win. Miami held Charlotte to just 30.9-percent shooting from the floor. Charlotte had its seven-game winning streak snapped and dropped into fifth place in the Eastern Conference standings, one-half game behind Philadelphia.

Load-Date: April 6, 2000

AP News Digest

Associated Press International

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Section: International news

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Body

WORLD AT 1800 GMT:

NEW:

GULF-OIL. Seeking market stability, Gulf states look to increase production.

NATO-KOSOVO-REAX. France to send new troops to Kosovo, urges other NATO reinforcements.

PHILIPPINES-VOLCANO. Philippine volcano erupts, spews lava, ash.

INDONESIA-PRESIDENT'S HEALTH. Wahid ordered to rest because of infection.

MAIN SPOT NEWS:

UNITED NATIONS The Security Council votes Thursday to send a 5,500-member observer force into the Congo to monitor a fragile cease-fire and lay the groundwork for a possible full-fledged U.N. peacekeeping operation. UN-CONGO. Lead with vote result moving now. By Nicole Winfield. AP Photos.

CAIRO, Egypt Pope John Paul II arrives in Egypt on Thursday on a pilgrimage to retrace some of the most epic passages from the Bible. The trip is also an opportunity to promote closer dialogue with Muslims and to try to overcome old rifts with Orthodox Christians. EGYPT-POPE. Lead has moved. By Brian Murphy. AP Photos XJD102, 104; XSL101; XDM104.

BRUSSELS, Belgium NATO's secretary-general issues a tough warning Thursday to "troublemakers" of any ethnic stripe in Kosovo, while his governing council studies a request for additional troops to be sent to the divided Serbian province. NATO-KOSOVO. Lead has moved. By Jeffrey Ulbrich.

VIENNA, Austria The decision to send reinforcements to Kosovska Mitrovica goes beyond the need to restore order in Kosovo's most turbulent city. The province's future and the entire international peacekeeping effort are on the line. KOSOVO-THE SHOWDOWN. Has moved. By Robert H. Reid.

ALSO MOVED:

KOSOVO. A Serb community leader reacted favorably Thursday to French plans to send reinforcements to this ethnically tense Kosovo town. AP Photos BEL106-109; XPR101.

AP News Digest

NATO-KOSOVO-REAX. France to send new troops to Kosovo, says other NATO countries should contribute soldiers.

MESKER-YURT, Russia Acting President Vladimir Putin says Thursday he would be willing to hold negotiations with Chechen representatives, but only after rebels are destroyed or defeated. Federal forces meanwhile move closer to the last major rebel command post, deep in the snowy mountains, the military says. RUSSIA-CHECHNYA. Lead has moved. By Yuri Bagrov. AP Photos MOSB101-103.

LEGAZPI, Philippines Thousands of villagers flee their homes Thursday as the Philippines' Mayon volcano erupts in a series of explosions that spew lava and superheated ash. PHILIPPINES-VOLCANO. By Bullit Marquez. AP Photos LEG118.

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates Gulf oil ministers have agreed to increase production to stabilize international markets where the price of oil is near an all-time high and will meet next month with other OPEC members to agree on a new production goal. GULF-OIL. Lead has moved. By Tarek Al-Issawi.

GENEVA Facing a multibillion-dollar headache at the World Trade Organization, the United States on Thursday denies it would seek a face-saving deal with the European Union. TRADE-US-TAX BREAKS. Lead has moved. INCORPORATES US-World Trade. By Naomi Koppel. AP Photos GEV110-111.

KADUNA, Nigeria Residents start returning to the debris-strewn streets of this northern city Thursday as Christian and Muslim leaders meet to work out a truce after two days of bloody clashes leave at least 200 people dead. NIGERIA-RELIGIOUS VIOLENCE. Lead has moved. By Gilbert da Costa.

TEHRAN, Iran The first confrontation between Iran's hard-liners and reformers who won the election could come over their plans to open Iran to foreign television. IRAN-ELECTIONS. Has moved. By Vijay Joshi.

MAPUTO, Mozambique Aid workers in helicopters and light planes struggle Thursday to ferry food, water and medicine to hundreds of thousands of people stranded by flood waters that have submerged much of central and southern Mozambique. MOZAMBIQUE-FLOODING. Has moved. By Mike Cohen. AP Photos MAP101-103.

TRES QUEBRADAS, Argentina Tattered scraps of clothes and a mummified severed hand. Human bones and key engine parts of a British plane that vanished long ago in a snowstorm in the Andes mountains. These are the clues to the story of a British plane crash that couldn't be told for more than half a century, until today. ARGENTINA-MYSTERY PLANE. Lead has moved. By Miguel Gil.

JAKARTA, Indonesia Indonesia's frail head of state denies he is seriously ill Thursday after doctors order him to rest for several days and cancel official engagements and an overseas trip. INDONESIA-PRESIDENT'S HEALTH. Has moved. By Geoff Spencer. AP Photos JAK101-102.

ANKARA, Turkey A Turkish court on Thursday sentences 18 members of the only legal pro-Kurdish party, including its current and former presidents, to more than three years in prison for staging a hunger strike in support of jailed Kurdish rebel leader Abdullah Ocalan. TURKEY-KURDS. Has moved. By Selcan Hacaoglu.

JERUSALEM Prime Minister Ehud Barak defends his foreign minister on Thursday for pledging to exact retributions for anti-Israel attacks launched from Lebanon, "blood for blood, soul for soul, child for child." ISRAEL-SYRIA. Lead has moved. By Ron Kampeas. AP Photos BEI102.

PARIS Cats and dogs need no longer fear that inevitable holiday separation when their owners take off for London. For a modest 300 francs (dls 46), they too can now take the Eurotunnel train under the English Channel to Britain. FRANCE-PET TRAVEL. Has moved. By Clar Ni Chonghaile.

FEATURES: Science and Technology

SCI-US-SURVIVAL SUITS.

AP News Digest

SCI-US-STORYTELLING MACHINE.

SCI-US-KENNEWICK MAN.

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WORLD AT 0000 GMT:

NEW:

EGYPT-CATHOLICS. Catholics a visible minority in Egypt.

CONGO-TROUBLED PEACE. Population turning against rebels.

TAIWAN-ELECTION LUCK. Superstition mixes with politics in Taiwan.

MAIN SPOT NEWS:

CAIRO, Egypt Hundreds of children from Roman Catholic schools gathered to wave greetings for Pope John Paul II. An ordinary sight on any papal visit. But in Egypt, there is something noteworthy. Many of the students were Muslims drawn to the schools by their strong academic reputations. EGYPT-POPE. Recap expected by 0300 GMT. By Brian Murphy. AP Photos XDM101-104, XJD101-104, LON108-121, CAI101-103.

With:

EGYPT-CATHOLICS. In terms of population, Egypt's 200,000 or so Catholics barely make a dent in this largely Muslim country of 64 million. But they are a visible minority, with a deep history and highly regarded schools attended by the children of the elite. XJD105.

UVIRA, Congo On a lucky day, Albert Masuku may sell matches, women's underwear or toothpaste to anyone with a little extra money to spend on luxury goods. Yet Masuku says he still must pay half his daily earnings in taxes to the rebels struggling to maintain control over eastern Congo's mountainous terrain and increasingly restive population. CONGO-TROUBLED PEACE. Expected by 0200 GMT. By Hrvoje Hranjski.

With:

UN-CONGO. With approval for a 5,500-strong observer mission for Congo, the United Nations must now start the expensive and logistically nightmarish task of deploying troops in a country the size of western Europe that has virtually no roads. Recap expected by 0300 GMT. NY112, 114-116.

KOSOVSKA MITROVICA, Yugoslavia Registration for ethnic Albanians wanting to return to their homes in the northern, Serb-dominated area of this ethnically divided town is to begin Friday, amid protest from local Serbs who oppose the idea. KOSOVO. Recap expected by 0300 GMT. BUJ101.

WITH:

NATO-KOSOVO. NATO's secretary-general issues a tough warning to "troublemakers" of any ethnic stripe in Kosovo, while his governing council studies a request for additional troops to be sent to the divided Serbian province. Has moved.

MESKER-YURT, Russia Acting President Vladimir Putin says he would be willing to hold negotiations with Chechen representatives, but only after rebels are destroyed or defeated. Federal forces meanwhile move closer to the last major rebel command post, the military says. RUSSIA-CHECHNYA. Lead expected by 1100 GMT. By Yuri Bagrov. MOSB101-103, NAZ101-103.

AP News Digest

WASHINGTON President Bill Clinton says "it would be a terrible mistake" to reject a trade deal with China even though he acknowledges that Beijing poses a growing threat to Taiwan and has a poor record on human rights and arms proliferation. US-CHINA. Has moved. By Terence Hunt. BEJ101.

TAIPEI, Taiwan A great way for a Taiwanese presidential candidate to get a big cheer from the crowd is to hoist a huge white daikon radish over his head. But if the long root vegetable isn't handy, a big pineapple will do. TAIWAN-ELECTION LUCK. Expected by 0200 GMT. By Annie Huang. NY190-191.

LEGAZPI, Philippines Thousands of villagers flee their homes as the Philippines' Mayon volcano erupts in a series of explosions that spew lava and superheated ash. PHILIPPINES-VOLCANO. Lead expected by 1100 GMT. By Bullit Marquez. MLA101-110, LEG112-121.

KADUNA, Nigeria On Monday, there was a war here. It began in the morning, when angry words over religious traditions turned to fistfights. By late afternoon, it was being waged with machetes, with human bonfires and finally with gunfire. A SUDDEN WAR. Expected by 0300 GMT. By Tim Sullivan.

JERUSALEM Prime Minister Ehud Barak defends his foreign minister for pledging to exact retributions for anti-Israel attacks launched from Lebanon, "blood for blood, soul for soul, child for child." ISRAEL-SYRIA. Lead has moved. By Ron Kampeas. JRL105.

MAPUTO, Mozambique Aid workers in helicopters and light planes struggle to ferry food, water and medicine to hundreds of thousands of people stranded by flood waters that have submerged much of central and southern Mozambique. MOZAMBIQUE-FLOODING. Has moved. By Mike Cohen. MAP101-105.

LOOKING AHEAD: On Sunday, Senegal holds a presidential election and Tajikistan holds parliamentary elections; in Dublin, Ireland, the **Irish Republican Army**-linked Sinn Fein party starts a two-day conference on the Northern Ireland peace process.

FEATURES: Arts and Entertainment

WARSAW, Poland Polish filmmaker Andrzej Wajda will receive a lifetime achievement Oscar at the Academy Awards on March 26. Even sweeter is acclaim for his latest film, "Mr. Tadeusz," an adaptation of Adam Mickiewicz's verse-novel about life, love and intrigue among Polish nobility. ARTS-US-OSCARS-WAJDA. Expected by 0300 GMT. By Beata Pasek. AP Photo NY352

NEW YORK In the 1980s, filmmakers realized that Wall Street carried with it some potentially dramatic elements particularly the quest for power. The latest movie about it is "Boiler Room," which explores the hard-sell tactics of a penny-stock trading operation. ARTS-US-WALL STREET MOVIES. Expected by 0300 GMT. By Eileen Glanton. AP Photo NY395

SINGAPORE Brother Joseph McNally, an Irish-born sculptor, has been urging business-oriented Singaporeans for decades to stretch their artistic wings. In 1984, he founded the LaSalle College of Arts. He started out with 30 students. Today, he has 12,000. ARTS-SINGAPORE-PROMOTING THE ARTS. Expected by 0300 GMT. By Anna Sathiah. AP Photo NY192

Also Moving:

ARTS-US-Weill Opera. AP Photos NY331

ARTS-US-Ian-Hart. AP Photo NY351

ARTS-US-Marcus Hummon. AP Photo NY349

ARTS-US-CSNY. AP Photo NY350

ARTS-US-Wintergrass Festival.

AP News Digest

ARTS-US-The Other Carnegie. AP Photos NY415-417

ARTS-US-Yes, You Cannes. AP Photo NY348

ARTS-US-Illusions of Eden. AP Photo NY409-411

ARTS-Entertainment Flashbacks.

ARTS-Celebrity Birthdays.

ARTS-Book Review.

ARTS-Audio Reviews.

ARTS-Film Reviews.

ARTS-US Top Ten.

YOUR QUERIES: World Service editors in charge are Ian Mader and Paisley Dodds. Suggestions and story requests to The Associated Press World Service are welcome. Contact your local AP bureau or the AP International Desk in New York, telephone (1) 212-621-1650, fax (1) 212-621-5449.

Australian telecommunications giant Telstra Corp. said Thursday it would merge its New Zealand unit with a local telecommunications company.

The move poses the biggest threat yet to New Zealand's Telecom Corp. since it was sold as a state company a decade ago.

Merging with Saturn Communications, a unit of Austar United Communications Ltd., Telstra will invest 1 billion New Zealand dollars (U.S. dlr\$ 500 million) in a nationwide broadband strategy over the next five years.

The new venture will take on Telecom by providing a full range of communications to 65 percent of New Zealand homes and 80 percent of businesses.

Over the next five years the new company will develop fiber cable networks in the central business districts and suburbs of New Zealand's largest cities: Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch. Access, possibly wireless, for businesses to the network will be made available in three other provincial cities.

The company plans to develop a cellular network capacity by bidding for spectrum in an upcoming auction, as well as offering cable and interactive television and high-speed Internet access.

At least 2000 jobs will be created during the five years of network construction.

The news sent Telecom's share price down more than 5 percent at one point.

"We will compete against Telecom across the whole spectrum," Austar chief executive John Porter said at the launch of the new company, which will be called Telstra Saturn Ltd. He promised consumers prices "not yet seen in New Zealand."

Telecom chief executive Theresa Gattung said it was good to see competitors "voting with their wallets" to enter the market.

The announcement came just one day after the government unveiled a regulatory review of the telecoms market, amid ongoing claims of anticompetitive behavior by market-dominant Telecom.

WORLD AT 0700 GMT:

NEW:

AP News Digest

CAMBODIA-KHMER ROUGE. Cambodians call for Khmer Rouge trial

SPAIN-BLAST. Spaniards protest deadly car bomb blast.

US-GRAMMYS. Carlos Santana wins eight grammys.

VIETNAM-WORLD BANK. World Bank president says Vietnam on right path

MAIN SPOT NEWS:

CAIRO, Egypt Under scenes depicting Christ's life and his family's sojourn in Egypt, workers race to prepare for Pope John Paul II on his own journey to retrace some of the most epic passages from the Bible. EGYPT-POPE. Has moved. Pope scheduled to arrive 1200 GMT. By Brian Murphy. CAI101-107.

KOSOVSKA MITROVICA, Yugoslavia Serbs in this ethnically divided town are threatening protests and more unrest in response to plans by NATO-led peacekeepers to begin resettling ethnic Albanians in the north side. KOSOVO. Has moved. By Aleksandar Vasovic. XUK102-104, PRI102-104, XPRI101-103.

TEHRAN, Iran After their rout in parliamentary elections, the question is whether Iran's hard-liners will fight to preserve their power or accept defeat. The first confrontation could come over the reformists' plans to open Iran to foreign television. IRAN-ELECTIONS. Has moved. By Vijay Joshi. TEH101-102.

KADUNA, Nigeria Charred bodies and burned-out cars litter the streets of this smoldering city, as frightened residents flee the scene of two days of religious clashes that left scores of people dead. About 200 bodies clog a hospital morgue. NIGERIA-RELIGIOUS VIOLENCE. Lead has moved. By Gilbert Da Costa.

MESKER-YURT, Russia Chechen rebels mount fierce resistance to Russian troops trying to close the circle around the fighters' last major command post, deep in the republic's southern mountains. RUSSIA-CHECHNYA. Lead expected by 1100 GMT. By Yuri Bagrov. MOSB114-116, NAZ104-105.

LOS ANGELES Carlos Santana, who first gained fame a generation ago with a searing guitar performance at Woodstock, caps a triumphant comeback with a record-tying eight Grammy Awards. US-GRAMMY. Has moved. By Beth Harris. AP Photos. XLA102, 103, 105, 163-164, 167-175, 178, 179, 181-183.

ALSO MOVED:

US-GRAMMYS NOTEBOOK.

US-GRAMMYS LIST.

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia Average Cambodians express near-unanimous support Thursday for a tribunal to judge Khmer Rouge leaders for genocide, but they fiercely argued over whether the United Nations should be involved. CAMBODIA-KHMER ROUGE. Has moved. By Ker Munthit. AP Photos PHN101-102.

HANOI, Vietnam World Bank President James Wolfensohn wraps up a visit to Vietnam Thursday, saying the communist country is headed in the right direction. The main question is the pace of reforms. VIETNAM-WORLD BANK. Expected by 0900 GMT. By Paul Alexander.

VITORIA, Spain The funeral procession for a Socialist politician killed with his bodyguard in a car bombing brings tens of thousands of mourners onto the sidewalks of this Basque capital. SPAIN-BLAST. Has moved. By Ciaran Giles. AP Photos MAD101-113, XDD101-110.

VIENNA, Austria The furor over a far-right party in Austria's ruling coalition stirs conflicting emotions in Eastern Europe, whose governments want to join the European Union but are also protective of their own sovereignty after decades of Soviet domination. EASTERN EUROPE-HAIDER. Has moved. By Robert H. Reid. BRU110-111.

AP News Digest

STARKE, Florida A man who killed an off-duty sheriff's deputy in a drugstore holdup is put to death in Florida's first execution by injection. Last month, the state changed the law to give its 366 death row inmates a choice between lethal injection and the electric chair, the method of execution for 76 years. FLORIDA EXECUTION. Has moved. By Ron Word.

KIEL, Germany Volker Ruehe, a former defense minister who wants to be governor of Schleswig-Holstein state, pleads with voters to not be distracted by outside issues like his party's financial scandal. GERMANY-ELECTION. Has moved. By Paul Geitner.

UNITED NATIONS The Security Council schedules a vote for Thursday to authorize 500 military observers to move into the Congo to monitor a fragile cease-fire and lay the groundwork for a possible full-fledged peacekeeping force. UN-CONGO. Expected by 0730 GMT. Meeting to vote scheduled for 1600 GMT, but likely to be delayed. By Nicole Winfield.

TRES QUEBRADAS, Argentina Tattered scraps of clothes and a mummified severed hand. Human bones and key engine parts of a British plane that vanished long ago in a snowstorm in the Andes mountains. These are the clues to the story of a British plane crash that couldn't be told for more than half a century, until today. ARGENTINA-MYSTERY PLANE. Has moved. By Miguel Gil. AP Photos NY107, BAI101.

LOS ANGELES The woman who married a multimillionaire on national TV has something in common with other Las Vegas brides: She woke up shortly after her wedding wondering, "what was I thinking?" US-MARRYING A MILLIONAIRE. Recap expected by 0730 GMT. By Lynn Elber. NYR113.

LOS ANGELES George W. Bush says he lost the Michigan primary because of Democrats "trying to hijack the election," and declares that would stop in upcoming states that require voters to decide on one or the other of the major parties before voting in a primary. US-PRESIDENTIAL ROUNDUP. Has moved. By Glen Johnson.

FEATURES: Science and Technology

SCI-US-SURVIVAL SUITS.

SCI-US-STORYTELLING MACHINE.

SCI-US-KENNEWICK MAN.

Also Moving: SCI-SCIENCE BRIEFS

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WORLD AT 1100 GMT:

NEW:

ISRAEL-SYRIA. Report says Israel agreed to give up Golan in secret talks.

JAPAN-TAINTED BLOOD. Three sentenced in Japanese tainted blood scandal.

HORN OF AFRICA-WAR. Fighting flares as special envoy visits region.

SPAIN-BLAST AFTERMATH. Latest bombing may deepen divide in leadership.

MAIN SPOT NEWS:

AP News Digest

CAIRO, Egypt Under scenes depicting Christ's life and his family's sojourn in Egypt, workers race to prepare for Pope John Paul II on his own journey to retrace some of the most epic passages from the Bible. EGYPT-POPE. Has moved. Pope scheduled to arrive at 1200 GMT. By Brian Murphy. AP Photos staffing.

MESKER-YURT, Russia Acting President Vladimir Putin promises Thursday to hold negotiations with Chechen representatives about offering the breakaway republic autonomy but only after federal forces destroy or defeat the rebels. RUSSIA-CHECHNYA. Has moved. By Yuri Bagrov.

Also Moved:

RUSSIA-POLAND

RUSSIA-SOBCHAK FUNERAL

JERUSALEM Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak denies a report Thursday that Israel has agreed to a withdrawal from the Golan Heights in secret peace talks with Syria. ISRAEL-SYRIA. Has moved. By Laurie Copans.

KOSOVSKA MITROVICA, Yugoslavia Serbs in this ethnically divided town are threatening protests and more unrest in response to plans by NATO-led peacekeepers to begin resettling ethnic Albanians in the north side. KOSOVO. Has moved. By Aleksandar Vasovic.

TEHRAN, Iran After their rout in parliamentary elections, the question is whether Iran's hard-liners will fight to preserve their power or accept defeat. It will probably be a bit of both. IRAN-ELECTIONS. Has moved. By Vijay Joshi.

KADUNA, Nigeria Residents start returning to the debris-strewn streets of this northern city Thursday as Christian and Muslim leaders meet to work out a truce after two days of bloody clashes leave at least 200 people dead. NIGERIA-RELIGIOUS VIOLENCE. Lead expected by 1400 GMT. By Gilbert da Costa.

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ALSO MOVED:

US-GRAMMYS NOTEBOOK.

US-GRAMMYS LIST.

US-OLD TIMERS.

US-SHORT LIST.

TOKYO Three former drug company executives accused of selling blood products tainted with the virus that causes AIDS are convicted Thursday and given brief prison terms. JAPAN-TAINTED BLOOD. Has moved. By Kozo Mizoguchi. TOK102-103.

UNITED NATIONS The Security Council schedules a vote for Thursday to authorize 500 military observers to move into the Congo to monitor a fragile cease-fire and lay the groundwork for a possible full-fledged peacekeeping force. UN-CONGO. Has moved. Meeting to vote scheduled for 1600 GMT, but likely to be delayed. By Nicole Winfield.

VITORIA, Spain As people in the Basque region ready for more peace demonstrations Thursday, there are increasing signs that the latest car-bomb slaying of a politician could deepen the divide between the region's leaders and the central government in Madrid. SPAIN-BLAST AFTERMATH. Expected by 1200 GMT. By Ciaran Giles.

AP News Digest

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia Ethiopia and Eritrea blame each other Thursday for flare-ups of fresh fighting along the disputed border. The clashes coincide with a visit by a U.S. special envoy sent to press for a settlement to end the bloody 21-month conflict. HORN OF AFRICA-WAR. Expected by 1200 GMT. By Abebe Andualalem.

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia Average Cambodians express near-unanimous support Thursday for a tribunal to judge Khmer Rouge leaders for genocide, but they fiercely argued over whether the United Nations should be involved. CAMBODIA-KHMER ROUGE. Has moved. By Ker Munthit. AP Photos PHN101-102.

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A summary of news from The Associated Press. Some items have moved on this circuit in expanded form with "i" or "f" or "s" category codes:

CAIRO, Egypt (AP)

Under scenes depicting Christ's life and his family's sojourn in Egypt, workers raced to prepare for Pope John Paul II on his own journey to retrace some of the most epic passages from the Bible. The pope's plane took off from Rome's Leonardo Da Vinci International Airport Thursday morning headed to Cairo for a three-day visit the first ever by a Roman Catholic pontiff to Egypt. The trip has taken on dual dimensions: a highly personal pilgrimage for the elderly pontiff and also an opportunity to promote closer dialogue with Muslims and try to overcome old rifts with Orthodox Christians. (POPE-EGYPT)

MAPUTO, Mozambique (AP)

AP News Digest

Aid workers in helicopters and light planes struggled Thursday to ferry food, water and medicine to hundreds of thousands of people stranded by flood waters that have washed away bridges and roads across central and southern Mozambique. Vast areas of the country are submerged with just the tips of trees poking out of the muddy water. Much of southern Gaza and central Inhambane provinces are accessible only by air. Thousands of people driven from their homes with only the clothes on their backs are huddled on patches of high ground urgently waiting for food and medical assistance. The United Nations and the government estimated that at least 70 people had been killed, more than 300,000 people had been left homeless, and that more than 300,000 were in need of food aid. World Health Organization officials warned that more than 800,000 people are at risk from epidemics particularly cholera and malaria because of the flooding. (MOZAMBIQUE-FLOODING)

MESKER-YURT, Russia (AP)

Acting President Vladimir Putin promised Thursday to hold negotiations with Chechen representatives about offering the breakaway republic autonomy but only after federal forces destroy or defeat the rebels. In the mountains of southern Chechnya, Russian troops have captured dominant heights around the town of Shatoi, the separatist fighters' last major command post, the military command said. It said 40 rebels were killed in the fighting since Wednesday, though the claim could not be confirmed. Military commanders say some 2,700 militants are concentrated near Shatoi, a town about 45 kilometers (28 miles) south of the Chechen capital Grozny that sits in a wide area of the Argun gorge cutting south through the mountains. Russian officials have estimated that as many as 7,000-8,000 rebels remain in Chechnya's southern mountains. (RUSSIA-CHECHNYA)

JERUSALEM (AP)

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak denied a newspaper report Thursday that Israel has agreed to a withdrawal from the Golan Heights in secret peace talks with Syria. The report came as Israel's Foreign Minister David Levy defended his warning that anti-Israeli attacks originating in Lebanon, where Syria is the main power broker, would be repaid in kind: "Blood for blood, soul for soul, child for child." In Syria, government-controlled newspapers reacted with outrage Thursday to Levy's remarks. While the rhetoric heated on both sides, the Israeli newspaper Maariv reported that Israel and Syria have been making contact through American mediators. The official U.S.-brokered talks broke off last month with the two sides deadlocked over the Golan issue. (ISRAEL-SYRIA)

LOS ANGELES (AP)

Carlos Santana, who first gained fame a generation ago with a searing guitar performance at Woodstock, capped a triumphant comeback with a record-tying eight Grammy Awards. The 52-year-old guitarist's multi-platinum "Supernatural" won album of the year on Wednesday night. His first No. 1 single, "Smooth," capped a sweep of the major Grammys by winning song and record of the year. Santana tied Michael Jackson's 1983 record of most Grammys on a single night. To a standing ovation, Santana performed "Smooth" just before winning his final award. He kissed singer Rob Thomas at the end. Only a lack of a writing credit for "Smooth" prevented a record-breaking performance by Santana. The song of the year trophy went to Thomas and Itaal Shur. (US-GRAMMY)

WORLD SPORTS AT 1400 GMT

SOCCER:

LONDON Queen Elizabeth II sends a message of condolence while world-wide tributes honor the life of Stanley Matthews, soccer's first real superstar, who died Wednesday age 85.

Slug Sports-Soccer-Matthews-Obit. Expected by 1600 GMT.

By Robert Millward

SAN DIEGO Colombia took advantage of two major defensive lapses, including Marcial Salazar's own goal, to beat Peru 2-1 on Wednesday night in the semifinals of the Gold Cup.

Slug Sports-Soccer-Gold Cup-Colombia-Peru. Has moved.

AP News Digest

LONDON After starring in England's tie with Argentina, Emile Heskey returns to Wembley to lead Leicester's bid to win the League Cup final. For David Beckham, he'll just be glad to be back on the Manchester United lineup in a league game at Wimbledon.

Slug Sports-Soccer-British Preview. Expected by 1600 GMT.

By Robert Millward

ROME Carlo Ancelotti was a member of AS Roma's last Serie A title-winning team. He doesn't want to have anything to do with that club's next championship.

Slug Sports-Soccer-Italian Preview. Expected by 1500 GMT.

By Howard Fendrich.

MADRID, Spain A showdown between Real Madrid and Barcelona is always fun to watch, especially when the game actually means something, as it does this time with a win, Real can oust its archrival from second place behind Deportivo.

Slug Sports-Soccer-Spanish Preview. Expected by 1500 GMT.

By Daniel Woolls.

RUGBY UNION:

AUCKLAND, New Zealand New Zealand's five Super 12 franchises have a binding motivation factor while vying to retain a stranglehold on the world's premier provincial title. Kiwi pride is on the line.

Slug Sports-RugbyU-Super 12-Preview. Has moved.

By John Pye.

ALSO:

PARIS Sports-RugbyU-France. Has moved.

SKIING:

IGLS, Austria Isolde Kostner of Italy dominates the final day of practice Thursday for a women's World Cup downhill race, beating Melanie Turgeon of Canada by .83 seconds and leaving the best Austrian more than a second behind.

Slug Sports-Skiing-Women's Downhill-Training. Has moved.

By Nesha Starcevic.

TENNIS:

LONDON Top seed Yevgeny Kafelnikov faces Daniel Vacek for a place in the quarterfinal of the AXA Cup indoor tournament.

Slug Sports-Tennis-London. Expected by 1600 GMT.

OKLAHOMA CITY Top-seeded Julie Halard-Decugis of France withdrew from the \$180,000 IGA SuperThrift tennis tournament on Wednesday because of a muscle strain.

Slug Sports-Tennis-IGA Classic. Has moved.

ALSO:

MEXICO CITY Sports-Tennis-Mexican Open. Has moved.

ATHLETICS:

GENT, Belgium The European Indoor Championships open Friday, with several top athletes sitting out the event to concentrate on a much bigger prize at the end of the season the Sydney Olympics.

Slug Sports-Track-European Indoors. Expected by 1500 GMT.

SAILING:

AUCKLAND, New Zealand Italian challenger Prada cried foul but Team New Zealand tactician Brad Butterworth defended an America's Cup race committee decision Thursday to postpone Race 3 due to light and inconsistent breezes.

Slug Sports-Sailing-America's Cup. Has moved.

By John Pye.

CRICKET:

BOMBAY, India Jacques Kallis takes three for 30 and leads South Africa's romp through India's top order Thursday, bowling out the hosts for 225 on the first day of their first test.

Slug Sports-Cricket-India-South Africa. Expected by 1430 GMT.

By Aryan Zane.

ALSO:

COLUMBO, Sri Lanka Sports-Cricket-Sri Lanka. Has moved.

OLYMPICS:

LAUSANNE, Switzerland The International Olympic Committee held its first meeting Thursday with 10 cities hoping to host the 2008 Summer Olympics to explain the new selection procedures which are tougher than in the past.

Slug Sports-Olympics-2008 Race. Will be led after news conference scheduled for 1700 GMT.

GOLF:

CARLSBAD, California Tiger Woods goes head to head with Retief Goosen Thursday in the second round of the Match Play Championship.

Slug Sports-Golf-Match Play. First match starts at 1730 GMT.

ALSO:

TUCSON, Arizona Sports-Golf-Tucson Open. Expected by 0100 GMT.

GOLD COAST, Australia Sports-Golf-Australian **Women's** Masters. Has moved.

ALSO:

CAMAS, Washington Sports-Figure Skating-Harding Arrest. Has moved.

DETROIT Sports-Boxing-Hearns-Retirement. Has moved.

AP News Digest

UNDATED Sports-Ice Hockey-NHL Roundup. Has moved.

UNDATED Sports-Basketball-NBA Roundup. Has moved.

YOUR QUERIES: Sports stories carry the "s" category code or, in some cases, the "i" category code. Questions and story requests are welcome. Contact your local AP bureau or the AP International Desk in New York, telephone (1) 212-621-1857, fax (1) 212-621-5449.

WORLD SPORTS AT 0000 GMT

SOCCER:

LONDON Queen Elizabeth II sends a message of condolence on Thursday and worldwide tributes honor the life of soccer's first superstar, Stanley Matthews, who died on Wednesday at age 85.

Slug Sports-Soccer-Matthews-Obit. Has moved.

By Robert Millward.

SAN DIEGO Trinidad and Tobago takes on surprise semifinalist Canada Thursday night for a shot at Colombia and the CONCACAF Gold Cup title.

Slug Sports-Soccer-Gold Cup. Kickoff scheduled for 0400 GMT.

ZURICH, Switzerland Senior soccer representatives meet with European Union officials Thursday attempting to ease a long-running row over foreign player limits on club teams and head off a future clash over players' agents.

Slug Sports-Soccer-FIFA-EU. Has moved.

ALSO:

ROME Sports-Soccer-Italian Preview. By Howard Fendrich. Has moved.

LONDON Sports-Soccer-British Preview. By Robert Millward. Has moved.

MADRID, Spain Sports-Soccer-Spanish Preview. By Daniel Woolls. Has moved.

OLYMPICS:

LAUSANNE, Switzerland The International Olympic Committee holds its first meeting Thursday with 10 cities hoping to host the 2008 Summer Olympics to explain new selection procedures which are meant to cut bidding costs and prevent corruption.

Slug Sports-Olympics-2008 Race. Has moved.

By Clare Nullis.

CRICKET:

BOMBAY, India Gary Kirsten and Herschelle Gibbs resume their opening stand with South Africa on 27 for zero in chase of India's first innings of 227 Friday, the second day of their first test.

Slug Sports-Cricket-India-South Africa. Match scheduled to resume at 0400 GMT.

By Aryan Zane.

TENNIS:

AP News Digest

LONDON Top seed Yevgeny Kafelnikov scores a 6-2, 7-5 victory over former doubles partner Daniel Vacek on Thursday to march into the quarterfinal of the AXA Cup indoor tournament.

Slug Sports-Tennis-London. Has moved.

ALSO:

OKLAHOMA CITY Sports-Tennis-IGA Classic. Expected by 0500 GMT.

ATHELTICS:

GENT, Belgium On a new, fast track, the European Indoor Championships open Friday with Romania's Gabriela Szabo seeking to start the season the same way she left off last year in dominating fashion.

Slug Sports-Track-European Indoors. Has moved.

By Raf Casert.

SAILING:

AUCKLAND, New Zealand With the America's Cup again up for grabs, it begs the question whither Britain?

Slug Sports-Sailing-America's Cup. Has moved.

By Bernie Wilson

FIGURE SKATING:

OSAKA, Japan Canadian Annie Bellmare and her American rivals Angela Nikodinov and Stacey Pensgen compete for the title Friday in the women's free program at the Four Continents Figure Skating Championships.

Slug Sports-Figure Skating-Four Continents. Expected by 1330 GMT.

By K.P. Hong.

ALSO:

CAMAS, Washington Slug Sports-Figure Skating-Harding-Arrest.

By William McCall. Has moved.

GOLF:

CARLSBAD, California Tiger Woods plays Retief Goosen in the second round of the Match Play Championship, while Justin Leonard gets another crack at Shigeki Maruyama, who beat him in the second round a year ago.

Slug Sports-Golf-Match Play. Expected by 0100 GMT.

By Doug Ferguson.

GOLD COAST, Australia Laura Davies and Jane Crafter take a one-shot lead over Karrie Webb into Friday's second round of the Australian Ladies Masters.

Slug Sports-Golf-Australian Ladies Masters. Expected by 1200 GMT.

ALSO:

TUCSON, Arizona Sports-Golf-Tucson Open. By Mel Reisner. Expected by 0300 GMT.

SKIING:

IGLS, Austria Isolde Kostner has dominated training all week for a women's World Cup downhill.

Slug Sports-Skiing-Women-Downhill. Race scheduled for 1030 GMT start.

By Nesha Starcevic.

ALSO:

JATIVA, Spain Sports-Cycling-Valencia Tour. Has moved.

NEW YORK Sports-Basketball-NBA Roundup. Expected by 0700 GMT.

PITTSBURGH Sports-Ice Hockey-Jagr-Hospitalized. Has moved.

NEW YORK Sports-Ice Hockey-NHL Roundup. Expected by 0700 GMT.

YOUR QUERIES: Sports stories carry the "s" category code or, in some cases, the "i" category code. Questions and story requests are welcome. Contact your local AP bureau or the AP International Desk in New York, telephone (1) 212-621-1857, fax (1) 212-621-5449.

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AP and RealNetworks Inc. launch service for media Web sites

Associated Press International

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Body

The Associated Press and RealNetworks Inc. announced the launch Wednesday of a real-time audio and video news service for media Web sites called AP Streaming News.

The new, jointly produced service from AP, the world's largest news agency, and RealNetworks, the leading provider of streaming audio and video for the Internet, gives AP's newspaper and broadcast members easy-to-use, cost-effective audio and video to enhance their Web sites.

"The online news market is moving quickly to embrace multimedia presentations that include audio and video, driven by the increasing momentum behind broadband delivery technology and more competition for the online news audience," said Jim Kennedy, director of AP Multimedia Services. "The AP identified that shift early and developed AP Streaming News to help its member newspapers and broadcasters catch the leading edge of this audio-video wave."

AP Streaming News provides anchored audio news summaries, regularly scheduled video newscasts, sound and video clips for major news stories and live links to selected events on a daily basis for AP's newspaper and broadcast members. All the video and audio packages are produced by APTN and AP Network News.

AP Streaming News enables newspapers and broadcasters to strategically place multimedia content on their Web sites without a major investment in staff or technology. No special expertise, additional equipment or technical maintenance is required on the part of the host site. AP and RealNetworks do all the work, refreshing content around the clock and alerting each news organization's site by e-mail to post updated links.

The announcement was made at Editor and Publisher's Interactive Newspapers Conference and Trade Show in New Orleans.

WORLD AT 1800 GMT:

NEW:

CHECHNYA-SHATTERED CITY. Fighting leaves city a blackened shell.

LEBANON-ISRAEL. Israel stages fresh airstrikes on Lebanon.

ISRAEL-TORTURE. Israel admits to using illegal force on Palestinians.

AP and RealNetworks Inc. launch service for media Web sites

NORTHERN IRELAND. British official issues "eleventh-hour" plea to IRA.

GULF-OIL SMUGGLING. Higher oil prices spur smuggling.

AFGHAN-HIJACKING ENVY. Some Afghans envy passengers on captive airliner.

EAST AFRICA-NEW TOOL. Computer helps project changes in wildlife, environment.

MAIN SPOT NEWS:

GROZNY, Russia The schoolteacher stares at the blackened, shattered carcass of the apartment building that had been her home for years before Russian artillery chewed it to pieces. She slowly shakes her head. The surrounding buildings were all wrecked, many of the walls punctured by gaping shell holes. CHECHNYA-SHATTERED CITY. Has moved. By Yuri Bagrov and Alexander Merkushev. AP Photo NY190.

WITH:

RUSSIA-CHECHNYA. Russian planes and artillery on Wednesday bombard suspected rebel hide-outs in Chechnya's mountains and villagers report heavy civilian casualties. Lead has moved. MOSB103-105.

RUSSIA-GROZNY-GLANCE. Expected by 2000 GMT.

BEIRUT, Lebanon Israel stages fresh airstrikes on suspected guerrilla hideouts in Lebanon on Wednesday and warns against missile attacks on its territory. LEBANON-ISRAEL. Lead has moved. By Hussein Dakroub. AP Photos BEI102-103,105,106.

ALSO MOVED:

ISRAEL-LEBANON. Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak convenes his Security Cabinet on Wednesday on Lebanon. XLR101-102.

ISRAEL-TORTURE. Government report Wednesday acknowledges systematic illegal force used against Palestinian suspects.

STANSTED, England Negotiators seeking to end the hijacking of an Afghan airliner hope to gain vital information from four crew members who jumped out of the cockpit Wednesday. Among the more than 150 people still aboard the plane are a woman headed for her wedding and more than 30 of her relatives. AFGHAN PLANE HIJACKED. Lead has moved; developments will be expedited. By Burt Herman. AP Photos LON102, LDC101-102.

ALSO MOVED:

AFGHANISTAN-HIJACK ENVY. In Afghanistan, where jobs, money and security are scarce, many Afghans joke that being hijacked and flown to London sounds like a stroke of good fortune.

ISTANBUL, Turkey Abdullah Ocalan's rebel group on Wednesday announces an end to its 15-year guerrilla insurrection against Turkey, saying that it will pursue a political struggle for Kurdish rights. TURKEY-KURDS. Lead expected after 1900 GMT announcement. By Harmonie Toros.

PODGORICA, Montenegro Yugoslavia's slain defense minister is mourned Wednesday in his native Montenegro, where divisions over possible independence from the Serb-run federation run deep. YUGOSLAVIA-SHOOTING. Lead expected by 2000 GMT. By Aleksandar Vaskovic. AP Photos POD101-104.

JAKARTA, Indonesia Indonesia's security minister refuses Wednesday to address demands for his resignation until the president returns from a trip overseas. INDONESIA-GENERAL. Lead has moved. By Daniel Cooney. AP Photo JAK102.

ALSO MOVED:

AP and RealNetworks Inc. launch service for media Web sites

INDONESIA-ACEH. Four die in clashes in Aceh between rebels and Indonesian troops, police say Wednesday.

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates Smugglers are skirting U.S. destroyers in the Persian Gulf to ship more Iraqi oil in violation of U.N. sanctions, reaping profits and benefitting Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, the U.S. Navy says. GULF-OIL SMUGGLING. Expected by 2000 GMT. By Anwar Faruqi. AP Photo NY191.

KIGALI, Rwanda Along Congo's remote border with Uganda, tribesmen armed with machetes have killed thousands of minority Hema they accuse of land-grabbing, a rebel leader says Wednesday. CONGO-FUELING WAR. Expected by 2000 GMT.

VIENNA, Austria Seeking to allay foreign fears about a right-wing resurgence in Austria, the new chancellor promises Wednesday to seek compensation for those forced into slavery by the Nazi regime. AUSTRIA-GOVERNMENT. Lead expected by 2000 GMT. By Robert H. Reid. AP Photos VIE101-105,107,111.

ALSO MOVED:

AUSTRIA-HAIDER LAND. The province where rightist Joerg Haider serves as governor could be any of Austria's quaint, mountain-ringed, picture-postcard towns.

LONDON Britain's top official for Northern Ireland issues an urgent plea Wednesday for the ***Irish Republican Army*** to "respond in a constructive way" to calls for its disarmament. NORTHERN IRELAND. Has moved. By Kristin Gazlay. AP Photos LON106, XBFT101.

BANGKOK, Thailand Workers set rows of potted trees and ferns along a street Wednesday to hide a Bangkok slum from hundreds of delegates arriving in limousines for world trade talks at a conference center across the road. WORLD TRADE. Lead has moved. By Grant Peck. AP Photos BK103-104,106.

NAIROBI, Kenya A novel computer model that can project changes in the complex environment of East Africa will make valuable data available to citizens trying to cope with difficult land-use questions and the management of wildlife, researchers say Wednesday. EAST AFRICA-NEW TOOL. Has moved. By Susan Linnee.

LOOKING AHEAD: On Thursday, Indonesian President Abdurrahman Wahid arrives in Italy for meetings with Italian leaders and Pope John Paul II at the Vatican.

FEATURES MOVED:

FEA-JAPANESE INVASION. AP Photos TPE105,106,108.

FEA-INDIA-WIDOWS FILM. AP Photos NY107-109.

FEA-JAPAN-PAYING THE TAB. AP Photos NY317-319, Graphic JPN US BASE. With FEA-PAYING THE TAB-GLANCE.

FEA-FROZEN MOLDOVA. AP Photo NY320, Graphic MOLDOVA.

YOUR QUERIES: World Service editors in charge are Jean H. Lee and Ian Mader. Suggestions and story requests to The Associated Press World Service are welcome. Contact your local AP bureau or the AP International Desk in New York, telephone (1) 212-621-1650, fax (1) 212-621-5449.

WORLD AT 0000 GMT:

NEW:

US-VULNERABLE INTERNET. Computer vandals step up attacks.

KOSOVO-UNHAPPY POLICE. Some members of police force fed up, return home.

AP and RealNetworks Inc. launch service for media Web sites

EUROPE-FEAR OF FOREIGNERS. Resentment against immigrants rising.

THAILAND-THE BEACH. Critics: shooting for film has destroyed a beach.

ISRAEL-FIGHTING FOR PEACE. Barak's peace efforts bogged down.

MAIN SPOT NEWS:

STANSTED, England The mystery deepens as to why hijackers seized an Afghan airliner and diverted it to Britain, while negotiators continue to assert the armed men have made no formal demands. AFGHAN PLANE HIJACKED. Recap expected by 0500 GMT. By Caroline Byrne. LDC101-103, 105, LON102.

ALSO MOVED:

AFGHANISTAN-HIJACK ENVY. In Afghanistan, where jobs, money and security are scarce, many Afghans joke that being hijacked and flown to London sounds like a stroke of good fortune.

JERUSALEM For Prime Minister Ehud Barak, last year's photo opportunities with Syrian and Palestinian leaders have devolved into this year's slammed doors and angry accusations. ISRAEL-FIGHTING FOR PEACE. Expected by 0200 GMT. By Ron Kampeas. JRL103-105.

WITH:

BEIRUT, Lebanon Israel stages fresh airstrikes on suspected guerrilla hideouts in Lebanon and warns against missile attacks on its territory. LEBANON-ISRAEL. Lead has moved. By Hussein Dakroub. BEI102-105, XEW101-109.

ALSO:

ISRAEL-BORDER BLUES. When the emergency TV station broadcasts the "all clear", residents of this border town emerge from bomb shelters into lives considerably less idyllic than their surroundings. Expected by 0500 GMT. By Dina Kraft.

NEW YORK Computer vandals step up a three-day electronic assault against some of the most popular sites on the Web, inconveniencing millions of Internet users and unnerving Wall Street. US-VULNERABLE INTERNET. Recap expected by 0200 GMT. By David E. Kalish. WCAP109-110,112.

URUS-MARTAN, Russia Russian planes bomb Chechnya's southern mountains, where the main rebel forces are believed to be concentrated, while militants stage hit-and-run attacks on federal posts. RUSSIA-CHECHNYA. Lead expected by 1100 GMT. By Lyoma Turpalov. MOSB101-106, NAZ102-107.

WITH:

SLEPTSOVSKAYA, Russia At least two dozen people were killed when Russian forces offered safe passage to a group of Chechen civilians, only to bombard them as they tried to leave a village, refugees allege. RUSSIA-CIVILIANS BOMBED. Expected by 0300 GMT. By Andrew Kramer.

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia They were issued the wrong size snow chains for their cars. They had no forensic equipment. They barely even had pens. Now some members of the understaffed U.N. police force in Kosovo have had enough and they're going home. KOSOVO-UNHAPPY POLICE. Expected by 0300 GMT. By Elena Becatoros. NY192.

VIENNA, Austria The head of the new government of centrists and right-wingers sends new signals that Austria is ready to make amends for its Nazi past. AUSTRIA-GOVERNMENT. Recap expected by 0300 GMT. By Roland Prinz. With AP Photos.

WITH:

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PARIS For a growing number of Europeans, immigrants represent a threat to their jobs, their safety, their language, the benefits of the welfare state and even their way of life. EUROPE-FEAR OF FOREIGNERS. Expected by 0300 GMT. By Deborah Seward. MAD104, XSL101, AP Graphic EUROPE RIGHT WING.

MAYA BAY, Thailand The image of sunny, sandy perfection achieved in making the film "The Beach" has destroyed the once-pristine beach where it was shot, environmentalists say. THAILAND-THE BEACH. Expected by 0300 GMT. By Thaksina Khaikaew. BK109-111.

WITH:

BRITAIN-BEACH PREMIERE. Thousands of fans shriek in adoration as Hollywood star Leonardo DiCaprio steps from a limousine for the European premiere of his latest movie. Moved. LCN101-105.

THE BEACH-FILM REVIEW. "The Beach" is a mediocre movie, but the blame shouldn't all be laid at the sandy feet of its titanic star, Leonardo DiCaprio. Expected by 0300 GMT. NY395-396.

UNITED NATIONS Cuba is hosting a major Third World summit in April and hopes to set an agenda that puts developing nations in the mainstream of the global economic and technical revolution in the new millennium. UN-THIRD WORLD SUMMIT. Expected by 0500 GMT. By Edith M. Lederer.

ISTANBUL, Turkey Abdullah Ocalan's rebel group announces an end to its 15-year guerrilla insurrection against Turkey, saying it will pursue a political struggle for Kurdish rights. TURKEY-KURDS. Lead has moved. By Harmonie Toros.

LOOKING AHEAD: On Thursday, Indonesian President Abdurrahman Wahid arrives in Italy for meetings with Italian leaders and Pope John Paul II. On Saturday, Northern Ireland's largest Protestant party is to hold a vote on whether to remain in the province's four-party Cabinet.

FEATURES:

TOLEDO, Ohio Researchers at a dozen zoos across the United States are studying what stresses out polar bears. SCI-US-POLAR PALACE. Expected by 0400 GMT. By John Seewer. AP Photos NY347-348

NEW YORK A researcher says he's developed a computer program that could help crews get to avalanche victims much more quickly than current methods. SCI-US-AVALANCHE SEARCH. Expected by 0400 GMT. By Chris Grygiel.

SHACKLEFORD BANKS, North Carolina Some 30 mares on this barrier island were injected with an immunocontraceptive for the first time recently. Adoption and natural attrition no longer are the only means of controlling the herd's size. SCI-US-ISLAND HORSES. Expected by 0400 GMT. By Estes Thompson. AP Photo NY356

YOUR QUERIES: World Service editors in charge are Ian Mader and Charles Gans. Suggestions and story requests to The Associated Press World Service are welcome. Contact your local AP bureau or the AP International Desk in New York, telephone (1) 212-621-1650, fax (1) 212-621-5449.

WORLD AT 0700 GMT:

NEW:

WORLD TRADE. Thai leader welcomes trade conference delegates.

AUSTRIA-HAIDER LAND. Life under Haider: some love it, some fight against it.

US-VULNERABLE INTERNET. New attacks show vulnerability of online companies.

UN-IRAQ WEAPONS. U.S. expert has new questions about Iraq's biological weapons.

MAIN SPOT NEWS:

STANSTED, England The calm that has characterized the tireless negotiations to free the hostages on a hijacked Afghan airliner was not shattered by the dramatic escape of four men who jumped from the cockpit, authorities said Wednesday. AFGHAN PLANE HIJACKED. Developing. By Burt Herman. AP Photos XDC103-104; LON113,118. AP Graphic HIJACKING UPDATE 4.

BEIRUT, Lebanon In its second night of aerial retaliation for the death of its soldiers, Israel's military aircraft attack a Hezbollah office in the southern port city of Tyre and target a village in a mountainous guerrilla stronghold inland, security officials say. LEBANON-ISRAEL. Developing. By Sam F. Ghattas. AP Photos BEI101-110.

WITH:

ISRAEL-LEBANON. Tens of thousands of Israelis living near the Lebanon border huddle in underground shelters or flee south out of rocket range, fearing reprisals by Lebanese guerrillas for the heaviest Israeli bombardment in eight months. Has moved. AP Photos XEW102-104,106-109, 111.

ISRAEL-LEBANON-BOX. Key events in Lebanon-Israel fighting in recent years.

URUS-MARTAN, Russia Russian warplanes focus their bombing on Chechnya's southern mountains, while ground troops try to seal off routes used to move rebels and supply their southern strongholds. RUSSIA-CHECHNYA. Lead expected by 1000 GMT. By Lyoma Turpalov. AP Photos MOSB101-111, NAZ101-105.

BANGKOK, Thailand A growing number of developing countries are re-examining international trade agreements and saying they're no longer willing to be excluded from discussions on global economic policies. WORLD TRADE-POOR WORLD'S VIEW. Has moved. By David Thurber. AP Graphic WORLD TRADE, AP Photos BK101-105.

BANGKOK, Thailand Workers set out rows of potted trees and ferns along a street Wednesday to hide the tin shacks of a Bangkok slum from hundreds of delegates arriving in limousines for world trade talks at a conference center across the road. WORLD TRADE. Expected by 0800 GMT. By David Thurber. AP Photos BK106-107.

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa That moment 10 years ago remains sharply etched in the minds of millions: a smiling Nelson Mandela emerges from prison, his fist thrust into the air. The euphoria of watching Mandela walk free on Feb. 11, 1990, has faded, replaced by the cold realization that huge challenges confront South Africa. SOUTH AFRICA-10 YEARS AFTER. Has moved. By Andrew Selsky. AP Photos NY190-191, JOH101.

ANKARA, Turkey Abdullah Ocalan's Kurdish rebels are pushing forward with their drive to transform themselves from a guerrilla group to a political organization, reportedly renaming the group's political and armed wings. TURKEY-KURDS. Has moved. Rome news conference scheduled between 1000 and 1100 GMT. By Louis Meixler.

KLAGENFURT, Austria This could be any of Austria's quaint, mountain-ringed, picture-post card towns. This is Joerg Haider country, capital of Carinthia province, whose residents overwhelmingly elected the controversial far right-wing leader as their governor last year. AUSTRIA-HAIDER LAND. Expected by 0800 GMT. By Melissa Eddy. AP Photos VIE105,119.

ALSO MOVED:

AUSTRIA'S-HAIDER'S MINISTERS. Two Freedom Party ministers in Austria's new government face scrutiny over their right-wing sentiments and ambiguous statements made about the Nazi era.

AUSTRIA-GOVERNMENT. Parliament on Tuesday debates the international isolation imposed on Austria. AP Photos VIE101,103, 107,110, 116, 121-123.

ZAGREB, Croatia After years of economic strain and political isolation brought about by the late President Franjo Tudjman, Croatia's new Cabinet is gearing up for a plan aimed at revitalizing the country. After the election of Stipe

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Mesic as president, the Cabinet is to present its plan Wednesday. CROATIA-PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION. Lead expected after parliament session opens at 0900 GMT. By Snjezana Vukic. AP Photos ZAG101-103.

WASHINGTON Internet vandals continue an unprecedented campaign of electronic assaults against the biggest names in cyberspace, disrupting access for millions of consumers to some of the Web's most popular sites. US-VULNERABLE INTERNET. Lead expected by 0900 GMT. By Ted Bridis.

UNITED NATIONS As a new U.N. commission prepares to take over Iraq's disarmament, some of the key questions it is likely to want answered center on Baghdad's biological weapons program and a U.S. arms control expert has raised some fresh questions. UN-IRAQ WEAPONS. Has moved. By Edith M. Lederer.

LONDON The House of Commons overwhelmingly backs an emergency bill that would allow the British government to remove the powers of Northern Ireland's fledgling administration this week in an effort to save it from collapse. NORTHERN IRELAND. Has moved; developments will be expedited. AP Photos XAG102-107, LON121.

WILMINGTON, Delaware Republican George W. Bush wins Delaware's presidential primary and earns a badly needed boost into a Southern showdown, even as chief rival John McCain burnishes his insurgent candidacy by finishing second in a state where he did not campaign. US-DELAWARE PRIMARY. Has moved; developments will be expedited. By Ron Fournier.

FIUMICINO, Italy Rome's Leonardo da Vinci is the only airport in the world with a chapel where Catholics can obtain plenary indulgences complete remission from punishment for sins during the Vatican's Holy Year. IN-TRANSIT HOLINESS. Has moved. By Frances D'Emilio. ROM107-108.

LOOKING AHEAD: On Wednesday, German Defense Minister Rudolf Scharping begins three-day visit to Israel.

FEATURES:

NEW:

TAIPEI, Taiwan Bouncy Japanese pop tunes fill the air with the smell of traditional Chinese pot-sticker dumplings sizzling in a streetside cart in Taipei's Hsimenting shopping district. The mix of cultures continues on the ground, where Taiwanese teen-agers cruise the square dressed much like their peers in Tokyo. Hipsters are wearing the same things in other major Asian capitals, just one of the many signs that the region that was once crazy about America is in the tight grip of a Japanese culture invasion. FEA-JAPANESE INVASION. Has moved. By William Foreman. AP Photos TPE105,106,108.

VARANASI, India On the banks of India's holiest river, a film company is trying to capture the heartbreak of being a widow in the 1930s, in a project that has stirred outraged accusations that the movie insults Hindu tradition. But just a few feet (meters) from the set is a dingy shelter for widows, where reality is far more pathetic than anything that will appear in producer Deepa Mehta's film "Water." FEA-INDIA-WIDOWS FILM. Has moved. By Sutapa Mukerjee. AP Photos NY107-109.

FEATURES MOVED:

FEA-JAPAN-PAYING THE TAB. Japan balking at billion-dollar bill for hosting U.S. military. AP Photos NY317-319, Graphic JPN US BASE.

With: FEA-PAYING THE TAB-GLANCE.

FEA-FROZEN MOLDOVA. Moldova and its economy trapped in a deep freeze. AP Photo NY320, Graphic MOLDOVA.

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WORLD AT 1100 GMT:

NEW:

MALAYSIA-ANWAR TRIAL. Anwar's lawyers to summon Prime minister Mahathir as witness next week.

INDONESIA-GENERAL. Wiranto attends Cabinet meeting despite call to resign.

RICKY'S PUERTO RICO. Ricky Martin looks to roles as humanitarian, patriot, leader.

MAIN SPOT NEWS:

STANSTED, England Hijackers holding an Afghan jet apparently eject a wounded flight attendant early Wednesday and talks between hijackers and police hit a tense new phase following the escape of four crew members. AFGHAN PLANE HIJACKED. Has moved; developments will be expedited. By Burt Herman. AP Photos LON102, LDC101.

BEIRUT, Lebanon Israeli warplanes stage new air raids Wednesday in south Lebanon for the 11th consecutive day following a guerrilla rocket attack on a military outpost in the Israeli-occupied border zone. LEBANON-ISRAEL. Has moved; developments will be expedited. By Hussein Dakroub.

KIRYAT SHMONA, Israel Prime Minister Ehud Barak convenes his Security Cabinet on Wednesday to decide how to proceed with Israel's bombing campaign in Lebanon, aimed at subduing Lebanese guerrillas. ISRAEL-LEBANON. Has moved; developments will be expedited. By Dina Kraft. AP Photo XEW101.

WITH:

US-LEBANON. Albright accuses Hezbollah of launching attacks from villages, calls for monitors to convene along the Lebanese-Israeli border.

ISRAEL-LEBANON-BOX. Key events in Lebanon-Israel fighting in recent years.

URUS-MARTAN, Russia Russian planes and artillery on Wednesday bombard suspected rebel hide-outs in Chechnya's mountains, while militants reportedly stage several overnight attacks in Russian-controlled territory. RUSSIA-CHECHNYA. Has moved; developments will be expedited. By Lyoma Turpalov. AP Photos MOSB103-105.

BANGKOK, Thailand Workers set rows of potted trees and ferns along a street Wednesday to hide the tin shacks of a Bangkok slum from hundreds of delegates arriving in limousines for world trade talks at a conference center across the road. WORLD TRADE. Has moved. By Grant Peck. PAP Photos BK102-108, 112-113.

ALSO MOVED:

WORLD TRADE-POOR WORLD'S VIEW. Third World hopes to share stage at Bangkok world trade conference. AP Graphic WORLD TRADE.

ANKARA, Turkey Abdullah Ocalan's Kurdish rebel group calls off a news conference Wednesday where they were expected to announce further steps in the transformation of the armed group to a political organization. No reason is given for the last minute cancellation of the conference scheduled at Parliament in Rome. TURKEY-KURDS. Lead has moved. By Louis Meixler.

KLAGENFURT, Austria This could be any of Austria's quaint, mountain-ringed, picture-post card towns. This is Joerg Haider country, capital of Carinthia province, whose residents overwhelmingly elected the controversial far right-wing leader as their governor last year. AUSTRIA-HAIDER LAND. Has moved. By Melissa Eddy. AP Photos VIE105,119.

VIENNA, Austria Seeking to assure critics that Austria remains "a stable democracy," the new chancellor Wednesday promises that his government will face up to its Nazi past and seek justice for those forced into slavery

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by the Nazi regime. AUSTRIA-GOVERNMENT. Has moved; developments will be expedited. By Robert H. Reid. AP Photos VIE101-105,107,111.

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia As hundreds of mourners queue Wednesday to express condolences to the family of the slain defense minister, the Yugoslav government blames Western powers for his murder. YUGOSLAVIA-SHOOTING. Lead expected by 1200 GMT. By Katarina Kratovac.

ZAGREB, Croatia After years of economic strain and political isolation brought about by the late President Franjo Tudjman, Croatia's new Cabinet is gearing up to make some big changes. The Cabinet is to present a plan in parliament Wednesday, just two days after Stipe Mesic was elected in a runoff election as Tudjman's successor. CROATIA-PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION. Developing from parliament meeting that began at 0900 GMT. By Snjezana Vukic.

UNDATED Campaigning toward a collision in South Carolina, Gov. George W. Bush says his 2-to-1 victory in Delaware's Republican presidential primary will buoy his supporters, while Sen. John McCain claims he'll get a boost for finishing second in a state he bypassed. Millionaire publisher Steve Forbes was being advised to quit the race after finishing a weak third. US-DELAWARE PRIMARY. Has moved; developments will be expedited. By Walter R. Mears. AP Photo XED105; AP Graphic: ELN GOP VOTE2.

WASHINGTON Internet vandals continue an unprecedented campaign of electronic assaults against the biggest names in cyberspace, disrupting access for millions of consumers to some of the Web's most popular sites. US-VULNERABLE INTERNET. Has moved; developments will be expedited. By Ted Bridis.

JAKARTA, Indonesia Indonesia's security minister says Wednesday that he would not address demands for his resignation over the carnage in East Timor until after the president returns from an overseas tour. INDONESIA-GENERAL. Has moved. By Daniel Cooney. AP Photo JAK102.

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad will be called to the witness stand in the sex trial of Anwar Ibrahim next week, defense lawyers said Wednesday, but it was unclear whether the prosecution would oppose the move. MALAYSIA-ANWAR TRIAL. Has moved. By Alvin Ung. AP Photos KL101-103

UNITED NATIONS As a new U.N. commission prepares to take over Iraq's disarmament, some of the key questions it is likely to want answered center on Baghdad's biological weapons program and a U.S. arms control expert has raised some fresh questions. UN-IRAQ WEAPONS. Has moved. By Edith M. Lederer.

FAJARDO, Puerto Rico Enduring a succession of interviews with a ready laugh and a brilliant smile, pop singer Ricky Martin is a man on a mission: to correct what he views as the often negative and sadly distorted image of his people. RICKY'S PUERTO RICO. Expected by 1200 GMT. By Dan Perry. AP Photo NY107.

LOOKING AHEAD: On Wednesday, German Defense Minister Rudolf Scharping begins three-day visit to Israel.

FEATURES MOVED:

FEA-JAPANESE INVASION. Asian hipsters say Japan is hot, America is not. AP Photos TPE105,106,108.

FEA-INDIA-WIDOWS FILM. Real widows are worse off than reel widows of controversial film. AP Photos NY107-109.

FEA-JAPAN-PAYING THE TAB. Japan balking at billion-dollar bill for hosting U.S. military. AP Photos NY317-319, Graphic JPN US BASE.

With: FEA-PAYING THE TAB-GLANCE.

FEA-FROZEN MOLDOVA. Moldova and its economy trapped in a deep freeze. AP Photo NY320, Graphic MOLDOVA.

AP and RealNetworks Inc. launch service for media Web sites

YOUR QUERIES: World Service editors in charge are Charles Gans and Jean Lee. Suggestions and story requests to The Associated Press World Service are welcome. Contact your local AP bureau or the AP International Desk in New York, telephone (1) 212-621-1650, fax (1) 212-621-5449.

Four crew members escaped from a hijacked Afghan airliner Wednesday, and a wounded flight attendant apparently was ejected from the aircraft as talks between hijackers and police hit a tense new phase. The rapport between hostage negotiators and the hijackers remained calm immediately after the escape, but reached a tense low four hours later at about 3 a.m. (0300GMT), when the captors apparently realized the crew had disappeared, police said. At that hour, a fifth man also left the plane overnight down the back stairs, apparently pushed, police said. It was unclear whether the incident was triggered by the hijackers realizing the crew had escaped. The hijackers, who took over the plane on Sunday, continued to hold more than 150 people including 21 children. (AFGHAN PLANE HIJACKED)

KIRYAT SHMONA, Israel (AP)

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak convened his Security Cabinet on Wednesday to decide how to proceed with a bombing campaign aimed at subduing Lebanese guerrillas. One minister for the first time raised the possibility that Israel may remain in Lebanon past an intended summer deadline. "I don't know if we will get out in July," Communications Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, a Barak confidant and ex-general, said. In Israeli towns along the Lebanese border, tens of thousands of residents huddled in underground bomb shelters for the second day. Streets were deserted and shops and offices closed. Municipal vans distributed food, mattresses and blankets. (ISRAEL-LEBANON)

URUS-MARTAN, Russia (AP)

Russian planes and artillery on Wednesday bombarded suspected rebel hide-outs in Chechnya's mountains, while militants reportedly staged several overnight attacks in Russian-controlled territory. Russian shelling of three southwestern villages, where rebels were believed to be hiding after escaping the capital Grozny last week, eased up after days of pounding. Villagers in Shaami-Yurt, Katyr-Yurt and Gekhi-Chu reported heavy civilian casualties, with hundreds of people killed or wounded, and damage to close to three-quarters of the houses. Russian forces moved into the villages Wednesday to search for Chechen fighters trying to blend in with civilians. (RUSSIA-CHECHNYA)

VIENNA, Austria (AP)

Seeking to assure critics that Austria remains "a stable democracy," the new chancellor promised Wednesday that his government will face up to its past and seek justice for those forced into slavery by the Nazi regime. Chancellor Wolfgang Schuessel, presenting his government program to parliament, termed the international backlash against his alliance with the far-right Freedom Party of Joerg Haider "exaggerated." Schuessel urged critics in Israel and the European Union to reconsider their diplomatic measures to isolate the country "in light of the Austrian reality." Over the years, Haider has praised Adolf Hitler's "orderly" employment policies and lauded veterans of the Waffen SS. (AUSTRIA-GOVERNMENT)

WASHINGTON (AP)

Conservative publisher Steve Forbes abandoned his Republican presidential campaign Wednesday after spending tens of millions of dollars and nearly four years on the road in a self-financed bid for the White House, The Associated Press has learned. Forbes, in Michigan for a series of campaign events, canceled Wednesday's schedule and was leaving the state after finalizing his decision and informing staff, according to two senior advisers who spoke on condition of anonymity. Aides prepared for a Thursday afternoon news conference at which Forbes would announce his departure. He had no plans to endorse his rivals, advisers said. (US-FORBES QUILTS)

WORLD SPORTS AT 1400 GMT

SOCCER:

AP and RealNetworks Inc. launch service for media Web sites

LAGOS, Nigeria Listening to Nigerian fans and players, it's easy to get the impression that the Super Eagles are still the champions of Africa.

Slug Sports-Soccer-African Cup. Expected by 1700 GMT.

By Andreas Evagora.

KUWAIT Despite Israeli bombing, the Asian Cup finals will be held in Lebanon on time even if the games have to be played in "candlelight," the president of the Olympic Council of Asia said in remarks published Wednesday.

Slug Sports-Soccer-Asian Cup-Lebanon. Has moved to some points; expected by 1500 GMT to others.

CAGLIARI, Sardinia Underdog Cagliari takes on powerhouse Internazionale of Milan in their first-leg semifinal of the Italian Cup Wednesday night.

Slug Sports-Soccer-Italian Cup. Expected by 2200 GMT

MADRID, Spain Real Madrid will face second division Merida, Atletico de Madrid will host cross-town rival Rayo Vallecano and Espanyol will take over Compostela Wednesday in the first leg of the quarterfinals of Spain's Copa del Rey.

Slug Sports-Soccer-Copa del Rey. Expected by 2215 GMT.

LONDON As English soccer officials begin a campaign to clean up the country's hooligan image, an English company is offering 150 tickets in an area reserved for Germans at the highly charged June 17 England vs. Germany showdown in this summer European Championship.

Slug Sports-Soccer-England Fan Image. Expected by 1600 GMT.

By Stephen Wade

GLASGOW, Scotland Celtic manager John Barnes is clinging to his job after just five months in charge on Wednesday after his team's humiliating 3-1 Scottish Cup loss at home to division one Inverness Caledonian Thistle.

Slug Sports-Soccer-Celtic Crisis. Has moved.

WITH:

GLASGOW, Scotland Sports-Soccer-Celtic-Viduka. Has moved.

TENNIS:

MARSEILLE, France Third-ranked Yevgeny Kafelnikov takes on Gianluca Pozzi while Swiss Davis Cup hero Roger Federer meets little-known Anthony Dupuis on Wednesday at the Open 13 de Marseille.

Slug Sports-Tennis-Marseille Open. Expected by 1900 GMT.

PARIS Serena Williams and Patty Schnyder face off while Sadrine Testud takes on Germany's Anke Huber in Wednesday's play at the Open Gaz de France.

Slug Sports-Tennis-Paris Open. Expected by 1900 GMT.

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates Frenchman Jerome Golmard begins his title defense of the dlr\$ 1 million Dubai Open ATP tournament Wednesday when he faces Francisco Clavet of Spain.

Slug Sports-Tennis-Dubai Open. Expected by 2100 GMT.

ALSO:

AP and RealNetworks Inc. launch service for media Web sites

SAN JOSE, California Sports-Tennis-Sybase Open. Has moved.

SKIING:

SANTA CATERINA, Italy Isolde Kostner is trying to get her winning touch back despite a bad lower back. Her World Cup downhill standings lead could evaporate in Thursday's race.

Slug Sports-Skiing-Women's World Cup. Expected by 1500 GMT.

By Howard Fendrich.

ALSO:

SANTA CATERINA, Italy Sports-Skiing-Women's Downhill Training Canceled. Has moved.

MADONNA DI CAMPIGLIO, Italy Sports-Snowboard-World Cup. Expected by 1500 GMT.

RUGBY UNION:

BRISBANE, Australia Australian and South African rugby officials have asked the New Zealand Rugby Football Union to rethink its opposition to using video referees for the upcoming Super 12 series.

Slug Sports-RugbyU-Video Referees. Has moved.

ALSO:

LONDON Sports-RugbyU-England-Johnson. Has moved.

FIGURE SKATING:

VIENNA, Austria Maria Butyrskaya begins defense of her women's title at the European Figure Skating Championships Wednesday while Russians Maria Petrova and Alexei Tikhonov look to reclaim their pairs crown.

Slug Sports-Figure Skating-Europeans. Early lead expected by 1700 GMT.

By Erica Bulman.

ALSO:

ATHENS, Greece Sports-Track-Athens Indoor. Expected by 2100 GMT.

IMPERIA, Italy Sports-Swimming-FINA Meeting. Results expected 2000 GMT.

SYDNEY, Australia Sports-Cricket-Waugh-Hospital. Has moved.

UNDATED Sports-Basketball-NBA Roundup. Has moved.

UNDATED Sports-Basketball-NHL Roundup. Has moved.

YOUR QUERIES: Sports stories carry the "s" category code or, in some cases, the "i" category code. Questions and story requests are welcome. Contact your local AP bureau or the AP International Desk in New York, telephone (1) 212-621-1857, fax (1) 212-621-5449.

WORLD SPORTS AT 0000 GMT

SOCCER:

FRANKFURT, Germany Bayern Munich opens a three-point lead atop the Bundesliga by routing Bayer Leverkusen 4-1 in a showdown between the two top-ranked Bundesliga teams.

AP and RealNetworks Inc. launch service for media Web sites

Slug Sports-Soccer-German Roundup. Has moved.

By Nesha Starcevic

CAGLIARI, Sardinia Christian Vieri's two goals and assist led Internazionale of Milan past Cagliari 3-1 in an Italian Cup first-leg semifinal, the hosts' first loss in the competition.

Slug Sports-Soccer-Italian Cup. Has moved.

MADRID, Spain With a hat trick from Romanian striker Constantin Galca, Espanyol beats Compostela 5-1 in the first leg of the quarterfinals of Spain's Copa del Rey.

Slug Sports-Soccer-Copa del Rey. Has moved.

By Adam Brown

LAGOS, Nigeria Listen to Nigerians and it's easy to get the impression that the Super Eagles are still the champions of Africa.

Slug Sports-Soccer-African Cup. Has moved.

By Andreas Evagora.

GLASGOW, Scotland Celtic manager John Barnes is clinging to his job after just five months in charge after his team's humiliating 3-1 Scottish Cup loss at home to division one Inverness Caledonian Thistle.

Slug Sports-Soccer-Celtic Crisis. Has moved.

LONDON As soccer officials launch a campaign to deter English hooligans, a ticket offer by an England company could make the problem worse at this summer's European Championship.

Slug Sports-Soccer-England Fans Image. Has moved.

By Stephen Wade.

ATHLETICS:

LONDON The head of UK Athletics wants athletes to volunteer as doping test guinea pigs to discover whether dietary supplements are responsible for the surge in positive tests for the steroid nandrolone.

Slug Sports-Track-Nandrolone. Has moved.

ALSO:

ATHENS, Greece Sports-Track-Athens Indoor. Has moved.

TENNIS:

PARIS Sandrine Testud, fresh from her final in Tokyo but not from her tiring return trip, bows out in the first round of the dlr\$ 537,000 Paris Open to Germany's Anke Huber.

Slug Sports-Tennis-Paris Open. Has moved.

MARSEILLE, France Russian Yevgeni Kafelnikov is known for losing concentration. A set can slip away in a flash. He lost the set, but recovered, beating Italy's Gianluca Pozzi 1-6, 6-4, 6-4 in a first round match in the dlr\$ 500,000 Marseille Open.

Slug Sports-Tennis-Marseille Open. Has moved.

AP and RealNetworks Inc. launch service for media Web sites

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates The top seeds glide through the opening round of the million dollar Dubai Duty Free Open, with Ecuadorean Nicolas Lapentti beating German Oliver Gross 6-3, 6-2, and Felix Mantilla of Spain beating Byron Black of Zimbabwe 7-6 (8-6), 6-2.

Slug Sports-Tennis-Dubai Open. Has moved.

WITH:

SAN JOSE, California Sports-Tennis-Sybase Open. Expected by 0400 GMT.

CRICKET:

CENTURION, South Africa A waterlogged field from days of heavy rain washes out Standard Bank Triangular Series match between England and Zimbabwe, sending England to the final against South Africa on a net run rate.

Slug Sports-Cricket-England-Zimbabwe. Has moved.

GOLF:

MELBOURNE, Australia Sergio Garcia tees off Thursday in the first round at the Australian Masters less than 24 hours after flying into the country for his first tournament Down Under.

Slug Sports-Golf-Australian Masters. Expected to move 0800 GMT.

SAN DIEGO Tiger Woods tries to extend his amazing winning streak to seven, playing on a most familiar course. Last year, he won the Buick Invitational with an eagle on the final hole.

Slug Sports-Golf-Buick Invitational. Expected to move by 0400 GMT.

By Bernie Wilson.

ALSO:

KUALA LAMPUR, Malaysia Sports-Golf-Malaysian Open. Expected by 1300 GMT.

SKIING:

SANTA CATERINA, Italy Isolde Kostner is trying to get her winning touch back despite a bad lower back.

Slug Sports-Skiing-Women's World Cup. Has moved.

By Howard Fendrich.

FIGURE SKATING:

VIENNA, Austria Double world champions Yelena Berezhnaya and Anton Sikharulidze win the pair's event to reclaim the European title they lost last year, while Russian compatriot Irina Slutskaya looked primed to recover her lost crown after taking the lead in her qualifying group.

Slug Sports-Figure Skating-Europeans. Has moved.

By Erica Bulman

ALSO:

CLEVELAND Sports-Figure Skating-US Championships. By Barry Wilner. Has moved.

ALSO:

AP and RealNetworks Inc. launch service for media Web sites

UNDATED Sports-Basketball-NBA Roundup. Expected by 0700 GMT.

UNDATED Sports-Ice Hockey-NHL Roundup. Expected by 0700 GMT.

YOUR QUERIES: Sports stories carry the "s" category code or, in some cases, the "i" category code. Questions and story requests are welcome. Contact your local AP bureau or the AP International Desk in New York, telephone (1) 212-621-1857, fax (1) 212-621-5449.

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AP News Digest

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Section: International news

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Body

WORLD AT 1800 GMT:

NEW:

RUSSIA-YELTSIN. Yeltsin hospitalized with pneumonia.

PALESTINIAN-CORRUPTION. Dissidents stand by anti-corruption manifesto.

SOUTH AFRICA-MADIKIZELA-MANDELA. Winnie Madikizela-Mandela implicated in a killing.

MAIN SPOT NEWS:

BELFAST, Northern Ireland In an atmosphere of hope tinged with disbelief, Northern Ireland's rival parties on Monday begin forming a Protestant-Catholic government that requires bitter enemies to share power for the first time in history. NORTHERN IRELAND. Lead has moved. By Shawn Pogatchnik. AP Photos XBFT101,105; LON103; LCN106.

WITH:

US-NORTHERN IRELAND. Formation of a Northern Ireland government is also a foreign policy victory for White House. Expected by 2200 GMT.

SEATTLE The World Trade Organization's effort to launch a new round of global trade talks could shape up as one of the biggest protest events as well. WTO critics are calling it the "Battle in Seattle." WORLD TRADE. Lead has moved. By Dirk Beveridge. With photos.

WITH:

WORLD TRADE-PROTESTS. Protesters on Monday launch 'Battle in Seattle' against WTO. SE101-102.

WORLD TRADE-CHINA. EU will talk with China, but no trade deal yet.

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad's ruling coalition wins a majority of seats Monday in Parliament, assuring him fifth consecutive term, national news agency reports. MALAYSIA-ELECTIONS. Lead has moved. By Ranjan Roy. AS101,105; PNG103; KL107.

ALSO MOVED:

AP News Digest

MALAYSIA-ELECTIONS-AZIZAH. Azizah Ismail wins Anwar Ibrahim's former seat in Parliament.

MALAYSIA-ELECTIONS-GLANCE.

GROZNY, Russia Russian officials Monday urge the few remaining civilians in Grozny to flee a risky endeavor, as Russian rockets are screaming relentlessly into the Chechen capital. RUSSIA-CHECHNYA. Lead has moved. By Ruslan Musayev. MOSB101-103,106-107.

MOSCOW Boris Yeltsin is hospitalized Monday with what doctors suspect is pneumonia, the latest sickness to beset the often ailing 68-year-old Russian president. RUSSIA-YELTSIN. Lead has moved. By Angela Charlton. MOSB108-109,208.

NEW YORK Hundreds of people, including Holocaust survivors and heirs, pack a federal courtroom Monday for a hearing on whether a dlr 1.25 billion settlement with Swiss banks is fair. SWISS BANKS-NAZIS. Lead expected by 2200 GMT. By Tom Hayes. Photos planned.

JAKARTA, Indonesia East Timor's independence leader on Monday calls for friendly ties with Indonesia even though he blames its top generals for the devastation of his homeland. INDONESIA-EAST TIMOR. Lead has moved. By Geoff Spencer. XJAK102.

ALSO MOVED:

INDONESIA-ACEH. Indonesian generals questioned over human rights abuses in Aceh.

EAST TIMOR-BODIES. Unknown dead buried in East Timor because of lack of forensic expertise. DIL101-104.

JERUSALEM Despite detentions, Palestinian dissidents Monday stand by a stinging manifesto that for the first time holds Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat directly responsible for widespread government corruption. PALESTINIAN-CORRUPTION. Lead has moved. By Karin Laub. JRL101-103.

ALSO MOVED:

ISRAEL-PALESTINIANS. Palestinians warn of crisis in talks if Israel does not freeze settlements.

ISRAEL-HOME DEMOLITIONS. Israel demolishes three buildings in Palestinian village.

BRUSSELS, Belgium European Union finance ministers play down the significance of the falling euro Monday, insisting economic recovery would revive the infant European currency even as it edges toward parity against the dollar. EU-FINANCE. Has moved. By Paul Ames. BRU111.

ALSO MOVED:

EUROPE-TELECOM TAKEOVER. Mannesmann lays out business strategy following rejection of Vodafone.

BRITAIN-BANK FIGHT. Royal Bank of Scotland announces bid for NatWest .

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia Hundreds of ethnic Albanians watch Monday while a mob drags three Serbs from their car, fatally shooting one, during festivities celebrating Kosovo's biggest holiday. YUGOSLAVIA-KOSOVO-ATTACK. Lead has moved. By Danica Kirka.

ALSO MOVED:

KOSOVO-FREEING FLORA. Women's rights activist a symbolic case for Kosovo political prisoners.

YUGOSLAVIA-EU-OPPOSITION. Yugoslav government blocks EU-supplied oil shipment for two opposition-run cities.

CROATIA-TUDJMAN. President's health remains dire.

AP News Digest

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa A convicted murderer on Monday accuses Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, ex-wife of former President Nelson Mandela, of ordering the killing of a woman in 1988. SOUTH AFRICA-MADIKIZELA-MANDELA. Has moved. By Andrew Selsky. JOH101-102.

OSLO, Norway A high-speed ferry that sank off Norway's west coast may have set off in rougher weather than it was certified for, maritime officials said Monday. Police lower their estimate of the death toll to 16. NORWAY-FERRY SINKING. Lead has moved. By Doug Mellgren.

HONG KONG Hong Kong's pro-democracy party was dealt a big blow Monday after it barely managed to win more seats than its pro-Beijing rivals in the territory's first local elections under Chinese rule. HONG KONG-ELECTION. Lead has moved. By Priscilla Cheung. HK102.

MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay President-elect Jorge Batlle, fresh from defeating a leftist at the ballot box, signaled his intent Monday to form a government of "national unity." URUGUAY-ELECTION. Lead has moved; president to meet with Batlle at 2100 GMT. By Raul Garces. MVP132,136.

LOOKING AHEAD: On Tuesday, World Trade Organization ministers open conference in Seattle, Washington. Also, Namibia holds elections.

FEATURES:

FEA-PUERTO RICO-NUKE MUSEUM. AP Photos NY115-116.

FEA-SAME FIGHTS. AP Photos NY312-314. With: FEA-SAME FIGHTS-BALKANS; FEA-SAME FIGHTS-GLANCE.

FEA-Y2K-THE MIDDLE COUNTRIES. AP Photo NY399; AP Graphic Y2K READY COUNTRIES. With: FEA-Y2K-RISK RATINGS.

FEA-US-DIAMONDS DESTINY. AP Photos NY122-NY123.

YOUR QUERIES: The Associated Press World Service editors in charge are Matt Kohlman and Joe Federman. Suggestions and story requests to The Associated Press World Service are welcome. Contact your local AP bureau or the AP International Desk in New York,

elephone (1) 212-621-1650, fax (1) 212-621-5449.

WORLD AT 0000 GMT:

NEW:

CUBA-CASTRO-SEATTLE TRIP. Cuban leader skipping world trade meeting.

US-MICROSOFT. Settlement talks resume Tuesday.

NIGERIA-VIOLENCE. Rival tribes reach truce.

MAIN SPOT NEWS:

SEATTLE Mass demonstrations are threatening to overshadow Tuesday's opening of a World Trade Organization summit. WORLD TRADE. Recap expected by 0200 GMT. By Martin Crutsinger. AP Photos SEC101-105, 108,109,112, SE101-110.

ALSO:

WORLD TRADE-FOOD FIGHT. European farmers fear sacrifice of subsidies at Seattle talks. Upcoming.

SINGAPORE-CHINA-ZHU. Chinese prime minister expected to outline new economic plans Tuesday. Expected by 1000 GMT.

AP News Digest

WORLD TRADE-PROTESTS. Protests start in earnest. Moved.

WORLD TRADE-CONSUMERS. EU insists on nontrade issues. Moved.

CUBA-CASTRO-SEATTLE TRIP. Cuban leader skips summit.

BELFAST, Northern Ireland On a day many thought would never come, a Protestant-Catholic government for Northern Ireland emerges to try to bring together this bitterly divided society. NORTHERN IRELAND. Lead has moved. By Shawn Pogatchnik. AP Photos LON123, XBFT105, LCN110-115.

ALSO MOVED:

US-NORTHERN IRELAND. Clinton's drive for peace is back on track.

NIRELAND-CABINET-WHO'S WHO.

GROZNY, Russia Russian officials urge civilians to flee the Chechen capital, even as Russian rockets scream relentlessly into the city. RUSSIA-CHECHNYA. Lead has moved. By Ruslan Musayev. AP Photos MOSB101-103,106-107,110,113,117-119.

ALSO MOVED:

RUSSIA-YELTSIN. Yeltsin hospitalized with pneumonia. MOSB108-109,208.

RUSSIA-IMF. Russians say Chechen war shouldn't influence IMF decisions.

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia Defying the current of change sweeping through Asia, Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad has proved once again that his unorthodox politics are mainstream in Malaysia. MALAYSIA-MAHATHIR'S TRIUMPH. Expected by 0300 GMT. By Ranjan Roy. AP Photos KL101-106,108-112.

ALSO MOVED:

MALAYSIA-ELECTIONS. Mahathir's coalition captures wide majority. AS101,105; PNG103; KL107.

MALAYSIA-ELECTIONS-GLANCE.

JAKARTA, Indonesia East Timor's independence leader meets Indonesia's new president Tuesday to discuss new relations as the territory moves toward independence. INDONESIA-EAST TIMOR. Developing from 0900 GMT meeting. AP Photos JAK101-105, DIL101-104.

JERUSALEM The bedrock of the Jewish state a law that grants Israeli citizenship to anyone with a Jewish grandparent is coming under the harshest attack in years, amid allegations it has enabled hundreds of thousands of non-Jews to immigrate. ISRAEL-IMMIGRATION DEBATE. Upcoming. By Mark Lavie.

ALSO:

US-ALBRIGHT-MIDEAST. With February deadline for peace agreement looming, U.S. secretary of state heads to Mideast on Sunday. Moved.

US-IRAN. U.S. accuses Iran of supporting terrorism. Expected by 0300 GMT.

WASHINGTON Lawyers are resuming secret settlement talks Tuesday in the Microsoft antitrust trial. US-MICROSOFT. Upcoming. By Ted Bridis.

WARSAW, Poland Poland's finance minister considers resigning Tuesday after the president's veto of a key element in a tax reform package. POLAND-POLITICS. Recap expected by 0300 GMT. By Monika Scislowska. AP Photo WAR150.

AP News Digest

UNITED NATIONS A raging civil war, record opium production and massive human rights violations are hurting Afghan civilians and threaten Afghanistan's neighbors, Secretary-General Kofi Annan says. UN-AFGHANISTAN. Has moved. By Nicole Winfield.

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia Kosovo's U.N. administrators are issuing their first license plates Tuesday in a desperate attempt to end lawlessness in the disputed province. YUGOSLAVIA-KOSOVO-LICENSE PLATES. Expected by 0300 GMT. By Danica Kirka.

ALSO: CROATIA-TUDJMAN. Government-allied newspapers say president has only days to live. Recap upcoming. ZAG101,104-105.

LAGOS, Nigeria Members of Nigeria's two largest tribes reach a truce after bloody clashes kill up to 50 people. NIGERIA-VIOLENCE. Has moved. By Frank Aigbogun.

BISSAU, Guinea-Bissau International observers declare Guinea-Bissau's elections largely peaceful and honest. GUINEA-BISSAU-ELECTIONS. Recap expected by 0300 GMT. By Glenn McKenzie.

LOOKING AHEAD: Later Tuesday, Namibia holds elections.

FEATURES: Business and Finance

NEW YORK The rise of non-Windows products for the home could pose a more immediate threat to Microsoft's lock on home computing than its antitrust fight in Washington. FEA-US-BEYOND THE PC. Expected by 0300 GMT. By David E. Kalish. AP Photo NYR109

MONTEGO BAY, Jamaica Across the Caribbean, tourism for the millennium is far below expectations due to consumer frugality and jitters over the Y2K computer bug. FEA-CARIBBEAN-MILLENNIUM BUST. Upcoming. By Matthew J. Rosenberg.

DAMASCUS, Syria With no mobile phone service and only limited access to the Internet, once-socialist Syria hardly seems poised for the 21st century global marketplace. But some entrepreneurs have staked their future on government promises to open up the economy. FEA-SYRIA-OPENING UP. Expected by 0300 GMT. By Donna Bryson. AP Photo NY190

BUCHAREST, Romania While the cell phone is more common in Western countries, its popularity in Romania, one of Europe's poorest nations, is near miraculous. FEA-ROMANIA-CELLULAR PHONE FEVER. Expected by 0300 GMT. By Mihaela Armaselu.

NEW YORK Last minute preparation for Y2K, such as cash withdrawals and emergency food purchases, could create even bigger problems than computer bugs themselves. FEA-US-Y2K-HOARDING. Upcoming. By David E. Kalish.

YOUR QUERIES: The Associated Press World Service editors in charge are Joe Federman and Charles Gans. Suggestions and story requests to The Associated Press World Service are welcome. Contact your local AP bureau or the AP International Desk in New York,

elephone (1) 212-621-1650, fax (1) 212-621-5449.

WORLD AT 0700 GMT:

NEW:

WORLD TRADE-CHINA. EU will talk with China, but no trade deal yet.

INDONESIA-EAST TIMOR. Independence leader blames military for violence in East Timor.

INDONESIA-PROTESTS. Protesters demand independence referendums for Aceh, Irian Jaya.

AP News Digest

BRITAIN-SWORD ATTACK. Naked man attacks church congregation with sword; 10 hurt.

ASIA RISING AGAIN. Confident again, Asian leaders start long road to building power bloc.

MAIN SPOT NEWS:

SEATTLE The world trade talks haven't even started yet, but "The Battle in Seattle" is already raging. The Clinton administration and global trade officials clash verbally with union leaders and activists as various factions fight for attention heading into what promises to be almost a week of tense negotiations. By Dirk Beveride. Has moved; developments will be expedited. By Dirk Beveridge. AP Photos.

WITH:

SEATTLE Anti-World Trade Organization activists with interests ranging from the environment to farm subsidies begin gathering in Seattle for a week of protests. As many as 50,000 are expected. WORLD TRADE-PROTESTS. Has moved.

ALSO MOVED:

WORLD TRADE-CHINA. EU will talk with China, but no trade deal yet.

BELFAST, Northern Ireland Key Northern Ireland parties are finally ready this week to form an unprecedented Protestant-Catholic coalition under the province's long-delayed 1998 peace agreement. The Northern Ireland Assembly meets Monday to confirm who will hold which posts in a 12-member Cabinet. NORTHERN IRELAND. Lead expected after Assembly convenes at 1430 GMT. By Shawn Pogatchnik. AP Photos LON102-103, LCN101-102.

GROZNY, Russia Russian forces, using tanks and warplanes, clash for hours with about 500 militants near a rebel-controlled area of Chechnya. RUSSIA-CHECHNYA. Has moved; developments will be expedited. By Ruslan Musayev. AP Photos MOSB103-107.

ALSO MOVED:

RUSSIA-SOLDIERS' ASSAULT. Soldiers' deadly rampage highlights challenges for Russians in Chechnya. AP Photo NY191.

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia Weighing the stability of a party that has dominated Malaysia's politics for four decades against changes promised by a pro-democracy opposition, Malaysians vote Monday in the country's most bitterly contested election ever. MALAYSIA-ELECTIONS. Developing. Polls close at 0930 GMT. By Ranjan Roy. AP Photos AS101-104, PNG101-106, KL101-103.

HONG KONG Hong Kong's pro-democracy camp takes a crucial blow Monday from pro-Beijing rivals in the territory's first local elections under Chinese sovereignty. HONG KONG-ELECTION. Has moved; developments will be expedited. By Priscilla Cheung.

MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay Uruguay's ruling party candidate for president has thwarted a historic challenge by a maverick socialist in a runoff election. URUGUAY-ELECTION. Has moved; developments will be expedited. By Bill Cormier. AP Photos MVD101-129.

ALSO MOVED:

URUGUAY-BATTLE PROFILE. Jorge Batlle wins in fifth attempt at Uruguayan presidency.

BISSAU, Guinea-Bissau Scattered rioting and delays at voting stations mark elections aimed at restoring civilian rule and healing war wounds in the tiny West African nation of Guinea-Bissau. GUINEA-BISSAU-ELECTIONS. Has moved. Preliminary results expected Tuesday at earliest. By Glenn McKenzie.

AP News Digest

BERLIN Mannesmann AG will stay the course and continue making its case to shareholders as to why the German telecommunications giant is worth more than the record 124 billion euro (dlrs 125 billion) offer proposed by Britain's Vodafone Airtouch PLC. EUROPE-TELECOM TAKEOVER. Has moved. By Burt Herman.

ALSO MOVED:

BRITAIN-BANK FIGHT. Newspaper reports Royal Bank of Scotland expected to bid 26 billion pounds (dlrs 41.6 billion) for NatWest.

NEW YORK Holocaust victims around the world are looking toward a U.S. court hearing Monday that could move a dlrs 1.25 billion Swiss bank settlement into its final phase. SWISS BANKS-NAZIS. Lead expected after hearing opens at 1400 GMT.

JERUSALEM Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak warns China's No. 2 leader of the dangers of selling weapons to Iran. ISRAEL-CHINA. Has moved. By Jay Cohen. AP Photos JRL101-104, 110-111.

ALSO MOVED:

ISRAEL-SETTLERS. Israel pledges to remove new settler neighborhood in Hebron.

NEW DELHI, India The ruling coalition faces opposition Monday when parliament reconvenes for the winter season on crucial bills to open the insurance industry to foreign competition and make Indian law comply with World Trade Organization regulations. INDIA-PARLIAMENT. Has moved; developments will be expedited. Expected by 1000 GMT. By Krishnan Guruswamy.

JAKARTA, Indonesia East Timorese independence leader Jose Alexandre "Xanana" Gusmao, on his first visit here since his release from detention in September, blames Indonesia's military for the devastation of his homeland, but says he wants to work toward friendly ties. INDONESIA-EAST TIMOR. Has moved. By Geoff Spencer.

ALSO MOVED:

INDONESIA-PROTESTS. Protesters demand independence referendums for Aceh, Irian Jaya provinces.

MANILA, Philippines The Asian Century looked dead two years ago, replaced by an Asian Crisis when years of supercharged growth imploded and economies crashed in one country after another. But Asian leaders, meeting in Manila over the weekend, declared the crisis dead as positive economic figures return. ASIA RISING AGAIN. Has moved, By Patrick McDowell.

LAGOS, Nigeria Hundreds of distraught residents flee in fear after fighting between members of Nigeria's two largest tribes kills up to 50 people. NIGERIA-VIOLENCE. Has moved. By Frank Aigbogun.

PASADENA, California Two little space probes head to Mars this week to search for water and test lower-cost technology that could revolutionize solar system exploration. SCI-US-MARS DARTS. Has moved. By Matthew Fordahl. AP Photos NY120-121, LA101.

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa Just weeks after Cape Town police all but declared victory in their war against terrorist bombings, a bomb explodes inside a crowded beachfront restaurant, injuring dozens of people. SOUTH AFRICA-EXPLOSION. Has moved. By Andrew Selsky. AP Photos CPN101-103, JOH104-107.

LONDON A naked man wielding a sword bursts into a south London church during a Mass, slashing and stabbing at members of the 400-strong congregation, and almost slicing through one man's face. Ten people were injured, three seriously. BRITAIN-SWORD ATTACK. Has moved.

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia President Slobodan Milosevic blocks a vital EU shipment of heating oil for two opposition-run Serbian cities. YUGOSLAVIA-EU-OPPOSITION. Has moved. By Misha Savic.

ALSO MOVED:

AP News Digest

CROATIA-TUDJMAN. President's health remains dire. AP Photos ZAG101, XZAG101.

WASHINGTON The giant panda Hsing-Hsing, the endearing symbol of the opening of U.S.-China ties, is euthanized because of failing health. US-PANDA DIES. Has moved. By Jim Abrams. AP Photos NY119, WX105.

LOOKING AHEAD: On Tuesday, World Trade Organization ministers open conference in Seattle, Washington. Also, Namibia holds elections.

OTHER FEATURES MOVED:

FEA-SAME FIGHTS. Different centuries, but the same conflicts in many regions. AP Photos NY312-314.

With: FEA-SAME FIGHTS-BALKANS; FEA-SAME FIGHTS-GLANCE.

FEA-Y2K-THE MIDDLE COUNTRIES. Risk of Y2K fallout is great unknown in much of world. AP Photo NY399; AP Graphic Y2K READY COUNTRIES.

With: FEA-Y2K-RISK RATINGS. Countries rated on millennium bug preparedness.

FEA-US-DIAMONDS DESTINY. Can New York City diamond district survive overseas competition? AP Photos NY122-NY123.

YOUR QUERIES: The Associated Press World Service editors in charge are Charles Gans and Todd Zaun. Suggestions and story requests to The Associated Press World Service are welcome. Contact your local AP bureau or the AP International Desk in New York,

elephone (1) 212-621-1650, fax (1) 212-621-5449.

WORLD AT 1100 GMT:

NEW:

WORLD RIVERS. More than half the world's rivers in serious trouble, report says.

KOSOVO-FREEING FLORA. Women's rights activist a symbolic case for Kosovo political prisoners.

NORWAY-FERRY SINKING.

EU-FINANCE. Falling euro, tax failure confront EU finance ministers.

MAIN SPOT NEWS:

SEATTLE The world trade talks haven't even started yet, but "The Battle in Seattle" is already raging. The Clinton administration and global trade officials clash verbally with union leaders and activists as various factions fight for attention heading into what promises to be almost a week of tense negotiations. WORLD TRADE. Has moved; developments will be expedited. By Dirk Beveridge. AP Photos.

WITH:

SEATTLE Activists turn up the heat on the World Trade Organization, taking their message to the streets and announcing plans for mass acts of civil disobedience when the ministerial conference begins Tuesday. WORLD TRADE-PROTESTS. Lead expected by 1200 GMT. By Laurence M. Cruz. AP Photo SEC109.

ALSO MOVED:

WORLD TRADE-CHINA. EU will talk with China, but no trade deal yet.

AP News Digest

BELFAST, Northern Ireland Northern Ireland's rival parties gather Monday to form a Protestant-Catholic coalition that will bring together bitter enemies and, for the first time in a troubled generation, wield power in local hands. NORTHERN IRELAND. Lead expected after Assembly convenes at 1430 GMT. By Shawn Pogatchnik.

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia Malaysians voted Monday in the country's most bitterly contested elections ever, choosing between the stability of a party that has dominated politics for four decades and a pro-democracy opposition that is promising change. MALAYSIA-ELECTIONS. Developing. First results expected around 1300 GMT. By Ranjan Roy. AP Photos KL101-105, AS101-108, PNG101,102,104.

ALSO MOVED:

MALAYSIA-ELECTIONS-GLANCE. Facts and figures about Malaysia's general elections.

GROZNY, Russia Russian warplanes bomb one of the main streets in Grozny and also pound residential areas Monday morning as part of a sustained assault on the besieged Chechen capital. RUSSIA-CHECHNYA. Has moved; developments will be expedited. By Ruslan Musayev. AP Photos MOSB101-103.

ALSO MOVED:

RUSSIA-IMF. Russians say Chechen war shouldn't influence IMF decisions.

HONG KONG Hong Kong's pro-democracy camp takes a crucial blow Monday from pro-Beijing rivals in the territory's first local elections under Chinese sovereignty. HONG KONG-ELECTION. Has moved. By Priscilla Cheung. AP Photo HK101.

MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay Uruguay's ruling party soundly rebuffs a socialist challenger in a presidential vote, but official results show a renewed left has come of age in this small South American nation. URUGUAY-ELECTION. Has moved. By Bill Cormier. AP Photos MVD130-136.

ALSO MOVED:

URUGUAY-BATLLE PROFILE. Jorge Batlle wins in fifth attempt at Uruguayan presidency.

BISSAU, Guinea-Bissau Scattered rioting and delays at voting stations mark elections aimed at restoring civilian rule and healing war wounds in the West African nation. GUINEA-BISSAU-ELECTIONS. Has moved. Preliminary results expected Tuesday at earliest. By Glenn McKenzie. AP Photos GNB101-104.

NEW YORK Holocaust victims around the world are looking toward a U.S. court hearing Monday that could move a dlr 1.25 billion Swiss bank settlement into its final phase. SWISS BANKS-NAZIS. Lead expected after hearing opens at 1400 GMT.

JAKARTA, Indonesia East Timor's independence leader on Monday calls for friendly ties with Indonesia even though he blames its top generals for the devastation of his homeland. INDONESIA-EAST TIMOR. Has moved. By Geoff Spencer. AP Photo XJAK102.

ALSO MOVED:

INDONESIA-PROTESTS. Protesters demand independence referendums for Aceh, Irian Jaya provinces.

INDONESIA-EAST TIMOR-OIL. East Timor hopes to get royalties from oil field soon.

EAST TIMOR-BODIES. Unknown dead buried in East Timor because of lack of forensic expertise. AP Photos DIL101-103.

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia Flora Brovina knew she was being followed in the days after NATO started bombing Yugoslavia. Her orphanage, her peace marches and her knitting workshops were deemed threatening to Slobodan Milosevic's government. The Kosovo pediatrician was arrested by plainclothes police. Now she is among this

AP News Digest

province's most famous prisoners - one of 1,712 ethnic Albanians known to be held in Serb prisons. KOSOVO-FREEING FLORA. Has moved. By Danica Kirka.

ALSO MOVED:

YUGOSLAVIA-EU-OPPOSITION. Yugoslav government blocks EU-supplied oil shipment for two opposition-run cities.

CROATIA-TUDJMAN. President's health remains dire.

YUGOSLAVIA-KOSOVO-ATTACK. Albanian mob attacks Serbs, kills elderly man.

OSLO, Norway A high-speed ferry that sank off Norway's west coast, killing at least 16 people, may have set off in rougher weather than it was certified for, maritime officials say Monday. NORWAY-FERRY SINKING. Expected by 1200 GMT. By Doug Mellgren.

CAPE TOWN, South Africa Local officials offer a 1 million rand (dlrs 166,000) reward on Monday for information leading to the capture of whoever bombed a beachfront restaurant, injuring at least 43 people. SOUTH AFRICA-EXPLOSION. Has moved. By Shaun Benton. AP Photos JOH104-107.

LONDON Eight people remain hospitalized Monday after a naked man wielding a sword burst into a church during Mass and slashed and stabbed his way through the congregation before being tackled near the altar. BRITAIN-SWORD ATTACK. Has moved. AP Photos LON107,109.

BRUSSELS, Belgium European Union finance ministers open talks Monday confronted by the sharply falling value of their euro currency and the prospect of failure after months of negotiations on plans to shutdown cross-border tax dodges within the 15-nation bloc. EU-FINANCE. Has moved; developments will be expedited. By Paul Ames.

BERLIN Promising strong growth and earnings, Mannesmann AG begins a new offensive Monday to persuade its shareholders to reject a record 124 billion euro (dlrs 125 billion) hostile takeover bid proposed by Britain's Vodafone Airtouch PLC. EUROPE-TELECOM TAKEOVER. Lead has moved. By Burt Herman.

ALSO MOVED:

BRITAIN-BANK FIGHT. The Royal Bank of Scotland announces a hostile 26.4 billion pound (dlrs 42.2 billion) bid for National Westminster Bank.

MANILA, Philippines The Asian Century looked dead two years ago, replaced by an Asian Crisis when years of supercharged growth imploded and economies crashed in one country after another. But Asian leaders, meeting in Manila over the weekend, declared the crisis dead as positive economic figures return. ASIA RISING AGAIN. Has moved, By Patrick McDowell.

WASHINGTON More than half the world's major rivers are going dry or are polluted, a panel studying global water problems reports Monday. WORLD RIVERS. Has moved. By Pauline Jelinek. AP Photos WX101-102.

LOOKING AHEAD: On Tuesday, World Trade Organization ministers open conference in Seattle, Washington. Also, Namibia holds elections.

FEATURES:

NEW:

RINCON, Puerto Rico Puerto Rico's first museum devoted to nuclear energy is too hot for some: It's inside an old reactor dome, parts of which are still radioactive. FEA-PUERTO RICO-NUKE MUSEUM. Expected by 1200 GMT. By James Anderson. AP Photos NY115-116.

OTHER FEATURES MOVED:

AP News Digest

FEA-SAME FIGHTS. Different centuries, but the same conflicts in many regions. AP Photos NY312-314.

With: FEA-SAME FIGHTS-BALKANS; FEA-SAME FIGHTS-GLANCE.

FEA-Y2K-THE MIDDLE COUNTRIES. Risk of Y2K fallout is great unknown in much of world. AP Photo NY399; AP Graphic Y2K READY COUNTRIES.

With: FEA-Y2K-RISK RATINGS. Countries rated on millennium bug preparedness.

FEA-US-DIAMONDS DESTINY. Can New York City diamond district survive overseas competition? AP Photos NY122-NY123.

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telephone (1) 212-621-1650, fax (1) 212-621-5449.

GROZNY, Russia Russian warplanes bombed one of the main streets in Grozny and pounded residential areas Monday during a sustained assault on the besieged Chechen capital. Witnesses reported casualties but no figures were immediately available. Hundreds of civilians have been killed or wounded in the past week in the Russian bombardment, and raids have destroyed scores of buildings and homes. Residents continued trying to flee the capital but the border post with neighboring Ingushetia was closed Monday with a line of civilians waiting to leave more than a kilometer (half-mile) long, the Interfax news agency reported. Nearly 2,000 people left Chechnya on Sunday. (RUSSIA-CHECHNYA)

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP)

Northern Ireland's rival parties gathered Monday to form a Protestant-Catholic coalition that will bring together bitter enemies and, for the first time in a troubled generation, wield power in local hands. Monday's session of the Northern Ireland Assembly the only branch of local government yet formed under terms of last year's Good Friday peace accord is to confirm who will hold which posts in a 12-member Cabinet drawn equally from the province's British Protestant and Irish Catholic parties. The breakthrough after more than a year's deadlock became possible after the major Protestant party, the Ulster Unionists, narrowly voted Saturday to drop its long-held policy of requiring **Irish Republican Army** disarmament before the Cabinet's formation. Ulster Unionist leader David Trimble has already received the top post of First Minister. (NORTHERN IRELAND)

SEATTLE (AP)

The world trade talks haven't even started yet but "The Battle in Seattle" is already raging. U.S. and global trade officials clashed verbally with union leaders and activists on Sunday as various factions both inside and outside the World Trade Organization fought for attention heading into what promises to be almost a week of tense negotiations. Hundreds of protesters marched through Seattle's trendy Capitol Hill district in what likely was just a minor preview of what is to come when many thousands of activists descend on this city for the official start of the talks Tuesday. The protesters see the WTO as a global menace favoring multinational corporations over ordinary people and the environment. Formal discussions do not get under way until Tuesday but preliminary talks began Sunday. (WORLD TRADE)

HONG KONG (AP)

Hong Kong's pro-democracy camp suffered a major setback Monday against pro-Beijing rivals in the territory's first local elections under Chinese sovereignty. The Democratic Party won 86 of the 390 seats up for grabs, while its key pro-Beijing foe, the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment of Hong Kong, took 83. Still, it was the first time the Democrats failed to score a landslide victory in a popular election. The results confounded analysts' expectations and proved that local conservative forces have strengthened their grip on power in the former British colony. The

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council elections were seen as a test of how political factions have fared since the former British colony was returned to Chinese rule in July 1997. (HONG KONG-ELECTIONS)

BEIJING (AP)

Police in Beijing have detained more than 35,000 members of the banned Falun Gong spiritual movement in the Chinese government's four-month crackdown, a human rights group reported Monday. Li Lanqing, a vice premier and member of the party's supreme decision-making body, told military, party and government officials on Friday that 35,792 detentions took place in Beijing between July and October, the Hong Kong-based Information Center of Human Rights and Democratic Movement in China said. Most people were picked up in and around Tiananmen Square in Beijing, the center said, but more details were not available. The government has never given a full accounting of the crackdown in part because the numbers would show the popularity of the meditation group and the fervor of its members. (CHINA-BANNED SECT)

OSLO, Norway (AP)

A high-speed ferry that sank off Norway's west coast may have set off in rougher weather than it was certified for, maritime officials said Monday. Meanwhile, police lowered their estimate of the number of people killed to at least 16. The Sleipner should not have been sailing in waters with wave heights over one meter (3.3 feet), said state maritime official Ivan A. Manum. At the time of Friday's accident, waves were estimated to be two to three meters (6.5 to 10 feet) high. The temporary restriction was imposed because the rescue equipment and escape routes aboard the 42-meter (138-foot) vessel, which had been in service for only three months, had not been tested in rough weather. The new catamaran, said to have the latest in navigation and rescue equipment, ran aground Friday night with 86 people

board. (NORWAY-FERRY SINKING)

WORLD SPORTS AT 1400 GMT

SOCCER:

TOKYO European Cup champion Manchester United and Libertadores Cup winner Palmeiras meet Tuesday in Japan in the biggest game of the year for the two teams. The match at Tokyo National Stadium will decide which is the No. 1 world club team.

Slug Sports-Soccer-Toyota Cup. Has moved.

By K.P. Hong.

ROME Napoli, Atalanta and Ravenna head into the third round of the Italian Cup this week hoping to upset Serie A opponents and stay on track to become the first Serie B club to win the title in 30 years.

Slug Sports-Soccer-Italian Cup. Expected by 1600 GMT.

By Howard Fendrich.

VENICE, Italy Venezia, lingering 17th in the Serie A standings, fires coach Giuseppe Materazzi on Monday after three games and brings back Luciano Spalletti.

Slug Sports-Soccer-Venezia-Coaching Change. Has moved.

TENNIS:

HANOVER, Germany Pete Sampras has no argument with Andre Agassi being No. 1 in the world. Sampras just likes beating him. A healthy Sampras captured the season-ending ATP Tour World Championship.

Slug Sports-Tennis-ATP Championship. Has moved.

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By Nesha Starcevic.

CRICKET:

BRISBANE, Australia Queensland state adds India to its international victories this season after cruising to a 10-wicket win on the final day of a four-day tour cricket match Monday at the Gabba.

Slug Sports-Cricket-India-Queensland. Has moved.

ALSO MOVED:

MELBOURNE, Australia Sports-Cricket-Australia-Muller.

BOXING:

WEMBLEY, England American fighter Stevie Johnston defends his WBC lightweight title against experienced Billy Schwer of Briton.

Slug Sports-Boxing-Johnston-Schwer. Expected by 2200 GMT.

SKIING:

BEAVER CREEK, Colorado Austrian strongman Hermann Maier continues his early-season domination of the men's World Cup ski circuit, capturing a super-G by a substantial margin for his fourth straight victory.

Slug Sports-Skiing-Men's World Cup. Has moved.

By John Mossman.

FOOTBALL:

VANCOUVER, British Columbia Danny McManus throws two touchdown passes to Darren Flutie including a key seven-yard strike to open the fourth quarter to give the Hamilton Tiger-Cats a 32-21 victory over the Calgary Stampeders to win the Grey Cup.

Slug Sports-Football-Grey Cup. Has moved.

GOLF:

INDIO, California Fred Couples took a wild trip through the 1999 Skins Game, whacking shots out of rocks, sand and even a flowering shrub in winning dlr\$ 650,000.

Slug Sports-Golf Skins Game. Has moved.

By Ken Peters.

OLYMPICS:

SYDNEY, Australia Sydney Olympics organizers say Monday they hope to exceed expectations by selling more than 130 million US dlr\$ worth of tickets to Australians by the end of the year.

Slug Sports-Olympics-Sydney-Tickets. Has moved.

RUGBY:

SYDNEY, Australia A player interchange system and the introduction of video referees are among proposed changes for next year's Super 12 and tri-nations rugby union series.

Slug Sports-RugbyU-SANZAR. Has moved.

ALSO MOVED:

NEW YORK Sports-Football-NFL Roundup.

AUBURN HILLS, Michigan Sports-Basketball-NBA Roundup.

KANATA, Ontario Sports-Ice Hockey-NHL Roundup.

NEW YORK Sports-Football-US College Poll.

YOUR QUERIES: Sports stories carry the "s" category code or, in some cases, the "i" category code. Questions and story requests are welcome. Contact your local AP bureau or the AP International Desk in New York, telephone (1) 212-621-1857, fax (1) 212-621-5449.

WORLD SPORTS AT 0000 GMT

SOCCER:

TOKYO It's the biggest game of the year for European Cup champion Manchester United and Libertadores Cup winner Palmeiras when they meet Tuesday in Japan.

Slug Sports-Soccer-Toyota Cup. Expected by 1300 GMT.

By K.P. Hong.

ROME The Serie A title chase couldn't be much tighter. Now the Italian Cup gets into full swing with three Serie B clubs looking to make history.

Slug Sports-Soccer-Italian Cup. Has moved.

By Howard Fendrich.

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil On a continent that has produced soccer geniuses like Pele and Diego Maradona, goalkeepers tend to get overlooked but few can put on a show like Dida or Jose Luis Chilavert.

Slug Sports-Soccer-SAmerican Roundup. Has moved.

By Peter Muello.

ATHENS, Greece Brazilian forward Giovanni losses a penalty kick but converts another as Olympiakos Piraeus trounces Ethnikos Asteras Kessariani 5-0 to regain the lead in the first division soccer league.

Slug Sports-Soccer-Greece-Roundup. Has moved.

LISBON, Portugal Benfica secures a 2-0 victory against Campomaioresense as the Premier League leaders look to make amends for a nightmarish defeat last week in European play.

Slug Sports-Soccer-Portuguese Roundup.

Has moved.

ALSO MOVED:

FOXBORO, Massachusetts Sports-Soccer-Revolution Coach.

SECAUCUS, New Jersey Sports-Soccer-MetroStars Coach.

CRICKET:

AP News Digest

SYDNEY, Australia Shoaib Akhtar, the world's fastest bowler, is reported to the International Cricket Council for a possible suspect action, a Sydney newspaper reports.

Slug Sports-Cricket-Shoaib. Has moved.

HARARE, Zimbabwe Zimbabwe's fighting spirit and Sri Lanka's frustration come to the fore on the fourth day of the second cricket Test.

Slug Sports-Cricket-Zimbabwe-Sri Lanka. Has moved.

BOXING:

WEMBLEY, England American fighter Stevie Johnston's batters the British fighter Billy Schwer for 12 rounds and holds on to his WBC lightweight title on a one-sided points decision.

Slug Sports-Boxing-Johnston-Schwer. Has moved.

NEWARK, New Jersey The scandal-tainted IBF loses some of its independence and the government moves closer to a takeover as a judge imposed spending restrictions on one of boxing's major governing bodies.

Slug Sports-Boxing-IBF-Bribery. Recap expected by 0200 GMT.

By Jeffrey Gold.

ALSO:

NEW YORK Sports Boxing-Roy Jones. Expected by 0200 GMT.

By Ed Schuyler Jr.

RUGBY:

PARIS Over lunch, President Jacques Chirac assures France's rugby team its World Cup semifinal exploits against the All Blacks not the defeat against Australia in the final will live on in the public's memory.

Slug Sports-RugbyU-French Team-Chirac. Has moved.

BRISTOL, England Former England rugby star Jeremy Guscott is cleared of attacking a pedestrian in a road rage incident.

Slug Sports-RugbyU-Guscott Cleared. Has moved.

AUTO RACING:

WOKING, England Olivier Panis leaves the Prost Formula One team to become the third driver at McLaren Mercedes.

Slug Sports-Auto Racing-McLaren. Has moved.

BASEBALL:

NEW YORK Pete Rose, in an interview with The Associated Press, discusses his ban from baseball, his bid to make the Hall of Fame and the questioning by Jim Gray during the World Series.

Slug Sports-Baseball-Rose Interview. Expected by 0300 GMT.

By Ronald Blum.

ALSO:

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ST. LOUIS Sports-Baseball-Sosa Shoes. Has moved.

NEW YORK Sports-Baseball-Umpires. Has moved.

ALSO:

SAN FRANCISCO Sports-Football-NFL Roundup. Expected by 0500 GMT.

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina Sports-Football-Carruth-Shooting. Has moved.

UNDATED Sports-Basketball-NBA Roundup. Expected by 0500 GMT.

TORONTO Sports-Ice Hockey-NHL Roundup. Expected by 0500 GMT.

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12-621-5449.

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Section: International news

Length: 7187 words

Body

WORLD AT 1700 GMT:

NEW:

PERU-FUJIMORI. Fujimori faces chance of domestic turmoil, international isolation.

PORTUGAL-CLINTON. AIDS, the Internet top list of talks for Clinton's Portugal visit.

YUGOSLAVIA-MILOSEVIC. Milosevic blasts the West; police round up opponents.

KENYA-POWER CUTS. With hydroelectric dams parched, Kenyans face night and day power cuts.

MAIN SPOT NEWS:

ASMARA, Eritrea Ethiopia's warplanes bomb a military airstrip on the outskirts of Asmara on Monday, launching a bold daytime raid on the Eritrean capital on the opening day of peace talks. HORN OF AFRICA-WAR. Lead has moved; developments will be expedited. By Craig Nelson. AP Photos.

ALSO MOVED:

HORN OF AFRICA-TALKS. Delegations from Ethiopia and Eritrea head to Algiers on Monday for new talks on resolving the border conflict.

SUVA, Fiji The military commander imposes martial law Monday in Fiji, where rebels continue to hold much of Fiji's government hostage, and the president who has been running the country since the coup began has resigned, Commodore Frank Bainimarama says FIJI-UNREST. Lead has moved; developments will be expedited. By Rohan Sullivan.

LIMA, Peru President Alberto Fujimori wins an unprecedented third term in power in an election questioned at home and abroad. Now he faces the challenge of weathering the domestic turmoil and international isolation. PERU-FUJIMORI. Expected by 1900 GMT. By Monte Hayes.

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia President Slobodan Milosevic blasts the West on Monday as he reopens a bridge bombed by NATO last year. Meanwhile, police round up dozens of suspect Milosevic opponents, calling them terrorists backed by the West. YUGOSLAVIA-MILOSEVIC. Has moved; INCORPORATES Yugoslavia-Students. By Dusan Stojanovic. AP Photos.

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ALSO:

RUSSIA-SERB OPPOSITION. Russian Foreign Ministry officials on Monday urge Yugoslavia to return the opposition-controlled TV station seized last week. Lead has moved; INCORPORATES Yugoslavia-Opposition.

KOSOVO. An attacker opens fire on a group of Serbs in eastern Kosovo, killing three people, NATO peacekeepers say Monday. Lead has moved.

NAIROBI, Kenya Winfred Mwema sits with her chin in her hands in her tiny salon and worries no electricity, no customers. "There will be no business remaining for us," the hairdresser says Monday, joining Kenyans fretting across the nation in the countdown to stringent, 12-hour day and night power rationing. KENYA-LIGHTS OUT. Upcoming to other points. By George Mwangi. AP Photos.

LISBON, Portugal Measures to contain the spread of AIDS, especially in Africa, and ways of enhancing Internet commerce top the agenda of talks between Portuguese officials and U.S. President Bill Clinton, who arrives in Lisbon on Tuesday. Clinton's three-day stay in the Portuguese capital is the first leg of a trip that also includes Berlin, Moscow, and Kiev, Ukraine. PORTUGAL-CLINTON. Has moved. By Barry Hatton.

ALSO MOVED:

EUROPE-CLINTON. Clinton's visit offers European leaders a chance to express their thanks for America's role in the changes that have swept Europe in the past eight years.

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone Hopes for peace are boosted by the reported release of the last of some 500 U.N. personnel held captive by rebels. Meanwhile, West African leaders agree Monday to send 3,000 troops to support a U.N. peacekeeping force. SIERRA LEONE. Lead has moved. By Clarence Roy-Macaulay.

KIGALI, Rwanda Rwandan and Ugandan troops start withdrawing Monday from Kisangani, clearing the way for creation of the first demilitarized city in warring Congo under the control of the United Nations. CONGO-WITHDRAWAL. Lead has moved; developments will be expedited. By Hrvoje Hranjski.

HARARE, Zimbabwe Former President Canaan Banana is sentenced to a year in jail Monday after losing an appeal of his conviction on sex and assault charges. He is to report to jail Monday, his lawyer says. ZIMBABWE-BANANA. Lead has moved. By Angus Shaw.

JAKARTA, Indonesia Former President Suharto is put under house arrest Monday on suspicion of embezzlement. Charges will be filed within two months, prosecutors say. INDONESIA-SUHARTO. Lead has moved. AP Photo NY113.

KFAR KILA, Lebanon Lebanese guerrillas and army troops restrict access Monday to areas evacuated by Israel in southern Lebanon, including a border flashpoint where at least three people were wounded in clashes a day earlier. LEBANON-ISRAEL. Lead has moved. By Susan Severeid. AP Photos XELD101-105; JRL101.

ALSO MOVED:

ISRAEL-PALESTINIANS. Prime Minister Ehud Barak risks being assassinated if he uproots Jewish settlements, a leader of a radical settler group says Monday.

ISRAEL-LEBANON. The Israeli army blows up a large outpost just inside Lebanon Monday as it completes the final phases of its withdrawal.

MOSCOW Russia will investigate alleged war crimes in Chechnya, President Vladimir Putin promises leaders of the European Union on Monday. RUSSIA-EU. Lead has moved. By Vladimir Isachenkov. AP Photos MOSB102-109.

ALSO MOVED:

RUSSIA-CHECHNYA. Rebel bands fire on Russian positions Monday.

AP News Digest

WARSAW, Poland Prime Minister Jerzy Buzek rejects the resignations Monday of five Cabinet ministers and demands new talks to keep his Solidarity-led government from falling apart. POLAND-GOVERNMENT CRISIS. Lead has moved. By Andrzej Stylinski. AP Photo WAR150.

LOOKING AHEAD: On Tuesday, U.S. President Bill Clinton arrives in Lisbon, Portugal, for a three-day visit; he heads to Berlin on Thursday. Also Thursday, the Expo 2000 opens in Hanover, Germany.

FEATURES MOVED:

FEA-CUBA'S GUANTANAMO. AP Photos NY360-364; AP Graphic GUANTANAMO.

FEA-MEXICO-HAVEN NO MORE. With FEA-HAVEN-FUGITIVES.

FEA-BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA-UNDERMINING DEMINING. With FEA-CAMBODIA-SIMPLIFYING DEMINING. AP Photos NY315-321.

YOUR QUERIES: World Service editors in charge are Jean H. Lee and Todd Zaun. Suggestions and story requests to The Associated Press World Service are welcome. Contact your local AP bureau or the AP International Desk in New York, telephone (1) 212-621-1650, fax (1) 212-621-5449.

WORLD AT 0000 GMT:

NEW:

LEBANON-RETURNING HOME. Israeli withdrawal sparks return of expatriates.

ELIAN'S LIFE IN CUBA. Elian expected to return without fanfare.

MEXICO-FOX. Analysts have rare chance to ponder a Mexican opposition Cabinet.

PAKISTAN'S TALIBAN. Pakistani admirers of Islamic movement gaining influence.

NORTHERN IRELAND. Britain transfers authority back to Northern Ireland.

MAIN SPOT NEWS:

BELFAST, Northern Ireland Britain transferred governing authority back to Northern Ireland at midnight Monday offering new hope for peace to the divided province. NORTHERN IRELAND. Has moved, will be updated. XBFT105.

LIMA, Peru Alberto Fujimori, Peru's autocratic president, has won an unprecedented third term in power in an election questioned at home and abroad. Now he faces the challenge of weathering the domestic turmoil and international isolation that could befall Peru. PERU-ELECTION. Lead has moved. By Monte Hayes. AP Photos LIM138-141; LIM101-107.

ASMARA, Eritrea Ethiopia marks the scheduled opening of peace talks Monday with a daylight bombing run on the very edge of Eritrea's capital the first attack on the city of 500,000 since the outset of the two-year-old border war. HORN OF AFRICA-WAR. Lead has moved; developments will be expedited. By Craig Nelson. AP Photos ASM101-109; ADD101-103.

SUVA, Fiji After declaring martial law and taking command of the country, Fiji's new military rulers begin negotiations with armed rebels holding more than 30 members of the country's deposed government hostage in parliament. FIJI-UNREST. Recap expected by 0200 GMT, will be led with developments. AP Photo SUV101-102

LISBON, Portugal U.S. President Bill Clinton opens a weeklong trip to Europe on Tuesday with a visit to Portugal to discuss the fight against AIDS, ways of boosting e-commerce and trade and security issues with senior European Union officials. PORTUGAL-CLINTON. Recap expected by 0200 GMT. By Cristiana Pereira.

AP News Digest

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone West African leaders meeting in Nigeria agree Monday to send 3,000 troops to support a U.N. peacekeeping force humiliated by rebel attacks and the capture of its personnel, conference officials said. SIERRA LEONE. Lead has moved. By Clarence Roy-Macaulay.

MEXICO CITY In every Mexican presidential election for 71 years the candidate of the Institutional Revolutionary Party has won, and quickly namee a Cabinet composed primarily of PRI members. This year, though, Vicente Fox of the center-right National Action Party has a chance of winning the July 2 contest, and that's giving pundits a rare chance to speculate about the makeup of a non-PRI government. MEXICO-FOX. Expected by 0200 GMT. By Lisa J. Adams. AP Photos MO102, 104-105.

CASERIO LA CANOA, El Salvador Most believed that the 6-year-old boy had been massacred by the army along with 1,000 other peasants in 1981, at the start of El Salvador's 12-year civil war. Nineteen years later, Jose Martinez, now 25, has been reunited with his parents after an exhaustive investigation by an organization dedicated to finding children who disappeared during the war. SALVADOR-SURVIVOR'S REUNION. Has moved. By Diego Mendez.

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia An attacker opens fire on a group of Serbs gathered in a store in an eastern Kosovo village patrolled by U.S. peacekeepers, killing three people, including a 4-year-old boy, NATO peacekeepers said Monday. KOSOVO. Has moved. By Danica Kirka.

MIRALI, Pakistan Emboldened by the success of the Taliban religious militia next door in Afghanistan, men espousing the same restrictive brand of Islam have formed their own Taliban movement and started to impose their rules. PAKISTAN'S TALIBAN. Expected by 0200 GMT. By Amir Zia. AP Photos NY191-192.

HAVANA If the most famous child in Cuba returns to his homeland, he is likely to slip in quietly without the crowds, the cheers and the media frenzy of his time in the United States. ELIAN'S LIFE IN CUBA. Has moved. By Anita Snow. AP Photo HAVG101.

KIGALI, Rwanda Hundreds of Rwandan and Ugandan soldiers accompanied by tanks and artillery pull out of the Kisingani airport under U.N. supervision Monday. CONGO-WITHDRAWAL. Lead has moved. By Hrvoje Hranjski.

KFAR KILA, Lebanon The Shiite Muslim Hezbollah guerrilla group says Monday its fighters will not disarm despite the Israeli army's withdrawal from southern Lebanon. LEBANON-ISRAEL. Lead has moved. By Susan Severeid. AP Photo XELD101-105; XLP101-104; BEI105,107.

BINT JBEIL, Lebanon For many southern Lebanese, the Israeli withdrawal means joyous reunions with family scattered in America and elsewhere. LEBANON-RETURNING HOME. Has moved. By Hussein Dakroub. AP Photo BEI101-102.

LOOKING AHEAD: On Tuesday, U.S. President Bill Clinton arrives in Lisbon, Portugal, for a three-day visit; he heads to Berlin on Thursday. Also Thursday, the Expo 2000 opens in Hanover, Germany.

FEATURES: Business and Finance

MADRID, Spain Six decades after it was formed in the aftermath of the Spanish Civil War, the National Organization of Blind Spaniards has blossomed into one of Spain's most successful businesses and one of the world's most dynamic disabled support groups. FEA-SPAIN-BLIND AND BUSY. To move to wire as tome permits. By Ciaran Giles. AP Photos NY305-306.

REDWOOD CITY, California Oracle Corp. has rocketed from the humdrum of data crunching to the forefront of Internet computing so quickly that even the pilot feels lightheaded. Wall Street's belief that Oracle has transformed itself from a mundane maker of database software to an Internet trailblazer has yielded huge returns so far. FEA-US-ORACLE FEVER. To move to wire as tome permits. By Michael Liedtke.

PARIS It is a centuries-old tradition, a visit by the French to the daily market for fresh bread and produce, a cut of meat, perhaps a wedge of Brie cheese. But now, urban French shoppers are increasingly trading market stand

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browsing for the point-and-click variety. FEA-FRANCE-INTERNET GROCERIES. To move to wire as time permits. By Jason Straziuse. AP Photos NY135-137.

ROCHESTER, New York In the late 1800s, Martha Matilda Harper, a short domestic with floor-length hair, created what a new biography calls America's first retail franchise: a beauty-salon chain that, at its peak in 1928, boasted 500 "branches" worldwide. FEA-US-FRANCHISING FOUNDER. To move to wire as time permits. By Ben Dobbin.

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Britain transferred governing authority back to Northern Ireland at midnight Monday, offering new hope for peace to the divided province. "We hope these institutions will take root," Ulster Unionist Party leader David Trimble told a news conference at Stormont, the government's Belfast headquarters on Monday. "I hope we've come over the Rubicon this time but again, with other events, we'll wait and see how things unfold." This is the second time in six months that Britain has returned a measure of self-rule to the province. The Ulster Unionists' narrow approval Saturday of a return to Catholic-Protestant power-sharing cleared the way for Britain to restore the administrative authority it suspended in February just 11 weeks into its existence. The British minister for Northern Ireland, Peter Mandelson, had pulled the plug on the four-party Cabinet over the refusal of the outlawed **Irish Republican Army** to disarm. But on Saturday, Trimble narrowly managed to persuade his badly divided party to give the IRA a chance to live up to its unprecedented pledge three weeks ago to begin putting its weapons "completely and verifiably beyond use" if the new provincial administration resumed. (NORTHERN IRELAND)

LIMA, Peru (AP)

Alberto Fujimori, Peru's autocratic president, has won an unprecedented third term in power in an election questioned at home and abroad. Now he faces the challenge of weathering the domestic turmoil and international isolation that could befall Peru. But the 61-year-old Fujimori, known for his cunning and patience, has had his back to the wall before and has always survived. Analysts agree that after his flawed victory Sunday over challenger Alejandro Toledo, the legitimacy of his government is in doubt. The United States said the election was invalid, but most do not expect the international community to impose severe sanctions against Peru. "Everyone is just waiting to see if all the tough talk is going to be matched by any real pain, and the only real pain would come in the form of economic sanctions," said Catherine Conaghan, an expert on Peru at Canada's Queens University, who was in Lima studying developments. The U.S. State Department said the election was not "valid." "No president emerging from such a flawed process can claim legitimacy. The manner in which the Fujimori regime handled this problem is a serious threat to the inter-American system and its commitment to democracy," a statement said. (PERU-ELECTION)

ASMARA, Eritrea (AP)

Ethiopia marked the scheduled opening day of peace talks Monday with a daylight bombing run on the very edge of Eritrea's capital the first attack on the city of 500,000 since the outset of the two-year-old border war. Ethiopian Foreign Minister Seyoum Mesfin, whose late arrival in the border-talks venue of Algiers forced their postponement until Tuesday, made doubly clear that more attacks could come with negotiations or without. "The day when there is no longer a square meter occupied by Eritrea is the day we'll no longer have a reason to fight," Seyoum told reporters in Algeria's capital after his late Monday arrival. In Asmara, four Ethiopian MiG-23s swept in over the international airport at midday, unleashing rockets and then bombs at a military airstrip just west of the commercial runways. Two Eritrean MiG's took off in pursuit, with flames and black and white smoke billowing into the sky. The attack engulfed a guard tower in fire and ignited a grass fire that sent flames licking within yards (meters) of Eritrean warplanes and Russian-built attack helicopters on the tarmac. Two civilians were wounded in the attack, Eritrean presidential spokesman Yemene Gebremeskel. (HORN OF AFRICA-WAR)

SUVA, Fiji (AP)

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Moving to end Fiji's crisis, the country's army commander imposed martial law Monday night and began to isolate the rebels who have been holding the prime minister and other government officials hostage for 10 days. The commander, Commodore Frank Bainimarama, announced he had assumed control of Fiji and that President Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara had quit after running the country since the coup began May 19. "I have, with much reluctance, assumed executive authority of the country, and henceforth declared martial law," Bainimarama said at a news conference. He said soldiers will restrict access to the parliamentary compound where the insurgents are holding Prime Minister Mahendra Chaudhry and more than 30 members of his government. Coup leader George Speight is a member of the ethnic Fijian majority. He wants Chaudhry, Fiji's first prime minister from the Indian minority, removed from power and Indians barred from leading the country again. Fijians of Indian ancestry make up 44 percent of the population of 813,000 on this Pacific island, but control much of the nation's commerce in this country 2,250 miles (3,620 kilometers) northeast of Sydney, Australia. (FIJI-UNREST)

WORLD AT 0600 GMT:

NEW:

US-RUSSIA. No agreement expected in Russia on missile defense.

SKOREA-JAPAN-MORI. North Korea's missile may be on inter-Korea summit agenda

KOREAS-CHILDREN'S SHOW. Stage surprise reflects Koreans longing for unification.

SRI LANKA-CIVIL WAR. Top U.S. official arrives in Sri Lankan capital as rebels advance.

MAIN SPOT NEWS:

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone Sierra Leone's hostage crisis appears to be over, with what is believed to be the last of about 500 U.N. hostages returning to the capital, bedraggled but safe after weeks in the clutches of this West African country's brutal rebels. SIERRA LEONE. Has moved; developments will be expedited. By Clarence Roy-Macaulay.

LIMA, Peru President Alberto Fujimori heads to a lopsided victory in his bid for an unprecedented third term, with the first official returns showing him triumphant in an election boycotted by his challenger and questioned by foreign observers. PERU-ELECTION. Has moved; developments will be expedited. By Bill Cormier. AP Photos LIM101-140.

ASMARA, Eritrea Fighting rages between the Horn of Africa's warring neighbors on the eve of peace talks Monday in Algeria _ opening a new front in Eritrea's smoldering humanitarian crisis. HORN OF AFRICA-WAR. Lead expected by 1100 GMT. By Craig Nelson. ASM101-109.

KFAR KILA, Lebanon A Muslim guerrilla kills a Christian man in a former militia stronghold, and Israeli soldiers wound at least three people at a border post in growing tensions that highlight the fragility of security conditions in the newly liberated Lebanese territory. LEBANON-ISRAEL. Has moved; developments will be expedited. By Susan Severeid. AP Photos.

ALSO MOVED:

ANALYSIS-LEBANON-PARTNER OR PAWN? With the departure of the last Israeli occupation troops, the Lebanese government has its first chance in decades to show authority throughout its own country and, perhaps, even become a partner instead of a pawn in regional politics.

SEOUL, South Korea The final song and dance routine of a children's art troupe from North Korea is precise as ever, save for one unscripted moment. A South Korean woman in the audience trots on stage, dances briefly with a singer, hugs her and then sheds tears. The scene conveys the longing that grips many Koreans 55 years after their peninsula was divided. KOREAS-CHILDREN'S SHOW. Expected by 0700 GMT. By Christopher Torchia.

ALSO MOVED:

SKOREA-JAPAN-MORI. South Korean President Kim Dae-jung says Monday that he may raise Japanese concern about North Korea's missile program during a June summit with North Korea.

SUVA, Fiji Negotiations to end Fiji's 10-day government hostage crisis resume Monday, after a rampage by a mob of rebel supporters who shot and killed a policeman and destroyed a television station in Suva, the capital. FIJI-UNREST. Has moved; developments will be expedited. By Rohan Sullivan. AP Photos SUV101-104.

WASHINGTON _ President Bill Clinton's national security adviser, Sandy Berger, doesn't expect any arms agreements from next weekend's summit in Russia, but he dismissed George W. Bush's suggestion that Clinton ought not try. US-RUSSIA. Has moved. By William C. Mann.

NEW DELHI, India U.S. Undersecretary of State Thomas Pickering flies to Sri Lanka to meet with the government as its forces battle to block the Tamil rebel advance toward the northern city of Jaffna in what could be a turning point in the 17-year civil war. SRI LANKA-CIVIL WAR. Expected by 0800 GMT.

WARSAW, Poland Unhappy with Prime Minister Jerzy Buzek's inability to control maverick lawmakers from his own Solidarity bloc, leaders of the junior partner in the center-right coalition vote to pull their ministers from the coalition government. POLAND-GOVERNMENT CRISIS. Has moved. By Beata Pasek. WAR150-151.

BELFAST, Northern Ireland Dissident members of Northern Ireland's major Protestant party lose no time in declaring their resistance to a soon-to-be restored administration that includes members of the IRA-allied Sinn Fein party. NORTHERN IRELAND. Has moved.

NEW YORK Two men accused of the execution-style slayings of five people during a robbery at a Wendy's restaurant one of the most shocking crimes in recent New York memory are charged with multiple counts of murder, attempted robbery and weapons possession. US-WENDY'S SHOOTING. Has moved. By Beth Harpaz. AP Photos XEJB101-102, NYR101-103, 112-115.

DILI, East Timor Five years ago, international peacekeepers had to intervene in Bosnia-Herzegovina to enforce the truce that ended a bitter war among its three main ethnic communities. Today, an ethnically mixed police contingent from that Balkans state is far from home helping keep the peace in East Timor. BOSNIANS IN TIMOR. Has moved. By Daniel Cooney. AP Photos NY109-112..

TOKYO Welcome to the world's busiest Starbucks. It's not in Seattle, San Francisco or New York. It's smack in the middle of Tokyo. The American coffee chain is finding that Asia is a vast, thirsty and untapped market. JAPAN-STARBUCKS RISING. Has moved. By Ginny Parker. AP Photos NY190-193.

With:

JAPAN-STARBUCKS RISING-GLANCE. Has moved.

LOOKING AHEAD: On Tuesday, U.S. President Bill Clinton arrives in Lisbon, Portugal, for a visit that includes a summit with leaders of European Union countries; Organization of African Unity foreign ministers' meeting in Tripoli, Libya; International Labor Organization opens annual conference in Geneva.

FEATURES MOVED:

FEA-CUBA'S GUANTANAMO. Cubans, Americans still face off at Guantanamo, but tensions cool. AP Photos NY360-364; AP Graphic GUANTANAMO.

FEA-MEXICO-HAVEN NO MORE. U.S. fugitives lose safe haven in Mexico.

With: FEA-HAVEN-FUGITIVES.

AP News Digest

FEA-BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA-UNDERMINING DEMINING. Mine removal snarled in conflicting interests, mismanagement. AP Photos NY319-321.

With: FEA-CAMBODIA-SIMPLIFYING DEMINING. Cambodians find cheaper, home-grown methods for mine clearance. AP Photos NY315-318.

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WORLD AT 1000 GMT:

NEW:

INDONESIA-SUHARTO. Former president Suharto placed under house arrest.

ISRAEL-LEBANESE PRISONERS. Two Lebanese guerrilla leaders appear before an Israeli court.

ISRAEL-LEBANON. Israeli army blows up large outpost just inside Lebanon.

EUROPE-CLINTON. Clinton visiting a Europe of profound changes, debates over new direction.

IRAN-JEWS. Main Jewish defendants appear in court in Iran.

RUSSIA-EU. Putin stresses need for close ties with Europe.

RUSSIA-CHECHNYA. Rebels keep up attacks on Russian positions.

KOSOVO. Three killed in village shooting in Kosovo.

CONGO-WITHDRAWAL. Rwanda, Uganda start withdrawing from Congo hot spot.

ZIMBABWE-BANANA. Ex-President Banana jailed on gay sex charges in Zimbabwe.

MAIN SPOT NEWS:

ASMARA, Eritrea Ethiopian warplanes bomb a military airstrip on the outskirts of Asmara on Monday, attacking the Eritrean capital on the scheduled opening day of the two Horn of Africa neighbor's peace talks. HORN OF AFRICA-WAR. Has moved; developments will be expedited. By Craig Nelson.

WITH:

ALGIERS, Algeria With war raging, delegations from Ethiopia and Eritrea head to Algiers on Monday for new talks on resolving the resurgent two-year-old conflict over their disputed border. HORN OF AFRICA-TALKS. Developing.

JAKARTA, Indonesia State prosecutors place disgraced ex-President Suharto under house arrest Monday, after promising that the former strongman will be charged within the next two months for embezzling millions of dollars. INDONESIA-SUHARTO. Developing. AP Photo NY113.

ALSO MOVED:

INDONESIA-WEST PAPUA. West Papuans open congress that many participants hope may lead to independence from Indonesia.

INDONESIA-VIOLENCE. Bomb injures four on Sumatra island, three killed in Aceh.

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone Sierra Leone's hostage crisis appears to be over, with what is believed to be the last of about 500 U.N. hostages returning to the capital, bedraggled but safe after weeks in the clutches of this West

AP News Digest

African country's brutal rebels. SIERRA LEONE. Has moved; developments will be expedited. By Clarence Roy-Macaulay.

LIMA, Peru President Alberto Fujimori appears headed toward a lopsided victory in an election boycotted by his challenger, who urged thousands of his supporters gathered in the capital to peacefully resist the election's outcome. PERU-ELECTION. Has moved; developments will be expedited. By Bill Cormier. AP Photos LIM101-140.

SUVA, Fiji Fiji's army announces Monday it had taken control of the capital, Suva, and imposed a 48-hour curfew after a rampage by a mob of rebel supporters who shot and killed a policeman and destroyed a television station. FIJI-UNREST. Has moved; developments will be expedited. By Rohan Sullivan.

ALSO MOVED:

FIJI-AUSTRALIA. Australian government calls on citizens to leave Fiji's troubled capital, Suva.

KFAR KILA, Lebanon A border flashpoint that has been a scene of daily clashes between Israeli soldiers and Lebanese stone-throwers since Israel's troop withdrawal quiets down Monday, a day after at least three people were wounded by gunfire. LEBANON-ISRAEL. By Susan Severeid. AP XELD101-105; JRL101.

ALSO MOVED:

ISRAEL-LEBANESE PRISONERS. Two Lebanese guerrilla leaders held in Israel appear before a Tel Aviv court Monday in their first public sighting in years, and hear a state attorney explain why they should remain in custody.

ISRAEL-LEBANON. The Israeli army blew up a large outpost just inside Lebanon Monday as it completes the final phases of its withdrawal.

VIENNA, Austria Profound changes have swept Europe since U.S. President Bill Clinton took office eight years ago, and his visit _ perhaps his last as president offers European leaders a chance to express their thanks for America's role in them. EUROPE-CLINTON. Has moved. By Robert H. Reid.

WASHINGTON _ President Bill Clinton's national security adviser, Sandy Berger, doesn't expect any arms agreements from next weekend's summit in Russia, but he dismissed George W. Bush's suggestion that Clinton ought not try. US-RUSSIA. Has moved. By William C. Mann.

MOSCOW President Vladimir Putin says Monday that good relations with Europe are a priority for Russia as he meets with European Union leaders to try to improve relations hurt by Moscow's war in Chechnya. RUSSIA-EU. Has moved; developments will be expedited. By Vladimir Isachenkov. AP Photos MOSB102-109.

ALSO MOVED:

RUSSIA-CHECHNYA. Russian officials say the military situation in Chechnya is "tense and difficult" Monday after rebel bands fired on Russian positions in almost two dozen attacks across the province.

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia An attacker opens fire on a group of Serbs within 100 yards (meters) of U.S. peacekeepers on patrol in eastern Kosovo, killing three people, including a 4-year-old boy, NATO peacekeepers say Monday. KOSOVO. Has moved; developments will be expedited.

ALSO:

YUGOSLAVIA-OPPOSITION. Russian Foreign Ministry says no meeting planned with Serbian opposition. Has moved.

YUGOSLAVIA-STUDENTS. Serbian police detain more activists of anti-government student group. Expected by 1200 GMT.

AP News Digest

KIGALI, Rwanda Rwandan and Ugandan troops start withdrawing Monday from Kisangani, clearing the way for creation of the first demilitarized city in warring Congo under the control of the United Nations. CONGO-WITHDRAWAL. Has moved; developments will be expedited. By Hrvoje Hranjski.

SHIRAZ, Iran The main Jewish defendants on trial for spying for Israel appear in an Iranian court Monday in what could be their last hearing in a case that has generated international concern and calls of unfairness by defense lawyers. IRAN-JEWS. Has moved; developments will be expedited. By Afshin Valinejad.

SEOUL, South Korea The final song and dance routine of a children's art troupe from North Korea is precise as ever, save for one unscripted moment. A South Korean woman in the audience trots on stage, dances briefly with a singer, hugs her and then sheds tears. The scene conveys the longing that grips many Koreans 55 years after their peninsula was divided. KOREAS-CHILDREN'S SHOW. Has moved. By Christopher Torchia. AP Photos SEL105-106, 108-109.

ALSO MOVED:

SKOREA-JAPAN-MORI. South Korean President Kim Dae-jung says Monday that he may raise Japanese concern about North Korea's missile program during a June summit with North Korea. AP Photos TOK201-204.

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka Sri Lanka's war moves to the sea for the first time in six weeks, with the navy destroying rebel boats ferrying arms and ammunition to the guerrillas in the country's north, the government says Monday. SRI LANKA-CIVIL WAR. Has moved; developments will be expedited. By Dilip Ganguly.

WARSAW, Poland In an effort to save Poland's Solidarity-led government from collapse, Prime Minister Jerzy Buzek on Monday refuses to accept the resignations of five Cabinet ministers from the small Freedom Union. POLAND-GOVERNMENT CRISIS. Has moved; developments will be expedited. By Andrzej Stylinski.

HARARE, Zimbabwe Former President Canaan Banana loses an appeal Monday of his conviction on sexual assault charges and gay sex offenses and is ordered to serve a year in jail. ZIMBABWE-BANANA. Has moved; developments will be expedited. By Angus Shaw.

KUWAIT A Kuwaiti court on Monday refers to the nation's highest tribunal the question of whether women should vote and run for office, a decision women's rights activists praise as a victory. KUWAIT-WOMEN'S RIGHTS. Has moved. By Diana Elias.

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida Space shuttle Atlantis and its crew swoop through the pre-dawn darkness Monday and end a triumphant repair mission to the international space station. US-SPACE SHUTTLE. Has moved. Astronaut news conference scheduled for 1230 GMT. By Marcia Dunn. AP PHOTOS XHTN101-102.

LOOKING AHEAD: On Tuesday, U.S. President Bill Clinton arrives in Lisbon, Portugal, for a visit that includes a summit with leaders of European Union countries; Organization of African Unity foreign ministers' meeting in Tripoli, Libya; International Labor Organization opens annual conference in Geneva.

FEATURES MOVED:

FEA-CUBA'S GUANTANAMO. Cubans, Americans still face off at Guantanamo, but tensions cool. AP Photos NY360-364; AP Graphic GUANTANAMO.

FEA-MEXICO-HAVEN NO MORE. U.S. fugitives lose safe haven in Mexico.

With: FEA-HAVEN-FUGITIVES.

FEA-BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA-UNDERMINING DEMINING. Mine removal snarled in conflicting interests, mismanagement. AP Photos NY319-321.

AP News Digest

With: FEA-CAMBODIA-SIMPLIFYING DEMINING. Cambodians find cheaper, home-grown methods for mine clearance. AP Photos NY315-318.

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Ethiopian warplanes bombed a military airstrip on the outskirts of Asmara on Monday, attacking the Eritrean capital on the scheduled opening day of the two Horn of Africa neighbors' peace talks. Four Ethiopian MiG 23s swept in over Asmara's international airport, bombing and firing rockets at a military airstrip next to it. Two Eritrean MiG 29s immediately took off in pursuit, as smoke curled from the airstrip, sirens wailed and fire trucks rushed to the scene. The attack came hours after delegations from Ethiopia and Eritrea flew to Algiers for new talks on resolving their resurgent conflict over the disputed border. (HORN OF AFRICA-WAR)

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)

State prosecutors placed disgraced ex-President Suharto under house arrest Monday, after promising that the former strongman will be charged within the next two months for embezzling millions of dollars. A spokesman for the prosecutor's office said that from Monday Suharto would not be allowed to leave his house in downtown Jakarta. Suharto's confinement, first suggested a week ago by Attorney-General Marzuki Darusman, was prompted by escalating public pressure, including violent protests by students demanding swift action against the former leader. (INDONESIA-SUHARTO)

SUVA, Fiji (AP)

Fiji's army announced Monday that it has taken control of the capital, Suva, and imposed a 48-hour curfew after a mob of people supporting rebels holding the country's government hostage shot and killed a policeman and destroyed a television station. In another development, Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said that the rebels have threatened to kill one of their hostages in parliament the daughter of President Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, who has been running the country since the coup began 10 days ago. (FIJI-UNREST)

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AP)

Space shuttle Atlantis and its crew swooped through the pre-dawn darkness Monday and ended a triumphant repair mission to the international space station. Within moments of touchdown, the seven astronauts were basking in praise. "Just a super mission," congratulated Mission Control. It was the 14th time in 98 flights that a space shuttle landed in darkness. The crosswind ended up being well within safety limits, despite NASA's earlier concerns. The astronauts' handiwork, the rejuvenated space station, had passed over the Kennedy Space Center just 10 minutes earlier, and was crossing the North Atlantic when Atlantis touched down. (US-SPACE SHUTTLE)

LIMA, Peru (AP)

President Alberto Fujimori appeared headed toward a lopsided victory in an election boycotted by his challenger, who urged thousands of his supporters gathered in the capital to peacefully resist the election's outcome. Hundreds of demonstrators tried to march toward the presidential palace late Sunday, but riot police drove them back with tear gas. There were no immediate reports of injuries, and tens of thousands of Fujimori foes demonstrated peacefully nearby. With a little more than half of the vote counted, Fujimori had 50.3 percent of the ballot to Alejandro Toledo's 16.2 percent. (PERU-ELECTION)

WORLD SPORTS AT 1300 GMT:

TENNIS:

PARIS Martina Hingis, who left the 1999 French Open to jeers and in tears, returns to Roland Garros to beat Sabine Appelmans 6-0, 6-4 in the opening match Monday on Court Central.

AP News Digest

Slug Sports-Tennis-French Open. Lead has moved.

By Steven Wine.

WITH:

PARIS Sports-Tennis-French Open-Hingis. By Andreas Evagora. Expected by 1500 GMT.

SOCCER:

MADRID, Spain Could this finally be the 'Year of the Spaniards'? At club and national level, few European nations can boast as much success as Spain in recent years. But then, in the past, few other countries have built up so many hopes only to dash them when it comes to the crunch.

Slug Sports-Soccer-Euro 2000-Spain. Upcoming to other points.

By Ciaran Giles.

ALSO:

WEMBLEY, England Sports-Soccer-Barnsley-Ipswich. Expected by 1600 GMT.

LJUBLJANA, Slovenia Sports-Soccer-Euro 2000-Slovenia. By Eugene Brcic. Upcoming to other points.

GOLF:

VIRGINIA WATER, England Colin Montgomerie stretches his lead to three strokes with birdies Monday at two of the last three holes of the rain-delayed third round of the Volvo PGA Championship.

Slug Sports-Golf-Volvo PGA Championship. Has moved.

By Brian Creighton.

DUBLIN, Ohio Tiger Woods is clearly the leader and maybe the best weather forecaster going into the final round of the rain-battered Memorial Tournament.

Slug Sports-Golf-Memorial Tournament. Play expected to have resume at 1200 GMT.

By Rusty Miller.

FIELD HOCKEY:

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands Olympic and world champion the Netherlands defeats South Korea 1-0 in the men's Champions Trophy field hockey tournament Monday.

Slug Sports-Field Hockey-Champions Trophy. Has moved.

By Mandy Mann.

AUTO RACING:

LONDON English 20-year-old Formula One driver Jenson Button is fined 500 pounds (dlrs 750) for reportedly driving 228 kph (141 mph) in France.

Sports-Auto Racing-Button Speeding. Has moved.

INDIANAPOLIS After winning the Indianapolis 500, Juan Montoya munches on some cookies as if dominating the race his first try out is no big deal. "It will take time to realize what I just won," the 24-year-old Colombian says nonchalantly.

AP News Digest

Slug Sports-Auto Racing-IRL-Indy 500. Lead has moved.

By Paul Newberry.

CRICKET:

DHAKA, Bangladesh Champion Sri Lanka limits Bangladesh to 175 for six wickets off 50 overs in the four-nation Asia Cup, which began Monday.

Slug Sports-Cricket-Asia Cup. Lead has moved.

OLYMPICS:

SEOUL, South Korea The International Olympic Committee urges South Korea to use an upcoming summit with North Korea to form joint inter-Korea teams for this year's Sydney Olympics and other international competitions.

Slug Sports-Olympics-Korea. Has moved.

ALSO:

SYDNEY, Australia Sports-Olympics-Torch-Fiji. Has moved.

SYDNEY, Australia Sports-Olympics-Sydney-Maccabiah. Has moved.

ALSO:

PORTLAND, Oregon Sports-Basketball-NBA Playoff Roundup. Has moved.

UNDATED Sports-Baseball-NL Roundup. Has moved.

UNDATED Sports-Baseball-AL Roundup. Has moved.

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey Sports-Ice Hockey-NHL Playoff Roundup. Has moved.

YOUR QUERIES: Sports stories carry the "s" category code or, in some cases, the "i" category code. Questions and story requests are welcome. Contact your local AP bureau or the AP International Desk in New York, telephone (1) 212-621-1857, fax (1) 212-621-5449.

WORLD SPORTS AT 0000 GMT:

TENNIS:

PARIS Pete Sampras stumbles once again on the red clay at the French Open, double-faulting on three crucial points and losing to Mark Philippoussis.

Sports-Tennis-French Open. Has moved. Recap expected by 0015 GMT.

By Steven Wine.

PARIS Martina Hingis could have been forgiven for not recognizing Center Court before her first round match at the French Open on Monday.

Sports-Tennis-French Open-Hingis. Has moved.

By Andreas Evagora.

PARIS In what has turned out to be a turbulent career, Jennifer Capriati isn't too concerned after yet another loss since her surprise split with coach Harold Solomon.

AP News Digest

Sports-Tennis-French Open-Capriati. Expected by 0015 GMT.

By Andreas Evagora.

WITH:

PARIS Sports-Tennis-French Open-Notebook. Has moved. By Clar Ni Chonghaile.

SOCCER:

BRATISLAVA, Slovakia England gets goals from six different players en route to a resounding 6-0 victory over Turkey in the European Under 21s Soccer Championship.

Sports-Soccer-Euro U21s. Has moved.

By Marcia Hill.

MADRID, Spain Could this finally be the 'Year of the Spaniards'?

Sports-Soccer-Euro 2000-Spain. Has moved.

By Ciaran Giles.

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil Edmundo never seems to run out of second chances Brazilian soccer's resident bad boy is the surprise on the list of players named for Brazil's qualifying game with Peru next Sunday for the 2002 World Cup.

Sports-Soccer-Brazil-Peru. Has moved.

By Peter Muello.

ALSO:

BRUSSELS, Belgium Sports-Soccer-Euro 2000-Belgium-Players. Has moved.

LJUBLJANA, Slovenia Sports-Soccer-Euro 2000-Slovenia. By Eugene Brcic. Has moved.

OSLO, Norway Sports-Soccer-Euro2000-Norway Roster. Has moved.

SAO PAULO, Brazil _ Sports-Soccer-Libertadores-Corinthians-Palmeiras. Has moved.

WEMBLEY, England Sports-Soccer-Barnsley-Ipswich. Has moved.

CRICKET:

ST. JOHN'S, Antigua West Indies captain Jimmy Adams hits a marathon unbeaten 48 to spur the home team to a remarkable one-wicket victory over Pakistan in the decisive third and final cricket Test.

Sports-Cricket-WIndies-Pakistan. Has moved.

By Craig Cozier.

ST. JOHN'S, Antigua West Indies fast bowling great Curtly Ambrose chooses a triumphant moment in his home country to announce his retirement from international cricket after a summer tour of England.

Sports-Cricket-Ambrose Retirement. Has moved.

By Criag Cozier.

ALSO:

DHAKA, Bangladesh Sports-Cricket-Asia Cup. Has moved.

ST. JOHN'S, Antigua _ Sports-Cricket-WIndies-Pakistan-Captains. Has moved. By Craig Cozier.

SYDNEY, Australia Sports-Cricket-Breakaway Tour. Has moved.

FIELD HOCKEY:

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands German and Argentinian women post upsets over Australia and host Netherlands respectively at the Champions Trophy field hockey tournament.

Sports-Field Hockey-Champions Trophy. Has moved.

By Mandy Mann.

ICE HOCKEY:

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey When the New Jersey Devils gaze into the Stars, they see themselves.

Sports-Ice Hockey-Stanley Cup. Has moved.

By Alan Robinson.

ALSO:

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey Sports-Ice Hockey-NHL GMs-Postponed. has moved.

VOORHEES, New Jersey Sports-Ice Hockey-Flyers-Lindros. Has moved. By Rob Maaddi.

GOLF:

VIRGINIA WATER, England Just when it looks as if he might throw it away, Colin Montgomerie finds a way to win a record third successive Volvo PGA title.

Sports-Golf-Volvo PGA Championship. Has moved.

By Brian Creighton.

DUBLIN, Ohio Tiger Woods breaks new ground in the Memorial, successfully defending a title for the first time in 10 tries, and becoming the first repeat champion in the 25-year history of the tournament.

Sports-Golf-Memorial Tournament. Has moved.

By Doug Ferguson.

BASKETBALL:

NEW YORK The battered New York Knicks try to draw even with the Indiana Pacers in Game 4 of the National Basketball Association Eastern Conference finals.

Sports-Basketball-NBA Playoff Roundup. Expected by 0030 GMT.

By Chris Sheridan.

ALSO:

ATLANTA Sports-Football-Lewis Trial. Has moved. By Chad Roedemeier.

AP News Digest

BOULDER, Colorado Sports-Track-Bolder Boulder. Has moved. By John Mossman.

BRESCIA, Italy Sports-Cycling-Giro. Has moved.

INDIANAPOLIS Sports-Auto Racing-IRL-Indy 500. Has moved. By Mike Harris.

UNDATED Sports-Baseball-NL Roundup. Expected by 0700 GMT.

UNDATED Sports-Baseball-AL Roundup. Expected by 0700 GMT.

YOUR QUERIES: Sports stories carry the "s" category code or, in some cases, the "i" category code. Questions and story requests are welcome. Contact your local AP bureau or the AP International Desk in New York, telephone (1) 212-621-1857, fax (1) 212-621-5449.

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Associated Press International

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Section: International news

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Body

WORLD AT 0000 GMT:

NEW:

RUSSIA-CAPITAL MOVE. Putin sparks speculation on possible move to St. Petersburg.

PORTUGAL-POPE'S VISIT. Pope to beatify two shepherd children.

ACEH PEACE TALKS. Cease-fire declared in 25-year guerrilla war.

KOREAS-SOIL AID. South Koreans to send fertilizer to the North.

AFRICA-AIDS. Cut in drug prices may make little difference in Africa.

MAIN SPOT NEWS:

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone More peacekeepers arrived in Sierra Leone's capital to reinforce against a possible rebel offensive on the capital, where as many as 30,000 refugees have gathered to escape guerrilla attacks. SIERRA LEONE. Recap expected by 0200 GMT. By Clarence Roy-Macaulay. AP Photos.

ALSO MOVED:

ESCAPING THE REBELS. Three British military observers and one New Zealander being held captive make a break for it. LAB101-103.

UN-SIERRA LEONE. Despite calls from African countries to let U.N. peacekeepers in Sierra Leone use more force against rebels, there is little indication that the Security Council wants to play a more active combat role.

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia Ignoring international pleas to end their two-year border conflict, Ethiopia and Eritrea return to open war with fighting reported on three fronts. HORN OF AFRICA-WAR. Lead has moved; developments will be expedited. By Andrew England.

ALSO MOVED:

UN-HORN OF AFRICA-WAR. U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, predicting "a very brutal war" between Ethiopia and Eritrea, urgently appeals to both countries to stop fighting. NYR123.

AP News Digest

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia As thousands of people kneel and pray for peace in mosques across Aceh province, Indonesian government and separatist rebel negotiators meeting in Geneva sign the region's first formal cease-fire agreement in 25 years of fighting. ACEH PEACE TALKS. Recap expected by 0200 GMT. By Daniel Cooney. AP Photos JAK120-123, LON117.

ALSO MOVED:

INDONESIA-SUHARTO. Police fire tear gas at hundreds of student protesters gathered outside former President Suharto's home to demand he go on trial for corruption.

INDONESIA-ACEH-GLANCE.

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka Hundreds of civilians in Sri Lanka flee Jaffna city as advancing Tamil Tiger rebels on the outskirts of their former capital warn of heavy fighting to come. SRI LANKA-CIVIL WAR. Recap expected by 0600 GMT. AP Photos COL101,104.

FATIMA, Portugal Tens of thousands of pilgrims attend an emotional candlelight vigil in the main square of the Fatima shrine in anticipation of Pope John Paul II's beatification Saturday of two shepherd children who said they witnessed visions of the Virgin Mary. PORTUGAL-POPE'S VISIT. Recap expected by 0300 GMT. By Barry Hatton. AP Photos.

MOSCOW When Russian rulers from Ivan the Terrible to the Bolsheviks wanted to make major changes, they moved to a new capital a tradition that has some Russians asking if President Vladimir Putin wants to leave Moscow. Putin's decision to receive foreign leaders in his native St. Petersburg has prompted speculation that he wants to move the capital out of Moscow. RUSSIA-CAPITAL MOVE. Expected by 0200 GMT. By Anna Dolgov.

ALSO MOVED:

RUSSIA-POLITICS. President Vladimir Putin pledges to uphold media freedoms after politicians and journalists expressed alarm at a police raid on a leading media group.

RUSSIA-CHECHNYA. Russian forces claim to be cracking down on rebel bands a day after Chechen fighters killed 18 servicemen outside the breakaway republic. MOSB110-112.

JOLO, Philippines Negotiators re-establish contact with a Muslim rebel group holding 21 hostages in the Philippine jungle and hope for word Saturday that the guerrillas are willing to free two ailing captives. PHILIPPINES-HOSTAGES. Recap expected by 0100 GMT. By Jim Gomez. AP Photos JOL111-114.

SEOUL, South Korea South Korea has showered all manner of gifts on its aloof neighbor, North Korea: eggs, tangerines, cattle, bicycles, even money-bearing tourists. Now, one of the most coveted handouts in the hungry North is on its way: fertilizer. KOREAS-SOIL AID.

ALSO MOVED:

US-NORTH KOREA. North Korea agrees to resume talks on excavating an area in North Korea where U.S. officials believe they could unearth the remains of several hundred Americans killed in the Korean War, a U.S. official says.

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa On an AIDS-ravaged continent where many countries spend only dlns 5 a year per capita on healthcare, pharmaceutical companies' plans to sharply reduce the price of AIDS drugs is greeted as a sign of progress, but one that would have little impact on most of those infected. AFRICA-AIDS. Has moved. By Ravi Nessman.

LOOKING AHEAD: On Sunday, Israeli and Palestinian peace talks resume in undisclosed location; Ethiopians vote in only the second general election in their country's long and turbulent history.

FEATURES: Travel

AP News Digest

TEHRAN, Iran Tehran is the unquestioned museum capital of the Middle East. The city boasts 69 museums. But the star of Tehran's museum show has to be the crown jewels museum itself actually, a high-security underground vault in Iran's central bank. TRAV-IRAN-TEHRAN'S TREASURES. Expected by 0300 GMT. By Vijay Joshi. AP Photos NY411-414.

WITH:

TRAV-TEHRAN'S TREASURES-TIPS. Upcoming.

SINGAPORE Singapore has many open-air dining centers known as hawker stalls. For tourists, sitting down to a hawker meal is one of the few typically Asian experiences they are likely to have in this modern and Westernized country. TRAV-SINGAPORE-A TASTE OF ASIA. Expected by 0300 GMT. By Anna Sathiah. AP Photo SIN101.

NEW YORK Dining in Tokyo a city of gourmands that is notoriously difficult to navigate if you don't speak the language _ just got a whole lot easier. The first-ever English-language Zagat Survey of Tokyo Restaurants has hit bookstores on both sides of the Pacific. TRAV-ZAGAT TOKYO. Expected by 0300 GMT. By Katherine Roth. AP Photos NY405-407.

FREDERICK, Maryland Everything old is new again on the American Discovery Trail, a coast-to-coast footpath celebrating its grand opening with a four-person team hiking across the continent. TRAV-US-DISCOVERY TRAIL. Expected by 0300 GMT. By David Dishneau. AP Graphic DISCOVERY TRAIL. AP Photo NY410.

ALSO:

TRAV-TRAVEL BRIEFS. Upcoming.

YOUR QUERIES: World Service editors in charge are Jean H. Lee and Malene Arce. Suggestions and story requests to The Associated Press World Service are welcome. Contact your local AP bureau or the AP International Desk in New York, telephone (1) 212-621-1650, fax (1) 212-621-5449.

More peacekeepers arrived in Sierra Leone's capital Friday to reinforce against a possible rebel offensive on the city, where as many as 30,000 refugees have gathered to escape guerrilla attack. A few hundred more Jordanian soldiers arrived to help shore up the beleaguered peacekeeping force. The fresh troops came on the same day that President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah paid homage to 19 people killed during a recent demonstration. He said the rebels who broke a peace deal and resumed fighting the government can "never be trusted." The peace accord, already imperiled when rebels took 500 peacekeepers hostage last week, was tattered further when bodyguards for rebel leader Foday Sankoh began shooting in crowds of peace demonstrators in front of Sankoh's home on Monday. (SIERRA LEONE)

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP)

Ignoring international pleas to end their two-year border conflict, Ethiopia and Eritrea returned to open warfare Friday with fighting reported on three fronts. U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan predicted "a very brutal war," and expressed frustration that peace efforts had failed. The two sides issued contradictory statements on the details of the fighting, but both agreed that war had erupted once again along the 620-mile (1,000-kilometer) frontier, which contains a now-evacuated stretch of fertile land of great value in this drought-wracked region of Africa. A resumption in the war had been rumored in both capitals, Addis Ababa and Asmara, for days, even as Richard Holbrooke, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, and six other Security Council representatives urged leaders of both countries not to return to a "senseless" war. Speaking Friday in Munich, Germany, Holbrooke accused Ethiopia and Eritrea two of the world's poorest countries of "stupidity" for whipping up relatively minor disputes out of national pride and of "cruel disregard for the interests of the people." (HORN OF AFRICA-WAR)

NEW DELHI, India (AP)

Hundreds of civilians in Sri Lanka fled Jaffna city Friday as advancing Tamil Tiger rebels on the outskirts of their former capital warned of heavy fighting to come. Sri Lanka's navy and air force blasted the Sangupiddi causeway,

AP News Digest

which the separatist rebels used to move reinforcements toward Jaffna, a government spokesman said. Troops also destroyed the rebels' main communication tower in the nearby town of Pooneryn, he said. President Chandrika Kumaratunga told the 40,000 soldiers who had retreated from defense lines that this was a "decisive moment" in the 17-year civil war, which has left 65,000 people dead in the small island nation off India's southern coast. The guerrillas have never been so close to Jaffna since they were ousted from the city in 1995. For five years they had occupied the city, running an administration that controlled surrounding Tamil areas. (SRI LANKA-CIVIL WAR)

FATIMA, Portugal (AP)

Pope John Paul II joined more than 100,000 pilgrims in silent prayer in this small rural town Friday as he prepared to beatify a shepherd boy and girl on the site where they said they spoke to the Virgin Mary in 1917. Joyous local priests kissed his hand before he rode the popemobile two kilometers (1.2 miles) through ecstatic crowds to pray at Fatima's Chapel of Apparitions, built where the Virgin Mary allegedly appeared to three shepherd children on May 13, 1917. On Saturday, the pope is to beatify Jacinta Marto and her brother Francisco, who said the Virgin Mary appeared to them and their cousin Lucia de Jesus dos Santos six times above an olive tree and told them three secrets. The brother and sister died of pneumonia two years after the visions, at the ages of 9 and 11. Dos Santos, now 93, has been at a Carmelite convent in central Portugal since 1929. Many pilgrims hoped the pope would reveal the last of three secrets the shepherd children said the Virgin told them. The first two foretold the end of World War I and the rise and fall of Communism. Dos Santos has told the third secret to several popes but the Vatican has refused to disclose it. (PORTUGAL-POPE'S VISIT)

MOSCOW (AP)

President Vladimir Putin on Friday defended his commitment to news media freedom in the wake of a raid by submachine gun-toting police on a media company often critical of the Kremlin. Russian politicians and news organizations expressed concern that Thursday's search of Media-MOST offices could be a prelude to restrictions on free speech. Putin's press service issued a statement saying that "the president is firmly convinced that freedom of speech and freedom of the mass media are immutable values," the ITAR-Tass news agency reported. Liberals and others are concerned that Putin, an ex-KGB officer, does not support a free press and other democratic rights. Putin insists he is a democrat. Police in black masks, military-style uniforms and armed with submachine guns on Thursday searched the Moscow offices of the Media-MOST company, led by tycoon Vladimir Gusinsky. They occupied the offices most of the day, rummaging through documents and taking down workers' personal data. Gusinsky said the search was intended to punish the group's NTV television and other media properties for critical coverage of Putin. (RUSSIA-POLITICS)

Nicosia, Cyprus Miss Universe pageant.

Stockholm, Sweden Eurovision song contest.

Sandusky, Ohio Public gets first chance to ride Millennium Force, which the Cedar Point amusement park bills as the tallest and fastest roller coaster in the world.

Lisbon, Portugal Last day of Pope John Paul II's visit.

Sunday, May 14:

Jerusalem Israel-Palestinian peace talks resume in undisclosed location.

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia Ethiopians vote in only second general election in their country's long and turbulent history.

Ankara, Turkey Pro-Islamic Virtue Party leader runs against younger, reformist candidate in leadership race at party congress.

Nago, Japan Ceremony to be held to mark the completion of Bankoku Shinryokan, conference hall in Nago, Okinawa Prefecture, where Japan will host G-8 summit in July.

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Monday, May 15:

Cairo, Egypt Egyptian and Israeli aviation officials meet to resolve differences over a route Egypt wants to fly to Gaza.

Stockholm, Sweden Polar Music Prize awarded to Bob Dylan and Isaac Stern.

Geneva The 191-nation governing assembly of the World Health Organization meets to discuss latest efforts to fight disease globally, including TB, polio and AIDS.

Tuesday, May 16:

Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic Presidential election. June 30 runoff if needed.

Tortola, British Virgin Islands Postponed hearing on whether four Americans should stand trial in the murder of Lois McMillen, a 34-year-old artist from Middlebury, Connecticut.

Ankara, Turkey President-elect Ahmet Necdet Sezer to be sworn in.

Wednesday, May 17:

Copenhagen, Denmark Nordic conference on the EU's Northern Dimension and the Russian Baltic Sea enclave of Kaliningrad.

Thursday, May 18:

Copenhagen, Denmark Dalai Lama visits Denmark. Through May 21.

Vatican City Pope John Paul II celebrates his 80th birthday.

Friday, May 19:

No major events added.

Saturday, May 20:

Belfast, Northern Ireland Members of the Ulster Unionists, Northern Ireland's largest Protestant party, vote on whether to again participate in the province's power-sharing government with members of the **Irish Republican Army**-allied Sinn Fein, in light of the IRA's pledge to disarm.

Tokyo Emperor Akihito, Empress Michiko begin 13-day visit to Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland and Finland.

Sunday, May 21:

Port-au-Prince, Haiti elections.

Vatican City Pope John Paul II presides over the canonization of Mexican martyr Cristobal Magallanes.

Rome Italians vote in national referendum to change electoral system and six other issues.

Bern, Switzerland Referendum to decide whether Switzerland accepts seven treaties that will facilitate trade and other links between the go-it-alone Swiss and the 15-nation European Union that surrounds them.

WORLD AT 0600 GMT:

NEW:

SRI LANKA-CIVIL WAR. Sri Lanka's Tamil rebels say they are set to reclaim Jaffna.

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KOREAS-SUMMIT. North and South Korea begin working talks to prepare for summit.

MAIN SPOT NEWS:

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone Sierra Leone army soldiers and a pro-government militia drive back rebel forces outside the capital, an army spokesman says. The fighting comes as U.N. troops and pro-government forces gear up for a feared rebel drive on the nervous capital. SIERRA LEONE. Recap has moved. By Alexandra Zavis. AP Photos XBL101-103; LON105-111.

ALSO:

UNITED NATIONS African countries and others are urging the Security Council to revise the mandate for U.N. peacekeepers in Sierra Leone to let them use more force to salvage a crumbling peace accord. UN-SIERRA LEONE. Lead has moved. By Nicole Winfield. AP Photos NYR138-139.

NEW DELHI, India Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger rebels say they are just 1 kilometer (1/2 mile) from the northern city of Jaffna and are set to recapture their former capital from government control at any moment. SRI LANKA-CIVIL WAR. Has moved. Leads will be expedited. By Neelesh Misra.

JOLO, Philippines Leaders of a Philippine Muslim rebel group holding 21 hostages refuse to release two ailing European captives and reject the government's negotiating team. PHILIPPINES-HOSTAGES. Has moved. By Jim Gomez. AP Photos BAS101-103.

MANILA, Philippines Investigators want to question a 23-year-old student who acknowledged he may have accidentally thrown the world's e-mail systems into chaos by releasing a powerful virus. But it's unclear whether any serious criminal charges can be made because of the scarcity of Philippine cyber laws. PHILIPPINES-COMPUTER LOVE BUG. Recap has moved. New lead expected by 0800 GMT. By Dirk Beveridge. AP Photos MLA101.

GENEVA Representatives of Indonesia's government and Acehese rebels plan to meet for peace talks and are expected to sign an agreement to start their first formal cease-fire in 25 years of fighting. ACEH PEACE TALKS. Expected by 0900 GMT. By Geir Moulson.

ALSO:

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia Across Aceh province, students kneel on the floors of their classrooms Friday to pray for peace, as Aceh separatists and Indonesian officials prepare to meet in Geneva. ACEH-PEACE TALKS-INDONESIA. Has moved. By Daniel Cooney. AP Photo JAK103.

SEOUL, South Korea North and South Korean officials will begin talks this weekend to decide communications and other working details for a summit of their leaders in June, South Korea says. The first such talks are scheduled for Saturday at the border village of Panmunjom. KOREAS-SUMMIT. Has moved.

WASHINGTON Army investigators, struggling to piece together a coherent version from inconsistent accounts, are extending a probe of civilian killings by U.S. soldiers during the Korean War, American officials say. US-NO GUN RI. Has moved. By Robert Burns.

VATICAN CITY Pope John Paul II, frail and turning 80 next week, travels Friday to Portugal's Fatima shrine to beatify two shepherds who as children said they witnessed apparitions of the Virgin Mary. VATICAN-FATIMA TRIP. Has moved. By Victor L. Simpson. ROM125, FAT101-105.

LOS ALAMOS, New Mexico A firestorm sweeps through the abandoned streets of the town that is home to the storied Los Alamos nuclear laboratory, burning as many as 400 homes while frustrated firefighters brace for wind gusts. US-FIRES. Recap has moved. With AP Photos; AP Graphic NEW MEXICO FIRES.

AP News Digest

ATLANTA Three federal appeals judges listen skeptically to both sides in the Elian Gonzalez case, questioning whether a 6-year-old boy can comprehend an asylum application and whether it's in his best interest to be raised in a communist country. US-CUBAN BOY-COURT. Recap has moved. By Russ Bynum. AX101, 108-114.

LONDON Children should be discouraged from using cellular telephones for nonessential calls, a government advisory panel said, recommending that cell phones carry labels disclosing the amount of radiation they generate. BRITAIN-CELLULAR PHONE SAFETY. Has moved. By Emma Ross. LON128.

MEXICO CITY Crime is a constant reality in Mexico's industrial cities, but when Sony's top official here suggested the company could pull out because of lawlessness, the rest of the border assembly industry gave a collective shrug. MEXICO-MAQUILADORA CRIME. Expected by 0800 GMT. By Mark Stevenson. AP Photos NY198

NEW YORK Mayor Rudolph Giuliani fights off speculation that he is about to get out of the U.S. Senate race because of his prostate cancer, his crumbling marriage and reports of his alleged affairs. US-GIULIANI-FUTURE. Lead has moved. By Beth J. Harpaz. AP Photos NYR120-121

LOOKING AHEAD: On Sunday, Israeli and Palestinian peace talks resume in undisclosed location; Ethiopians vote in only the second general election in their country's long and turbulent history.

FEATURES:

HONG KONG For more than a century, one family has been in control of the Jardines Group, a Hong Kong blue chip that traces its roots to two Scottish opium runners but has evolved into a modern conglomerate with computer superstores, 7-Elevens and Pizza Huts. But this relic of British colonial domination of Hong Kong could see its very foundations shaken if shareholders meeting on June 1 approve proposals aimed to break the Keswick family's 125-year control. FEA-HONG KONG-THREATENED EMPIRE. Has moved. By Priscilla Cheung.

TODOS SANTOS, Guatemala Japanese tourists who had come to visit a colorful village market found themselves plunged into a cauldron of hysteria about Satan worshippers fed by decades of civil-war violence and centuries of ethnic exploitation. One tourist and a bus driver died in the explosion of rage. Nobody knows how the rumors started, but they grew rapidly. FEA-GUATEMALA-SATANIC LYNCHING. Has moved. By Will Weissert.

LOS ANGELES Remaking Spacey: Actor's search for nuanced roles finds success. ARTS-US-KEVIN SPACEY. Has moved. By David Germain. AP Photo NY338

With ARTS-SPACEY-DEVITO.

LONDON Royal Shakespeare Company offers up regal touring fare. ARTS-BRITAIN-SHAKESPEARE. Has moved. By Matt Wolf. AP Photo LON101.

WICHITA, Kansas A fairy tale set in Kansas and celebrated worldwide turns 100. ARTS-US-100 YEARS OF OZ. Has moved. By Roxana Hegeman. AP Photos NY344-348, KSLAW359.

Also Moved:

ARTS-US-Hollywood Memories. AP Photo NY332

ARTS-US-The Conducting Jarvis. AP Photos NY349-351

ARTS-US-Culpable Germans. AP Photos NY336-337

ARTS-US-Sherman Alexie. AP Photos NY325-326

ARTS-US-Peach Pit Sculptor. AP Photos NY306-307

ARTS-US-Kurt Elling. AP Photo NY343

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ARTS-Hollywood Makeup. AP Photo NY342

ARTS-US-Black Television.

ARTS-Hollywood Celebs Show. AP Photos NY339-NY340

ARTS-US-Johnny Rivers. AP Photo NY324

ARTS-Entertainment Flashbacks.

ARTS-Celebrity Birthdays.

ARTS-Audio Reviews.

ARTS-US Top Ten.

YOUR QUERIES: World Service editors in charge are Malene Arce and Paisley Dodds. Suggestions and story requests to The Associated Press World Service are welcome. Contact your local AP bureau or the AP International Desk in New York, telephone (1) 212-621-1650, fax (1) 212-621-5449.

WORLD AT 1000 GMT:

NEW:

HORN OF AFRICA-WAR. Fighting breaks out on Ethiopian-Eritrean border.

TURKEY-QUAKE. Moderate quake causes injuries and damage in southern Turkey.

INDONESIA-SUHARTO. Protests rock Jakarta on the second anniversary of student killings.

ZIMBABWE-VIOLENCE. White farmer and attacker are wounded in shoot-out.

MAIN SPOT NEWS:

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone Sierra Leone army soldiers and a pro-government militia drive back rebel forces outside the capital, an army spokesman says. The fighting comes as U.N. troops and pro-government forces gear up for a feared rebel drive on the nervous capital. SIERRA LEONE. Recap has moved. By Alexandra Zavis. AP Photos XBL101-103; LON105-111.

ALSO:

UNITED NATIONS African countries and others are urging the Security Council to revise the mandate for U.N. peacekeepers in Sierra Leone to let them use more force to salvage a crumbling peace accord. UN-SIERRA LEONE. Lead has moved. By Nicole Winfield. AP Photos NYR138-139.

NEW DELHI, India Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger rebels warn civilians to flee the northern city of Jaffna as fighters prepare to recapture their former capital at any moment from retreating government troops. SRI LANKA-CIVIL WAR. Lead has moved. By Neelesh Misra.

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia Two days after a high-level United Nations delegation abandon attempts to get Ethiopia and Eritrea to make peace, both countries say heavy fighting has broken out at three contested places on their common border. HORN OF AFRICA-WAR. Lead has moved. By Abebe Andualem.

GENEVA Representatives of Indonesia's government and Acehese rebels are meeting for a round of peace talks before signing an expected agreement to start their first formal cease-fire in 25 years of fighting. ACEH PEACE TALKS. Lead has moved. By Geir Moulson.

ALSO:

AP News Digest

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia Across Aceh province, students kneel on the floors of their classrooms to pray for peace, as Aceh separatists and Indonesian officials meet in Geneva. ACEH-PEACE TALKS-INDONESIA. Lead has moved. By Daniel Cooney. AP Photo JAK103.

JOLO, Philippines Leaders of a Philippine Muslim rebel group holding 21 hostages refuse to release two ailing European captives and reject the government's negotiating team. PHILIPPINES-HOSTAGES. Has moved. By Jim Gomez. AP Photos BAS101-103.

MANILA, Philippines By saying he may have accidentally released the notorious "Love Bug" computer virus that crippled e-mail systems worldwide, a young Filipino student seems to have admitted he did it while trying to avoid responsibility, a top investigator says. PHILIPPINES-COMPUTER LOVE BUG. Lead has moved. By Dirk Beveridge. AP Photos MLA101.

NAZRAN, Russia Russian forces brace for possible rebel attacks as federal forces comb forests for Chechen fighters who killed 18 Russian servicemen in an ambush, officials say. The rebels have inflicted a string of ambushes on Russian forces in recent months, killing scores of soldiers. RUSSIA-CHECHNYA. Has moved. By Yuri Bagrov.

ANKARA, Turkey A moderate earthquake hits southern Turkey, jolting a town and sending residents into the streets or jumping from balconies in panic. At least 12 people are injured. TURKEY-QUAKE. Lead has moved.

HARARE, Zimbabwe A white farmer and an attacker are shot and wounded in a gunbattle on the farmer's land southwest of Harare, farmer's representatives say. It comes just days after another farmer was bludgeoned to death by attackers linked to the ruling party militants who have occupied more than 1,000 white-owned farms across Zimbabwe. ZIMBABWE-VIOLENCE. By Angus Shaw. Has moved.

JAKARTA, Indonesia About 2,000 students march through central Jakarta in a noisy protest demanding that former President Suharto be put on trial for corruption during his 32 years in power. The march is held on the second anniversary of a police attack that killed four people during a pivotal moment of the student-led, pro-democracy movement that drove Suharto out of power. INDONESIA-SUHARTO. Lead has moved. By Jamie Tarabay. AP Photos JAK110-113.

FATIMA, Portugal Portuguese officials say they are launching their biggest security operation ever as Pope John Paul II prepares to arrive here to beatify two women who as shepherd children say the Virgin Mary appeared to them at Fatima. PORTUGAL-PAPAL VISIT. Expected by 1300 GMT. By Barry Hatton.

SEOUL, South Korea North and South Korean officials will begin talks this weekend to decide communications and other working details for a summit of their leaders in June, South Korea says. The first such talks are scheduled for Saturday at the border village of Panmunjom. KOREAS-SUMMIT. Has moved.

ALSO:

TOKYO Top U.S., Japanese and South Korean officials say that upcoming bilateral talks with North Korea offer an "unprecedented" chance to strengthen stability in Northeast Asia. The discussions in Tokyo are aimed at coordinating policy towards North Korea. JAPAN-SUMMIT. Has moved. By Scott Stoddard.

WASHINGTON Army investigators, struggling to piece together a coherent version from inconsistent accounts, are extending a probe of civilian killings by U.S. soldiers during the Korean War, American officials say. US-NO GUN RI. Has moved. By Robert Burns.

LOS ALAMOS, New Mexico A firestorm sweeps through the abandoned streets of the town that is home to the storied Los Alamos nuclear laboratory, burning as many as 400 homes while frustrated firefighters brace for wind gusts. US-FIRES. Lead has moved. With AP Photos.

AP News Digest

ATLANTA Three federal appeals judges listen skeptically to both sides in the Elian Gonzalez case, questioning whether a 6-year-old boy can comprehend an asylum application and whether it's in his best interest to be raised in a communist country. US-CUBAN BOY-COURT. Recap has moved. By Russ Bynum. AX101, 108-114.

LONDON In a deal that would form the world's largest advertising company, Britain's WPP Group PLC announce that it is buying U.S. heavyweight Young and Rubicam Inc. for dlrs 4.7 billion in stock. The two advertising powerhouses already share a number of major customers. BRITAIN-US-ADVERTISING BUYOUT. Has moved.

NEW YORK Mayor Rudolph Giuliani fights off speculation that he is about to get out of the U.S. Senate race because of his prostate cancer, his crumbling marriage and reports of his alleged affairs. US-GIULIANI-FUTURE. Lead has moved. By Beth J. Harpaz. AP Photos NYR120-121

LOOKING AHEAD: On Sunday, Israeli and Palestinian peace talks resume in undisclosed location; Ethiopians vote in only the second general election in their country's long and turbulent history.

FEATURES MOVED:

FEA-HONG KONG-THREATENED EMPIRE. Management of an old Hong Kong trading house is threatened by U.S. investor. By Priscilla Cheung.

FEA-GUATEMALA-SATANIC LYNCHING. Guatemala village hysteria led to death for Japanese tourist and bus driver. By Will Weissert.

YOUR QUERIES: World Service editors in charge are Malene Arce and Paisley Dodds. Suggestions and story requests to The Associated Press World Service are welcome. Contact your local AP bureau or the AP International Desk in New York, telephone (1) 212-621-1650, fax (1) 212-621-5449.

Sierra Leone soldiers and pro-government militia drove rebel forces farther from the capital, an army spokesman said, as the government moved to head off a feared guerrilla offensive on Freetown. The fighting Thursday near the town of Newton, 40 kilometers (25 miles) east of Freetown, came as U.N. peacekeeping troops and pro-government forces geared up for a possible Revolutionary United Front, or RUF, advance on the nervous capital, where thousands of frightened villagers have sought sanctuary in recent days. The battle near Newton pitted the recently rearmed Sierra Leone Army and the pro-government Kamajors a militia made up of traditional hunters against RUF rebels, said army spokesman Prince Nicol. In Washington, U.S. President Bill Clinton on Thursday dispatched the Rev. Jesse Jackson as a special envoy to the region in an effort to halt "a return to all-out war." (SIERRA LEONE)

NEW DELHI, India (AP)

Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger rebels warned civilians Friday to flee the northern city of Jaffna as the fighters were prepared to recapture their former capital at any moment from retreating government troops. "Our cadres are advancing toward Jaffna city and at times there will be heavy firing and cross-firing," the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam said in a radio broadcast heard by northern Sri Lanka residents who were reached by telephone. "Please go to places of safety, as we can move into the city any moment." Sustained Sri Lankan air force bombing on the rebels' backup units is seen as delaying the Tamil Tigers' final march into the city of 500,000 that they lost to the government five years ago. The government acknowledged that under heavy rebel mortar fire, "troops had to readjust their defenses temporarily," and move back from Ariyalai, 5 kilometers (3 miles) southeast of Jaffna. (SRI LANKA-CIVIL WAR)

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP)

Two days after a high-level United Nations delegation abandoned attempts to get Ethiopia and Eritrea to make peace, both countries said Friday that heavy fighting had broken out at three contested places on their common border. A resumption in the two-year war over the 1,000-kilometer (620-mile) border had been rumored for days in both Addis Ababa and Asmara, Eritrea, even as Richard Holbrooke, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, and

AP News Digest

six other Security Council representatives, urged the leaders of the two nations not to return to a "senseless" war. (HORN OF AFRICA-WAR)

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia (AP)

In schools and mosques across Aceh province, children and adults fell to their knees to pray on Friday that rebels and soldiers will soon begin a cease-fire in the region. "Let peace come soon. Let the fighting end. Let God punish those who violate the cease-fire," students chanted at No. 39, one of the many crowded and poor public schools in Banda Aceh, the capital of Aceh. In Jakarta, President Abdurrahman Wahid also said he hoped that Indonesian and rebel negotiations meeting in Geneva would agree to start the first formal cease-fire in 25 years in Aceh, where 5,000 people have been killed in the last decade, including 345 this year. But he also said once again that he will not accept the rebels' demand for independence. Earlier this week, several of Aceh's separatist groups stopped fighting to support the cease-fire talks, but they also said they will never drop their demand for independence. (ACEH PEACE TALKS)

JOLO, Philippines (AP)

A Philippine Muslim rebel group holding 21 hostages has decided to refuse to release two ailing European captives, a guerrilla leader said Friday. The hostages, including 10 foreign tourists, have been moved by the Abu Sayyaf rebels to a new "safe place" much further in the mountains of remote Jolo island, said the leader, Abu Escobar. Escobar told The Associated Press that Abu Sayyaf leaders met Thursday to discuss a request from negotiators for the release of Renate Wallert, a German woman who has suffered two strokes according to her family, and Stephane Loisy, a French man with a urinary tract infection. They ruled out any immediate release and said they were prepared to hold the hostages "for a long time." (PHILIPPINES-HOSTAGES)

WORLD SPORTS AT 1315 GMT:

SOCCER:

COPENHAGEN, Denmark Police will not tolerate any trouble during next week's UEFA Cup final between England's Arsenal and Turkey's Galatasaray in Copenhagen and any foreigner violating the law faces immediate expulsion from the country, authorities say Friday.

Slug Sports-Soccer-UEFA Cup Final. Has moved.

By Jan M. Olsen.

ROME When Andriy Shevchenko arrived at AC Milan last summer, with his choirboy haircut and dlr\$ 22 million price-tag, it looked like the fabled Serie A league might eat him for lunch. But after a tentative start, it's the 23-year-old Ukrainian striker who has sunk his teeth into the gourmet-caliber Italian league. Shevchenko now stands on the verge of the Serie A scoring crown in his inaugural season.

Slug Sports-Soccer-Italy-Shevchenko-Top Scorer. Has moved.

By Jeff Israely.

ALSO:

ROTTERDAM, Netherlands Sports-Soccer-Euro 2000-Security. Has moved.

BRUSSELS, Belgium Sports-Soccer-Belgium-Hooligans. Has moved.

CYCLING:

ROME He's in. He's out. He's back in again. Eight days after flatly denying reports that he would race in the Giro d'Italia, Marco Pantani said Friday he will enter the prestigious cycling event.

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Slug Sports-Cycling-Giro d'Italia-Pantani. Has moved.

By Jeff Israely.

ROME The last-minute decision by Marco Pantani to start in the Giro D'Italia adds a much-needed protagonist to the list of entries in the Italian cycling marathon, awarding the first pink jersey in Saturday's time trial ending in front of St. Peter's Square.

Slug Sports-Cycling-Giro Preview. Expected by 1500 GMT.

ICE HOCKEY:

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia Reigning Olympic and world champion Czech Republic faces Canada in the semifinals of the world hockey championships while two-time reigning silver medalists Finland face tough Slovakia.

Slug Sports-Ice Hockey-Worlds. Slovakia-Finland faced-off at 1230 GMT; Canada-Czech Republic scheduled for 1630 GMT start.

By Erica Bulman

TENNIS:

ROME No. 3 seed Gustavo Kuerten continues his defense of his 1999 Italian Open crown in Friday's quarterfinal round. The Brazilian is the top seed remaining, along with No. 4 Magnus Norman of Sweden.

Slug Sports-Tennis-Italian Open. Early lead expected by 1500 GMT.

BERLIN Top-ranked Martina Hingis, seeking her second straight clay-court title, plays Sandrine Testud in the quarterfinals of the German Open.

Slug Sports-Tennis-German Open. Expected by 1800 GMT.

RUGBY UNION:

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand Andrew Walker and Mitch Hardy score a try apiece Friday as the ACT Brumbies edge Canterbury 17-12 at Christchurch to clinch No. 1 spot on the Super 12 standings at the end of the regular season.

Slug Sports-RugbyU-Canterbury-ACT. Has moved.

PRETORIA, South Africa Wellington needs a victory against the last-placed Northern Bulls on Friday to have any chance of earning a semifinal berth in the Rugby Super 12.

Slug Sports-RugbyU-Bulls-Wellington. Match scheduled for 1715 GMT kickoff.

WITH:

SYDNEY, Australia Sports-RugbyU-New South Wales-Otago. Has moved.

AUTO RACING:

MOTEGI, Japan Reigning CART FedEx Series champion Juan Montoya outduels Sweden's Kenny Brack and former series champion Jimmy Vasser on Friday to earn his second Indy-car pole of the season in the Firestone Firehawk 500.

Slug Sports-Auto Racing-CART-Japan GP. Has moved.

By K.P. Hong.

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ALSO:

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina Sports-Auto Racing-Argentina Rally. Expected by 2400 GMT.

GOLF:

SUTTON COLDFIELD, England Phillip Price takes a one-shot lead into the second round of the Benson and Hedges International Open with seven players within two strokes of the leader.

Slug Sports-Golf-Benson and Hedges. Early lead expected by 1400 GMT.

ALSO:

YOKOSHIMA, Japan Sports-Golf-Japan PGA Championship. Expected by 1400 GMT.

IRVING, Texas Sports-Golf-Nelson Classic. By Doug Ferguson. Expected by 2400 GMT.

FRANKLIN, Tennessee Sports-Golf-LPGA-Electrolux. By Teresa M. Walker. Expected by 2400 GMT.

ALSO:

TOKYO Sports-Sumo Roundup. Has moved.

TOKYO Sports-Baseball-Japan Roundup. Expected by 1400 GMT.

UNDATED Sports-Baseball-NL Roundup. Has moved.

UNDATED Sports-Baseball-AL Roundup. Has moved.

YOUR QUERIES: Sports stories carry the "s" category code or, in some cases, the "i" category code. Questions and story requests are welcome. Contact your local AP bureau or the AP International Desk in New York, telephone (1) 212-621-1857, fax (1) 212-621-5449.

WORLD SPORTS AT 0000 GMT:

OLYMPICS:

LONDON IOC vice president Kevan Gosper apologizes Friday for a "lapse in judgment" in allowing his 11-year-old daughter to be the first Australian to run with the Olympic torch in Greece. He offers to give up his own relay leg in Australia in favor of the girl his daughter replaced.

Slug Sports-Olympics-Gosper-Torch Flap. Has moved.

By Stephen Wilson.

SYDNEY, Australia The issue of full-length bodysuits is expected to make as many waves at the Australian Olympic trials starting Saturday as the swimmers striving for limited places at the Sydney 2000 Games.

Slug Sports-Olympics-Swimming-Australian Trials. Expected by 1130 gmt.

ALSO:

ATHENS, Greece Sports-Olympics-Athens 2004. By Lisa Orkin. Has moved.

SOCCER:

BRUSSELS, Belgium A night of riots and stabbings surrounding the final round of the Belgian league championship is being touted as a warning to Euro 2000 organizers about looming security threats for next month's European Championship.

AP News Digest

Slug Sports-Soccer-Belgium-Hooligans. Has moved.

By Raf Casert.

ALSO:

LONDON Sports-Soccer-England Penalties. Has moved.

FRANKFURT, Germany Sports-Soccer-Euro 2000-Germany. Has moved.

AUTO RACING:

MOTEGI, Japan Reigning CART FedEx Series champion Juan Montoya is on pole with Kenny Brack beside him for the start of the Firestone Firehawk 500 Saturday at Twin Ring Motegi's oval speedway.

Sports-Auto Racing-CART-Japan GP. Expected around 1000 GMT.

By K.P. Hong.

LOUDON, New Hampshire NASCAR's most famous driving family has lost its youngest star. Adam Petty, stock car racing's first fourth-generation driver, has died after a crash during practice, five weeks after the family buried patriarch Lee Petty, his great grandfather.

Slug Sports-Auto Racing-Petty Crash. Has moved.

By Rebecca Mahoney.

ATHLETICS:

OSAKA, Japan The IAAF Grand Prix season opens in Japan on Saturday, the first major event on the road to the Sydney Olympics.

Slug Sports-Track-Osaka Meet. Expected by 1200 GMT.

GOLF:

SUTTON COLDFIELD, England Pdraig Harrington of Ireland says he feels uncomfortable putting, but holes two big ones on his second nine for a one-shot lead after two rounds of the Benson and Hedges International Open.

Slug Sports-Golf-Benson and Hedges. Has moved.

By Brian Creighton.

ALSO:

YOKOSHIMA, Japan Sports-Golf-Japan PGA Championship. Expected about 1300 GMT.

IRVING, Texas Sports-Golf-Nelson Classic. By Doug Ferguson. Has moved.

FRANKLIN, Tennessee Sports-Golf-LPGA-Electrolux. Expected by 0200 GMT.

RUGBY UNION:

BRISBANE, Australia Auckland needs a victory to secure its place in the Rugby Super 12 semifinals on Saturday, facing off against two-time champion Queensland.

Slug Sports-RugbyU-Queensland-Auckland. Kickoff scheduled for 0935 GMT.

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PRETORIA, South Africa Hannes Venter scores a try 15 minutes into injury time to finally snuff out the Hurricanes' challenge and allow the Bulls to win their first Super 12 match 47-33 at Loftus Versfeld stadium.

Slug Sports-RugbyU-Bulls-Wellington. Has moved.

TENNIS:

BERLIN For the second day in a row, top-ranked Martina Hingis struggles at the German Open. And for the second day in a row, she squeezes through.

Sports-Tennis-German Open. Has moved.

ROME Australian teen-ager Lleyton Hewitt fires a match-point ace Friday to put away clay-court specialist Mariano Puerta in Hewitt's first European clay appearance, moving into the semifinals of the Italian Open.

Sports-Tennis-Italian Open. Has moved.

By Ellen Knickmeyer.

CYCLING:

ROME Shrugging off mental strain from doping allegations and doubts about his questionable form, Marco Pantani will start in the Giro d'Italia, adding a much-needed star to Italy's most prestigious cycling race.

Slug Sports-Cycling-Giro Preview. Has moved.

ICE HOCKEY:

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia Reigning world champion Czech Republic posts a 2-1 semifinal win over Canada on Friday while Slovakia upsets Finland 3-1, bringing together both halves of the former-Czechoslovakia for a historic final at the World Hockey Championships.

Slug Sports-Ice Hockey-Worlds. Has moved.

By Erica Bulman.

CRICKET:

CHELMSFORD, England Zimbabwe loses more practice time to rain on Friday in its match with English county side Essex as it prepares for next week's first test against England in the midst of a run-scoring drought.

Slug Sports-Cricket-Zimbabwe. Has moved.

BASKETBALL:

UNDATED The Los Angeles Lakers, escaping with a win in Game 2, attempt to take a commanding 3-0 lead over the Suns when the second-round series shifts to Phoenix.

Slug Sports-Basketball-NBA Playoff Roundup. Expected by 0600 GMT.

ALSO:

LE MANS, France Sports-Motorcycle Racing-French GP. Has moved.

UNDATED Sports-Baseball-NL Roundup. Expected by 0200 GMT.

UNDATED Sports-Baseball-AL Roundup. Expected by 0200 GMT.

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Section: Domestic, non-Washington, general news item

Length: 21380 words

Byline: BRADLEY FOSS

Body

Protesters Shut Down Opening WTO Session

SEATTLE (AP)

Clashing repeatedly with police, protesters shut down the opening session of a global trade conference Tuesday and forced authorities to declare a state of emergency and call out National Guard troops. Mayor Paul Schell declared a civil emergency and imposed a curfew from 7 p.m. PST to 7:30 a.m. PST. In the view of protesters, the World Trade Organization puts profits for multinational corporations over other concerns, forcing nations to engage in a "race to the bottom" to compete in the global economy with low wages and lax environmental standards.

Bush Plan Would Slash Income Taxes

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)

Republican presidential candidate George W. Bush is proposing a five-year, \$483 billion economic package that would slash income tax rates at all levels from the working poor to the very rich and change the tax code to appeal to parents, the elderly and businesses. The plan would cut taxes a bit deeper than a similar Republican congressional package vetoed this year by President Clinton, but is not nearly as ambitious as the flat-tax overhaul championed by presidential rival Steve Forbes and other conservatives. Aides previewed the plan for The Associated Press in advance of the Texas governor's economic address in Iowa on Wednesday.

U.S. Skeptical of Death Estimate

WASHINGTON (AP)

Administration officials expressed skepticism Tuesday about Mexican estimates that 22 Americans may have been killed by a drug cartel in northern Mexico, contending that only four or five Americans have disappeared in that area in the past few years. The 22 were said by Mexican officials to be among more than 100 people believed to have been killed and buried on two ranches near Juarez, across the border from El Paso, Texas. The officials, asking not to be identified, said it was unclear how Mexican Attorney General Jorge Madrazo arrived at his estimates before exhumations of the bodies had begun.

Bioterrorism Preparation Said Poor

WASHINGTON (AP)

AP Top News at Midnight EST Tuesday, Nov. 30, 1999

The government's medical stockpiles for dealing with chemical or biological terrorism are poorly managed, often lacking vital drugs and adequate security, congressional auditors said Tuesday. The General Accounting Office criticized the Departments of Health and Human Services and Veterans Affairs, as well as a special Marine Corps unit, for failing to manage their supplies for treating civilian victims of a chemical or biological terrorist attack. The report said the agencies failed to keep good records, conduct regular inventories, maintain their own policies or ensure security.

Gulf War, Brain Damage Linked

CHICAGO (AP)

Brain scans of soldiers who believe they suffer from Gulf War illness suggest they have brain damage, possibly from chemicals they were exposed to during the conflict, researchers reported Tuesday. The researchers said veterans who report symptoms of the illness had lower levels of a certain brain chemical than healthy veterans of the 1991 conflict. "This is the first time ever we have proof of brain damage in sick Gulf War veterans," said the lead researcher, Dr. James L. Fleckenstein, professor of radiology at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas.

Exxon-Mobil Opening Trade Under New Symbol

WASHINGTON (AP)

Exxon and Mobil moved swiftly Tuesday to conclude their \$81 billion merger after federal regulators cleared the way with conditions for the deal creating the world's largest publicly traded oil company. The merger reunites two of the biggest remnants of the 1911 government breakup of John D. Rockefeller's Standard Oil empire. Company officials said they would comply with government requirements that the new oil giant sell 2,431 of its nearly 16,000 gas stations.

Tokyo Stocks Higher at Midday

TOKYO (AP)

TOKYO (AP)

The dollar slipped against the yen Wednesday morning as expectations Japan's economy is mildly recovering boosted demand for yen. The Nikkei Stock Average gained 7.11 points to 18,565.34 at the end of the morning session. On Wall Street Monday, the Dow Jones industrial average closed down 70.11 to 10,877.81

76ers Defeat Knicks 74-70

PHILADELPHIA (AP)

Larry Hughes scored 26 points and Eric Snow hit three free throws in the final minute as the Philadelphia 76ers beat the cold-shooting New York Knicks 74-70 Tuesday night. Despite shooting only 30 percent from the field, the Knicks had a chance to win after Chris Childs made two free throws with 12 seconds left to cut Philadelphia's lead to 71-70. But Snow countered with two free throws for the 76ers and, after New York's Latrell Sprewell missed a 3-pointer with 5 seconds left, Snow made one of two from the line to seal the 76ers' third straight win.

Police, WTO Protesters Clash in Seattle

SEATTLE (AP)

Clashing repeatedly with police, protesters shut down the opening session of a global trade conference Tuesday, forcing authorities to declare a state of emergency and handing President Clinton a major setback in his efforts to convince skeptical Americans of the benefits of free trade. The protesters are unhappy with the Geneva-based

AP Top News at Midnight EST Tuesday, Nov. 30, 1999

organization that sets the rules for global trade, charging that it too often only considers the needs of giant multinational corporations at the expense of protecting the environment and worker rights.

Castro Announces Alleged Chavez Plot

HAVANA (AP)

President Fidel Castro announced Tuesday night that his intelligence services had discovered a plot by Miami-based Cuban exiles to kill his friend and political ally Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez. In a live interview with Venezuelan journalists flown to Havana to attend a news conference with the Cuban leader, Castro said he had not even told Chavez of the plot. He didn't elaborate on the motive to kill the Venezuela president, a highly popular former paratrooper who led a failed 1992 coup in the name of the poor and was elected president last December.

Forbes Ad Takes on Bush

MIDLAND, Mich. (AP)

In the most negative political ad of the season, GOP presidential hopeful Steve Forbes is accusing George W. Bush of betraying the American people by suggesting that the Social Security retirement age might be raised. "I think it's a betrayal because that money's been promised to you at age 65," Forbes says in a television ad that will begin running Thursday in New Hampshire. Forbes also hit the Social Security theme in Michigan Tuesday, when he promised to rescue the retirement program by letting workers set up their own retirement accounts with part of their paychecks that now go to pay Social Security taxes.

Bush Plan Would Slash Income Taxes

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)

Republican presidential candidate George W. Bush is proposing a five-year, \$483 billion economic package that would slash income tax rates at all levels from the working poor to the very rich and change the tax code to appeal to parents, the elderly and businesses. The plan would cut taxes a bit deeper than a similar Republican congressional package vetoed this year by President Clinton, but is not nearly as ambitious as the flat-tax overhaul championed by presidential rival Steve Forbes and other conservatives. Aides previewed the plan for The Associated Press in advance of the Texas governor's economic address in Iowa on Wednesday.

Companies Hit by Computer Virus

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)

A computer virus rampaged through corporate systems, devouring files, crippling e-mail systems and affecting thousands of computers Tuesday, according to anti-virus experts. Mini-Zip is the worst outbreak since its parent bug, Worm.Explore.Zip, struck last summer. The Mini-Zip virus was expected to renew its assault Wednesday morning as unsuspecting users checked their e-mail inboxes. Anti-virus experts said the bug gets loose from an infected system as a seemingly friendly reply to a clean e-mail sent via the Microsoft Outlook, Outlook Express or Exchange browsers. Anti-virus experts cautioned users against opening e-mails if they do not know the sender or why they were sent. They said the virus could be fought with updated antiviral software.

U.S. Skeptical of Death Estimate

WASHINGTON (AP)

Administration officials expressed skepticism Tuesday about Mexican estimates that 22 Americans may have been killed by a drug cartel in northern Mexico, contending that only four or five Americans have disappeared in that area in the past few years. The 22 were said by Mexican officials to be among more than 100 people believed to have been killed and buried on two ranches near Juarez, across the border from El Paso, Texas. The officials, asking not

to be identified, said it was unclear how Mexican Attorney General Jorge Madrazo arrived at his estimates before exhumations of the bodies had begun.

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Lakers Defeat SuperSonics 101-77

SEATTLE (AP)

Shaquille O'Neal had 27 points and 10 rebounds, and Glen Rice added 19 points as the Los Angeles Lakers beat the Seattle SuperSonics 101-77 Tuesday night. Ruben Patterson, who played for the Lakers last season, led the Sonics with 19 points. Gary Payton did not play in the final quarter and finished with 12 points for Seattle.

Police, WTO Protesters Clash in Seattle

SEATTLE (AP)

Promises of nonviolent protest against World Trade Organization talks were shattered Tuesday as radical protesters smashed windows in downtown stores and attacked unmanned police cruisers. By nightfall Tuesday, police had arrested 25 people. Seattle Mayor Paul Schell had declared a civil emergency and placed most of the downtown under curfew until dawn Wednesday. The protesters are unhappy with the Geneva-based organization that sets the rules for global trade, charging that it too often only considers the needs of giant multinational corporations at the expense of protecting the environment and worker rights.

Two Bodies Recovered in Mass Grave Probe

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico (AP)

Authorities uncovered the remains of two people Tuesday during a search for the bodies of more than 100 Mexican and U.S. citizens, apparent victims of a drug gang. "In some of the sites where the searches were being conducted, the remains of two people appeared," Mexican Attorney General Jorge Madrazo said in a live interview with TV Azteca on Tuesday night. TV Azteca also reported that both an owner and caretaker of the Rancho de la Campana, where the remains were found, had been detained and taken to Mexico City.

Bradley Defends Health Care Plan

MANCHESTER, N.H. (AP)

Bill Bradley said Tuesday computerization could shave billions of dollars from the national health care bill, as he defended his expensive plan to get health coverage to 44 million uninsured Americans. "I ask if now is the not time, when is?" the Democratic presidential hopeful asked at a health care forum. Bradley answered questions in an Internet talk session Tuesday night, again pushing his health care plan. He also rejected attack politics, said advocating handgun licensing and registration is plain common sense, and condemned Russian strikes against Chechnya.

Release of EU Oil Shipment Demanded

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP)

AP Top News at Midnight EST Tuesday, Nov. 30, 1999

The mayor of a Serbian city desperately in need of heating oil Tuesday protested the government's blockade of a European Union oil shipment meant for two cities run by opponents of President Slobodan Milosevic. Tomislav Panajotovic, the mayor of Pirot one of two Serbian cities awaiting 350 tons of heating oil stalled at the southern border by Serbian customs authorities threatened to go on hunger strike if the shipment is not released soon, the independent Beta news agency reported. Panajotovic said that by Tuesday afternoon, his city had used up all its heating oil reserves.

Castro Announces Alleged Chavez Plot

HAVANA (AP)

President Fidel Castro announced Tuesday night that his intelligence services had discovered a plot by Miami-based Cuban exiles to kill his friend and political ally Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez. In a live interview with Venezuelan journalists flown to Havana to attend a news conference with the Cuban leader, Castro said he had not even told Chavez of the plot. He didn't elaborate on the motive to kill the Venezuela president, a highly popular former paratrooper who led a failed 1992 coup in the name of the poor and was elected president last December.

Companies Hit by Computer Virus

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)

A computer virus rampaged through corporate systems, devouring files, crippling e-mail systems and affecting thousands of computers Tuesday, according to anti-virus experts. Mini-Zip is the worst outbreak since its parent bug, Worm.Explore.Zip, struck last summer. The Mini-Zip virus was expected to renew its assault Wednesday morning as unsuspecting users checked their e-mail inboxes. Anti-virus experts said the bug gets loose from an infected system as a seemingly friendly reply to a clean e-mail sent via the Microsoft Outlook, Outlook Express or Exchange browsers. Anti-virus experts cautioned users against opening e-mails if they do not know the sender or why they were sent. They said the virus could be fought with updated antiviral software.

Tokyo Stocks Close Down

TOKYO (AP)

The Nikkei Stock Average closed at 18,495.95 points on the Tokyo Stock Exchange Wednesday, down 62.28 points from Tuesday.

Avalanche Defeat Canucks 4-2

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP)

Shjon Podein scored an opportunistic go-ahead goal 45 seconds into the third period Tuesday night, sparking the Colorado Avalanche to a 4-2 win over the Vancouver Canucks. Martin Skoula, Milan Hejduk and Brian Rolston also scored for the Avalanche, who improved to 11-11-3-1 and inched within a point of the Northwest Division-leading Canucks, who are winless in five games (0-3-2). Avalanche goalie Patrick Roy, whose last outing was Friday's 7-0 loss to Phoenix, stopped 23 shots to record only his second win in his last seven games (2-4-1).

Two Bodies Recovered in Mass Grave Probe

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico (AP)

Authorities uncovered the remains of two people Tuesday during a search for the bodies of more than 100 Mexican and U.S. citizens, apparent victims of a drug gang. "In some of the sites where the searches were being conducted, the remains of two people appeared," Mexican Attorney General Jorge Madrazo said in a live interview with TV Azteca on Tuesday night. TV Azteca also reported that both an owner and caretaker of the Rancho de la Campana, where the remains were found, had been detained and taken to Mexico City.

Police, WTO Protesters Clash in Seattle

SEATTLE (AP)

Promises of nonviolent protest against World Trade Organization talks were shattered Tuesday as radical protesters smashed windows in downtown stores and attacked unmanned police cruisers. Seattle Mayor Paul Schell had declared a civil emergency and placed most of the downtown under curfew until dawn Wednesday. The protesters are unhappy with the Geneva-based organization that sets the rules for global trade, charging that it too often only considers the needs of giant multinational corporations at the expense of protecting the environment and worker rights.

Clinton Raises Money for Democrats

LOS ANGELES (AP)

After losing the fight this year for new gun control laws, President Clinton pressed the issue anew Tuesday during a West Coast fund-raising tour for Democrats and gun control advocates. The president thanked gun control groups for their support for the Brady Bill and tougher penalties for crimes committed with firearms, but said, "We have a lot more to do." Despite a crime rate the lowest its been in 25 years and a murder rate the lowest in 31 years, Clinton said that 12 children are still killed every day by guns. "You have to keep fighting, because even though America is safer," Clinton said, "no one believes America is as safe as it should be or can be."

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Security Council Asks for Congo Aid

UNITED NATIONS (AP)

The Security Council asked the U.N. chief on Tuesday to start equipping 500 military observers who could move quickly into Congo to monitor a fragile cease-fire. Fighting has flared up again between rebels and the troops of President Laurent Kabila. The two sides signed a peace agreement in August, along with Kabila's allies, Angola and Namibia, and the rebels' backers, Rwanda and Uganda. Under the peace accord, the United Nations is to assist the cease-fire monitors from the Organization of African Unity until the arrival of a larger U.N. peacekeeping mission that will oversee the withdrawal of foreign troops from Congo and the disarmament of militias.

Japan Police Raid Religious Group

TOKYO (AP)

Police searching for evidence of fraud Wednesday raided the offices of a Japanese religious group that promised to cure diseases by examining the soles of people's feet. Ho-no-Hana Sampogyo refused to comment. The name roughly translates as "teaching of the flower-three teachings." Police said the raid was carried out on suspicion of crimes against three former believers who were allegedly defrauded the equivalent of \$215,700. Some followers paid as much as \$980,000 to the group after being warned that they would die or get cancer unless they had the bottoms of their feet inspected, according to Japanese media reports.

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No. 17 Duke Beats No. 16 Illinois 72-69

CHICAGO (AP)

The 17th-ranked Blue Devils turned to Chris Carrawell to beat Illinois in the ACC/Big Ten Challenge. Carrawell scored 21 points, including two free throws with 14 seconds left, as Duke won its fourth straight after two losses opening the season, beating No. 16 Illinois 72-69 before a raucous crowd at the United Center. After Carrawell's two free throws put the Blue Devils (4-2) ahead by three, Illinois' Frank Williams missed a 3-pointer, Duke's Jason Williams rebounded and was able to dribble out the clock. Jason Williams added 17 points and Shane Battier had 12 points and 10 rebounds for Duke.

WTO Vows To Push Ahead With Talks

SEATTLE (AP)

Stunned by violent street protests, officials at a 135-nation trade gathering insisted they would push ahead with their effort to launch a new round of talks aimed at breaking down barriers to global commerce. President Clinton was scheduled to address ministers today in the conference he has been banking on heavily, but was heading into a shattered downtown where officials sought to restore order with an overnight curfew and officers in riot gear. The protesters are unhappy with the Geneva-based organization that sets the rules for global trade, charging that it too often only considers the needs of giant multinational corporations at the expense of protecting the environment and worker rights.

Mexico, U.S. Dig for Bodies on Border

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico (AP)

U.S. and Mexican authorities unearthed the remains of two people during an intensive search of border ranches where an FBI informant has indicated that as many as 100 victims of a powerful drug cartel could be buried. FBI forensic experts worked with Mexican soldiers and ski-masked police Tuesday searching two desert ranches near the city of Ciudad Juarez, once the undisputed territory of the Juarez drug cartel, at one time Mexico's largest and most violent drug-smuggling outfit. An informant said there might be as many as 100 bodies there, including people who had been providing information to U.S. drug agents, according to a federal law enforcement official.

Bush Cramming for First Debate

WASHINGTON (AP)

Any misstep in his first debate could renew questions about George W. Bush's readiness for the presidency, so he is cramming for Thursday's event in a Texas-sized way. Aides have scoured news reports and press releases for every mention of the Texas governor by his rivals, looking for potential debate-night attacks. They say looking through two years of transcripts helped prepare Bush for his Nov. 21 interview on "Meet the Press." On Monday and Tuesday, top advisers also participated with Bush in prep sessions held at times around a table or ring of chairs.

McCain Meets GOP Jewish Coalition

WASHINGTON (AP)

Sen. John McCain is accusing the Clinton-Gore administration of squandering an important "strategic asset" — America's credibility around the world by making threats or promises and then not following through. In a foreign

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policy speech prepared for delivery today at a meeting of the Republican Jewish Coalition, the Arizona senator and Republican presidential candidate says: "Allies are as quick to lose faith in uncertain leadership as enemies are to challenge it. Credibility is a strategic asset. The world's only superpower should never give its word insincerely, we should never make idle threats."

Cuban Boy Starting To Ask Questions

MIAMI (AP)

The 5-year-old Cuban boy plucked from the sea after a fatal boat accident off the Florida coast is beginning to ask about his future, a subject of interest to relatives in both nations. Courts may ultimately decide whether Elian Gonzalez should be raised in the United States or returned to Cuba. But relatives here who want him to stay said he wants to know now. Elian fled Cuba in an overloaded 17-foot powerboat that sank during the 90-mile crossing to Florida. Ten people died, including his mother and stepfather, in what the Coast Guard said was a smuggling operation. While family members in Miami say the child would have a better life here, Elian's father wants him back in Cuba.

Mars Polar Lander Set for Landing

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)

NASA's Mars Polar Lander is in excellent shape and on track for a safe landing Friday, mission controllers said yesterday after fine-tuning the spacecraft's path toward the Red Planet. The \$165 million probe's thrusters were fired for 12.6 seconds to keep it on course for landing near the planet's south pole, said Sam Thurman, the spacecraft's flight operations manager at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. The probe has traveled nearly 470 million miles since its Jan. 3 launch. It is expected to spend 90 days searching for water and studying Mars' climate history.

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Bush Plan Would Slash Income Taxes

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)

Republican presidential candidate George W. Bush wants to slash tax rates at all income levels, proposing a five-year, \$483 billion package he says will "make life better for average men, women and children." Targeting the working poor as well as the very rich, Bush's package embraces conservative economic staples with a populist twist, further defining what he means by his promise to be a "compassionate conservative." The proposal, which Bush was unveiling today, drew instant criticism from Republican and Democratic rivals as the GOP front-runner looks beyond the primaries to court general election voters.

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Poll: Black Voters Favor Gore

WASHINGTON (AP)

Vice President Al Gore and Bill Bradley continue their quest for black votes with a fresh set of appearances this week, as a new poll finds blacks more likely than other Democrats to back Gore. Both Gore and Bradley plan to address the National Black Caucus of State Legislators in Baltimore, with Gore speaking today and Bradley coming Thursday. An Associated Press poll finds Gore with strong support among blacks. He was favored by 57 percent of black respondents who identified themselves Democrats or leaning Democratic, while the former New Jersey senator was the choice of 24 percent. Among all voters, Gore's lead is narrower 43 percent to 32 percent.

Bioterrorism Preparation Said Poor

WASHINGTON (AP)

The government's medical stockpiles for dealing with chemical or biological terrorism are poorly managed, often lacking vital drugs and adequate security, congressional auditors said yesterday. The General Accounting Office criticized the Departments of Health and Human Services and Veterans Affairs, as well as a special Marine Corps unit, for failing to manage their supplies for treating civilian victims of a chemical or biological terrorist attack. The report said the agencies failed to keep good records, conduct regular inventories, maintain their own policies or ensure security.

Computer Virus Tears Through Cos.

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)

Experts scrambled to warn thousands of computer users that a familiar and damaging virus has struck scores of companies and could be slumbering in their e-mail inboxes. The Mini-Zip virus tore through computers yesterday, devouring files and crippling e-mail systems, anti-virus analysts said. It was expected to renew its assault today as unsuspecting users logged on. Mini-Zip's parent bug, Worm.Explore.Zip, struck last summer. Anti-virus experts said the bug gets loose from an infected system as a seemingly friendly reply to a clean e-mail sent via the Microsoft Outlook, Outlook Express or Exchange browsers.

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Lakers Defeat SuperSonics 101-77

SEATTLE (AP)

Shaquille O'Neal had 27 points and 10 rebounds, and Glen Rice added 19 points as the Los Angeles Lakers beat the Seattle SuperSonics 101-77 Tuesday night. Ruben Patterson, who played for the Lakers last season, led the Sonics with 19 points. Gary Payton did not play in the final quarter and finished with 12 points for Seattle.

Clinton Enters Fray Over WTO Talks

SEATTLE (AP)

Undeterred by violent demonstrations, President Clinton wades into the fray over global trade today, saying the World Trade Organization should heed the legitimate complaints of many protesters. White House officials blamed a small number of activists for a riotous day Tuesday that provoked state authorities to call out unarmed National Guardsmen. They vowed that the violence wouldn't force Clinton, the only head of government attending the conference, to curtail his schedule in Seattle.

Russia Expects To Remove Militants Soon

GROZNY, Russia (AP)

Russia's military offensive should finish off militants in breakaway Chechnya within three months, and maybe in as little as one month, Russia's defense minister predicted today. Russian leaders have been forecasting the rapid demise of the militants since Moscow sent troops into the territory more than two months ago. Earlier statements said the Chechen fighters would be eliminated by the end of the year. The Russian forces advanced rapidly to the outskirts of the Chechen capital, Grozny, but the rebels have put up increasingly fierce resistance in recent days.

Skydivers Bid for Freefall Record

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)

Dozens of ambulances and four rescue boats will be on standby Thursday when 572 skydivers, including the Pentagon's top general, bail out over one of the world's most congested cities in a bid to break a world freefall record. Gen. Hugh Shelton, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, will be one of the VIP jumpers joining hundreds of the world's best skydivers in the mass parachute drop on the Royal Fields, an open space the size of about three football fields.

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Russia May Ask US Diplomat To Leave

MOSCOW (AP)

A spying accusation against a U.S. diplomat was adding another strain to relations between Washington and Moscow. Moscow was expected to ask today that U.S. diplomat Cheri Leberknight, who has been accused of spying, leave Russia immediately, the ITAR-Tass news agency said, citing unidentified sources in the ministry. Foreign Ministry officials planned to summon U.S. Ambassador James Collins today and issue a formal protest over Leberknight, the news agency said. Russian security officials claimed Leberknight was a CIA agent nabbed "red-handed" yesterday as she tried to obtain sensitive military information.

Agent Orange Victims To Be Compensated

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)

AP Top News at Midnight EST Tuesday, Nov. 30, 1999

South Korea will compensate military and civilian victims of a U.S.-manufactured toxic defoliant that was sprayed along the border with communist North Korea in the late 1960s, officials said today. The government drew up the policy in the wake of recent reports that South Korean soldiers unaware of the possible health dangers sprayed the defoliant Agent Orange in their country in 1968-69 at the suggestion of the U.S. Army. It became widely recognized after the defoliant was used in the Vietnam War that Agent Orange contains dioxin.

Nobel Laureate Returns to E. Timor

DILI, East Timor (AP)

Nobel Peace laureate Jose Ramos Horta returned triumphantly to his homeland today after leading an often lonely 24-year diplomatic struggle to liberate East Timor from Indonesian occupation. Scores of people came to the airport to meet him, and a crowd was gathering to greet him along Dili's seaside promenade. Under former President Suharto, who ruled Indonesia until May 1998, Horta was branded a criminal for accusing Indonesian troops of atrocities and genocide in East Timor.

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Report: NYC Cops Search Blacks More

NEW YORK (AP)

Blacks and Hispanics are much more likely than whites to be stopped and frisked by New York City police officers, often without legal reason, according to a report by the state attorney general. Even in precincts that are 90 percent white, more than half the people stopped and searched were black or Hispanic, according to the 178-page report, released yesterday, which was based on police department records. Police said the racial disparity exists because most of the stop-and-frisks occur in poor, crime-ridden neighborhoods, many of which are primarily black and Hispanic.

China Official Cites Y2K Troubles

BEIJING (AP)

Hospitals, businesses and parts of China's vast interior are unprepared for year-end computer problems, although banks, electric power and other vital sectors are basically ready, a senior government troubleshooter said today. With a month to go before the new year, the assessment given by China's top coordinator for Year 2000 computer glitches was the frankest admission by the government that troubles are certain to arise even if they are scattered.

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Mubarak, Arafat Discuss West Bank

CAIRO, Egypt (AP)

Israel's proposals for surrendering West Bank land to Palestinian control topped the agenda of today's talks between Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. Arafat said discussions focused on the current Israeli-Palestinian negotiations and Palestinian objections to the maps of a proposed Israeli troop withdrawal from 5 percent of the West Bank and Jewish settlements in the territory. The withdrawal is scheduled to take place Nov. 15. But the Palestinians say Israel's proposal will vacate areas that are too thinly populated and not contiguous.

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Kohl Secret Accounts Probed

BERLIN (AP)

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Former Chancellor Helmut Kohl's dramatic admission that he ran secret party accounts failed to satisfy even some of his fellow party members, who joined the governing Social Democrats today in demanding more details. The head of an investigation into the Christian Democratic Party's finances said he wants to establish whether the money influenced decisions by Kohl's government. The key question is whether a \$530,000 payment to the party in 1991 was a kickback for the sale of German military vehicles to Saudi Arabia and whether Kohl knew about it. Kohl ran the party from 1973 until his election defeat last year.

Iraq Lobbies Russia on Sanctions

MOSCOW (AP)

Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz today met Russian officials to seek their help in easing U.N. sanctions against his country. Russia favors the easing or lifting of sanctions against Iraq and reviving trade, in part so that Iraq can start paying back a multibillion-dollar debt. Iraq hopes that Moscow will help push a resolution easing the sanctions through the U.N. Security Council. Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov said after the talks that the Security Council seemed to be inching closer to an agreement on the issue, but that the problem is still far from being resolved, the Interfax news agency reported.

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E-Mails Prompt NY Times Firings

NEW YORK (AP)

More than 20 employees of The New York Times Co. were fired yesterday for sending e-mail the company deemed "inappropriate and offensive." The incident occurred in Norfolk, Virginia, at the company's Shared Services Center, a hub for processing payroll, invoices and benefits for the company. "While the company does not routinely monitor the e-mail communications of employees, we do investigate when a violation of the company's e-mail policy is reported," a memo sent to company employees said.

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Clinton To Address WTO Meeting

SEATTLE (AP)

With much of the downtown business district under a curfew until 7:30 a.m. PST this morning, the White House says yesterday's violence won't make President Clinton change his schedule in Seattle. Joe Lockhart, the president's press secretary, lamented the clashes that delayed the opening of the World Trade Organization meeting, but said Clinton still believed the protesters' "legitimate point of view ... should be heard." Clinton will deliver a keynote address to trade ministers from the 135 WTO member countries today.

Kohl Secret Accounts Probed

BERLIN (AP)

Former Chancellor Helmut Kohl's dramatic admission that he ran secret party accounts failed to satisfy even some of his fellow party members, who joined the governing Social Democrats today in demanding more details. The head of an investigation into the Christian Democratic Party's finances said he wants to establish whether the money influenced decisions by Kohl's government. The key question is whether a \$530,000 payment to the party in 1991 was a kickback for the sale of German military vehicles to Saudi Arabia and whether Kohl knew about it. Kohl ran the party from 1973 until his election defeat last year.

Iraq Lobbies Russia on Sanctions

MOSCOW (AP)

Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz today met Russian officials to seek their help in easing U.N. sanctions against his country. Russia favors the easing or lifting of sanctions against Iraq and reviving trade, in part so that Iraq can start paying back a multibillion-dollar debt. Iraq hopes that Moscow will help push a resolution easing the sanctions through the U.N. Security Council. Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov said after the talks that the Security Council seemed to be inching closer to an agreement on the issue, but that the problem is still far from being resolved, the Interfax news agency reported.

Russia May Ask U.S. Diplomat To Leave

MOSCOW (AP)

Moscow is expected to ask today that U.S. diplomat Cheri Leberknight, who has been accused of spying, leave Russia immediately, the ITAR-Tass news agency said, citing unidentified sources in the ministry. Foreign Ministry officials plan to summon U.S. Ambassador James Collins today and issue a formal protest over Leberknight, the news agency said. Separately, Russia's military offensive should finish off militants in breakaway Chechnya within three months, and maybe in as little as one month, Russia's defense minister predicted today.

E-Mails Prompt NY Times Firings

NEW YORK (AP)

More than 20 employees of The New York Times Co. were fired yesterday for sending e-mail the company deemed "inappropriate and offensive." The incident occurred in Norfolk, Virginia, at the company's Shared Services Center, a hub for processing payroll, invoices and benefits for the company. "While the company does not routinely monitor the e-mail communications of employees, we do investigate when a violation of the company's e-mail policy is reported," a memo sent to company employees said.

China Official Cites Y2K Troubles

BEIJING (AP)

Hospitals, businesses and parts of China's vast interior are unprepared for year-end computer problems, although banks, electric power and other vital sectors are basically ready, a senior government troubleshooter said today. With a month to go before the new year, the assessment given by China's top coordinator for Year 2000 computer glitches was the frankest admission by the government that troubles are certain to arise even if they are scattered.

Tokyo Stocks Close Lower

TOKYO (AP)

Tokyo stocks ended lower today with the Nikkei falling 62.28 points to close at 18,495.95.

Suns 94, Clippers 80

LOS ANGELES (AP)

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WTO Presses On Despite Protests

SEATTLE (AP)

Stunned by violent street protests, officials at a 135-nation trade gathering insist they will push ahead with their effort to launch a new round of talks aimed at breaking down barriers to global commerce. President Clinton is scheduled to address ministers today in the conference he has been banking on heavily, but will head into a shattered downtown where officials sought to restore order with an overnight curfew and officers in riot gear. News of the violence generated headlines across Asia today: "Demonstrators overrun Seattle," said a page-one headline in the Times of India.

U.N. Marking World AIDS Day

UNITED NATIONS (AP)

The United Nations was marking World AIDS Day today with a sobering new set of statistics of the toll the virus has taken on children, 11 million of whom have been orphaned by the pandemic. In a report, UNICEF and UNAIDS say the number of AIDS orphans is expected to rise to more than 13 million by the end of 2000. Already, 95 percent of those orphans are in sub-Saharan Africa. In developing countries, children who have lost one or both parents to AIDS are at a higher risk of malnutrition, illness, abuse and sexual exploitation than children orphaned by other causes, the report says.

Japan Cult Apologizes for Gas Attack

TOKYO (AP)

The Aum Shinrikyo doomsday cult today offered its first apology for a series of poison gas attacks, including a deadly assault on Tokyo's subways, and offered compensation to survivors. "We now offer our sincere apology for the victims and their family members," acting leader Tatsuko Muraoka said in a statement, adding that Aum will make "as much compensation as possible." Former guru Shoko Asahara is on trial for masterminding at least 17 crimes, including the Tokyo strike that killed 12 and sickened thousands in March 1995.

Palestinians Discuss Dissidents

AP Top News at Midnight EST Tuesday, Nov. 30, 1999

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)

The Palestinian parliament debated behind closed doors today whether to lift the immunity of seven dissident lawmakers who infuriated Yasser Arafat by holding him directly responsible for widespread government corruption. Arafat wants to arrest the legislators who signed an anti-corruption manifesto but because of their office are immune to sanctions. Eleven Palestinian intellectuals who also signed the declaration were placed in custody earlier this week. The affair has spotlighted Arafat's handling of dissent and restrictions on debate in the Palestinian areas.

Ireland Joins NATO Peace Program

BRUSSELS, Brussels (AP)

Ireland joined NATO's Partnership for Peace program today, but vowed never to give up its neutrality by joining the alliance outright. The Irish government decided last month to join the NATO program that arranges joint-exercises, prepares peacekeeping missions with NATO members and sets out regular political consultations. Joining the partnership is a sensitive issue in Ireland, which has scrupulously maintained its neutrality. In 1945, Eamon de Valera, then prime minister, dramatically demonstrated that policy by calling at the German Embassy to offer condolences on the death of Adolf Hitler.

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Dow Gains 45; Nasdaq Rises 11

NEW YORK (AP)

The Dow Jones industrial average is up 45 points in today's early going. Losers on the New York Stock Exchange hold a 4-3 lead over gainers. The Nasdaq Composite Index is up 11 points.

Torrance Named Europe Golf Captain

VIRGINIA WATER, England (AP)

Sam Torrance, an outspoken critic of American player and fan behavior two months ago at the Ryder Cup, was chosen Europe's captain today for the 2001 match at The Belfry in England. Torrance was an eight-time playing member of the European team and was one of Mark James' assistants in Europe's loss to the United States at Brookline, Mass., in September.

Bush Proposes Income Tax Cut

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)

Republican presidential candidate George W. Bush today proposed slashing tax rates at all income levels with a five-year, \$483 billion package "designed to sustain our nation's prosperity and reflect our nation's decency." One of Bush's main rivals, conservative millionaire Steve Forbes, who supports a flat 17 percent tax rate, called Bush's plan "something only the timid could love simply more political expediency." Bush fired back: "I think he likes to campaign by tearing down other people."

Ireland To Drop Claim to North

DUBLIN, Ireland (AP)

Foreseeing a future of permanent peace in Ireland, Prime Minister Bertie Ahern today declared his state's "irrevocable" commitment to dropping its territorial claim on the British-linked north. Ahern addressed lawmakers in Dublin hours before the British government is scheduled to formally transfer powers to a new Protestant-Catholic government for Northern Ireland. Ahern said the Irish Republic's 1937 constitution will be amended tomorrow in keeping with the Good Friday peace accord of 1998. He appealed to the **Irish Republican Army** to begin disarming as soon as possible.

Russia Lodges Protest With U.S.

MOSCOW (AP)

Russia's Foreign Ministry today delivered an official note of protest to the United States over a U.S. diplomat who was detained on accusations of espionage, a news report said. Russian security officials claimed that Cheri Leberknight was a CIA agent nabbed "red-handed" Monday as she tried to obtain sensitive military information from a Russian citizen. They said several sophisticated spying devices were found on her. The ministry also plans to summon U.S. Ambassador James Collins today and request that Leberknight leave Russia, the ITAR-Tass news agency said.

Economic Indicators Unchanged

NEW YORK (AP)

A key gauge of economic activity was unchanged in October amid signs of weakness in the manufacturing sector. The Conference Board said today that its Index of Leading Economic Indicators stood at 107.9 in October, the same as in September and in line with analysts' expectations. The indicator serves as a barometer of economic trends up to six months in the future. Since April, the index has risen just 0.7 percent.

WTO Presses On Despite Protests

SEATTLE (AP)

Stunned by violent street protests, officials at a 135-nation trade gathering insist they will push ahead with their effort to launch a new round of talks aimed at breaking down barriers to global commerce. President Clinton is scheduled to address ministers today at the conference, but will head into a shattered downtown where officials sought to restore order with an overnight curfew. News of the violence generated headlines across Asia today: "Demonstrators overrun Seattle," said a page-one headline in the Times of India.

Palestinians Condemn Manifesto

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)

The Palestinian legislature today overwhelmingly condemned an anti-corruption manifesto targeting Yasser Arafat, but stopped short of punishing dissident lawmakers who had signed the document. In a four-hour, closed-door debate, the dissidents stood by their allegations against the Palestinian leader, who they said had opened the door to government corruption. Today's parliament session was convened to debate whether to lift the immunity of the dissident lawmakers, a move that would have made them vulnerable to arrest.

Dow Gains 86; Nasdaq Rises 37

NEW YORK (AP)

Just before 11 a.m. EST, the Dow industrials were up 86.02 at 10,963.83. Declining issues on the New York Stock Exchange led advancers 1,483-1,076. The Nasdaq was up 37.85 at 3,374.01.

NFL Suspends Bears QB Jim Miller

CHICAGO (AP)

Chicago Bears quarterback Jim Miller was suspended by the NFL today for his team's final four games for violating the league's drug policy. The NFL said Miller broke the league policy on anabolic steroids and related substances, but it did not identify the particular substance he is accused of using. The Bears said they would not comment until their morning news conference. This is the third NFL drug suspension in the last two weeks. The others, both for steroids, were to New York Giants rookie safety Lyle West and New York Jets tackle Jason Ferguson.

WTO Presses On Despite Protests

SEATTLE (AP)

Delegates to a 135-nation trade gathering insist they will push ahead today with efforts to launch a new round of talks aimed at breaking down barriers to global commerce as police today announced plans to bar demonstrators from an area near where the WTO meeting is being held. "I think we've secured the town." Mayor Paul Schell said. President Clinton is scheduled to address ministers today. Yesterday's protests drew angry responses from some delegates. Colombia's external trade minister, Marta Lucia Ramirez, was jostled and shaken up, officials said, though apparently she was not seriously harmed.

Ireland To Drop Claim to North

DUBLIN, Ireland (AP)

Hours before Britain is scheduled to formally transfer powers to a new Northern Ireland government, Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern today declared his state's "irrevocable" commitment to dropping its territorial claim on the British-linked north. In London, Prime Minister Tony Blair announced that Queen Elizabeth II had approved legislation transferring powers to the new government. Ahern said the Irish Republic's 1937 constitution would be amended tomorrow in keeping with the Good Friday peace accord of 1998.

Gore Courts Black Voters

BALTIMORE (AP)

Rolling out a record of reduced unemployment, greater homeownership and increased earnings for blacks in the past seven years, Vice President Al Gore told a group of black state legislators today he wants their help to win the White House in 2000. "We will continue investing in communities here at home that have been left behind," Gore told the annual meeting of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators. The vice president said the Clinton-Gore administration has brought more blacks to high level government positions than any other administration.

Defense Rests in ValuJet Case

MIAMI (AP)

The defense rested today in the federal criminal trial of an airline maintenance contractor and two employees blamed for improper work leading to the 1996 Everglades crash of a ValuJet DC-9. Defense attorneys for the contractor, SabreTech, and two former employees rested this morning after adding exhibits to testimony from yesterday. The prosecution then ended without calling rebuttal witnesses, and closing arguments are to begin this afternoon.

U.S.: Hike German Defense Spending

BERLIN (AP)

U.S. Defense Secretary William Cohen called today on Europe and specifically Germany to take a greater role in NATO by increasing defense spending, even in the face of tough economic times on the continent. Speaking to a gathering of German army commanders in Hamburg, Cohen said the United States would look to Germany to take

a leading role in the alliance in the coming years. The increased demands from Cohen come in the wake of an austerity program approved by the German parliament that slashes military spending by \$9.3 billion from 2000-2003.

Bausch & Lomb To Cut 850 Jobs

ROCHESTER, N.Y. (AP)

Bausch & Lomb Inc. is consolidating its contact-lens business and cutting about 850 jobs, or 7.1 percent of its worldwide work force, over the next year. The world's largest eye-care company said today the moves are designed to make it more efficient, profitable and competitive. About 600 of the job cuts will occur in Rochester, its hometown since 1853.

New E-Mail Virus Causes Damage

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)

Makers of anti-virus software are warning computer users that a new version of a destructive bug may be slumbering in their e-mail inboxes. The MiniZip virus struck several major companies yesterday, damaging files on hard drives and overloading e-mail systems, the software makers said. Anti-virus experts cautioned users against opening an e-mail if they don't know the sender or why it was sent. They said the virus could be fought with updated anti-virus software that can be downloaded from their Web sites.

Dow Gains 86; Nasdaq Rises 24

NEW YORK (AP)

Just before noon EST, the Dow industrials were up 86.32 at 10,964.13. Declining issues on the New York Stock Exchange led advancers 1,550-1,204. The Nasdaq was up 24.87 at 3,361.03.

NFL Suspends Bears QB Jim Miller

CHICAGO (AP)

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Seattle Declares No-Protest Zone

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Stunned by violent street protests resulting in scores of arrests, delegates to a 135-nation trade gathering insist they will push ahead today with efforts to launch a new round of talks aimed at breaking down barriers to global commerce and city officials vowed to back them up. Today, city officials declared a no-protest zone for nearly all of the city's downtown core, about 50 city blocks, acknowledging they were caught unaware by the magnitude of the disturbance. President Clinton is scheduled to address ministers today.

Digging for Mexico Bodies Resumes

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico (AP)

U.S. and Mexican authorities resumed searching for bodies today at border ranches where two corpses have been unearthed and an FBI informant says as many as 100 victims of a powerful drug cartel could be buried. FBI forensic experts worked with Mexican soldiers and ski-masked police searching at least two desert ranches near Ciudad

AP Top News at Midnight EST Tuesday, Nov. 30, 1999

Juarez, once the undisputed territory of the Juarez drug cartel, at one time Mexico's largest and most violent drug-smuggling outfit. Authorities were led to the ranches by an informant who approached the FBI early this year.

Justices Doubt Tobacco Regulations

WASHINGTON (AP)

Several Supreme Court justices expressed doubts today about whether the Food and Drug Administration can regulate tobacco as a drug and crack down on cigarette sales to minors. Solicitor General Seth Waxman asked the court to let the FDA regulate tobacco because the nicotine it contains is a "highly addictive" substance that acts as a stimulant, a sedative, an appetite suppressant and is used to feed smokers' addictions. But tobacco industry lawyer Richard M. Cooper insisted the government's 1996 decision to regulate tobacco was "lawless" because cigarettes are not promoted as having effects on health.

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China Official Cites Y2K Fears

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Dow Gains 70; Nasdaq Rises 12

NEW YORK (AP)

Just before 1 p.m. EST, the Dow industrials were up 70.42 at 10,948.23. Declining issues on the New York Stock Exchange led advancers 1,634-1,251. The Nasdaq was up 12.71 at 3,348.37.

Bears QB Jim Miller Suspended

LAKE FOREST, Ill. (AP)

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Seattle Declares No-Protest Zone

SEATTLE (AP)

Shaken by violence from militants who ravaged downtown as World Trade Organization talks got under way, city officials made more arrests today and banned demonstrators from about 50 city blocks surrounding the convention center where the meetings were taking place. President Clinton spent the night in a downtown hotel, arriving just hours after police swept demonstrators from the streets outside. More arrests were made shortly after daybreak today as protesters attempted to enter the downtown core. Most demonstrators were peaceful, but police moved in swiftly when protesters attempted to block intersections.

East Timor Nobel Laureate Returns

DILI, East Timor (AP)

Ending twenty-four years of exile, Nobel Peace laureate Jose Ramos Horta triumphantly returned to his liberated homeland Wednesday where thousands of supporters greeted him with chants of "Viva Ramos Horta." "The true heroes are those who stayed behind," he said. "They're the ones who suffered." The crowd cheered as Ramos Horta called for reconciliation, asking the people of East Timor to show tolerance toward Indonesians who want to return to the world's newest nation.

Kuwait Women Keep Battling for Vote

KUWAIT (AP)

Despite losing two recent legislative battles for their political rights, Kuwaiti women pledged today to win the right to vote and run for office in time for the next parliamentary elections in 2003. The oil-rich country's Parliament rejected a bill that would have recognized those rights in a 32-30 vote yesterday. Women's rights advocates said they were encouraged by the closeness of the vote. Sheik Sabah Al Ahmed Al Sabah, brother of Kuwait's ruling emir, promised the Cabinet will propose another women's rights bill, maybe as soon as next year.

U.N. Envoy Condemns Kosovo Violence

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia (AP)

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The top U.N. administrator in Kosovo placed flowers today at the site where a mob attacked a Serb family, and condemned the violence as an abuse of the province's hard-won freedom. Bernard Kouchner visited the highway in the center of the capital where Dragoslav Basic, his wife, and her mother were dragged from their car and beaten before hundreds of onlookers. Basic was shot and killed, and the two women were hospitalized. "The attack is a grave misuse of the liberty awarded to the people of Kosovo," said a visibly angry Kouchner.

Justices Doubt Tobacco Regulations

WASHINGTON (AP)

Several Supreme Court justices expressed doubts today about whether the Food and Drug Administration can regulate tobacco as a drug and crack down on cigarette sales to minors. Solicitor General Seth Waxman asked the court to let the FDA regulate tobacco because the nicotine it contains is a "highly addictive" substance that acts as a stimulant, a sedative, an appetite suppressant and is used to feed smokers' addictions. But tobacco industry lawyer Richard M. Cooper insisted the government's 1996 decision to regulate tobacco was "lawless" because cigarettes are not promoted as having effects on health.

NYC Brick Attack Suspect Arraigned

NEW YORK (AP)

A homeless panhandler with a long criminal history was arraigned today on attempted murder charges, accused of smashing a young woman on the head with a brick on a crowded street. Paris Drake, 32, also is charged with assault and criminal possession of a deadly weapon for allegedly hitting Nicole Barrett with a six-pound paving stone. Drake said he had been panhandling and was upset over how little money he received, so he threw a stone that hit someone, a police source said.

Dow Gains 77; Nasdaq Down Slightly

NEW YORK (AP)

Just before 2 p.m. EST, the Dow industrials were up 77.76 at 10,955.57. Declining issues on the New York Stock Exchange led advancers 1,693-1,276. The Nasdaq was down 0.89 at 3,335.27.

Jarrett Chosen Top Driver of 1999

NEW YORK (AP)

Dale Jarrett, who reached the pinnacle of stock car racing this season with his first NASCAR Winston Cup championship, has been chosen the 1999 Driver of the Year. The formal presentation to the son of two-time NASCAR champion Ned Jarrett will be made Saturday during a luncheon in New York. Jarrett was picked for the honor in a season-end vote by a national panel of motorsports journalists who gave the NASCAR star 12 of 15 first-place ballots.

Seattle Declares No-Protest Zone

SEATTLE (AP)

As police in riot gear patrol downtown Seattle, delegates to the 135-nation World Trade Organization today tried to resuscitate the global trade talks whose opening activities were canceled after violent protests yesterday. City officials today banned protesters from about 50 city blocks surrounding the convention center. "This conference will be a success. The issues are far too important to be ignored," said Mike Moore, director general of the World Trade Organization. President Clinton is scheduled to address ministers today.

Bush Proposes Income Tax Cut

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)

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Scientists Map Human Chromosome

NEW YORK (AP)

An international team of scientists has for the first time mapped virtually an entire human chromosome, one of the molecular chains within cells bearing the genetic recipe to make a human being. The achievement announced today is a major step for the \$3 billion Human Genome Project, which seeks to detail the tens of thousands of genes that carry instructions for everything from how the brain is organized to the size of a person's feet. "I think this is probably the most important scientific effort that mankind has ever mounted," said Francis Collins, who chairs the project from the National Institutes of Health.

China Official Cites Y2K Troubles

BEIJING (AP)

China's top troubleshooter for Year 2000 computer glitches says hospitals, businesses and parts of China's vast interior are not yet ready with less than one month to go. The assessment given today by Zhang Qi of the Ministry of Information is the frankest admission by the government that troubles are certain to arise, even if they are scattered. But Ms. Zhang said there should be few problems at banks, electric power plants and other vital sectors.

AP Top News at Midnight EST Tuesday, Nov. 30, 1999

Dow Gains 97; Nasdaq Rises 13

NEW YORK (AP)

Just before 3 p.m. EST, the Dow industrials were up 97.33 at 10,975.14. Declining issues on the New York Stock Exchange led advancers 1,712-1,286. The Nasdaq was up 13.43 at 3,349.59.

Bears QB Jim Miller Suspended

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Chicago Bears quarterback Jim Miller was suspended by the NFL today for his team's final four games for violating league drug policy. Miller said he had taken an over-the-counter nutritional supplement for four days in September, and did not realize it contained the anabolic steroid nandrolone. Mark Hatley, the Bears' vice president of player personnel, said Miller is still in the team's plans for next year.

WTO Delegates Vow To Push On

SEATTLE (AP)

Stunned by violent street protests resulting in scores of arrests, delegates to a 135-nation trade gathering insisted they would push ahead with efforts to launch a new round of talks aimed at breaking down barriers to global commerce and the city officials vowed to back them up. President Clinton was to address ministers at the conference this afternoon. In getting to the convention, Clinton went into a trashed downtown where officials sought to restore order with an overnight curfew and officers in riot gear. City officials today banned protesters from about 50 city blocks surrounding the convention center.

Mixed Concerns Amid WTO Protesters

SEATTLE (AP)

World Trade Organization protesters are bringing a world of complaints to the streets of Seattle. The bewildering array of signs bouncing above the protesters' heads reflects the WTO's diverse, global influence: "WTO Violates Women of Color," "Sweatshops Are Slavery," "In Solidarity With the Zapatistas," "Wal-Mart and WTO Globalizing Poverty," to name just a few. Animal-rights activists and environmental groups say the WTO contributes to the deaths of thousands of sea turtles every year. Labor groups say the WTO's push for free trade encourages developing countries to exploit their workers and create sweatshops. And other protesters are concerned with China and human rights, while still others are targeting the WTO's push to reduce agriculture tariffs.

Justices Doubt Tobacco Regulations

WASHINGTON (AP)

The Clinton administration's groundbreaking effort to curb smoking ran into trouble today as most Supreme Court justices expressed doubts if the government has the authority to regulate tobacco as an addictive drug. Such regulation by the Food and Drug Administration "just doesn't fit" under a federal law that requires the FDA to ensure drugs that are safe and effective, said Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. "Is it the position of the government that the use of tobacco is safe and effective?" she asked Solicitor General Seth Waxman. The government has asked the justices to overturn a lower court ruling and let the FDA regulate tobacco and crack down on sales to minors.

Judge Dismisses Castro Plot Charge

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)

A federal judge dismissed charges today against one of six Cuban exiles accused of plotting to kill Fidel Castro, apparently for lack of evidence. Alfredo Domingo Otero was relieved by the decision and would be returning to his family in Miami soon, according to his lawyer. Judge Hector Laffitte refused yesterday to dismiss charges against

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five other Miami and New Jersey businessmen, all activists in the anti-Castro movement in the United States. The five are accused of plotting to kill the Cuban leader when he attended a Latin American summit on Venezuela's Isla Margarita two years ago.

Income Tax Cut Proposed by Bush

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)

Republican presidential candidate George W. Bush today proposed slashing tax rates at all income levels with a five-year, \$483 billion package. One of Bush's main rivals, conservative millionaire Steve Forbes, who supports a flat 17 percent tax rate, called Bush's plan "something only the timid could love simply more political expediency." Bush fired back: "I think he likes to campaign by tearing down other people."

Toys R Us Fined Over Child Labor

WASHINGTON (AP)

Toys R Us will pay a \$200,000 fine and institute new safeguards in all its stores after inspections turned up some violations of child labor laws, the Department of Labor said today. "We found more than 300 young Toys R Us employees working more hours and later into the night than allowed by law," said Labor Secretary Alexis Herman. The violations involved 14- and 15-year-olds who stock shelves, operate cash registers and clean at 19 New England Toys R Us stores, most of them in Massachusetts.

Dow Gains 117.21; Nasdaq Rises 6.68

NEW YORK (AP)

Just before 4 p.m. EST, the Dow industrials were up 117.21 at 10,995.02. Declining issues on the New York Stock Exchange led advancers 1,799-1,269. The Nasdaq was up 6.68 at 3,342.84.

Boxer Wins Challenge Over Beard

TORONTO (AP)

A bearded Sikh boxer won a court order allowing him to compete, but officials today canceled an entire weight division of the national championships held by the Canadian Amateur Boxing Association because of the ruling. The controversy focused on the beard that Pardeep Nagra, a light flyweight, wears for religious reasons. Nagra was barred from the national tournament because of the beard, which is prohibited under international amateur boxing regulations.

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Blue-Chip Stocks Rebound; Dow Up 120.58

NEW YORK (AP)

Blue-chip stocks bounded back toward 11,000 today after the latest round of economic reports signaled that the nation's economic growth is continuing at a slower, more sustainable pace. The Dow industrials was up 120.58 at 10,998.39. On the NYSE, decliners led advancers 1,708-1,407. The Nasdaq rose 17.55 to 3,353.71.

Boxer Wins Challenge Over Beard

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Clinton Welcomes Nonviolent Protests

SEATTLE (AP)

President Clinton today condemned violent protesters demonstrating against a global trade meeting here but said others among the marchers were acting "in the best American tradition" and deserved to have their views taken into consideration by the World Trade Organization. "So I say that for those who came here to peacefully make their point, I welcome them here because I want them to be integrated into the longer-term debate," Clinton said. "To those who came here to break windows and hurt small businesses, or stop people from going to meetings or having their say, I condemn them."

Despite Protests, WTO To Push Ahead

SEATTLE (AP)

Despite violent street protests, delegates to a 135-nation trade gathering insisted they would push ahead today with efforts to launch a new round of talks aimed at breaking down barriers to global commerce. In response to the protests, city officials declared a no-protest zone for nearly all of the city's downtown core, about 50 city blocks, acknowledging they were caught unaware by the magnitude of the disturbance. The protesters are unhappy with the Geneva-based organization that sets the rules for global trade, charging that it too often considers only the needs of giant multinational corporations at the expense of protecting the environment and worker rights.

Iranians Demand Release of Reformist

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)

Dozens of people gathered Wednesday outside the home of a senior cleric to demand the release of a leading reformist who was jailed for advocating democracy, residents said. Abdollah Nouri, a former interior minister and close ally of Iran's moderate president, was sentenced Saturday by a clerical court controlled by hard-liners to five years in prison on charges including religious dissent. The court convicted Nouri in an apparent bid to stall social reforms, which include efforts to promote democracy and free debate.

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Kidney Transplants Extend Life

NEW YORK (AP)

People who receive kidney transplants live an average of 10 years longer than similar patients who continue on dialysis, a study finds. The link between a healthy transplanted kidney and longer life appears obvious. However, the study, published in tomorrow's New England Journal of Medicine, is the first to show that transplant patients not only have a better quality of life by avoiding dialysis, but live much longer than they would without a transplant. There are 43,584 people in the United States on the waiting list for a kidney transplant, according to the United Network for Organ Sharing.

Dow Closes Up 120; Nasdaq Rises 17

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Phillies Sign Closer Mike Jackson

PHILADELPHIA (AP)

The Philadelphia Phillies signed baseball's top free agent closer today, agreeing to terms with Mike Jackson after a lengthy wait for the results of medical tests. The Phillies planned to release terms of the deal later, but it was believed to be a two-year contract with an option. Jackson, who had 79 saves the past two seasons with Cleveland, reportedly agreed to a deal last Tuesday. But the Phillies waited until team physician Dr. Michael Ciccotti could examine Jackson and a radiologist could examine MRIs of the 34-year-old right-hander's shoulder, knees and elbow.

WTO Presses On Despite Protests

SEATTLE (AP)

Violent street protests notwithstanding, delegates to a 135-nation gathering of the World Trade Organization insisted today they would push ahead with efforts to launch a new round of talks. President Clinton pledged to work for a "broader consensus" to meet the protesters' concerns, which include sweatshops, labor groups and the environment. After touring a state-of-the-art port facility for processing Washington state apples, Clinton told an audience of farmers that he welcomed the thousands of protesters who had come to peacefully voice their concerns about how the World Trade Organization operates. But he said, "for those who came here to break windows or hurt small businesses or stop people from going to meetings ... I condemn them."

Ireland To Drop Claim to North

DUBLIN, Ireland (AP)

Foreseeing a future of permanent peace in Ireland, Prime Minister Bertie Ahern Wednesday declared his state's "irrevocable" commitment to dropping its territorial claim on the British-linked north. Ahern addressed lawmakers in Dublin hours before the British government was scheduled to formally transfer powers to a new Protestant-Catholic

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government for Northern Ireland. The proposed change, overwhelmingly approved by Irish voters last year, drops the definition of Northern Ireland as "part of the national territory" in favor of proclaiming hope that the north's British Protestant majority might one day seek unification.

Bush Proposes Tax Cuts for All

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)

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Scientists Map Human Chromosome

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For the first time, scientists have mapped virtually an entire human chromosome, one of the chains of molecules that bear the genetic recipe for human life. The achievement announced today is an important step for the \$3 billion Human Genome Project, which is attempting to detail the tens of thousands of genes that carry instructions for everything in a human from brain function to hair color to foot size. "This is the first time that we've had a complete chapter in the human instruction book, and that's pretty amazing," said Francis Collins, who chairs the international project from the National Institutes of Health.

Steady Economic Expansion Seen

NEW YORK (AP)

The nation's economy appears to be expanding at a steady, though slightly slowing, pace that should put it on target to produce the longest business expansion in U.S. history, according to two private reports released today. The National Association of Purchasing Management said the industrial sector expanded for a 10th consecutive month in November, but at a slower rate than in previous months. The Conference Board, meanwhile, said its index of leading economic indicators a barometer of economic activity in the next three to six months was unchanged in October from September.

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Clinton Extols Global Economy

SEATTLE (AP)

America is far better off because of its trade ties overseas, President Clinton said today, defending his administration's position before addressing a global conference that has drawn huge crowds of protesters. Clinton said peaceful protests, which Seattle authorities were expecting around the meeting of the World Trade Organization, are "in the best American tradition." But speaking directly to those who broke windows and clashed with police, Clinton was blunt. "I condemn them," he said.

Belfast Politicians Take the Reins

DUBLIN, Ireland (AP)

The clock ticked down on Northern Ireland's bitter past Wednesday as Britain prepared to hand substantial powers to a new Belfast administration of Protestants and Catholics, a giant step toward peace after 30 brutal, bloody years. The transfer of authority at midnight (7 p.m. EST) challenges local politicians to forge a future built on compromise and mutual respect, the central goal of last year's Good Friday peace accord. Northern Ireland parties have rarely displayed those qualities during 27 years of so-called "direct rule" from London, but this week agreed to share a Cabinet table together.

US To Help Russia With Y2K Checks

WASHINGTON (AP)

Energy Secretary Bill Richardson unveiled a long-distance telecommunications link today to help Russia monitor its nuclear power plants for Y2K computer problems. Richardson said he will be in the Situation Crisis Center at the Energy Department headquarters on New Year's Eve to monitor the Y2K rollover at American nuclear reactors, power plants and the U.S. electricity grid. "While we don't expect any major problems, there may be glitches. We have to be ready on both sides," Richardson said, referring to the U.S. and Russia.

Web Sites Are Ready for Mars Lander

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)

The sights and sounds of Mars will be no farther away than any computer plugged into the Internet once NASA's Polar Lander is in operation Friday. Virtual tourists visiting NASA's Web site will find pictures, weather reports, science data and the first sound clips ever beamed to Earth from 157 million miles away. More robust computers

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should prevent the traffic jams that made it difficult to access sites during the landing of Mars Pathfinder, which attracted a record 33 million hits a day over the 1997 Independence Day weekend. JPL's main Mars site, marslander.jpl.nasa.gov, will post the latest pictures and updates throughout the 90-day mission.

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WTO Delegates Resuscitate Talks

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Delegates from 135 nations tried today to resuscitate global trade talks that thousands of protesters had brought to a standstill. President Clinton condemned the violent demonstrations but he warned that the World Trade Organization would have to listen to the concerns of the masses of peaceful protesters who insisted that workers' rights and environmental protection be taken into account in trade agreements. Developing countries, however, view these issues as veiled protectionism that would allow the United States to impose stiff tariffs on imports.

Yugoslav Opposition Rallies Over Oil

NIS, Yugoslavia (AP)

More than 7,000 demonstrators from two feuding opposition groups united Wednesday to rally against President Slobodan Milosevic, whose customs authorities are holding up 350 tons of badly needed heating oil for two opposition-led towns. Zoran Zivkovic, opposition mayor of Nis and Democratic Party deputy president, said if the government fails to release the oil shipment soon, he would call on his townspeople to march on the plush Dedinje district of Belgrade where Milosevic resides.

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LAKE FOREST, Ill. (AP)

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Palestinian Lawmaker Shot, Wounded

NABLUS, West Bank (AP)

A dissident Palestinian lawmaker was shot and wounded by masked gunmen Wednesday in an attack he claimed was in response to his signing of an anti-corruption manifesto that targeted Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. Moawya al-Masri had just returned to his home from a meeting of the Palestinian legislature in Gaza City where lawmakers overwhelmingly condemned an anti-corruption manifesto targeting Arafat. The legislature, however, stopped short of lifting the parliamentary immunity of dissident lawmakers who had signed the document a move that would have left them vulnerable to arrest and prosecution.

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percent. Bush would propose four rates, with the poorest paying 10 percent and the wealthiest paying a top rate of 33 percent.

Dog Dies After Biting Into Drug Bag

LA CIENEGA, N.M. (AP)

A drug-sniffing police dog died after biting into a bag of methamphetamine. Max, a 4-year-old German shepherd, was going through a training exercise Monday when he stuck his head into an unlocked drawer that contained the drugs at the La Cienega Fire Department. The dog either ingested or inhaled too strong a dose and died shortly after arriving at a veterinarian's office. The dog's handler is devastated, said Santa Fe County Undersheriff Benjie Montano, adding, "It's like a loss of a family member."

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SEATTLE (AP)

As arrests mounted and National Guard troops patrolled outside, delegates from 135 nations tried today to resuscitate global trade talks that thousands of protesters had brought to a standstill. While the streets were calmer than yesterday, police were still firing tear gas at demonstrators near President Clinton's hotel as night fell. Delegates from Third World countries turned a cold shoulder on Clinton's personal appeal that they soften their resistance to including environmental protection and labor standards issues highlighted by the protesters in trade negotiations they hope to launch this week.

Belfast Politicians Take the Reins

DUBLIN, Ireland (AP)

In a giant step toward peace in Northern Ireland after 30 brutal years, Britain handed over substantial powers Wednesday to a new Belfast administration of Protestants and Catholics. At midnight, Prime Minister Tony Blair's government in London transferred the powers to the 12-member Cabinet in Belfast. The transfer challenges local politicians to forge a future built on compromise and mutual respect, the central goal of last year's Good Friday peace accord. Ireland's constitutional change had been held up by a dispute between rival parties in Northern Ireland over **Irish Republican Army** disarmament.

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NABLUS, West Bank (AP)

A dissident Palestinian lawmaker was shot and wounded by masked gunmen Wednesday in an attack he claimed was in response to his signing of an anti-corruption manifesto that targeted Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. Moawya al-Masri had just returned to his home from a meeting of the Palestinian legislature in Gaza City where lawmakers overwhelmingly condemned an anti-corruption manifesto targeting Arafat.

SEC Expected To Lighten NYSE Rules

WASHINGTON (AP)

Federal regulators are expected to move soon toward knocking down some of the barriers protecting the New York Stock Exchange from competitors. The Securities and Exchange Commission is scheduled to vote next week on the changes, which would make it easier for regional exchanges and dealers that are not NYSE members to trade stocks listed on the Big Board. The changes being weighed by the SEC also include a proposal that would allow regional stock exchanges to trade NYSE initial public offerings of stock on the first day of trading. The regional exchanges currently must wait until the second day.

Tokyo Stocks Rise in Early Trading

TOKYO (AP)

Japanese stocks bounced back moderately in early trading Thursday following Wall Street's rally. The Nikkei Stock Average gained 42.83 points to 18,538.78 points in the first 30 minutes of trading. On Wednesday, the average closed down 62.28 points. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 120.58 points to 10,998.39, as blue-chip and high technology issues gained. The Nasdaq rose 17.55 points to 3,353.71.

Yankees' Chili Davis Retires

NEW YORK (AP)

Chili Davis ended his 19-year career in the major leagues when the Yankees gave him his unconditional release today. Davis, 39, had said late in the season that he was leaning toward retirement. He hit .269 this year with 19 homers and 78 RBIs but slumped in the second half of the season, managing just six homers and 26 RBIs after the All-Star break. Davis finished with 350 career homers, third-most among switch hitters, trailing only Mickey Mantle (536) and Eddie Murray (504).

AP Top News at Midnight EST Tuesday, Nov. 30, 1999

Britain Hands Over Power in N. Ireland

DUBLIN, Ireland (AP)

In a giant step toward peace in Northern Ireland after 30 brutal years, Britain handed over substantial powers Wednesday to a new Belfast administration of Protestants and Catholics. At midnight, Prime Minister Tony Blair's government in London transferred the powers to the 12-member Cabinet in Belfast. The transfer challenges local politicians to forge a future built on compromise and mutual respect, the central goal of last year's Good Friday peace accord. Ireland's constitutional change had been held up by a dispute between rival parties in Northern Ireland over **Irish Republican Army** disarmament.

Iran-Contra File Uncovered in Israel

JERUSALEM (AP)

Police said Wednesday they unexpectedly found a top secret document linked to the Iran-Contra affair while investigating the case of a prominent newspaper publisher suspected in an alleged murder conspiracy. The document was said to be found during a search of the office of private detective Oded Ben-Dov, a suspect in the case of Ofer Nimrodi, publisher of the Maariv daily. Nimrodi was arrested Nov. 23 on suspicion that he may have plotted the murders of two rivals and a detective. Nimrodi's father, an arms dealer, was involved in the illegal arms trade with Iran in the 1980s known as Iran-Contra.

WTO Delegates Try To Resuscitate Talks

SEATTLE (AP)

Delegates from 135 nations tried today to resuscitate global trade talks that thousands of protesters had brought to a standstill. While the streets were calmer than yesterday, police were still firing tear gas at demonstrators near President Clinton's hotel as night fell. Delegates from Third World countries turned a cold shoulder on Clinton's personal appeal that they soften their resistance to including environmental protection and labor standards issues highlighted by the protesters in trade negotiations they hope to launch this week.

US To Help Russia With Y2K Checks

WASHINGTON (AP)

Energy Secretary Bill Richardson unveiled a high-tech telecommunications link today to help Russia monitor its nuclear power plants for Y2K computer problems. Richardson said he will be in the Situation Crisis Center at the Energy Department headquarters on New Year's Eve to monitor the Y2K rollover at American nuclear reactors, power plants and the U.S. electricity grid. "While we don't expect any major problems, there may be glitches. We have to be ready on both sides," Richardson said, referring to both the U.S. and Russian nuclear programs.

Funds Proposed for Embryo Research

WASHINGTON (AP)

Research using master cells derived from human embryos will be funded by the government for the first time under tightly controlled guidelines proposed by National Institutes of Health. The draft guidelines, to be published tomorrow, would "help ensure that NIH-funded research in this area is conducted in an ethical and legal manner," the agency said. The research rules specifically forbid human cloning or mixing human stem cells with animal or human embryos. Groups opposed to abortion immediately objected to the plans. Lawyers in the Department of Health and Human Services have concluded that federal funding of stem cell research is legal because the cells are, technically, not embryos.

EPA: Pollution Plans Fall Short

AP Top News at Midnight EST Tuesday, Nov. 30, 1999

WASHINGTON (AP)

Nine cities with some of the country's dirtiest air have pollution reduction plans that fall short of federal air quality requirements, the Environmental Protection Agency said today. The nine cities and surrounding areas falling short of EPA expectations are Atlanta, Baltimore, Chicago, Hartford, Conn., Houston, Milwaukee, the New York City and northern New Jersey area, Philadelphia, and Washington, D.C. EPA Administrator Carol Browner said that while she was "hopeful that the gaps can be closed," the states responsible for the plans would have to take additional measures to cut pollution.

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Cavaliers Snap Wizards 111-108

WASHINGTON (AP)

Shawn Kemp scored nine of his 27 points tonight in the final four minutes to help the Cleveland Cavaliers beat the Washington Wizards 111-108. The Cavaliers were trailing 95-93 with less than four minutes left when Kemp went to work, hitting 7 of 8 free throws and a putback to lead Cleveland. Kemp hit two free throws to tie the game with 3:45 left and, after Brevin Knight's three-point play gave Cleveland the lead for good at 98-95.

Six Bodies Found at Border Ranches

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico (AP)

Mexican and U.S. officials dug up the remains of four bodies at a border ranch Wednesday, bringing to six the number found in a painstaking search for suspected victims of a brutal drug gang. The remains, along with clothing, belts and shoes, were found buried behind a barn at the Rancho la Campana, 10 miles southwest of Ciudad Juarez and across the border from El Paso, Texas. Authorities say more than 100 bodies may be buried in graves in the area. Attorney General Jorge Madrazo said the remains would undergo DNA and other analyses by FBI and Mexican experts while investigators continue searching for more bodies.

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politicians to forge a future built on compromise and mutual respect, the central goal of last year's Good Friday peace accord.

Fla. Urged To Retire Electric Chair

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP)

The Florida Corrections Commission is recommending that the state phase out the electric chair in favor of lethal injection. It first recommended the switch two years ago after flames shot from the electric chair headpiece during an execution. The Legislature instead passed a law confirming the electric chair as Florida's sole method of execution. The second report was released Wednesday, five months after blood flowed from beneath a 350-pound inmate's face mask as he was executed.

Bush Stands Firm on Free Trade

JOHNSTON, Iowa (AP)

Against the backdrop of violent protests at international trade talks, Republican presidential front-runner George W. Bush stood firm for free trade on Wednesday and questioned whether Vice President Al Gore has the backbone to do the same. Gore, a supporter of world trade, is at odds over the matter with the same labor unions whose help he needs in his fight for the Democratic nomination. Gore has often clashed with organized labor over the Clinton administration's support of trade deals.

Web Sites Are Ready for Mars Lander

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)

The sights and sounds of Mars will be no farther away than any computer plugged into the Internet once NASA's Polar Lander is in operation Friday. Virtual tourists visiting NASA's Web site will find pictures, weather reports, science data and the first sound clips ever beamed to Earth from 157 million miles away. More robust computers should prevent the traffic jams that made it difficult to access sites during the landing of Mars Pathfinder, which attracted a record 33 million hits a day over the 1997 Independence Day weekend. JPL's main Mars site, marslander.jpl.nasa.gov, will post the latest pictures and updates throughout the 90-day mission.

Tokyo Stocks Fall in Early Trading

TOKYO (AP)

Japanese stocks fell on profit-taking in morning trading Thursday. The benchmark 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average shed 143.54 points to 18,352.41 at the end of the morning session. In New York Wednesday, the Dow Jones industrial average rose 120.58 points to 10,998.39.

No. 8 Michigan St. Upsets No. 2 N.C.

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (AP)

Second-ranked North Carolina lost its home opener for the first time in 71 years as Morris Peterson scored a career-high 31 points to lead No. 8 Michigan State to an 86-76 victory Wednesday night. The 6-foot-7 Peterson was deadly from various places on the court, going 7-for-10 from the field in the first 20 minutes as the Spartans led by as many as 12.

Load-Date: December 1, 1999

AP Top News at 1 a.m. EST Friday, Nov. 19, 1999

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Body

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11 Killed in Texas A&M Accident

COLLEGE STATION, Texas (AP)

A towering, 40-foot pyramid of logs erected for Texas A&M's traditional football bonfire trembled and then came roaring down early Thursday, crushing at least 11 students to death and injuring 28 others. Two people who had been seen trapped in the rubble Thursday afternoon were confirmed dead later during the night. At least four of the injured were in critical condition.

Pilots Seek End to Crash Theories

CAIRO, Egypt (AP)

Egyptian airline pilots on Thursday called for an end to speculation on the crash of Flight 990, rejecting suggestions that the EgyptAir jetliner's co-pilot downed it in a suicidal dive. Walid Murad, the head of the Egyptian Airline Pilots Association, said co-pilot Gameel El-Batouty was "a high-standard pilot, well trained ... and had good morale." Meanwhile, the State Department urged investigators Thursday to exercise "a maximum degree of cooperation and tact" in drawing conclusions about the culprit in the crash.

ACLU Sues Over 10 Commandments in Ky.

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)

The American Civil Liberties Union on Thursday sued two Kentucky counties and a school district for refusing to remove the Ten Commandments from their school and courthouse walls. The federal lawsuits hearken back to

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another Kentucky case that lead to the U.S. Supreme Court's 1980 ruling that posting the Ten Commandments in schools amounted to government promotion of religion. As with the previous case, defiant officials are vowing to keep the commandments in place until a judge orders them removed.

SC Gov. Seeks Confederate Flag Vote

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP)

South Carolina Gov. Jim Hodges urged legislators Thursday to set a date to vote on removing the Confederate battle flag from the Capitol dome. The flag has flown there for three decades and survived sporadic efforts to lower it. This year, the NAACP announced plans for a national tourism boycott of the state to pressure the state to remove it. Opponents see the battle flag as a symbol of racism and slavery. Supporters say it honors South Carolina's Confederate past. South Carolina is the only state to still fly the Confederate battle flag over its Statehouse.

Bush Lays Out Foreign Policy Plans

WINDSOR HEIGHTS, Iowa (AP)

Texas Gov. George W. Bush vowed to draw a "stark contrast" with conservative rivals on foreign policy Thursday as he calls for a "new American internationalism." In a speech to be delivered tomorrow, Bush will lay out an activist role on issues including new trade deals, strengthened alliances with other countries and development of regional missile defense systems around the world. Bush told reporters he will push for expanded trade with the giant Chinese market and call for more spending to help Russia continue to destroy its nuclear stockpile.

Bradley, Gore Wives Appear Together

BOISE, Idaho (AP)

Their husbands have little chance of winning this overwhelmingly Republican state next year, but Democrats hoped the first joint appearance Thursday by the wives of Al Gore and Bill Bradley would help energize their slumping state party. Tipper Gore and Ernestine Schlant Bradley both addressed the Ada County Democrats' biennial JFK Dinner, which drew about 850 people. Each attended fund-raising receptions for local and state Democrats before the event at Boise State University.

Tokyo Stocks Rise

TOKYO (AP)

Japanese stocks gained early Friday. The benchmark 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average rose 220.85 points to 18,753.66 points at midday. In New York, the Dow Jones industrial average closed up 152.61 points at 11,035.70 Thursday its first close above 11,000 in more than two months.

Allen Leads Bucks Past Spurs

MILWAUKEE (AP)

Ray Allen had 26 points and Dale Ellis scored all of his 13 points in the fourth quarter as the Milwaukee Bucks beat the San Antonio Spurs 99-88 Thursday night. Tim Duncan had 29 points and 14 rebounds and David Robinson added 21 points for the Spurs, but the defending champions missed nine free throws in the second half and faded in the closing minutes.

NewsBrief by ELIZABETH A. KENNEDY

2 Trapped Texas A&M Students Confirmed Dead

COLLEGE STATION, Texas (AP)

AP Top News at 1 a.m. EST Friday, Nov. 19, 1999

Two students who had been seen trapped under rubble after a 40-foot pyramid of logs collapsed early Thursday at Texas A&M University were confirmed dead during the night. The falling logs crushed at least 11 students to death and injured 28 others. At least four of the injured were in critical condition. Workers hoped to get to the bodies of the two students, one male and one **female**, by dawn, said Kem Bennett, an engineer working with the rescue crew. The pyramid was erected for Texas A&M's traditional football bonfire.

Dragging Convict Gets Life Sentence

JASPER, Texas (AP) _The last of three white men to stand trial for chaining James Byrd Jr. to the back of a pickup truck and dragging him to pieces was found guilty of murder Thursday but spared the death penalty. Shawn Allen Berry, who insisted he was just a frightened bystander, was sentenced to life in prison for one of the nation's grisliest racial crimes since the civil rights era. His racist roommates were both sentenced to death. Berry, 24, must serve at least 40 years in prison before he has a chance of parole.

Hurricane Lenny Pounds Caribbean

THE VALLEY, Anguilla (AP)

Hurricane Lenny was "wreaking havoc on St. Maarten and adjacent islands," the U.S. National Weather Service said late Thursday. St. Maarten Lt. Gov. Dennis Richardson said his island was "in a very dangerous situation." Slowed to a dangerous crawl, Lenny pounded the islands of the northeast Caribbean on Thursday. The storm has killed at least seven people and left three others missing. President Clinton on Thursday declared a state of emergency in the U.S. Virgin Islands, allowing residents to apply for federal financial aid.

Kentucky Has Highest Smoking Rate

ATLANTA (AP)

Kentucky, with its tradition of tobacco farming and low taxes on cigarettes and other tobacco products, once again leads the nation in the rate of adult smoking while heavily Mormon Utah still has the lowest rate. Kentucky had a rate of 30.8 percent of adults who smoke cigarettes, according to the CDC's 1998 adult state-by-state smoking report released Thursday, the same day as the Great American Smokeout. The statistics were based on a national telephone survey of people over 18. Smokers were defined as those who have smoked at least 100 cigarettes in their lives and currently smoke every day or some days.

Pilots Seek End to Crash Theories

CAIRO, Egypt (AP)

Egyptian airline pilots on Thursday called for an end to speculation on the crash of Flight 990, rejecting suggestions that the EgyptAir jetliner's co-pilot downed it in a suicidal dive. Walid Murad, the head of the Egyptian Airline Pilots Association, said co-pilot Gameel El-Batouty was "a high-standard pilot, well trained ... and had good morale." Meanwhile, the State Department urged investigators Thursday to exercise "a maximum degree of cooperation and tact" in drawing conclusions about the culprit in the crash.

Gun-Related Death Rate Plummets

ATLANTA (AP)

Gun deaths in the United States dropped 21 percent between 1993 and 1997 to the lowest level in more than 30 years, and firearm-related injuries fell 41 percent, the government said Thursday. Experts cited such reasons as tougher gun control laws, a booming economy, better police work and gun safety courses. The study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention looked at all gunshot wounds reported at emergency rooms, whether they were intentional, accidental or self-inflicted. The number of fatalities dropped from 39,595 15.4 gun deaths per 100,000 people in 1993, to 32,436 12.1 per 100,000 in 1997.

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Tokyo Stocks Close Up

TOKYO (AP)

The Nikkei Stock Average closed at 18,570.84 points, up 38.03 points on the Tokyo Stock Exchange Friday.

SuperSonics Defeat Grizzlies 110-108

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP)

Gary Payton helped the Seattle SuperSonics rally from a 10-point deficit in the final 1:39 Thursday night for a 110-108 victory over the Vancouver Grizzlies. Payton scored seven points as the Sonics closed the game with a 14-2 run. He finished with 24 points. The Sonics overcame their own frustrations after Baker was ejected on a double-technical foul four minutes into the fourth quarter. After Baker, who had to be restrained by Vernon Maxwell, left the court, Brent Price hit both free throws as the Grizzlies opened up a 95-81 lead. Payton said Baker's eruption sparked the Sonics.

NewsBrief by ELIZABETH A. KENNEDY

Deposed Premier Formally Charged

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP)

Surrounded by heavily armed paramilitary rangers, deposed premier Nawaz Sharif arrived Friday at an anti-terrorist court to be formally charged with treason and kidnapping. Both charges carry the death penalty or life in prison. Police sirens blared as several police vehicles and an armored personnel carrier carrying Sharif roared up to the courthouse, witnesses said. This was Sharif's first public appearance since the bloodless army coup on Oct. 12 overthrew his increasingly unpopular government.

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Court Delays Formally Charging Deposed Premier

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP)

An antiterrorist court on Friday delayed formally charging Pakistan's deposed premier, instead sending him back into police custody for at least eight days, public prosecutor Feroz Mahmood Bhatti said. Former premier Nawaz Sharif, who left the courthouse in an armored personnel carrier surrounded by paramilitary rangers, was expected

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to have been formally charged. However, Bhatti said the judge remanded him in police custody and ordered the formal charges of treason and kidnapping to be filed by Nov. 26.

House Passes \$390B Budget Bill

WASHINGTON (AP)

A stormy year in Congress tottered toward its end with the Senate taking up a House-passed bill that would provide \$390 billion for federal programs while assuring another year of government surpluses. The 2,000-page bill that would complete Congress' budgetary duties for the year swept through the House on Thursday on a 296-135 vote. It faced a trickier road through the Senate, although eventual passage was near certain. Several senators, protecting homestate interests, threatened to delay that final vote to protest provisions affecting such issues as satellite TV regulations, mining rights and dairy prices.

Texas A&M Bonfire Accident Kills 11

COLLEGE STATION, Texas (AP)

A towering, 40-foot pyramid of logs erected for Texas A&M's traditional football bonfire trembled and then came roaring down early Thursday, crushing at least 11 students to death and injuring 28 others, at least four critically. Two people who had been seen trapped in the rubble in the afternoon were confirmed dead during the night. Their bodies were pulled from the debris early Friday. Authorities identified them as Michael Ebanks, a freshman, and Miranda Adams, a sophomore from Pasadena, Texas. No hometown was available for Ebanks.

U.S. Wary on Russia-Chechnya Issue

ISTANBUL, Turkey (AP)

Russia may have opened a door to outside intervention in the Chechnya crisis to ease civilian suffering in the breakaway region, but American officials cautioned against expecting a quick end to the war. President Clinton and 53 other world leaders, wrapping up a two-day summit of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, planned to declare their support Friday for a principle Russia has long disputed: that outside intervention in a civil war can be justified if the conflict has the potential of spreading beyond its borders.

Dragging Suspect Gets Life Sentence

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CBS Deal Will Keep NCAA Power Intact

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)

The NCAA's amazing \$6 billion contract with CBS for television rights to the men's basketball tournament ensured that it will remain the governing body of college sports. The NCAA and its power will remain intact. The careers of the people who wield that power will be stronger than ever. And for sure, the organization is richer than ever. This is more money than anyone would have dared imagine just 30 years ago when former executive director Walter Byers used to sell the tournament's radio-TV rights out of his back pocket.

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Caspian Pipeline Accord Reached

ISTANBUL, Turkey (AP)

President Clinton said yesterday a deal to send Caspian Sea oil to world markets without going through Russia or Iran will help ensure that no country can choke off the global energy supply. As Clinton watched, the leaders of Turkey, Azerbaijan and Georgia signed a series of agreements to build a 1,080-mile oil pipeline from the rich fields of Azerbaijan through Georgia to Turkey's Mediterranean port of Ceyhan. In addition, a gas pipeline will be built from Turkmenistan through Turkey.

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THE VALLEY, Anguilla (AP)

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Pilots Seek End to Crash Theories

CAIRO, Egypt (AP)

Rejecting suggestions that a co-pilot sent EgyptAir Flight 990 into a suicidal dive, Walid Murad, head of the Egyptian Airline Pilots Association, said yesterday that other possible conditions including extreme turbulence, rapid decompression, engine flameout and water in the engines could explain what happened on Oct. 31, when the Boeing 767 crashed, killing all 217 people aboard. Murad and other pilots here said the international media are jumping to conclusions about what triggered the crash. The pilots called for an end to such speculation.

Vodafone Revises Mannesmann Bid

LONDON (AP)

Vodafone AirTouch PLC announced today that it is initiating a \$127 billion hostile takeover bid for Germany's Mannesmann AG. In one of the biggest takeover struggles in history, Vodafone's earlier \$73.8 billion all-stock offer was rebuffed by the board members of Mannesmann, the German engineering and telecommunications group. Having failed to win over Mannesmann's board, the British group is approaching the target's shareholders directly. The combined operation would be the world's leading international mobile phone group, with more than 42 million customers worldwide.

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Coyotes Defeat Kings 3-2

LOS ANGELES (AP)

Keith Tkachuk scored the go-ahead goal with 13:53 remaining and Mike Sullivan ended a 60-game drought with a shorthanded goal as the Phoenix Coyotes beat the Los Angeles Kings 3-2 last night. Trevor Letowski also scored for the Coyotes, and Bob Essensa made 29 saves. Essensa was particularly brilliant in the third period, stopping all 15 shots he faced. Aki Berg and Donald Audette scored, and Glen Murray had two assists for the Kings, who lost for only the second time in their last 12 games (8-2-2).

NewsBrief by ELIZABETH A. KENNEDY

(PROFILE

(CO:Vodafone AirTouch PLC; TS:VOD; IG:TLS;)

)

World Leaders Sign Arms Treaty

AP Top News at 1 a.m. EST Friday, Nov. 19, 1999

ISTANBUL, Turkey (AP)

President Clinton joined world leaders today in signing a treaty cutting the number of tanks and non-nuclear weapons systems across Europe. Clinton also said he was encouraged by Russia's willingness to allow more outside access to war-torn Chechnya. "This is a significant move by Russia," Clinton said. Clinton and 53 other world leaders, wrapping up a two-day summit of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, planned to declare their support for a principle Russia has long disputed: that outside intervention in a civil war can be justified if the conflict has the potential of spreading beyond its borders.

Budget Bill Frees Up Embassy Money

WASHINGTON (AP)

Efforts to improve security at U.S. embassies around the world stand to gain from the \$4.5 billion authorized over five years in the budget package nearing final congressional approval. The Clinton administration had requested \$3 billion for fortifying American diplomatic posts in the aftermath of the Aug. 7, 1998, bombings of U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania that killed 224 people, including 12 Americans. The Senate approved that level, while the House-passed bill authorized \$1.4 billion.

Texas A&M Bonfire Accident Kills 11

COLLEGE STATION, Texas (AP)

A towering, 40-foot pyramid of logs erected for Texas A&M's traditional football bonfire trembled and then came roaring down early yesterday, crushing at least 11 students to death and injuring 28 others, at least four critically. Two people who had been seen trapped in the rubble in the afternoon were confirmed dead during the night. Their bodies were pulled from the debris early Friday. Authorities identified them as Michael Ebanks, a freshman, and Miranda Adams, a sophomore from Pasadena, Texas. No hometown was available for Ebanks.

Dragging Suspect Gets Life Sentence

JASPER, Texas (AP) _The last of three white men to stand trial for chaining James Byrd Jr. to the back of a pickup truck and dragging him to pieces was found guilty of murder yesterday but spared the death penalty. Shawn Allen Berry, who insisted he was just a frightened bystander, was sentenced to life in prison for one of the nation's grisliest racial crimes since the civil rights era. His racist roommates were both sentenced to death.

Hurricane Lenny Pounds Caribbean

THE VALLEY, Anguilla (AP)

Slowed to a dangerous, unnerving crawl, Hurricane Lenny pounded the Dutch, French and British islands of the northeast Caribbean yesterday and left a trail of death and debris in its wake. The late-season storm has killed at least seven people and left three others missing from Colombia to Dutch St. Maarten in the northeast Caribbean. Lenny has rattled nerves throughout the region as it zigzagged along a rare west-to-east course before stalling off St. Maarten.

Pilots Seek End to Crash Theories

CAIRO, Egypt (AP)

Rejecting suggestions that a co-pilot sent EgyptAir Flight 990 into a suicidal dive, Walid Murad, head of the Egyptian Airline Pilots Association, said yesterday that other possible conditions including extreme turbulence, rapid decompression, engine flameout and water in the engines could explain what happened on Oct. 31, when the Boeing 767 crashed, killing all 217 people aboard. Murad and other pilots here said the international media are jumping to conclusions about what triggered the crash.

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Vodafone Revises Mannesmann Bid

LONDON (AP)

Vodafone AirTouch PLC announced today that it is initiating a \$127 billion hostile takeover bid for Germany's Mannesmann AG. In one of the biggest takeover struggles in history, Vodafone's earlier \$73.8 billion all-stock offer was rebuffed by the board members of Mannesmann, the German engineering and telecommunications group. Having failed to win over Mannesmann's board, the British group is approaching the target's shareholders directly. The combined operation would be the world's leading international mobile phone group, with more than 42 million customers worldwide.

Tokyo Stocks Close Up

TOKYO (AP)

The Nikkei Stock Average closed at 18,570.84 points, up 38.03 points on the Tokyo Stock Exchange Friday.

Venus Williams Makes Chase Semis

NEW YORK (AP)

Martina Hingis and Venus Williams figured they would meet in the semifinals of the season-ending Chase Championships. "It's fun playing her because she is one of the best players on the tour right now," Hingis said of Williams. The top-seeded Hingis advanced by crushing fifth-seeded Mary Pierce 6-1, 6-2 last night. Williams defeated No. 7 Barbara Schett 6-4, 7-6 (7-2). The other semifinal pairing will be decided tonight when No. 2 Lindsay Davenport plays Germany's Anke Huber and No. 6 Nathalie Tauziat takes on Dominique Van Roost of Belgium.

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(CO:Vodafone AirTouch PLC; TS:VOD; IG:TLS;)

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Clinton: Nireland Talks Making Progress

ISTANBUL, Turkey (AP)

President Clinton today hailed a plan to break a deadlock in the Northern Ireland peace process. "We're moving in the right direction," he said. Clinton, at a 54-nation summit, met privately with Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern to review a compromise package to spur formation of a Protestant-Catholic government for Northern Ireland and prompt the outlawed IRA to disarm. Ahern called the compromise "an opportunity which most people thought we'd never get. We have it now, it's for us to make it work." Clinton and Ahern spoke with reporters on the concluding day of talks of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

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Tokyo Stocks Post 26-Month High

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Tokyo's key stock index closed at its highest level in 26 months today, buoyed by Wall Street's gains overnight and a weaker yen. The Nikkei gained 38.03 points to close at 18,570.84.

Kings, 128 Rockets 110

HOUSTON (AP)

AP Top News at 1 a.m. EST Friday, Nov. 19, 1999

Jason Williams had 23 points and 10 assists as the Sacramento Kings used a 17-1 burst in the fourth quarter to beat Houston 128-110 Thursday night, ending their 11-game losing streak to the Rockets. The Kings won their fourth game in a row and the Rockets dropped to 0-6 in Compaq Center, their worst home start ever.

NewsBrief by VINCENT K. WILLIS

(PROFILE

(CO:Vodafone AirTouch PLC; TS:VOD; IG:TLS;)

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Clinton To Face Protests in Greece

ATHENS, Greece (AP)

Left-wing protest groups vowed to defy sweeping police restrictions when President Clinton visits Athens today, threatening Greece's government with embarrassment. Clinton said today he is not worried about the demonstrations. Three separate downtown rallies were planned to coincide with Clinton's arrival, in protest of his role in NATO's bombing of nearby Yugoslavia during the Kosovo crisis. Clinton said the protests don't bother him because Greece and the United States have been "great allies" despite widespread opposition in Greece to the NATO-led mission in Yugoslavia.

Deposed Premier's Charges Delayed

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP)

Pakistan's deposed premier was returned to custody today after an anti-terrorist court delayed formally charging him with kidnapping and hijacking, prosecutors said. Nawaz Sharif, who left the courthouse in an armored personnel carrier surrounded by paramilitary rangers, was ordered held by police until the charges are filed on Nov. 26. Both charges carry the death penalty or life in prison. Sharif was overthrown Oct. 12 in a bloodless army coup. Since then, he had been held in army custody at an undisclosed location.

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Nuggets 93, Lakers 82

DENVER (AP)

Ron Mercer scored 24 points and Nick Van Exel had 23 against his former team last night as the Denver Nuggets ended a three-game losing streak with a 93-82 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers. Shaquille O'Neal had 36 points and eight rebounds for the Lakers. But he was just 2-for-14 from the foul line, including 1-for-12 in the fourth quarter.

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Fourth L.A. Inmate To Be Freed

LOS ANGELES (AP)

As part of an ongoing corruption probe, prosecutors are expected to ask a judge today to free a man framed on drug charges by a Los Angeles police officer. Former officer Rafael Perez admitted Wednesday that he wrongly accused Oscar Francisco Lafarga of violating probation in 1996, District Attorney Gil Garcetti said yesterday. Lafarga had been on parole for a 1995 conviction for receiving stolen property when he was arrested in May 1996 and charged with possessing cocaine. Garcetti's office said it will support a public defender's request to reinstate probation for 40-year-old Lafarga.

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Nikkei Gains 38 Points

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\$582M Paid to Iraq Invasion Victims

GENEVA (AP)

The U.N. panel that reimburses victims of Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait has paid a new installment of more than half a billion dollars, a spokeswoman said today. The latest disbursement brings to \$4.3 billion the amount the U.N. Compensation Commission has given out to those who suffered during the invasion. The funds come from authorized sales of Iraqi oil. Under the oil-for-food program, Iraq is allowed to export \$5.2 billion of oil every six months to buy food and medicine for its people. The commission receives 30 percent of the revenue.

Fla. To Stop Using AMA Name in Ads

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)

AP Top News at 1 a.m. EST Friday, Nov. 19, 1999

After getting an angry letter from the American Medical Association, the state decided to stop mentioning the association's journal in ads touting the health benefits of orange juice. An AMA lawyer sent the sternly worded letter urging the Florida Department of Citrus to stop using the journal's name in 15-second commercials meant to draw attention to a recently published study. AMA senior counsel Wayne G. Hoppe complained that the commercials were oversimplified and misleading and failed to note that the Florida agency helped pay for the study.

Japanese Stocks Rise

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German Track Star Faces Drug Ban

NEUSS, Germany (AP)

Dieter Baumann, the 1992 Olympic champion in the 5,000 meters, has been suspended after testing positive for steroids, the German Track and Field Association said today. Baumann faces a two-year ban if German track officials rule he used a banned substance. The association said it found the anabolic steroid Nandrolone in his urine during tests conducted Oct. 19 and Nov. 12. Baumann denied being involved with drugs. Baumann has been outspoken in his opposition to drugs in the sport, calling for harsh penalties against athletes caught using illegal substances.

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Texas A&M Launches Bonfire Probe

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Protestant Chief Backs N.Irish Deal

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP)

Ulster Unionist Party leader David Trimble, the Protestant politician at the center of efforts to make last year's Good Friday peace accord work, today began selling a compromise deal with a new, go-for-broke optimism. Trimble had for a year blocked a new Protestant-Catholic government for Northern Ireland in the forlorn hope that the outlawed **Irish Republican Army** would first start to turn in its weapons. Today, the Nobel Peace Prize winner said the package mediated by former U.S. Sen. George Mitchell if endorsed next week by his party's ruling 800-member council would deliver the goal of IRA disarmament.

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S. Korean Agent Orange Hearing Ends

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)

Hearings ended today in a lawsuit by about 2,000 South Korean veterans of the Vietnam War who are seeking \$321 million from U.S. producers of the toxic defoliant Agent Orange. A ruling is expected within two months. Citing their rapidly deteriorating health, the veterans are demanding compensation from Dow Chemical and Monsanto before 2004 at the latest. Both companies have business operations in South Korea. South Korean veterans are also seeking \$1 billion in compensation from the U.S. government and have been in court there since 1984.

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Dow Down 43

NEW YORK (AP)

Just before 10 a.m. EST, the Dow industrials were down 43.12 to 10,992.58. Declining issues on the NYSE led advancers 869-699. The Nasdaq was down 6.61 to 3,340.50.

Strip Club Accused of Crime Link

NEW YORK (AP)

Federal prosecutors say an Atlanta strip club arranged for strippers to offer sexual favors with professional basketball players reportedly members of the New York Knicks at a Charleston, S.C., hotel in 1997. Steven Kaplan, owner of the Gold Club, is one of 16 people named in a federal indictment in Atlanta. He and 11 other defendants pleaded innocent Wednesday before a federal magistrate. He was released on \$2 million bond and the others on \$50,000 bonds. The other four defendants are scheduled to be arraigned today. The New York Daily News today quoted sources close to the case as saying the team in question was the Knicks.

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The president of Texas A&M University is calling for a thorough investigation into the collapse of the school's bonfire structure that left 11 people dead. Ray Bowen says he will bring in technical experts to study why logs being prepared for the annual bonfire gave way yesterday, killing 10 students and one recent graduate. Bowen says the scene of the collapse is being sealed off so university police can conduct an uncompromised investigation. He said he will assemble a task force to study all the factors before deciding if the 90-year-old bonfire tradition should continue. The bonfire is meant to get students fired up for the football game against archrival University of Texas.

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Protestant Chief Backs N.Irish Deal

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP)

Ulster Unionist Party leader David Trimble, the Protestant politician at the center of efforts to make last year's Good Friday peace accord work, today began selling a compromise deal with a new, go-for-broke optimism. Trimble had for a year blocked a new Protestant-Catholic government for Northern Ireland in the forlorn hope that the outlawed **Irish Republican Army** would first start to turn in its weapons. Today, the Nobel Peace Prize winner said the package mediated by former U.S. Sen. George Mitchell if endorsed next week by his party's ruling 800-member council would deliver the goal of IRA disarmament.

Clinton Signs Weapon-Cutting Treaty

ISTANBUL, Turkey (AP)

President Clinton joined world leaders today in signing a treaty cutting the number of tanks and non-nuclear weapons systems across Europe and also said he was encouraged by Russia's willingness to allow more outside access to war-torn Chechnya. Later today, Clinton will fly to Athens for a state visit originally scheduled for last weekend but delayed out of concern that anti-American demonstrations in the Greek capital would not be contained.

McCaughey Septuplets Turn 2

AP Top News at 1 a.m. EST Friday, Nov. 19, 1999

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)

The nation's first living set of septuplets turned 2 today, and their mother says they're at the stage where it's getting easier and easier to have fun with them. The McCaugheys said the mechanics of feeding, clothing and generally caring for so many toddlers has gotten easier as the kids have gotten older and stronger. The children are talking, saying words such as "Mommy," "Daddy," "me" and "bye-bye." All have taken their first steps, though Alexis and Nathan who each suffers from a form of cerebral palsy needed the help of a walker.

Vodafone Makes Bid for Mannesmann

LONDON (AP)

Vodafone AirTouch today announced a hostile takeover bid of the German engineering and telecommunications group Mannesmann worth \$128 billion the biggest takeover offer in history. Having failed to win over Mannesmann's board, Vodafone is approaching the target's shareholders directly. Vodafone, the world's No. 1 mobile phone business, is offering 53.7 of its own shares for each Mannesmann share. The offer is 18 percent higher than Vodafone's initial bid of \$211 per share. Mannesmann rebuffed a friendly all-stock offer on Sunday.

Dow Down 29

NEW YORK (AP)

Just before 11 a.m. EST, the Dow industrials were down 29.67 to 11,006.03. Declining issues on the NYSE led advancers 1,522-984. The Nasdaq was up 6.48 to 3,353.59.

Sotomayor Case Goes to Arbitrator

MONTE CARLO, Monaco (AP)

Track and field's governing body decided today that the controversial drug cases involving Olympic gold medalists Linford Christie of Britain and Javier Sotomayor of Cuba should go to arbitration. Both athletes face bans of up to two years by the International Amateur Athletic Federation. Christie, the 1992 Olympic champion at 100 meters, and Sotomayor, the 1992 high jump gold medalist, failed drug tests but denied the charges and were subsequently cleared by their national federations.

Greeks Stage Anti-Clinton Protests

ATHENS, Greece (AP)

Thousands of left-wing protesters chanting anti-American slogans and burning the U.S. flag gathered in defiance of sweeping security restrictions today as President Clinton flew to Athens. Clinton said the protests don't bother him because Greece and the United States have been "great allies" despite widespread opposition in Greece to the NATO-led mission in Yugoslavia. Many people in Greece, which is a NATO member, sympathized with fellow-Orthodox Serbs that dominate the Yugoslav government and remained bitter at Washington for its widely perceived support of a Greek dictatorship that imposed military rule from 1967-74.

Hurricane Lenny Weakens

THE VALLEY, Anguilla (AP)

Hurricane Lenny has lost much of its punch today as it hovers over the northeast Caribbean. The storm's winds are clocked at about 90 mph, down from 150 mph earlier this week. But, the winds and rain are still a big problem. The storm has been stalled between St. Maarten and St. Barts for much of the morning. Damage on St. Maarten is reported to be severe. The hurricane is unlikely to strike the mainland United States but could bring heavy surf capable of eroding beaches in Florida, hundreds of miles away, according to the National Hurricane Center in Miami. The late-season storm has killed at least seven people.

AP Top News at 1 a.m. EST Friday, Nov. 19, 1999

Texas A&M Launches Bonfire Probe

COLLEGE STATION, Texas (AP)

The president of Texas A&M University is calling for a thorough investigation into the collapse of the school's bonfire structure that left 11 people dead. Ray Bowen says he will bring in technical experts to study why logs being prepared for the annual bonfire gave way yesterday, killing 10 students and one recent graduate. Bowen said he will assemble a task force to study all the factors before deciding if the 90-year-old bonfire tradition should continue. The bonfire is meant to get students fired up for the football game against archrival University of Texas.

France Gripped by Transport Strikes

PARIS (AP)

Striking transport workers brought buses, subways and trams to a standstill today in Marseille and Lyon in a dispute over pay and working conditions. In Lyon, travelers faced a fourth day of disruption and long, cold walks to work with only four out of 600 buses running and only one automatic subway line in action. In Paris, trains were running but passengers had to contend with overflowing bins and piles of rubbish on the platforms as a strike by subway cleaners entered its ninth day.

McCaughey Septuplets Turn 2

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)

The parents of the nation's first living set of septuplets say life is getting easier for them now that the seven toddlers have turned two. Kenny and Bobbi McCaughey say it's more fun now because the kids are so interactive. The children are talking, saying words such as "Mommy," "Daddy," "me" and "bye-bye." All have taken their first steps, though Alexis and Nathan who each suffers from a form of cerebral palsy needed the help of a walker. The McCaugheys plan a simple party with cake at home in Carlisle.

Caterpillar Warns of Poor Profits

PEORIA, Ill. (AP)

Caterpillar warned today that its fourth-quarter profits will tumble because of continued slow machine sales. The world's largest maker of heavy machinery now expects fourth-quarter results to be slightly higher than the 61 cents a share profit from this year's third quarter. Industry analysts surveyed by First Call/Thomson Associates had expected earnings of 97 cents a share, up from 83 cents a share in the fourth quarter of last year.

Dow Down 31

NEW YORK (AP)

Just before noon EST, the Dow industrials were down 31.50 to 11,004.20. Declining issues on the NYSE led advancers 1,725-1,017. The Nasdaq was down 0.56 to 3,346.55.

Talaja Reaches Volvo Tennis Semis

PATTAYA, Thailand (AP)

Top-seeded Silvia Talaja of Croatia beat eighth-seeded Nicole Pratt of Australia 6-0, 6-2 today to gain a semifinal berth in the Volvo Women's Open. Talaja will meet fourth-seeded Anne Kremer of Luxembourg. Kremer defeated unseeded Swede Asa Carlsson 6-3, 7-6 (10-8). Seventh-seeded Denisa Chladkova of the Czech Republic was upset by Joannette Kruger of South Africa 7-6 (10-2), 6-1. Chladkova will face Magdalena Maleeva of Bulgaria in the semifinals.

Bush Warns Against Isolationism

AP Top News at 1 a.m. EST Friday, Nov. 19, 1999

SIMI VALLEY, Calif. (AP)

George W. Bush today will caution against retreating to a U.S. foreign policy based on isolationism and protectionism, calling it a "shortcut to disaster" that would invite challenges to America's power as a world leader. The Republican presidential front-runner will back shifting the country's relationship with Russia and China from one of "strategic partners" to that of competitors engaged "without ill-will but without illusions." The remarks were prepared for delivery at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library.

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Dragging Defendant Begins Sentence

JASPER, Texas (AP)

The family of James Byrd Jr. conducted a quiet graveside memorial for him today, as the last of his killers began a life sentence handed down by a Jasper County jury. The all-white jury sentenced Shawn Allen Berry, 24, to life in prison less than two hours after finding him guilty of capital murder for the dragging death of the 49-year-old black man. The decision means Berry avoids the fate of his two co-defendants, avowed white supremacists John William King and Lawrence Russell Brewer who were sentenced to die earlier this year. Berry must spend at least 40 years in prison before he can be paroled.

Mannesmann Board Rejects Vodafone Offer

LONDON (AP)

The board of German telecommunications group Mannesmann has rejected a hostile takeover offer from British group Vodafone AirTouch today, saying the \$128 billion bid wasn't enough. The offer is the biggest ever, dwarfing MCI WorldCom's record \$115 billion friendly bid last month for Sprint. Vodafone will now approach Mannesmann's shareholders directly with its sweetened offer.

AP Top News at 1 a.m. EST Friday, Nov. 19, 1999

Dow Down 26; Nasdaq Up 14

NEW YORK (AP)

Just before 1 p.m. EST, the Dow industrials were down 26.00 at 11,009.70. Declining issues on the NYSE led advancers 1,787-1,020. The Nasdaq was up 14.55 at 3,361.66

Minnesota Athletic Director Resigns

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)

Minnesota men's athletics director Mark Dienhart announced his resignation today, hours before a report was due on a university investigation into academic fraud in the basketball program. Dienhart said he would leave the university Dec. 6. He said he was confident the report would show he knew nothing about the academic fraud. University officials have said the report will confirm massive academic fraud. The report is the result of the university's eight-month investigation into the allegations. Aside from academic cheating, it will confirm improper cash payments to players under former coach Clem Haskins.

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U.N. Extends Iraq Oil-Food Program

UNITED NATIONS (AP)

The U.N. Security Council approved a two-week extension of the U.N. humanitarian program for Iraq today but remained deeply divided on a new long-term policy toward Baghdad. The 15-member council voted unanimously on the brief extension for the U.N. oil-for-food program, which was set to expire tomorrow, but differences remain on how and when it should be expanded in the future. The five permanent council members the United States, Britain, Russia, China and France are seeking to end a nearly yearlong deadlock on a new long-term policy that would restart U.N. weapons inspections and offer Iraq the possibility of suspending U.N. sanctions.

Gore Proposes Pension Protections

MANCHESTER, N.H. (AP)

Vice President Al Gore offered proposals today to protect workers' pensions when their companies convert to new plans. He backed a law requiring employers to give workers 45 days' notice of any conversion of their pension plans. Within 30 days of any switch, Gore would require that each individual worker be given "a clear statement of how he or she would be affected by the switch." Later today, Gore will speaking to Claremont High School students about his personal experiences as an Army reporter in Vietnam.

Bush Warns Against Isolationism

SIMI VALLEY, Calif. (AP)

George W. Bush today will caution against retreating to a U.S. foreign policy based on isolationism and protectionism, calling it a "shortcut to disaster" that would invite challenges to America's power as a world leader. The Republican presidential front-runner will back shifting the country's relationship with Russia and China from one

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Dow Down 20; Nasdaq Up 20

NEW YORK (AP)

Just before 2 p.m. EST, the Dow industrials were down 20.19 at 11,015.51. Declining issues on the NYSE led advancers 1,812-1,083. The Nasdaq was up 20.55 at 3,367.66.

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MINNEAPOLIS (AP)

Minnesota athletic director Mark Dienhart quit today before a report was due on a university investigation into academic fraud in the basketball program. Dienhart said he will leave the school Dec. 6. He said he was confident the report would show he knew nothing about the academic fraud. Aside from academic cheating, the report will confirm improper cash payments to players under former coach Clem Haskins and behavior by faculty members who aided in the fraud, an unidentified source told the Saint Paul Pioneer Press. Faculty members involved in the fraud could be fired or face severe disciplinary action.

Senate Breaks Budget Logjam

WASHINGTON (AP)

Congressional leaders have broken a logjam, allowing a vote this afternoon on the \$390 billion budget package approved earlier by the House. The vote will allow Congress to adjourn for the year. Dairy-state senators from the Midwest had been threatening to block a vote until early tomorrow morning, but they gave up the threat. The budget package includes money for everything from hiring teachers and police to paying back dues to the United Nations.

NTSB Head Denounces Speculation

WASHINGTON (AP)

The National Transportation Safety Board chairman said today some speculation about the possible causes of the fatal EgyptAir crash is "flat wrong." But he twice said he had informed authorities that the crash "might be the result of a deliberate act." James Hall, the official, said speculation about words captured on the cockpit voice recorder has "caused pain for the families" of the crash victims and "done a disservice to the longstanding friendship between the people of the United States of America and Egypt."

AP Top News at 1 a.m. EST Friday, Nov. 19, 1999

Bonfire Probe Focuses on Center Pole

COLLEGE STATION, Texas (AP)

The spliced-together, 100-foot center pole in the Texas A&M bonfire crib emerged today as the focus of the investigation into why the 40-foot pyramid of logs collapsed with a loud crack, killing 11 young people. The last two bodies were pulled from the timber pile early this morning as a pall of grief descended over the campus during what is supposed to be one of the most exciting periods of the year: the runup to the big football game against the University of Texas.

Greeks Stage Anti-Clinton Protests

ATHENS, Greece (AP)

Thousands of left-wing protesters clashed with police and set dozens of stores ablaze today as President Clinton arrived in Athens, but the President said the demonstrations won't worry him. Dark smoke hung over parts of downtown and bare mannequins were strewn across streets and piles of garbage set afire by hooded demonstrators. Most of the violence was carried out by a few hundred self-proclaimed anarchists. The Greek Communist Party, which organized the rally to protest NATO's bombing of Yugoslavia, called on supporters to go home.

Russians Surround Chechen Capital

SERNOVODSK, Russia (AP)

Through heavy fog, Russian troops and helicopter gunships today mounted attacks on a half dozen towns in the breakaway republic of Chechnya, and the military claimed to have the capital of Grozny 80 percent surrounded. Army officials said they expected to take the rebel stronghold of Bamut, in western Chechnya, this weekend after weeks of shelling. Still, Russia faces a long struggle for the loyalty of Chechens. Thousands of civilians have been killed in indiscriminate Russian attacks, Chechen officials say, and more than 217,000 others have fled.

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Boeing Settles Bias Claim for \$4.5M

WASHINGTON (AP)

The Boeing Co. will pay at least \$4.5 million under a four-year agreement with the government to end salary discrimination against women and minorities, the Labor Department said today. Under the settlement, Boeing has agreed to pay \$2.6 million in back pay and the rest of the \$4.5 million in prospective pay adjustments. But the company must spend more if necessary after a companywide review of its pay policies. The cash compensation would be available only to salaried and executive-level workers. The deal also requires Boeing to change the way its hiring decisions are made.

Dow Down 3.67

NEW YORK (AP)

AP Top News at 1 a.m. EST Friday, Nov. 19, 1999

Just before 3 p.m. EST, the Dow industrials were down 3.67 at 11,032.03. Declining issues on the NYSE led advancers 1,838-1,121. The Nasdaq was up 19.90 at 3,367.01.

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Minnesota athletic director Mark Dienhart quit today before a report was due on a university investigation into academic fraud in the basketball program. Dienhart said he will leave the school Dec. 6. He said he was confident the report would show he knew nothing about the academic fraud. The report will confirm improper cash payments to players under former coach Clem Haskins and behavior by faculty members who aided in the fraud, a source told the Saint Paul Pioneer Press.

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Center Pole Focus in Bonfire Probe

COLLEGE STATION, Texas (AP)

Today's investigation into the fatal collapse of logs erected for an enormous bonfire is focusing on a 100-foot center pole meant to hold the bonfire together. The last two bodies of 11 young people killed were pulled from the timber pile early this morning as a pall of grief descended over the campus during what is supposed to be one of the most exciting periods of the year: the runup to the big football game against the University of Texas.

Judge Orders Hearing in Tripp Case

ELLICOTT CITY, Md. (AP)

A judge today ordered a pretrial hearing in the Linda Tripp wiretapping case to determine if criminal charges against her were tainted by her own immunized statements. Judge Diane Leasure said Mrs. Tripp is entitled to a hearing next month at which Maryland prosecutors must show that their case was built completely independent of Mrs. Tripp's cooperation with Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr's investigation of President Clinton. Maryland prosecutors had argued that any hearing on the question should be delayed until after Mrs. Tripp's trial in January.

Senate Breaks Budget Jam

WASHINGTON (AP)

The Senate broke a year-end jam today, clearing the way for final passage of a compromise budget bill and congressional adjournment for the holidays. The agreement was reached after a handful of Midwestern senators abandoned their threat to keep the Senate in session around the clock to protest a provision in the budget bill that they said would be harmful to dairy farms in their states. Also slated for passage before the final gavel fell was a measure to extend expiring several tax breaks, including one for research and development.

Chechen Capital Surrounded by Russians

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Dow Down 21.72

NEW YORK (AP)

Just before the close, the Dow industrials were down 21.72 at 11,013.98. Declining issues on the NYSE led advancers 1,886-1,103. The Nasdaq was up 24.56 at 3,371.67.

NBA Players Linked To Sex Indictment

NEW YORK (AP)

Federal prosecutors say an Atlanta strip club arranged for strippers to offer sexual favors with professional basketball players reportedly members of the New York Knicks at a Charleston, S.C., hotel in 1997. The New York Daily News, quoting unidentified sources, said the team in question was the Knicks. Steven Kaplan, owner of the Gold Club, is one of 16 people named in a federal indictment in Atlanta. He and 11 other defendants pleaded innocent Wednesday. He was released on \$2 million bond and the others on \$50,000 bonds. Knicks spokeswoman Lori Hamamoto refused comment. NBA spokesman Seth Sylvan said the league was monitoring the situation.

Judge Appoints Mediator in Microsoft Case

WASHINGTON (AP)

The judge in the Microsoft antitrust trial appointed a mediator today to oversee "voluntary" settlement talks between the government and the software giant. The surprise move dramatically increases chances for an out-of-court agreement. U.S. District Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson appointed Richard Posner, the widely respected chief judge for the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago. Jackson left it up to Posner to schedule any talks.

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Dow Closes Down 31.81

NEW YORK (AP)

Prices were mixed on Wall Street today as the stock market was unable to settle on a clear direction. The Dow industrials closed down 31.81 at 11,003.89. Declining issues on the NYSE led advancers 1,834-1,224. The Nasdaq was up 21.99 at 3,369.10.

NBA Players Linked To Sex Indictment

NEW YORK (AP)

Federal prosecutors say an Atlanta strip club arranged for strippers to offer sexual favors with professional basketball players reportedly members of the New York Knicks at a Charleston, S.C., hotel in 1997. The New York Daily News, quoting unidentified sources, said the team in question was the Knicks. Steven Kaplan, owner of the Gold Club, is one of 16 people named in a federal indictment in Atlanta. He and 11 other defendants pleaded innocent Wednesday. He was released on \$2 million bond and the others on \$50,000 bonds. Knicks spokeswoman Lori Hamamoto refused comment. NBA spokesman Seth Sylvan said the league was monitoring the situation.

Mediator Assigned to Microsoft Case

WASHINGTON (AP)

The judge in the Microsoft antitrust trial appointed a mediator today to oversee "voluntary" settlement talks between the government and the software giant. The surprise move dramatically increases chances for an out-of-court agreement. U.S. District Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson appointed Richard Posner, the widely respected chief judge for the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago. Jackson left it up to Posner to schedule any talks. Jackson, who ruled two weeks ago that Microsoft is a monopoly that stifled competition and hurt consumers, has encouraged the two sides to settle.

Pakistan Delays Charging Ex-Premier

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP)

Looking fatigued after more than a month in what he described as a cold room in the hills, former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif appeared in public today for the first time since he was deposed, arriving at court in an armored personnel carrier. Sharif, counterattacking after being charged with hijacking and treason, said it was the military coup-makers who hijacked democracy by overthrowing an elected leader. Throngs of police and soldiers encircled the former premier to keep the crowds back and whisked him into the court building, where he was ordered held until formal charges of hijacking and treason are filed against him Nov. 26.

AP Top News at 1 a.m. EST Friday, Nov. 19, 1999

Texas A&M Bonfire Probe Narrows

COLLEGE STATION, Texas (AP)

Today's investigation into the fatal collapse of logs being erected for an enormous Texas A&M rally is focusing on a 100-foot center pole meant to hold the bonfire together. The last two bodies of 11 young people killed were pulled from the timber pile early this morning as a pall of grief descended over the campus during what is supposed to be one of the most exciting periods of the year: the runup to the big football game against the University of Texas.

EgyptAir Speculation Denounced

WASHINGTON (AP)

While saying some of the speculation surrounding the crash of EgyptAir Flight 990 is "flat wrong," the National Transportation Safety Board chairman twice said he had informed authorities that the crash "might be the result of a deliberate act." James Hall, the official, said speculation about words captured on the cockpit voice recorder has "caused pain for the families" of the crash victims and "done a disservice to the longstanding friendship between the people of the United States of America and Egypt."

Gore Finds Vietnam Is Old Issue

CLAREMONT, N.H. (AP)

Stevens High School invited Al Gore — "Brother Buck" to his military buddies to speak today about his experiences in Vietnam. But no student questioned the vice president about Vietnam reflecting, perhaps, the dying flame of the 1960s conflict as a political issue. "We're a part of the world today. We weren't part of Vietnam," said sophomore Kevin Clarkson. Separately, Gore defended his mingling of campaign objectives with official travel at taxpayer expense.

Russians Troops Squeezing Grozny

SERNOVODSK, Russia (AP)

Russian troops attacked six towns in the breakaway republic of Chechnya today, with the military claiming to have the capital of Grozny 80-percent surrounded. Army officials said they expected to take the rebel stronghold of Bamut, in western Chechnya, this weekend after weeks of shelling. Still, Russia faces a long struggle for the loyalty of Chechens. Thousands of civilians have been killed in indiscriminate Russian attacks, Chechen officials say, and more than 217,000 others have fled.

Senate Condemns Russia on Chechnya

WASHINGTON (AP)

The Senate today condemned "the use of indiscriminate force" by the Russian military against civilians in the breakaway region of Chechnya and suggested that Russia consider submitting the conflict to third-party mediation. By unanimous voice vote, the Senate approved a strongly worded bipartisan resolution urging Russia to allow international relief workers into the province and to do more to assist the tens of thousands who have fled the offensive Russia began in September.

Dow Closes Down 31.81

NEW YORK (AP)

Prices were mixed on Wall Street today as the stock market was unable to settle on a clear direction. The Dow industrials closed down 31.81 at 11,003.89. Declining issues on the NYSE led advancers 1,834-1,224. The Nasdaq was up 21.99 at 3,369.10.

AP Top News at 1 a.m. EST Friday, Nov. 19, 1999

Redskins Stadium Becomes FedEx Field

WASHINGTON (AP)

The home of the Washington Redskins gets its second name change of the year Sunday. The facility formerly known as Jack Kent Cooke Stadium and currently called Redskins Stadium will be renamed FedEx Field before kickoff of the home game against the New York Giants. This week, Federal Express and the Redskins completed a 27-year deal for the naming rights to the 80,166-seat stadium in Landover, Md.

Greeks Stage Anti-Clinton Protests

ATHENS, Greece (AP)

Thousands of left-wing protesters chanting anti-American slogans clashed with police and set dozens of stores ablaze today as President Clinton arrived in Athens. Clinton said the demonstrations wouldn't worry him and that he hoped his visit would highlight "the changing face of Greece." Riot police wearing gas masks faced off with more than 10,000 people in front of the parliament building in central Syndagma Square, using tear gas to push back a group that rushed them. Stores and banks were ablaze in central Athens as baton-wielding riot squads hurled dozens of tear gas canisters at protesters who set up fiery roadblocks and cut off main avenues.

Judge Assigns Mediator in Microsoft Case

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Texas A&M Launches Accident Probe

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Investigators focused today on the 100-foot, spliced-together center pole in the Texas A&M bonfire pyramid as they tried to learn why a huge stack of logs collapsed with a loud crack, killing 11 young people. The last two bodies were pulled from the sprawling timber pile early today as grief paralyzed the campus during what is supposed to be one of the most exciting times of the year: the runup to the big football game against the University of Texas. "We're still trying to understand it," Texas A&M President Ray Bowen said Friday.

Charges Delayed for Pakistan's Ex-Premier

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White House: China Agreement Is Best Deal

WASHINGTON (AP)

The trade agreement the United States reached with China this week is better than the deal President Clinton walked away from in April and will address concerns raised by labor unions and supporters of human rights, the administration said today. However, AFL-CIO President John Sweeney charged that the agreement "treats human rights as a disposable nuisance," and he pledged labor unions will work to defeat the measure when it comes up for a vote next year in Congress.

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Together Again: Sprewell and Carlesimo

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Anti-American protesters in Greece battled baton-wielding riot police and set stores and banks ablaze Friday as President Clinton rode through Athens in a tight security cocoon. The violence erupted from bands of leftists and anarchists among more than 10,000 demonstrators blocked from marching on the U.S. Embassy in central Athens. Police hurled tear gas canisters at protesters who set up fiery roadblocks and hurled paving stones and cement flower pots. Although the protests were broadcast live in television, Clinton saw none of the unrest. He was warmly greeted at the airport and rode into town on police-lined streets that had been cleared of all traffic hours before.

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NTSB Says Crash Might Be Deliberate

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More Volcanoes Found on Jupiter

WASHINGTON (AP)

Jupiter's moon Io, the most active body in the solar system, is wracked by more than 100 volcanoes and is dotted with lava lakes, towering plumes of ash and rivers of molten rock that dwarf anything on Earth. New close-up views and measurements from the Galileo spacecraft show that just one of the volcanoes on Io puts out more heat than all of the volcanoes on Earth combined, NASA scientists said Friday. Rosaly Lopes-Gautier of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory said that images snapped by Galileo instruments show that an Io volcano called Loki is the most powerful in the solar system.

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Congress Approves Budget Deal

WASHINGTON (AP)

Congress granted final approval today to its budget deal with President Clinton and neared the end of a rocky year was dominated by gridlock but ended in cooperation. By 74-24, the Senate sent Clinton a mammoth, \$390 billion spending measure that was the product of weeks of bargaining and covered the sweep of government, from helping small businesses to maintaining the country's role in diplomacy. It contained political victories for both parties. The prospect of an all-night Senate session abruptly vanished after dairy-state senators consented to drop procedural delays that threatened to keep lawmakers working almost until dawn.

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Texas Tobacco Attorneys Get \$3.3B

AUSTIN (AP)

Private lawyers hired to represent Texas in the state's lawsuit against the tobacco industry today agreed to accept \$3.3 billion for their work instead of seeking more money from the state. The five were awarded the \$3.3 billion by a national arbitration panel as compensation for their work on the settlement that gave Texas \$17.3 billion from tobacco companies. The money is being paid over 25 years. The private lawyers were under a federal judge's order to decide by Friday whether to accept that amount or try to collect under their original state contract, which called for them to get 15 percent of whatever Texas receives from the tobacco industry.

DaimlerChrysler Cars Investigated

WASHINGTON (AP)

Federal regulators said today they were investigating some older model DaimlerChrysler cars because of hundreds of consumer complaints about steering problems. There are about 850,000 of the 1994 through 1996 model Eagle Vision, Intrepid, New Yorker, Concorde and LHS cars on the road. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration report said there were 1,450 consumer complaints of steering control problems on the cars. There are a high number of warranty claims on the steering system more than 55,000, the report says. However, no crashes or injuries have been reported.

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Ex-Coach Sues Nike Over Logo Flap

NEW YORK (AP)

Nike and St. John's University were hit today with an \$11 million lawsuit accusing them of forcing the resignation last year of an assistant soccer coach who refused to wear the sneaker company's swoosh. At issue was a multimillion-dollar licensing deal between the nation's largest Roman Catholic university and the Oregon sneaker company. Under the deal, the university's coaches and athletes wore athletic equipment with the Nike logo. The

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coach was convinced that supporting Nike's "sweatshops" was "in direct violation of the social teaching of the Catholic Church and the mission of our university."

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The Senate sent President Clinton a \$390 billion spending measure today that covered the sweep of government from helping small businesses to maintaining the country's role in diplomacy. Passed by a 72-24 vote, it contained political victories for both parties, as demonstrated by the lopsided, bipartisan support for the final vote. The measure gave Clinton victories with money for hiring teachers and police officers, buying land for parks, paying arrears to the United Nations and expanding efforts to forgive debts of poor nations. It let Republicans claim wins by saying they had limited Clinton's demands for extra spending to \$6 billion and rejected his calls for higher taxes on cigarettes and other items.

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WASHINGTON (AP)

Officials connected with the investigation of EgyptAir 990 said at a news conference today that the crash might have been the result of a deliberate act. As they looked at wreckage and other evidence from the Oct. 31 crash, "our investigators began to feel that the crash might and I emphasize might be the result of a deliberate act," chairman James Hall of the National Transportation Safety Board said at a news conference. The New York-to-Cairo jetliner crashed off Massachusetts' Nantucket Island, killing all 217 people aboard, including two pilots and two relief pilots.

Texas A&M Launches Accident Probe

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Grief paralyzed the Texas A & M campus today as investigators tried to figure out why a 100-foot bonfire pyramid collapsed, killing 11 young people. Earlier, the last two bodies were pulled from the sprawling timber pile during what is supposed to be one of the most exciting times of the year: the runup to the big football game against the University of Texas. The building and lighting of the bonfire is a deeply held, 90-year tradition on this football-mad campus of 43,000 about 90 miles northwest of Houston. Early Thursday, the stack came roaring down in a heap, crushing students who were assembling it.

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Clinton Greeted in Greece by Protest

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President Clinton was warmly greeted at the Athens airport, but hundreds of anti-American protesters battled baton-wielding riot police and set stores and banks ablaze. The riots were the most violent in downtown Athens in several years and the worst of any of Clinton's overseas trips. Many Greeks believe the United States favors regional rival Turkey in territorial disputes and war-divided Cyprus. Greeks also were angered by the U.S.-led bombing against

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Yugoslavia. Moreover, there are bitter memories of U.S. support for the old Greek military junta that crushed a student uprising in 1973.

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Agent Says Dodgers Broke U.S. Law

NEW YORK (AP)

A baseball agent accused the Los Angeles Dodgers of breaking U.S. law by entering Cuba to sign young prospects. Responding to remarks earlier this week by Los Angeles Dodgers senior vice president Tommy Lasorda, agent Joe Cubas denied Lasorda's accusation that he arranged for Cuban defectors to escape on yachts. Earlier this year, the commissioner's office voided the contracts two Cuban prospects signed with the Dodgers and fined the team \$200,000, ruling the players were 15 when they signed. Baseball rules prohibit teams from signing players until they are 16.

Congress Approves Budget Deal

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Congress granted final approval by a 72-24 vote today to its grand budget deal with President Clinton and adjourned after a rocky year that began with impeachment. The \$390 billion spending measure covered the sweep of government from helping small businesses to maintaining the country's role in diplomacy. It contained political victories for both parties, as demonstrated by the lopsided, bipartisan support for the final vote. The measure gave Clinton victories with money for hiring teachers and police officers, buying land for parks, paying arrears to the United Nations and expanding efforts to forgive debts of poor nations.

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Arafat Insists on Jerusalem Capital

AP Top News at 1 a.m. EST Friday, Nov. 19, 1999

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP)

Yasser Arafat's cabinet insisted Friday that no final agreement would be reached with Israel if the Palestinians were not allowed to establish their capital in east Jerusalem. The dispute over the sector of the city, which Israel captured in 1967 and later annexed, has been one of the thorniest issues of the peace process and was saved for the last phase of negotiations. Israel has insisted it will not agree to surrender control over any part of Jerusalem, which it calls the state's "eternal" capital.

U.N. Extends Iraq Oil-Food Program

UNITED NATIONS (AP)

The U.N. Security Council approved Friday a two-week stop-gap extension of its humanitarian program for Iraq. During this period the council will try to break months of deadlock over a new comprehensive policy on Iraq. While Britain and the United States said there was now momentum to reach an agreement hopefully within two weeks, Russia and China stressed that major differences remained, and insisted there could be no artificial deadline. The United States has demanded Iraq fully disarm before U.N. sanctions imposed after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait are suspended.

NAACP Wants SAT Scores De-emphasized

LOS ANGELES (AP)

The NAACP today called for a de-emphasis of SAT scores as a factor in college admissions. The organization will also work for state-funded test preparation for all minorities. Bias in the Scholastic Aptitude Test and the American College Test is reflected in drastically lower scores for young women, black, Latino and American Indian students compared to scores for white and Asian students, said Jay Rosner, executive director of Princeton Review Foundation. The NAACP's national council voted this week to adopt a two-pronged policy for the state-funded test preparation while working to change the tests with the SAT's College Board, the Ewing, N.J.-based group that administers the test.

Tax Man Collects From 'Millionaire'

NEW YORK (AP)

John Carpenter, of Hamden, Conn., won the largest one-time cash prize in the history of American television, excluding lotteries, according to ABC. A question about Richard Nixon was worth \$1 million to the first "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire" contestant to win the top prize. While disclosing no decision on whether he will leave the IRS, he said he plans to use part of his winnings to improve his home and to take a vacation with his wife, Debbie.

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Kentucky Beats Utah 56-48

LEXINGTON, Ky. (AP)

Saul Smith and Desmond Allison made clutch jump shots in the final two minutes as No. 14 Kentucky held off No. 16 Utah 56-48 tonight and advanced to the Preseason NIT semifinals. With Kentucky leading 48-46, Smith stripped Tony Harvey and raced the length of the floor, pulling up on the left baseline for a turnaround 6-footer to put

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Kentucky up by four with 1:58 left. Smith and Tayshaun Prince each added free throws in the final minute to seal the win. Kentucky will play the winner of tonight's Tulane-Maryland game in the tournament semifinals Wednesday.

Mediator To Work on Microsoft Case

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In a move that dramatically increases chances for an out-of-court agreement between the government and Microsoft, Richard Posner, the chief judge for the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago, was appointed today to mediate settlement talks. Microsoft spokesman Jim Cullinan said the company wants to "reach a fair and reasonable solution." Shares of Microsoft, which closed up \$1.061/4 at \$86 in trading today, surged on the news in after-hours trading, rising as high as \$90.97. Two weeks ago U.S. Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson moved that Microsoft is a monopoly that stifled competition and hurt consumers. Jackson structured his verdict to come in two phases in an apparent effort to push lawyers toward the bargaining table.

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By a 72-24 vote, Congress granted final approval today to its grand budget deal with President Clinton and adjourned after a rocky year that began with impeachment. The \$390 billion spending measure covered the sweep of government from helping small businesses to maintaining the country's role in diplomacy. It contained political victories for both parties, as demonstrated by the lopsided, bipartisan support for the final vote. The measure gave Clinton victories with money for hiring teachers and police officers, buying land for parks, paying arrears to the United Nations and expanding efforts to forgive debts of poor nations.

12th Student Dies at Texas A & M

COLLEGE STATION, Texas (AP)

A 12th student died today while stacking logs to build a bonfire at Texas A & M. Early Thursday, the stack came roaring down in a heap, crushing students who were assembling it. Officials have said about 70 people were stacking the logs upright in layers when the pile gave way. Some students were hurled from the structure. Others were trapped in the shifting logs. The building and lighting of the bonfire is a 90-year tradition on this football-mad campus of 43,000 about 90 miles northwest of Houston.

Arafat Wants E. Jerusalem Capital

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP)

The dispute over Jerusalem continued in the middle east as Yasser Arafat's cabinet insisted Friday that no final agreement would be reached with Israel if the Palestinians were not allowed to establish their capital in east Jerusalem. Jerusalem, which Israel captured in 1967 and later annexed, has been one of the thorniest issues of the peace process and was saved for the last phase of negotiations. Israel has insisted it will not agree to surrender control over any part of Jerusalem, which it calls the state's "eternal" capital.

NAACP Urges SAT Scores De-emphasized

LOS ANGELES (AP)

Claiming bias in the Scholastic Aptitude Test and the American College Test, the NAACP today called for a de-emphasis of SAT scores as a factor in college admissions. The NAACP's national council voted this week to adopt a two-pronged policy for the state-funded test preparation while working to change the tests with the SAT's College Board, the Ewing, N.J.-based group that administers the test. Minorities score drastically lower on these tests compared to scores for white and Asian students, said Jay Rosner, executive director of Princeton Review Foundation.

AP Top News at 1 a.m. EST Friday, Nov. 19, 1999

Conn. Man Wins \$1 Million on Gameshow

NEW YORK (AP)

John Carpenter, of Hamden, Conn., today won the largest one-time cash prize in the history of American television. Carpenter, a 31-year-old Internal Revenue Service employee, wasn't taxed by the final question on ABC's hit show "Who Wants To Be a Millionaire?": Which of these U.S. presidents appeared on the television series "Laugh-In"? A. Lyndon Johnson; B. Richard Nixon; C. Jimmy Carter; D. Gerald Ford. The correct answer, of course, was Nixon, who as a presidential candidate in 1968 provided a comic misreading of the popular "Laugh-In" catchphrase by saying, "Sock it to ME?"

Dow Closes Down 31.81

NEW YORK (AP)

Prices were mixed on Wall Street today as the stock market was unable to settle on a clear direction. The Dow industrials closed down 31.81 at 11,003.89. Declining issues on the NYSE led advancers 1,834-1,224. The Nasdaq was up 21.99 at 3,369.10.

Timberwolves Beat Jazz 89-84

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)

Kevin Garnett scored 29 points and Sam Mitchell tied the franchise career scoring record as the Minnesota Timberwolves never trailed in a hard-fought 89-84 victory over the Utah Jazz today. Garnett scored 12 of his points in the final quarter, holding off a Jazz charge that threatened to hand the Wolves their second straight collapse from an 11-point fourth-quarter lead. Jazz coach Jerry Sloan was ejected for arguing foul calls with official Luis Grillo.

Russia Surrounding Chechen Capital

SERNOVODSK, Russia (AP)

Through heavy fog, Russian troops and helicopter gunships on Friday mounted attacks on a half dozen towns in the breakaway republic of Chechnya, and the military claimed to have the capital of Grozny 80 percent surrounded. Army officials said they expected to take the rebel stronghold of Bamut, in western Chechnya, this weekend after weeks of shelling. Russian officials have said they expect cooperation from Chechens tired of the lawlessness that has plagued the republic since it became effectively independent at the end of the 1994-96 war with Russia.

Congress Passes Budget Deal

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Congress granted final approval Friday to its grand budget deal with President Clinton and adjourned after a rocky year that began with impeachment, was dominated by gridlock but ended in cooperation. By a 74-24 vote, the \$390 billion spending measure covered the sweep of government from helping small businesses to maintaining the country's role in diplomacy. The measure gave Clinton victories with money for hiring teachers and police officers, buying land for parks, paying arrears to the United Nations and expanding efforts to forgive debts of poor nations.

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A 12th student who was crushed while stacking logs to build a bonfire at Texas A&M University died Friday. Tim Kerlee Jr. was a freshman from Bartlett, Tenn. Early Thursday, the stack came roaring down in a heap, crushing students who were assembling it. Officials have said about 70 people were stacking the logs upright in layers when the pile gave way. Some students were hurled from the structure. Others were trapped in the shifting logs. The building and lighting of the bonfire is a 90-year tradition on this football-mad campus of 43,000 about 90 miles northwest of Houston.

New Mexico Boy Shoots Classmate at School

DEMING, N.M. (AP)

A boy dressed in camouflage shot and critically wounded a 13-year-old female classmate in the lobby of their middle school Friday. The girl, Araceli Tena, was in critical condition at Thomason Hospital in El Paso, Texas, with a gunshot wound in the back of the head, a hospital spokeswoman said. She was taken by ambulance to the hospital about 100 miles east of Deming. The boy also pointed a pistol at the principal and assistant principal, who told him to "stay cool," Superintendent Carlos Viramontes said. He was taken into custody shortly after the 12:45 p.m. shooting at Deming Middle School.

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Suns Beat Knicks 96-81

PHOENIX (AP)

Jason Kidd had 16 points and 10 assists as the Phoenix Suns routed the New York Knicks 96-81 Friday night. Kidd also grabbed seven rebounds for the Suns, who were never threatened in the second half. Todd Day came off the bench to scored 20 points for the Suns, won their second straight. Allen Houston had 17 points to lead the Knicks, who have dropped their last two games and six of their last eight.

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Byline: ANDREW DAMPF

Body

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WASHINGTON (AP)

Republicans pressed the White House on Tuesday to accept a small across-the-board cut in federal spending as the two sides edged to the brink of a near-\$400 billion budget deal. President Clinton vetoed a 1 percent reduction in agency budgets two weeks ago, and Democrats have accused the GOP of pursuing mindless, excessive cuts ever since. Eager for political cover, Republican negotiators have offered a 0.42 percent reduction. But Tuesday's bargaining session ended after White House budget chief Jack Lew refused to accept an across-the-board cut, GOP negotiators said.

Agreements Reached at Cuba Summit

HAVANA (AP)

Chilean Gen. Augusto Pinochet's arrest cast a shadow over the Ibero-American summit on Tuesday, with leaders signing a document rejecting any law or action that any country would try to impose on another. That statement was included at the insistence of Chile, whose president, Eduardo Frei, did not attend the summit to protest Spain's attempt to extradite Pinochet from Britain for alleged human rights abuses. The document touched only briefly on the issue of human rights and democracy subjects that were dealt with more extensively with the individual leaders in speeches and news conferences. No one country was singled out for criticism.

Leonid Meteor Shower Begins Slowly

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. (AP)

The heralded Leonid meteor shower opened with a trickle Tuesday night, but star watchers hoped it would swell later into the most spectacular show of shooting stars in decades. NASA, which sent two airplanes aloft to study the meteor shower from above the clouds, counted up to 40 meteors per hour by mid-evening. Later the count trailed off to 10 to 15 meteors per hour. On the ground, there was little or nothing to see in many places. Astronomers have predicted the most shooting stars in a two-hour salvo Wednesday night in North Africa, the Middle East and Europe.

Hurricane Bears Down on Puerto Rico

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SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)

Hurricane Lenny careened past the Dominican Republic Tuesday packing 115 mph winds on a course headed directly at Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Residents who had hoped the storm season was ending found themselves rushing to grocery stores to stock up on water, crackers and canned tuna. People piled up furniture in their homes as officials warned serious flooding was possible. At 10 p.m. EST Tuesday, Lenny was 170 miles south-southwest of San Juan, speeding east-northeast at 16 mph. It became a Category 3, a designation of a dangerous storm with winds from 111-130 mph.

FBI Role in EgyptAir Probe Delayed

NEWPORT, R.I. (AP)

Officials prepared Tuesday to turn over the investigation of the crash of EgyptAir Flight 990 to the FBI _ indicating suspicions of a criminal act but delayed the move at Egypt's request. The development came amid indications someone in the cockpit made a religious utterance just before the jet went into its fatal plunge and that a relief co-pilot may have taken over before the crash, The Associated Press learned. Jim Hall, chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, said in Washington that additional Egyptian experts were joining the investigation.

McCain Decides To Skip Iowa Caucuses

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)

Arizona Sen. John McCain formalized his decision to bypass Iowa, notifying GOP leaders Tuesday that he'll come to the state for two campaign debates but won't compete in the Jan. 24 caucuses. McCain said he made the decision because "the compressed nature of the primary schedule" makes it impossible for candidates without unlimited resources to compete everywhere. Instead, McCain will concentrate his efforts on New Hampshire's leadoff primary, and an early test in South Carolina.

Tokyo Stocks Higher at MIDDAY

TOKYO (AP)

Japanese stocks rose Wednesday morning, bolstered by a rally on Wall Street and a brighter forecast for Japan's economy. The benchmark 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average gained 28.61 points to close the morning session at 18,183.75 points. In New York, the Dow Jones industrial average closed at 10,932.33 on Tuesday, up 171.58.

Spurs Edge Pacers 90-87 in OT

SAN ANTONIO (AP)

Jerome Kersey hit a go-ahead 14-foot jumper with 7.6 seconds left in overtime as the San Antonio Spurs beat the Indiana Pacers 90-87 Tuesday night. Tim Duncan and David Robinson each scored 22 points for San Antonio. Indiana's Jalen Rose tied his career-high with 28 points. Perkins scored 16 points for the Pacers, whose three-game winning streak was snapped.

Baca Wins Calif. Congressional Seat

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. (AP)

A Democratic state senator defeated a Republican businessman in an election Tuesday to replace the late Rep. George E. Brown Jr., a Democratic lawmaker who died in July. The victory of Democrat Joe Baca means that Democrats will continue their nearly two-decade control over a district at the inland edge of Los Angeles' sprawl. With 138 of 202 precincts reporting, Baca had 18,527 votes, or 53.7 percent, and Republican Elia Pirozzi had 14,282 votes, or 41.4 percent. The remaining votes were split between two minor party candidates.

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U.N.-U.S. Relations Still Troubled

UNITED NATIONS (AP)

After a hard-fought campaign to pay off part of its debt to the United Nations, the United States may face an even tougher battle selling the deal's conditions to U.N. members and resurrecting its tarnished reputation in the organization, experts say. Secretary-General Kofi Annan and other U.N. officials and ambassadors welcomed the deal Tuesday, saying it was a good step forward that would prevent the world's most powerful country from losing its vote in the General Assembly.

Banned China Sect Members Protest

BEIJING (AP)

Several members of the banned Falun Gong spiritual movement staged a brief protest in Beijing's Tiananmen Square on Wednesday before police forced them into a van and drove them away. Chinese media and a human rights group reported, meanwhile, that 16 Falun Gong adherents in various cities across the country had been formally arrested on various charges, including disclosing state secrets, incitement to create disorder, organizing illegal gatherings and sales of illegal publications.

Agreement Near on \$400B Budget Deal

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Tokyo Stock Prices Close Higher

TOKYO (AP)

The Nikkei gained 119.68 points to close at 18,274.82.

Knicks 102, Nuggets 95

DENVER (AP)

Latrell Sprewell 26 points and Allan Houston added 23 Tuesday night as the New York Knicks ended a three-game losing streak with a 102-95 victory over the Denver Nuggets. Sprewell shot only 1-for-4 in the first half. But he scored 24 points in the second half, going 9-for-13. Ron Mercer had 30 points for Denver, which lost its third straight game.

Agreement Close on \$400B Budget Deal

WASHINGTON (AP)

Eager for a win as they complete a near-\$400 billion budget package, Republicans are pushing the Clinton administration to accept a small across-the-board cut in agency spending. During bargaining Tuesday, White House budget chief Jacob Lew resisted GOP demands for a 0.42 percent reduction, less than half the size of the 1 percent cut that Congress approved and Clinton vetoed two weeks ago. The cut would save roughly \$1.5 billion. Lew's resistance has angered Republicans, for whom an across-the-board reduction would help nail down conservative votes.

Talks on Nazi Labor in Deadlock

BONN, Germany (AP)

The latest round of negotiations on a German industry fund to compensate Nazi-era forced and slave laborers began in apparent deadlock, with lawyers pressing for nearly four times the amount of money that had been put on the table. After meeting late into the night Tuesday, the talks were to conclude Wednesday in Bonn at the former Foreign Ministry, located across the street from the city's only Jewish synagogue. Lawyers are demanding more than \$12 billion for the victims. One attorney threatened to lead a walkout from the talks, and the German envoy also acknowledged a collapse in the negotiations was possible.

Summit Leaders Call for Freedom

HAVANA (AP)

Calling for individual liberty and respect for national sovereignty, leaders of Spain, Portugal and Latin American nations began heading home today after a summit that brought political gains to both President Fidel Castro and his domestic critics. Castro won the international prestige of hosting a major summit, a denunciation of U.S. laws affecting property in Cuba and calls for social justice in the closing declaration late Tuesday.

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Mavericks 114, Rockets 95

DALLAS (AP)

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Pentagon Affirms Agent Orange Use

WASHINGTON (AP)

Use of Agent Orange to clear the Demilitarized Zone between the two Koreas was never a secret, the Pentagon says in responding to a furor in South Korea over spraying of cancer-causing defoliant with U.S. approval in the late 1960s. Authorities in South Korea acknowledged as much today, but there are differences over which country came up with the idea. South Korean soldiers used hand sprayers to spread Agent Orange and other chemicals over the border to kill foliage that was providing cover for North Korean infiltrators, said Rear Adm. Craig Quigley at the Pentagon.

Taiwan Presidential Candidate Expelled

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)

The ruling Nationalists expelled the front-runner in Taiwan's presidential election today, punishing him for challenging their party's official candidate. The long-awaited decision to oust James Soong came four months after he began a maverick campaign that has threatened to split the vote for the Nationalists, who have ruled Taiwan for 54 years. Speaking to supporters immediately after he was ousted, Soong said he still "loved" the party but said it was backward and authoritarian. The controversy began in July when Soong refused to back the party's official presidential candidate, Vice President Lien Chan, and began his own campaign for the March election.

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Kings 81, Grizzlies 77

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)

Chris Webber scored 19 points as the Sacramento Kings won their third straight game with an 81-77 win over the Vancouver Grizzlies last night. The road loss was the 25th straight for Vancouver. Vlade Divac had 11 points and eight rebounds for Sacramento. Shareef Abdur-Rahim had 24 points and 18 rebounds for the Grizzlies.

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NEWPORT, R.I. (AP)

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FDA Helping in Drug Quality Study

NEW ORLEANS (AP)

In an unusual move, the Food and Drug Administration is partnering with the drug industry to research ways to speed up and streamline how the government regulates the quality of medications. The FDA "tends to be conservative and maybe to ask for more (testing) than it needs" to ensure drug quality, said Dr. Roger Williams, FDA's deputy director for pharmaceutical science. The PQRI is a nonprofit research collaboration between scientists from the FDA, the drug industry and the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists, which announced Tuesday it will run the new institute.

Boy Convicted of 2nd-Degree Murder

PONTIAC, Mich. (AP)

In a case that stirred fierce debate over how to handle juvenile offenders, one of the nation's youngest murder defendants was convicted of second-degree murder for the shooting of a stranger. Thirteen-year-old Nathaniel Abraham now awaits a judgment on whether he will be sentenced as an adult or a child for a crime committed when he was 11 years old. After deliberating for 18 hours over four days, a jury returned the conviction yesterday. Nathaniel was acquitted of first-degree murder, which could have sent him to prison for life with no chance of parole.

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Pace of Leonid Meteor Shower Slow

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Authorities in the Midwest said the Leonid meteor shower prompted panicky calls about UFOs and odd lights in the sky, but the celestial light show began sedately in other places. Stargazers worldwide hope it will live up to its billing tonight as possibly the most dazzling meteor shower in decades. The shooting stars first flashed into Earth's atmosphere at a rate of about 40 per hour yesterday evening. They thinned out to about 21 by 2:30 a.m. EST today, according Rob Suggs of NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala.

Feds Seek Unsafe Thrift Store Items

WASHINGTON (AP)

A spot check of some of the nation's 9,500 thrift shops suggests that nearly 70 percent of them were selling at least one item that has been recalled, banned or violates safety standards, the Consumer Product Safety Commission said today. There are no federal laws barring such sales, but the commission advises consumers to be doubly careful when shopping in second-hand stores and is urging states to adopt legislation policing what the stores sell. The CPSC visited 301 randomly selected thrift stores nationwide from May through September of this year and found 69 percent were selling at least one hazardous product.

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PONTIAC, Mich. (AP)

In a case that stirred fierce debate over how to handle juvenile offenders, one of the nation's youngest murder defendants was convicted of second-degree murder for the shooting of a stranger. Thirteen-year-old Nathaniel Abraham now awaits a judgment on whether he will be sentenced as an adult or a child for a crime committed when he was 11 years old. After deliberating for 18 hours over four days, a jury returned the conviction yesterday. Nathaniel was acquitted of first-degree murder, which could have sent him to prison for life with no chance of parole.

Agreement Close on \$400B Budget Deal

WASHINGTON (AP)

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reduction, less than half the size of the 1 percent cut that Congress approved and Clinton vetoed two weeks ago. The cut would save roughly \$1.5 billion. Lew's resistance has angered Republicans, for whom an across-the-board reduction would help nail down conservative votes.

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Pakistan Enacts Anti-Corruption Law

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)

Pakistan's military government enacted a harsh new anti-corruption law today and began arresting some of the country's wealthiest people. The new law disqualifies politicians found guilty of corruption or defaulting on loans from holding office for 21 years. The arrests began just hours after the law took effect with the expiration of yesterday's deadline for those with outstanding bank loans to repay their debts or face criminal charges. The new law also imposes a jail term of up to 14 years.

Pace of Leonid Meteor Shower Slow

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. (AP)

Authorities in the Midwest said the Leonid meteor shower prompted panicky calls about UFOs and odd lights in the sky, but the celestial light show began sedately in other places. Stargazers worldwide hope it will live up to its billing tonight as possibly the most dazzling meteor shower in decades. The shooting stars first flashed into Earth's atmosphere at a rate of about 40 per hour yesterday evening. They thinned out to about 21 by 2:30 a.m. EST today, according Rob Suggs of NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala.

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Feds Seek Unsafe Thrift Store Items

WASHINGTON (AP)

A spot check of some of the nation's 9,500 thrift shops suggests that nearly 70 percent of them were selling at least one item that has been recalled, banned or violates safety standards, the Consumer Product Safety Commission said today. There are no federal laws barring such sales, but the commission advises consumers to be doubly careful when shopping in second-hand stores and is urging states to adopt legislation policing what the stores sell. The CPSC visited 301 randomly selected thrift stores nationwide from May through September of this year and found 69 percent were selling at least one hazardous product.

FBI Role in EgyptAir Probe Delayed

NEWPORT, R.I. (AP)

As the U.S. government delayed an FBI probe of the EgyptAir Flight 990 crash, there were indications that a backup pilot was at the controls just before the jetliner began its fatal plunge, The Associated Press has learned. It is too early to conclude whether the crew played any role in the Oct. 31 crash that killed 217 people, a source close to the investigation said yesterday on condition of anonymity. But the disclosure has focused attention on the four-man crew, including Capt. Gameel Batouty, a relief co-pilot nearing retirement after 35 years with the state-owned airline.

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Pope To Visit Holy Land in March

VATICAN CITY (AP)

Pope John Paul II will visit the Holy Land in March, a Vatican official said today in the first confirmation of the long-awaited trip. No details were given, but John Paul has been invited by both Israeli and Palestinian authorities. Archbishop Crescenzo Sepe gave the confirmation at a news conference updating Vatican plans for celebrations of the millennium.

Top Talent Agent Found Hanged

LOS ANGELES (AP)

A talent agent whose clients included Leonardo DiCaprio and Steven Spielberg apparently committed suicide by hanging himself in his home, police said. A friend discovered James David Moloney's body hanging in a shower at his Santa Monica mountains home yesterday. Moloney had a history of cocaine addiction, and recently lost his job as president of Paradise Music & Entertainment, a publicly traded multimedia company. The New York Times reported today that he was fired from Paradise Music because of a relapse of his drug problem.

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Clinton Goes Sightseeing in Turkey

EPHESUS, Turkey (AP)

President Clinton took a break from official duties today to do some sightseeing in Turkey. Clinton visited Ephesus and saw the marble ruins of this ancient city, one of antiquity's best-preserved settlements in the Eastern Mediterranean. Traversing white stone pathways with his wife, Hillary, and daughter, Chelsea, the president paused to admire the grassy Upper Agora, once a marketplace and public square; and the Trajan Fountain, which dates to 102 and was dedicated to Emperor Trajan.

Pope To Visit Holy Land in March

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IRA OKs Disarmament Commission Talks

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP)

AP Top News at 1 a.m. EST Wednesday, Nov. 16, 1999

The **Irish Republican Army** said today it intends to open negotiations with Northern Ireland's disarmament commission, a significant gesture in support of the Good Friday peace accord. The outlawed organization emphasized, however, that it wouldn't meet the commission until a joint Protestant-Catholic administration for Northern Ireland is appointed. The much-anticipated announcement has been the subject of intense negotiations during the past 11 weeks of discussions mediated by American diplomat George Mitchell.

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Japan's NTT To Cut 21,000 Jobs

TOKYO (AP)

Japanese telecommunications giant Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. said Wednesday it will slash 21,000 jobs over three years because of increasing competition after years of market domination. That's about 9.4 percent of NTT's work force to be cut by March 2003, down from a current total of 224,000. The cuts will be made in a number of ways, including attrition, a hiring freeze and transferring employees to subsidiaries. No layoffs are planned.

Consumer Prices Rise Slightly

WASHINGTON (AP)

Consumer inflation rose a slim 0.2 percent in October, the best showing in four months, as gasoline and other energy prices fell. The Labor Department reported today that the small advance in its Consumer Price Index, the most closely watched inflation gauge, followed a modest 0.4 percent rise in September. It was the smallest increase since June. So far this year, consumer prices have been rising at an annual rate of 2.8 percent, compared with a 1.6 percent increase in 1998. In another report today, housing starts in October rose 0.1 percent.

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Chipper Jones Favorite for NL MVP Award

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Chipper Jones of the Atlanta Braves is the favorite to be named National League Most Valuable Player when the award is announced this afternoon. Jones hit .319 with 45 homers, 110 RBIs, 116 runs, 25 steals and 126 walks. He finished third in homers behind Mark McGwire (65) and Sammy Sosa (63) and third in walks; fourth in slugging percentage (.633), on-base percentage (.441) and total bases (359); seventh in runs; and 10th in batting. Matt Williams of Arizona, Jeff Bagwell of Arizona, and Mike Piazza and Edgardo Alfonzo of the New York Mets were Jones' chief competition for the award.

EgyptAir Probe Focuses on Co-Pilot

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Nazi Labor Talks End Without Pact

BONN, Germany (AP)

Talks to set up a compensation fund for Nazi-era forced and slave laborers ended today without agreement, but both sides said they had come significantly closer on the key question of money. Germany is willing to raise its \$3.2 billion offer to up to \$5.3 billion, while lawyers representing the victims dropped their demands by about half, to between \$5.3 billion and \$7.9 billion, participants said. "There's a possibility of finding a dignified solution within the lifetime of the survivors," said Bobby Brown, a member of the Israeli delegation.

CompuServe Exec's Conviction Tossed

MUNICH Germany (AP)

A state court today overturned the 1998 conviction of the former head of CompuServe in Germany for failing to block access to child pornography sites on the Internet. In a case that drew worldwide criticism, Felix Somm was convicted in May 1998 by the Munich Administrative Court of complicity in 13 cases of distributing illegal pornography by not blocking CompuServe customer access to such Internet sites. A state court in Munich reversed the conviction on appeal today after both the defense and the prosecution argued that the original court's verdict was flawed.

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Dow Slips 41; Nasdaq Gains 15

NEW YORK (AP)

The Dow Jones industrial average is down 41 points in today's early going. Losers on the New York Stock Exchange hold a 3-2 lead over gainers. The Nasdaq composite index is up 15 points.

Brett Favre's Sister Charged

BILOXI, Miss. (AP)

Brandi Favre, the 23-year-old sister of Green Bay Packers' quarterback Brett Favre, has been charged with felony shoplifting after her arrest at an Edgewater Mall department store. Police arrested Favre and an unidentified **female** Monday at Dillard's. Favre is free on \$2,500 bond. A third suspect, Rhonda Doyle Favre was arrested yesterday and charged with felony shoplifting. Her relationship to the family was uncertain. In 1996 Brandi Favre was charged with unlawful use of a weapon in connection with a drive-by shooting at Bob's My Way Motel in Slidell, La.

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Dow Slips 22 but Nasdaq Gains 16

NEW YORK (AP)

Just before 11 a.m. EST, the Dow industrials were down 22.94 at 10,909.39. Declining issues outnumber advancers on the NYSE 1,482-1,043. The Nasdaq Composite Index was up 16.06 at 3,309.11.

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Clinton Said To OK Spending Cuts

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U.S. Spending \$100B on Y2K Repairs

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America will have spent more than \$100 billion preparing for the Year 2000 technology problem, but any computer glitches "should not hurt our economic growth," Commerce Secretary William Daley said today. The \$100 billion estimate is for 1995-2001. Daley's remarks mirror statements made during past months by top U.S. financial leaders, including Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan, who has warned that stockpiling and inventory hedging against possible failures could cause worse trouble than the Y2K glitch itself.

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Feds Warn of Home AIDS Test Kits

WASHINGTON (AP)

People who trust unapproved rapid home test kits for AIDS may be risking their lives. The unapproved kits can give inaccurate results, officials of the Food and Drug Administration and Federal Trade Commission warned today. There is currently only one approved home test kit for the AIDS virus, the agencies stressed. It is the "Home Access Express HIV Test System" made by Home Access Health Corporation.

'Peanuts' Cartoonist Has Surgery

SANTA ROSA, Calif. (AP)

"Peanuts" cartoonist Charles M. Schulz was recovering today after emergency surgery to clear a blocked abdominal artery. The 76-year-old artist was taken to Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital yesterday after complaining he did not feel well, said his wife, Jean. He underwent surgery and was in intensive care. "Peanuts" appears in 2,600 newspapers and is the basis of a franchise that collects \$1 billion per year.

Stocks Mixed at Midday

NEW YORK (AP)

Just before noon EST, the Dow industrials were down 26.61 at 10,905.72. Declining issues outnumbered advancers on the NYSE 1,612-1,127. The Nasdaq composite index was up 3.26 at 3,296.31.

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Bishops OK Tighter College Controls

WASHINGTON (AP)

America's Roman Catholic bishops agreed today to impose tighter doctrinal controls over the nation's 235 church-related colleges and universities. College leaders had hoped the bishops would delay action to allow further discussion that might have reshaped the document. The rules now go to the Vatican for final endorsement. The most controversial new rule requires a theologian to obtain a "mandate" from the local bishop in order to teach at any Catholic campus, thereby possibly limiting dissent from church teachings.

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Stocks Narrowly Mixed

NEW YORK (AP)

Just before 1 p.m. EST, the Dow industrials were down 1.23 at 10,931.10. Declining issues outnumbered advancers on the NYSE 1,672-1,182. The Nasdaq composite index was up 10.86 at 3,303.91.

Dolphins' Marino in Car Accident

COOPER CITY, Fla. (AP)

AP Top News at 1 a.m. EST Wednesday, Nov. 16, 1999

Miami Dolphins quarterback Dan Marino, distracted after spilling coffee on his lap, was involved in a minor car accident on his way to practice today. Marino wasn't injured, but the occupants of the other car complained of neck pains and were taken to a hospital by ambulance, Capt. Marvin Stoner said. Today was the first day he was cleared to practice after sitting out four weeks because of a pinched nerve in his neck.

EgyptAir Probe Focuses on Co-Pilot

NEWPORT, R.I. (AP)

Just before the autopilot was turned off and an EgyptAir jet began its fatal plunge, a backup co-pilot apparently alone in the cockpit of the plane said "I made my decision now," a federal law enforcement official said today. Moments later, when the plane was diving, the pilot re-entered the cockpit and apparently struggled to regain control of the jetliner, a source close to the investigation said. Egypt has sent its senior aviation official to Washington to take part in the crash investigation after questioning the need to turn over the probe to the FBI.

Hurricane Lenny Getting Stronger

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)

Beleaguered residents of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands scrambled today as Hurricane Lenny, a late-season surprise, gathered strength over the Caribbean and headed for the U.S. territories. Lenny's sustained winds strengthened to 140 mph today, a Category 4 hurricane capable of extreme damage. At noon EST, its center was located about 35 miles south of St. Croix and was headed northeast at 12 mph on a path that could make a direct hit on the Virgin Islands.

Astronomers Scan Skies for Meteors

NEW YORK (AP)

Around the world, astronomers and amateur stargazers headed for fields, beaches, deserts and mountaintops today to watch what could be the most spectacular meteor shower since 1966 and for decades to come. The annual Leonid meteor shower was expected to reach its peak overnight. The best American viewing of the shooting-star show was expected on the East Coast in the wee hours tomorrow morning. However, astronomical calculations put the best spectacle in the Middle East and Europe.

Clinton Said To Approve Spending Cuts

WASHINGTON (AP)

President Clinton has agreed to a small across-the-cut in agency spending, House Speaker Dennis Hastert said today, and Republicans hope to quickly complete bargaining on a near-\$400 billion budget package. Hastert had two late-night telephone calls with Clinton, who is in Turkey, finally agreeing with him on a 0.38 percent reduction in agency spending planned for this year. A fight over the proposal has been the major remaining hindrance to completing a budget deal.

Painkillers May Add to Heartburn

NEW ORLEANS (AP)

Doctors have long known that popular painkillers like aspirin and ibuprofen can sometimes cause serious stomach ulcers. Now new research suggests the drugs may play a role in chronic heartburn, too. Heartburn, that burning pain in the center of the chest, is one of the nation's most common medical complaints, afflicting millions of Americans at least occasionally. Antacids and other stomach drugs can ease the problem for many people.

Priceline.com Adds Airline Partners

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Report: U.S. Urged Agent Orange Use

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)

The United States proposed the use of Agent Orange five years before it was spread along the border with North Korea, a South Korean television station reported Wednesday _ contradicting U.S. claims that South Korea came up with the idea of using the toxic defoliant. The SBS-TV report quoted U.S. documents in reporting that the U.S. military brought up the use of herbicides in 1963, and the decision to use Agent Orange and other defoliants was made in late 1967 after talks between American and South Korean officials.

Stocks Lower in Afternoon Trading

NEW YORK (AP)

Just before 2 p.m. EST, the Dow industrials were down 25.39 at 10,906.94. Declining issues outnumbered advancers on the NYSE 1,694-1,244. The Nasdaq composite index was down 4.18 at 3,288.87.

Huber Defeats Julie Halard-Decugis

NEW YORK (AP)

Anke Huber, in the midst of resurrecting her career, defeated eighth-seeded Julie Halard-Decugis 6-1, 6-2 today in an opening round match at the Chase Championships. Huber will face the winner of tonight's match between second-seeded Lindsay Davenport and Amelie Mauresmo of France. The first round of the year-ending tournament will be completed tonight when No. 3 Venus Williams takes on Spain's Conchita Martinez.

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Strong Hurricane Hits St. Croix

CHRISTIANSTED, U.S. Virgin Islands (AP)

Traveling in an unsteady zigzag that confounded forecasters and rattled nerves throughout the Caribbean, powerful Hurricane Lenny kept getting stronger today as it roared toward the Virgin Islands. The storm's first winds and rains ripped off roofs, hurled boats onto shore and flooded homes with up to a foot of water on the island of St. Croix, which along with the British Virgin Islands was expected to bear the brunt of the storm's fury. Lenny's winds strengthened to 150 mph, making it a Category 4 hurricane capable of extreme damage.

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Consumer Prices Rise Slightly

WASHINGTON (AP)

Consumer prices rose a modest 0.2 percent in October as falling gasoline and other energy costs helped to offset increases for clothing and airline fares. Even with the tame inflation report today, many economists believe the Federal Reserve was justified in boosting interest rates by a quarter of a percentage point yesterday as an insurance policy against future inflation.

Stocks Lower in Late Day Trading

NEW YORK (AP)

Just before 3 p.m. EST, the Dow industrials were down 39.15 at 10,893.18. Declining issues outnumbered advancers on the NYSE 1,793-1,180. The Nasdaq composite index was down 16.68 at 3,276.37.

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Astronomers Scan Skies for Meteors

ABOARD THE ARIA (AP)

Packed inside a pair of U.S. jets, astronomers are waiting for an awesome celestial display. They hope to chase thousands of shooting stars per hour streaking across the Holy Land and North Africa on Thursday, the peak of the annual Leonids meteor shower. Scientists will use a variety of instruments to measure the Leonids' vigor, from the speed of incoming particles to whether they carry organic compounds. Because of Jupiter's gravitational tug, the comet may not swing quite so near Earth's path again for a century.

Pastor Convicted for Gay Ceremony

AP Top News at 1 a.m. EST Wednesday, Nov. 16, 1999

GRAND ISLAND, Neb. (AP)

The Rev. Jimmy Creech was found guilty in a church trial today of breaking the law of the United Methodist Church for conducting a marriage ceremony for a gay couple. The 13-member jury immediately turned to deliberating punishment, which could include expulsion from the church. The church prosecutor recommended Creech lose his ministerial credentials. Creech could appeal the conviction to national church officials.

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TV Tops Kids' Media List

NEW YORK (AP)

The typical child between the ages of 2 and 18 consumes an average of 5.5 hours of media daily outside school, with television the clear favorite ahead of computers, video games, music and reading, a study found. The Kaiser Family Foundation examined media usage by 3,000 children across the country between November 1998 and last April. The study breaks the daily total down as follows: 2 hours, 46 minutes of TV; 49 minutes of computer games and other computer uses; 48 minutes of recorded music; 44 minutes of reading; and 39 minutes of radio.

Stocks Are Lower

NEW YORK (AP)

Just before the close on Wall Street, the Dow industrials were down 44.96 at 10,887.37. Declining issues outnumber advancers on the NYSE 1,877-1,191. The Nasdaq composite index was down 22.22 at 3,270.83.

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Bradley Stands By His Medicaid Plan

WASHINGTON (AP)

Up against a daily assault by Al Gore, Bill Bradley stood by his plan to eliminate Medicaid and accused the vice president today of playing politics with a broken system that stigmatizes the poor and minorities. "He's wrong," Bradley said. In sober tones, the former basketball star described his presidential race as "the ultimate game" and issued his sharpest and most detailed defense of his \$65 billion health care plan. Bradley, in an interview with The Associated Press, also eyed corporate tax loopholes as ripe for closing.

Senate Panel Seeks Waco Subpoenas

WASHINGTON (AP)

Over objections from Democrats, the Senate Judiciary Committee approved subpoenas today for dozens of officials and thousands of documents relating to the Waco siege and other Justice Department controversies. Democratic senators complained particularly that the information and testimony regarding the fiery end of the Branch Davidian compound in 1993 would impede the separate investigation of the same matter by former Sen. John Danforth, who was appointed by Attorney General Janet Reno.

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Nazi Labor Talks End Without Pact

BONN, Germany (AP)

Negotiators working out a German industry fund to compensate Nazi-era slave and forced laborers came significantly closer today to agreeing on how much money firms will pay in exchange for immunity from lawsuits in the United States. At the end of the two-day talks, German government envoy Otto Lambsdorff said Germany had raised its \$3.2 billion offer to \$4.2 billion. And class-action lawyers representing those who were forced to work for Nazi Germany during World War II halved their previous demands to between \$5.3 billion and \$7.9 billion. "A negotiated settlement now seems attainable," said U.S. government envoy Stuart Eizenstat. "The two sides have narrowed their differences."

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Clinton Focuses on Russia, Chechnya

ISTANBUL, Turkey (AP)

President Clinton, on the eve of a summit of 54 world leaders, staked out ground Wednesday for a showdown with Boris Yeltsin over Russia's military crackdown in Chechnya and the growing toll of civilian casualties. But the Russian leader made clear he was not interested in being lectured, saying his colleagues should curb their outrage or risk failure of their talks. Despite Yeltsin's defiant stand, Clinton and other leaders intend to use the two-day summit to express deep concern about civilian losses caused by Russian air and ground assaults in the breakaway republic, National Security Adviser Sandy Berger said.

Poll: Gore Reversing Slide in N.H.

HAMDEN, Conn. (AP)

A new poll shows Vice President Al Gore reversing his slide against Bill Bradley in the race for the Democratic presidential nomination in New Hampshire. The Quinnipiac College poll released today had Gore and Bradley in a statistical tie. Gore had 44 percent support compared to Bradley's 41 percent — a difference that falls within the poll's margin of error of plus or minus 5 percentage points. This was the first time since July that Gore's slide had reversed among New Hampshire Democrats. A poll conducted last month showed Bradley with a slight lead, 43 percent to 36 percent.

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Priceline.com Adds 3 More Airlines

CHICAGO (AP)

In the airline industry's latest aggressive thrust into cyberspace, three more U.S. carriers have joined Priceline.com, giving a big boost to the name-your-own-price Internet ticket service. The endorsement today by United Airlines, American Airlines and US Airways means that nearly all major domestic airlines now sell seats through the service. The move also doubles the number of seats Priceline can sell.

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Lennox Lewis Wants To Fight Tyson

NEW YORK (AP)

Lennox Lewis is eager to defend his undisputed heavyweight title against Mike Tyson because "it is the most exciting fight out there." "He has that drawing ability," Lewis said today. A Lewis-Tyson fight is far from imminent, though, according to Lou DiBella, who heads boxing for HBO. "The end of next year at the earliest," he said. Lewis said he respected Tyson and was sympathetic toward the troubled fighter because of what Tyson has been through.

Hurricane Lenny's Winds at 150 MPH

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Feeding off the warm Caribbean waters, Hurricane Lenny's winds strengthened to 150 mph today, making it a Category 4 hurricane capable of extreme damage. That is 5 mph short of a Category 5 the highest. The storm was about 35 miles southeast of St. Croix late this afternoon, heading northeast at 9 mph. Hurricane winds extended 70 miles from its center and tropical storm-force winds another 205 miles. The storm's leading gusts and rains ripped off roofs, hurled boats onto shore and flooded homes as it roared toward the Virgin Islands. Lenny's lateness in the season and easterly path left experts agape. "It's unheard of," said veteran meteorologist John Toohey on San Juan's WOSO-AM radio. "This is a once-in-a-lifetime event."

Spending Deal Closer in Congress

WASHINGTON (AP)

White House and congressional bargainers moved closer today to clinching a nearly \$390 billion spending deal after President Clinton bowed to Republican demands to include small but symbolic across-the-board budget savings. Disputes over details still raged, with Democrats insisting they would only go along if Clinton had the discretion to decide where the cuts were imposed. Nonetheless, the cut's inclusion would be a major political victory for Republicans.

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Clinton Focuses on Russia, Chechnya

ISTANBUL, Turkey (AP)

President Clinton, on the eve of a summit of 54 world leaders, staked out ground Wednesday for a showdown with Boris Yeltsin over Russia's military crackdown in Chechnya and the growing toll of civilian casualties. But the Russian leader made clear he was not interested in being lectured, saying his colleagues should curb their outrage or risk failure of their talks. Despite Yeltsin's defiant stand, Clinton and other leaders intend to use the two-day summit to express deep concern about civilian losses caused by Russian air and ground assaults in the breakaway republic, National Security Adviser Sandy Berger said.

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FDA OKs Non-Invasive Heart Test

NEW YORK (AP)

Federal regulators have approved the first non-surgical method to measure narrowing of the coronary arteries, a key cause of heart attacks. The high-speed CT scan, an advanced type of X-ray sold by Imatron Inc., provides a cheaper, less painful alternative to angiography, a procedure requiring a cardiologist to thread a thin wire through the blood vessels from the patient's groin into the heart. Imatron stock more than doubled today on the announcement, and was the most actively traded stock on the Nasdaq Stock Market with 65 million shares trading hands.

NBC, Washington Post Form Alliance

NEW YORK (AP)

NBC and The Washington Post Co., are to share news reports in print, on TV and the Internet. The partnership announced today, is the latest of several newsgathering alliances as media companies seek to boost their brand names at a time of heightened competition. Contributors to the alliance will be NBC News, the MSNBC cable network and Internet site, along with print and Web operations of The Washington Post and its sister publication, Newsweek magazine.

Dow Closes Down 49.24

NEW YORK (AP)

Stocks slipped today as investors locked in profits from yesterday's rally while clinging to fears that the Federal Reserve's latest interest rate increase won't slow the nation's rapid economic growth. At the close of trading on Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average was down 49.24 at 10,883.09. Declining issues outnumbered advancers on the NYSE 1,867-1,222. The Nasdaq composite index closed down 26.13 at 3,269.39.

Chipper Jones Wins NL MVP Award

NEW YORK (AP)

Chipper Jones won the National League Most Valuable Player Award in a landslide today following a season in which he hit 45 homers and carried Atlanta to an eighth straight division title. Jones received 29 of 32 first-place votes and finished with 432 points in balloting by the Baseball Writers' Association of America. Houston first baseman Jeff Bagwell finished second and Arizona third baseman Matt Williams was third.

Hurricane Lenny Strengthens

CHRISTIANSTED, U.S. Virgin Islands (AP)

Hurricane Lenny's winds strengthened to 150 mph today, making it a Category 4 hurricane capable of extreme damage. That is 5 mph short of a Category 5 the highest. The storm was about 35 miles southeast of St. Croix late this afternoon, heading northeast at 9 mph. Hurricane winds extended 70 miles from its center and tropical storm-force winds another 205 miles. The storm's leading gusts and rains ripped off roofs, hurled boats onto shore and flooded homes as it roared toward the Virgin Islands. Lenny's lateness in the season and easterly path left experts agape. "It's unheard of," said veteran meteorologist John Toohey on San Juan's WOSO-AM radio. "This is a once-in-a-lifetime event."

Spending Deal Closer in Congress

WASHINGTON (AP)

Congressional Republicans said today it was time to stop haggling and start voting on a nearly \$390 billion spending deal, even though Democrats complained about details of small but symbolic across-the-board budget

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savings. GOP leaders planned a House vote for tomorrow on the spending package, which they said would include a 0.38 percent cut in the growth of federal agencies' budgets. For the last two weeks, Republican plans for a similar reduction had been one of the final hurdles to an agreement.

EgyptAir Evidence Described

WASHINGTON (AP)

A relief co-pilot alone in the EgyptAir cockpit said "I made my decision now; I put my faith in God's hands" just before the jetliner began its fatal plunge, officials close to the investigation said today. Moments after the plane began to dive, the pilot returned to struggle futilely to pull out. As Egyptian officials won time to send their own experts to review the cockpit voice recorder tape, a federal law enforcement official and other sources close to the investigation described the evidence today that led the United States to the verge of putting the FBI in charge of the inquiry as a potential criminal matter.

Gore Camp: Bradley Ads 'Misleading'

WASHINGTON (AP)

Al Gore's presidential campaign demanded today that rival Bill Bradley "fix the misleading elements" of a new TV ad a move that drove the stay-at-home mother featured in the commercial to tears. "It's my life, it's not fiction. I can understand now why people don't go into public service," Maureen Drumm said in an emotional telephone interview from her Upper Darby, Pa., home. Drumm, who said she offered to help Bradley's campaign in exchange for the attention he paid to her health troubles when he was in the Senate, appears in the 60-second biographical ad that Bradley began airing today in Iowa and New Hampshire.

First Lady's Campaign Moving Ahead

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)

Seeking to quiet speculation that Hillary Rodham Clinton may be having second thoughts about running for the U.S. Senate, her spokesman said today that "this campaign is moving full-steam ahead." "Hillary Clinton has made a commitment to the people of New York and when she makes a commitment, she keeps it," said Howard Wolfson, spokesman for Mrs. Clinton's political committee. Asked whether that meant the first lady was definitely in next year's Senate race, Wolfson replied, "That's what I've got for you."

Time Warner: No More Soft Money

WASHINGTON (AP)

Following a trend in corporate boardrooms, Time Warner the parent company of Cable News Network, Time magazine and Warner Brothers said today it would no longer make unregulated soft money contributions to political parties from its corporate treasury. Proponents of overhauling the campaign finance laws immediately welcomed the decision. The House passed legislation in September to ban soft money, but it later was killed by the Senate.

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Report: Angels To Hire Scioscia

LOS ANGELES (AP)

AP Top News at 1 a.m. EST Wednesday, Nov. 16, 1999

Former Los Angeles Dodgers catcher Mike Scioscia will be hired to manage the Anaheim Angels, a Los Angeles radio station reported today. However, a team spokesman said no announcement was planned. "The club remains in the process of finalizing its decision on a new manager," Tim Mead said when asked about the report by KFWB radio that Scioscia will succeed Terry Collins.

Co-Pilot Subject of EgyptAir Inquiry

WASHINGTON (AP)

A relief co-pilot is the focus of the inquiry into the crash of EgyptAir Flight 990. Officials close to the investigation said today that the relief co-pilot, alone in the EgyptAir cockpit, said "I made my decision now; I put my faith in God's hands" just before the jetliner began its fatal plunge. Moments after the plane began to dive, the pilot returned to struggle futilely to pull up. With no sign of any mechanical malfunction or explosion, investigators have been drawn to actions of the crew as captured on the cockpit voice recorder and synchronized with the plane's movements preserved in the flight data recorder.

Congress Nears Deal on Spending

WASHINGTON (AP)

After a day of stops and starts, congressional Republicans expressed renewed optimism tonight that agreement was near with the White House on a \$390 billion spending bill, including small, across-the-board cuts. GOP leaders announced plans to seek a vote on the measure tomorrow in the House whether or not they had White House acquiescence. But before proceeding, they contacted administration officials in hopes of resolving the sticky issue surrounding implementation of the proposed 0.38 percent cut across dozens of federal programs.

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Survivor Pulled from Turkish Rubble

DUZCE, Turkey (AP)

Four days after being buried in rubble by a devastating earthquake, a woman was pulled barely conscious from the remains of her apartment house today, even as rescuers prepared to end their search for survivors. Sefa Cebeci, 42, was buried 105 hours in a mountain of crumbled concrete that was once a six-story building. Discovered by Israeli rescuers and ferried by helicopter to Istanbul, 130 miles to the west, she faced amputation of her crushed right arm and was fighting for her life. Some 550 people were killed in the Nov. 12 quake.

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attention he paid to her health troubles when he was in the Senate, appears in the 60-second biographical ad that Bradley began airing today in Iowa and New Hampshire.

FCC Issuing High-Speed Web Decision

WASHINGTON (AP)

The Federal Communications Commission is expected tomorrow to require local telephone companies to share their lines with businesses that want to offer high-speed Internet connections to customers. That could make it substantially cheaper for upstart businesses to compete with telephone companies in providing connections dozens of times faster than today's dial-up modems. Consumers might benefit with more choices for services, like certain digital subscriber lines, at competitive prices.

Tokyo Stocks Rise in Early Trading

TOKYO (AP)

Japanese stocks rose moderately Thursday. The Nikkei gained 89.39 points to 18,364.21 in early trading. In New York Wednesday, the Dow Jones industrial average closed down 49.24 points at 10,883.09.

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Former Los Angeles Dodgers catcher Mike Scioscia was hired today as the new manager of the Anaheim Angels. Angels spokesman Tim Mead said Scioscia will be introduced at a news conference tomorrow at Edison International Field. KFWB radio had reported earlier in the day that Scioscia, who turns 41 later this month, would be hired to succeed Terry Collins.

St. Croix Begins To Feel Hurricane

CHRISTIANSTED, U.S. Virgin Islands (AP)

Hurricane Lenny's winds climbed to 150 mph today as it battered St. Croix, damaging homes and hurling boats on to the shore. The monster storm then roared toward a string of Dutch and British islands. Just 5 mph shy of a Category 5, the highest hurricane rating, the storm's powerful winds has killed at least four people on the way from South America to the northeastern Caribbean. St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands bore the brunt of its fury as the eye passed just 20 miles south this afternoon. The storm loomed about 70 miles southeast of St. Maarten tonight, drifting east-northeast the several hours but was expected to head to the northeast and the open Atlantic.

Gore, Bradley Discuss Issues in Ga.

ATLANTA (AP)

Vice President Al Gore pledged to Jewish leaders today that America will always stand by Israel "whenever she takes risks for peace." "We are all praying that Israel will have peace with security for the new century that's just beginning and thereafter," Gore said in a speech to the United Jewish Communities General Assembly that avoided any mention of his campaign for president. Meanwhile, Bill Bradley, Gore's rival for the Democratic presidential nomination, discussed health care with medical students and faculty at Morehouse School of Medicine and said Gore was using scare tactics portray Bradley's health care plan as detrimental to blacks.

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Gay Activists Applaud Calif. Decision

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)

A state policy of automatically opposing adoptions of foster children by gay and other unmarried couples was quietly dropped this week by the Davis administration. The move rescinded a 1995 order by then-Republican Gov. Pete Wilson. Gay activists applaud the change as a victory for families. Conservative religious leaders condemn it as "a disaster for children." Even with the earlier policy, however, judges could overrule the state opposition if the would-be parents hired an attorney and appealed.

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Microsoft Talks Expected To Resume

WASHINGTON (AP)

In his remarks since a federal judge handed down a ruling characterizing the Microsoft Corp. as an abusive monopoly, Bill Gates has appeared to be staking out where he might concede and where he won't during an anticipated round of settlement talks with the government in its antitrust case. Lawyers for Microsoft, the Justice Department and the 19 states in the lawsuit planned to meet privately tomorrow with U.S. District Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson in a precursor to negotiations. The sides already have met three times unsuccessfully since the trial started but remain far apart on key issues.

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Heat Defeat 76ers 98-93

PHILADELPHIA (AP)

Alonzo Mourning had 27 points and 14 rebounds despite foul trouble to lead Miami to a 98-93 victory over the Philadelphia 76ers tonight, giving the Heat their best start in franchise history. The Heat recovered from last night's loss to Portland and improved to 7-2 for the first time. They did so because Allen Iverson missed almost as many shots as the Sixers made. Iverson failed to score 30 points for the first time in six games and made only 8 of 27 shots for 24 points.

GOP, White House Reach Budget Deal

WASHINGTON (AP)

Capping marathon talks, congressional Republicans and the White House cleared the last known obstacle tonight to agreement on a \$390 billion budget bill that includes a small across-the-board cut. Sen. Pete Domenici, chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, said the deal was sealed after Republicans agreed to White House demands for additional flexibility in the application of the across-the-board cuts. A White House official, Linda Ricci, confirmed that agreement had been reached on the so-called flexibility issue.

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Hurricane Bears Down on St. Croix

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Damaging homes and hurling boats on to the shore, Hurricane Lenny battered St. Croix with its 150 mph winds Wednesday. The monster storm then roared toward a string of Dutch and British islands. Just 5 mph shy of a Category 5, the highest hurricane rating, the storm's powerful winds killed at least four people from South America

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Jurors Deliberating Dragging Case

JASPER, Texas (AP)

Jurors today began deliberating the case against the third white man arrested in the dragging death of a black man after a prosecutor ridiculed Shawn Allen Berry's claim that he was just a horrified bystander. Prosecutor Pat Hardy disputed Berry's claim that he wasn't driving when James Byrd Jr. was dragged behind a pickup truck down a country road. And Hardy said Berry knew exactly what his friends had in store for Byrd. Jurors met for about 9 1/2 hours after attorneys presented before retiring for the night. The panel was sequestered at a local motel.

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Trail Blazers Defeat Magic 81-79

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)

AP Top News at 1 a.m. EST Wednesday, Nov. 16, 1999

Rasheed Wallace hit a turnaround jumper with 1.3 seconds left, then stole an inbounds pass on Orlando's final possession tonight as the Portland Trail Blazers held on for an 81-79 victory. Wallace had 13 points and 11 rebounds, and 7-foot-3 center Arvydas Sabonis hit a crucial 3-pointer down the stretch to help the Blazers win at Orlando Arena for the first time since January 1992 and improve the NBA's best record to 8-1.

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End of Document

AP Top News at Midnight EST Monday, Nov. 22, 1999

Associated Press Online

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Section: Domestic, non-Washington, general news item

Length: 20605 words

Byline: GABRIEL MADWAY

Body

Business Blasts New OSHA Rules

WASHINGTON (AP)

Businesses on Monday decried a government proposal aimed at lessening repetitive-motion injuries and threatened to fight the rules in court. The new rules would require employers to minimize everyday physical or ergonomic stresses of certain jobs. Businesses face an estimated \$4.2 billion in annual costs to fix job sites and pay workers recovering from injuries under the initiative, which was announced today by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. AFL-CIO president John Sweeney said the action was long overdue.

Gay Man's Ministry Candidacy Upheld

NEWARK, N.J. (AP)

A Presbyterian church court that oversees the Northeast ruled that a sexually active homosexual can be a candidate for the ministry. It also said that a church can continue to perform same-sex "holy unions." The rulings announced Monday by a governing Synod of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) are a blow to conservatives in the 2.6-million member denomination, who had brought the challenges to the religious court. Both rulings stem from trials held in Newark early this month. Challengers said they would likely appeal.

Brick Victim's Family Not Mad at NYC

NEW YORK (AP)

The family of the Texas woman whose head was smashed with a brick said on Monday they bear no anger toward New York City, where Nicole Barrett was attacked. Ms. Barrett, 27 was attacked last week near Grand Central Terminal by a man who police believe might have been homeless. Ms. Barrett required brain surgery after the assault. Her family said she is now talking, smiling and recognizing them, and that she has asked why she is in the hospital. "This is the act of one man," said Mrs. Barrett. "It could have happened in Athens (Texas)."

Colorado Pileup Kills 2

GOLDEN, Colo. (AP)

AP Top News at Midnight EST Monday, Nov. 22, 1999

Two people were killed and at least 29 injured when a car spun out of control in heavy snow and fog on an interstate on Monday, causing a chain-reaction crash that involved up to 83 cars. Up to 11 inches of snow fell in the foothills, and the Front Range of the Rockies was under a winter storm warning tonight. The storm was good news for ski resorts, which dealt with an extremely bad season last year and then delayed opening this year because of unusually balmy weather. Steamboat Springs reported a base of up to 36 inches close to the top.

Alaska Court Rules Against Exxon

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)

The Alaska Supreme Court on Monday issued a pair of opinions arising from the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill that allows local governments to pursue further damages from oil giant Exxon Corp. The state's highest court will allow seven local governments to pursue compensation from Exxon for the services its municipal workers could not provide when they were diverted to help minimize damage from the spill. David Oesting, an Anchorage lawyer representing communities, fishermen and others suing Exxon over the spill, estimated that the seven municipalities could be entitled to up to \$50 million.

Toyota May Build Plant in Indiana

TOKYO (AP)

Toyota Motor Corp. reportedly plans to build a second manufacturing plant at its newest factory in the United States to ward off possible trade friction amid surging exports from Japan. The new plant will be constructed at an 11-month-old facility in Princeton, Ind., national broadcaster NHK reported Tuesday. Toyota was not available for comment Tuesday, a national holiday in Japan. Toyota, Japan's largest-automaker, could announce the plans as early as next month.

Dow Ends Higher

NEW YORK (AP)

Wall Street turned in a mixed performance today with a handful of large, well-known issues advancing, but most other stocks declining as investors took profits following last week's rally. The Dow Jones industrial average closed up 85.63 at 11,089.52. But decliners outnumbered advancers on the NYSE 2,131-933. The Nasdaq composite reached its 14th record high close in the past 17 sessions, rising 23.31 to 3,392.56. Japanese financial markets were closed Tuesday for Labor Thanksgiving Day, a national holiday.

Gretzky Joins Hall of Fame

TORONTO (AP)

Not far from where he first played hockey, Wayne Gretzky took up a new residence on Monday the Hall of Fame. The Great One received his Hall of Fame blazer and ring along with former referee Andy Van Hellemond and former referee-in-chief Scotty Morrison at a morning induction ceremony. Friends and family will join the trio for a nationally televised gala ceremony tonight. The 38-year-old Gretzky left an extraordinary mark on the game, with four championships and 61 NHL records.

Business Blasts New OSHA Rules

WASHINGTON (AP)

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Gay Man's Ministry Candidacy Upheld

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Brick Victim's Family Not Mad at NYC

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The family of the Texas woman whose head was smashed with a brick said on Monday they bear no anger toward New York City, where Nicole Barrett was attacked. Ms. Barrett, 27 was attacked last week near Grand Central Terminal by a man who police believe might have been homeless. Ms. Barrett required brain surgery after the assault. Her family said she is now talking, smiling and recognizing them, and that she has asked why she is in the hospital. "This is the act of one man," said Mrs. Barrett. "It could have happened in Athens (Texas)."

Colorado Pileup Kills 2

GOLDEN, Colo. (AP)

Two people were killed and at least 29 injured when a car spun out of control in heavy snow and fog on an interstate on Monday, causing a chain-reaction crash that involved up to 83 cars. Up to 11 inches of snow fell in the foothills, and the Front Range of the Rockies was under a winter storm warning tonight. The storm was good news for ski resorts, which dealt with an extremely bad season last year and then delayed opening this year because of unusually balmy weather. Steamboat Springs reported a base of up to 36 inches close to the top.

Alaska Court Rules Against Exxon

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)

The Alaska Supreme Court on Monday issued a pair of opinions arising from the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill that allows local governments to pursue further damages from oil giant Exxon Corp. The state's highest court will allow seven local governments to pursue compensation from Exxon for the services its municipal workers could not provide when they were diverted to help minimize damage from the spill. David Oesting, an Anchorage lawyer representing communities, fishermen and others suing Exxon over the spill, estimated that the seven municipalities could be entitled to up to \$50 million.

Toyota May Build Plant in Indiana

TOKYO (AP)

Toyota Motor Corp. reportedly plans to build a second manufacturing plant at its newest factory in the United States to ward off possible trade friction amid surging exports from Japan. The new plant will be constructed at an 11-month-old facility in Princeton, Ind., national broadcaster NHK reported Tuesday. Toyota was not available for comment Tuesday, a national holiday in Japan. Toyota, Japan's largest-automaker, could announce the plans as early as next month.

Dow Ends Higher

NEW YORK (AP)

Wall Street turned in a mixed performance today with a handful of large, well-known issues advancing, but most other stocks declining as investors took profits following last week's rally. The Dow Jones industrial average closed

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up 85.63 at 11,089.52. But decliners outnumbered advancers on the NYSE 2,131-933. The Nasdaq composite reached its 14th record high close in the past 17 sessions, rising 23.31 to 3,392.56. Japanese financial markets were closed Tuesday for Labor Thanksgiving Day, a national holiday.

Gretzky Joins Hall of Fame

TORONTO (AP)

Not far from where he first played hockey, Wayne Gretzky took up a new residence on Monday the Hall of Fame. The Great One received his Hall of Fame blazer and ring along with former referee Andy Van Hellemond and former referee-in-chief Scotty Morrison at a morning induction ceremony. Friends and family will join the trio for a nationally televised gala ceremony tonight. The 38-year-old Gretzky left an extraordinary mark on the game, with four championships and 61 NHL records.

Survey Finds Racism Complaints in Military

WASHINGTON (AP)

Minorities serving in the military are generally more pessimistic about their chances of advancement than whites, the most-extensive survey of military racial attitudes ever taken shows, Pentagon officials said Monday. As a result of the findings, based on surveys sent to 76,754 active military members with more than 44,000 returned, Defense Secretary William Cohen is prepared to instruct the nation's military services to "make modifications and improvements," said Pentagon spokesman Kenneth Bacon. The Pentagon planned to release the 296-page, congressionally mandated survey results Tuesday.

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Broncos 27, Raiders 21, OT

DENVER (AP)

One play after defensive tackle Trevor Pryce forced a fumble, Olandis Gary ran 24 yards for a touchdown, lifting the Denver Broncos to a 27-21 overtime win over the Oakland Raiders on Monday night. Pryce sacked Rich Gannon, forcing a fumble and recovering it at the Raider 24, and on the next play Gary bolted off the left side for the clinching score 2:40 into the extra period.

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LUXEMBOURG (AP)

Long aggravated by the American dominance of NATO, the military arm of the European Union is meeting Tuesday to discuss one of its main goals: giving the EU military clout to match its economic influence. The military arm, called the Western European Union, is a long-disused defense alliance that has found new life under the EU. In meetings Tuesday, foreign and defense ministers from Western European Union countries will look at ways to expand Europe's presence in humanitarian, peacekeeping and peacemaking missions on the continent missions that often have been dominated by U.S. forces.

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Jazz 108, Timberwolves 93

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)

Karl Malone had 34 points and 11 rebounds, and John Stockton added 12 points and 15 assists without a turnover as the Utah Jazz beat the Minnesota Timberwolves 108-93 Monday night. Malone, who scored 19 points on 6-of-16 shooting in an 89-84 loss to the Timberwolves on Friday in Minneapolis, scored 23 points and had seven rebounds by halftime this time out.

E. Timor Refugees Told To Come Home

DILI, East Timor (AP)

East Timor's spiritual leader and Nobel Peace laureate called today for refugees in West Timor to return home and told them not to believe rumors of human rights abuses by international peacekeepers. Bishop Carlos Belo made the impassioned plea after talks with visiting U.S. envoy Richard Holbrooke, who inspected squalid refugee camps yesterday in Indonesian-held West Timor. Tens of thousands of East Timorese refugees were forced to flee to West Timor by pro-Indonesia militias in September, after East Timor voted to become independent from Indonesia.

Malaysia, China Sign Agreements

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)

China and Malaysia deepened their ties today, signing three agreements covering topics including increased cultural cooperation. The signings came on the second day of Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji's controversial visit to the Southeast Asian nation. Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, who met Zhu for the second time in three months, said the frequent contact underscores the "closeness of the relationship between Malaysia and China." In addition to cultural cooperation, the agreements signed today related to opening banks in each other's countries and exchanging animals.

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Avalanche 3, Stars 2, OT

DALLAS (AP)

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Adam Deadmarsh's rebound goal 34 seconds into overtime gave the Colorado Avalanche a 3-2 overtime victory over the Dallas Stars last night. Rookie Martin Skoula, who scored a second-period goal, took the first shot, which was stopped by goalie Ed Belfour. But Deadmarsh put in the rebound for his sixth goal of the season.

Clinton Meets With Kosovo Leaders

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia (AP)

Five months after NATO bombs broke Serbia's grip on Kosovo, President Clinton met today with rival Serbian and ethnic Albanian leaders to plead for an end to the sectarian violence that still grips the province. American Army and United Nations military chiefs also gave Clinton an overview of the chaotic process of rebuilding Kosovo, which was ransacked by Serb forces and ravaged by NATO bombs during the 78-day air war that ended in June.

Russians Bombard Chechen City

GROZNY, Russia (AP)

Russian mortar rounds relentlessly hammered the Chechen city of Urus-Martan today in an effort to drive out militants and allow the Russians to tighten their ring around the capital, Grozny. With Grozny 80 percent surrounded, Russian aircraft and artillery have concentrated their fire in recent days on the southern approaches to the capital the last escape route for militants. Russian helicopters and artillery also pounded the western city of Bamut, near the neighboring Russian region of Ingushetia, where more than 200,000 Chechen refugees have fled.

Egyptian Experts To Join Crash Probe

CAIRO, Egypt (AP)

A group of Egyptian experts and investigators left for the United States today to join the investigation into the crash of EgyptAir Flight 990, a civil aviation official said. The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the team included experts from Egypt's air safety board, EgyptAir technical experts and voice recognition experts "who will join the committees formed to discover the mystery behind the crash." He did not say how many people were on the team.

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Lightning 4, Flyers 1

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)

Zac Bierk stopped 30 shots in his first game of the season and Vincent Lecavalier snapped a six-game point drought with a third period power-play goal as the Tampa Bay Lightning beat the Philadelphia Flyers 4-1 last night. Tampa Bay has won five straight at home for the first time since Feb. 20-March 1, 1997. The franchise record is six, set during the 1995-96 season.

Iraq To Cut Off Oil Exports

UNITED NATIONS (AP)

Rejecting the U.N. Security Council's decision to extend the oil-for-food program, Iraq has pledged to cut off its oil exports once all its contracts are filled. Russian U.N. Ambassador Sergey Lavrov said yesterday that U.S. reluctance to consider improvements to the program was responsible for Iraq's rejection of the two-week extension and its decision to suspend oil exports. He said Russia would not support another extension without changes to improve humanitarian conditions for ordinary Iraqis living under U.N. sanctions.

Taiwanese Company Pulls Hitler Ads

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)

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Quick Trials Urged in Aceh Province

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)

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The government should immediately prosecute hundreds of servicemen for human rights abuses in Indonesia's troubled Aceh province or it will face the prospect of all-out civil war, investigators said today. Members of the government-sponsored Independent Investigation of Acts of Violence in Aceh said they submitted a report on abuses in Aceh to President Abdurrahman Wahid on Nov. 10. He had so far failed to take any action to prosecute the members of the security forces named in the report, they said.

Malaysia, China Discuss Island Dispute

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)

Chinese and Malaysian officials discussed an ongoing dispute over who owns a group of Asian islands and signed three agreements to deepen their ties during meetings today. The developments came on the second day of Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji's visit to the Southeast Asian nation. Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, who met Zhu for the second time in three months, said the frequent contact underscores the "closeness of the relationship between Malaysia and China."

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Spurs 94, 76ers 91

PHILADELPHIA (AP)

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Tim Duncan had 26 points and 17 rebounds, and David Robinson had 19 points, 11 rebounds and seven blocks as the San Antonio Spurs beat the Philadelphia 76ers 94-91 last night. Elie had 12 points for the Spurs, who won their second straight after losing two of three. George Lynch and Larry Hughes each scored 15 for the Sixers, who got little offense from anyone else.

Clinton Seeks Ethnic Reconciliation in Kosovo

UROSEVAC, Yugoslavia (AP)

Five months after NATO bombs broke Serbia's grip on Kosovo, President Clinton urged schoolchildren to forgive oppression and pleaded with their parents for an end to the sectarian violence that still grips the province. Speaking in a chilly school gymnasium, Clinton drew round after round of cheers as he recounted the leading role the United States played in the 78-day air war against Yugoslav government troops.

Anti-Terrorist Police Fear Attacks by IRA

LONDON (AP)

Police have issued a terrorist alert, fearing a holiday season bombing campaign by an ***Irish Republican Army*** offshoot group opposed to the Northern Ireland peace agreement, British newspapers reported today. The Metropolitan Police would not confirm the reports. The reports in the Daily Telegraph, The Guardian and The Times newspapers, attributed to unidentified police sources, came at a critical juncture for Northern Ireland's 1998 peace accord. A plan mediated this month by American diplomat George Mitchell appears to have wrung a commitment from the IRA and its political ally, Sinn Fein, to gradually disarm, long a stumbling block in efforts to make the peace accord work.

Muslims Prepare Mosque Construction

NAZARETH, Israel (AP)

Undeterred by Christian protests that shuttered key holy sites for a second day, Muslims in the town of Jesus' boyhood moved ahead with plans to lay the cornerstone today for a mosque next to a major Christian shrine, the Basilica of the Annunciation. Green Islamic flags fluttering from their cars, Muslim activists called on residents over loudspeakers to attend the ceremony and "restore the glory of Shihab el-Din," the Muslim figure in whose name the mosque is being built.

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KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)

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Russians Bombard Chechen City

GROZNY, Russia (AP)

Russian mortar rounds relentlessly hammered the Chechen city of Urus-Martan today in an effort to drive out militants and allow the Russians to tighten their ring around the capital, Grozny. With Grozny 80 percent surrounded, Russian aircraft and artillery have concentrated their fire in recent days on the southern approaches to the capital the last escape route for militants.

Avalanche 3, Stars 2, OT

DALLAS (AP)

Adam Deadmarsh's rebound goal 34 seconds into overtime gave the Colorado Avalanche a 3-2 overtime victory over the Dallas Stars last night. Rookie Martin Skoula, who scored a second-period goal, took the first shot, which was stopped by goalie Ed Belfour. But Deadmarsh put in the rebound for his sixth goal of the season.

Indonesia Generals To Be Questioned

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)

Top active and retired Indonesia generals will be questioned this week by a special committee investigating human rights abuses in troubled Aceh province, lawmakers said today. News that the officers would be summoned before the legislative committee came as the military renewed its call for martial law in parts of Aceh it said are out of control. Aceh's campaign for independence has gathered pace since East Timor voted in August to break with Indonesia.

Bradley Attacks Gore Fund-Raising

MANCHESTER, N.H. (AP)

Facing a tight primary battle here with Al Gore, Democratic presidential candidate Bill Bradley is reminding voters of some of the darkest days of the Clinton administration its questionable fund-raising practices. For the first time in his campaign against Gore, Bradley raised the issue yesterday and suggested that the administration has worked behind the scenes with Republicans in control of Congress to kill campaign finance legislation.

Study Cites Top Highway Bottlenecks

WASHINGTON (AP)

AP Top News at Midnight EST Monday, Nov. 22, 1999

Sections of Boston, Washington and Chicago are among three of the nation's top 18 highway bottlenecks, according to a private study today that suggests highway improvements where traffic snarls are the worst. In addition to identifying bottlenecks in nine metropolitan areas, the study from the American Highway Users Alliance found that fixing the most serious congested areas nationwide would save lives, reduce pollution and shorten delays.

Clinton Seeks Ethnic Reconciliation in Kosovo

UROSEVAC, Yugoslavia (AP)

Five months after NATO bombs broke Serbia's grip on Kosovo, President Clinton urged schoolchildren to forgive oppression and pleaded with their parents for an end to the sectarian violence that still grips the province. Speaking in a chilly school gymnasium, Clinton drew round after round of cheers as he recounted the leading role the United States played in the 78-day air war against Yugoslav government troops.

Iraq To Cut Off Oil Exports

UNITED NATIONS (AP)

Rejecting the U.N. Security Council's decision to extend the oil-for-food program, Iraq has pledged to cut off its oil exports once all its contracts are filled. Russian U.N. Ambassador Sergey Lavrov said yesterday that U.S. reluctance to consider improvements to the program was responsible for Iraq's rejection of the two-week extension and its decision to suspend oil exports. He said Russia would not support another extension without changes to improve humanitarian conditions for ordinary Iraqis living under U.N. sanctions.

Anti-Terrorist Police Fear Attacks by IRA

LONDON (AP)

Police reportedly have issued a terrorist alert, fearing a holiday season bombing campaign by an **Irish Republican Army** offshoot group opposed to the Northern Ireland peace agreement. The reports in three British newspapers comes at a critical juncture for Northern Ireland's 1998 peace accord. A plan mediated this month by American diplomat George Mitchell appears to have wrung a commitment from the IRA and its political ally, Sinn Fein, to gradually disarm, long a stumbling block in efforts to make the peace accord work.

Muslims Prepare Mosque Construction

NAZARETH, Israel (AP)

Undeterred by Christian protests that shuttered key holy sites for a second day, Muslims in the town of Jesus' boyhood moved ahead with plans to lay the cornerstone today for a mosque next to a major Christian shrine, the Basilica of the Annunciation. Green Islamic flags fluttering from their cars, Muslim activists called on residents over loudspeakers to attend the ceremony and "restore the glory of Shihab el-Din," the Muslim figure in whose name the mosque is being built.

Russians Bombard Chechen City

GROZNY, Russia (AP)

Russian mortar rounds relentlessly hammered the Chechen city of Urus-Martan today in an effort to drive out militants and allow the Russians to tighten their ring around the capital, Grozny. With Grozny 80 percent surrounded, Russian aircraft and artillery have concentrated their fire in recent days on the southern approaches to the capital the last escape route for militants.

Broncos 27, Raiders 21, OT

DENVER (AP)

AP Top News at Midnight EST Monday, Nov. 22, 1999

One play after defensive tackle Trevor Pryce forced a fumble, Olandis Gary ran 24 yards for a touchdown, lifting the Denver Broncos to a 27-21 overtime win over the Oakland Raiders last night. Pryce sacked Rich Gannon, forcing a fumble and recovering it at the Raiders' 24, and on the next play Gary bolted off the left side for the clinching score 2:40 into the extra period.

Survey Finds Racism Complaints

WASHINGTON (AP)

The Pentagon, in the most thorough survey ever of attitudes in the military on race relations, suggests minorities remain pessimistic about their chances of advancement. Defense Secretary William Cohen will instruct the military to correct the situation. The Pentagon said the survey results suggest that nearly three-quarters of all blacks and other minorities serving in uniform complain that they have experienced racially offensive behavior. Less than half expressed confidence that complaints of discrimination are thoroughly investigated.

Clinton Urges Kosovo Reconciliation

UROSEVAC, Yugoslavia (AP)

Five months after NATO bombs broke Serbia's grip on Kosovo, President Clinton urged Kosovo's schoolchildren to forgive oppression and told U.S. peacekeeping soldiers their example can help overcome the sectarian violence that still grips the province. Addressing several hundred American troops in a tent, Clinton called ethnic hatred "the most important issue in the whole world today." To the Kosovar children and their parents, he appealed for tolerance.

Israeli Embassy Attack Foiled

AMMAN, Jordan (AP)

A gunman tried to attack the Israeli Embassy in Jordan's capital today, but was overcome by guards, with some witnesses saying he fired several shots. Israel's Foreign Ministry said the unidentified assailant tried to enter the embassy to commit an attack but was arrested before he could do any harm. A Jordanian security official said investigations were underway to determine the motive.

Indonesia Generals To Be Questioned

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)

Top active and retired Indonesia generals will be questioned this week by a special committee investigating human rights abuses in troubled Aceh province, lawmakers said today. News that the officers would be summoned before the legislative committee came as the military renewed its call for martial law in parts of Aceh it said are out of control. Aceh's campaign for independence has gathered pace since East Timor voted in August to break with Indonesia.

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Durable Goods Orders Fall in October

WASHINGTON (AP)

Orders to U.S. factories for big-ticket manufactured goods fell in October for the second straight month, hit by the biggest drop in demand for electronic and electrical equipment in more than two years. The Commerce Department reported today that orders for durable goods items expected to last at least three years declined by 1.3 percent last month to a seasonally adjusted \$200.9 billion. It marked the first back-to-back monthly declines since February-March 1998.

Exxon, Mobil May Divest Stations

NEW YORK (AP)

Exxon Corp. and Mobil Corp. reportedly are offering to divest or cut ties to about 2,400 service stations, or about 15 percent of their nationwide network, to get government approval for their \$81 billion merger. The Wall Street Journal, citing company documents and people familiar with the talks with the Federal Trade Commission, said the moves would require the companies either to sell stations they own or sever ties with independent stations carrying their brands. The nation's two largest oil companies have a combined total of 15,700 gas stations.

Broncos 27, Raiders 21, OT

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Pentagon Finds Minority Complaints

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Snow Causes Travel Woes in Rockies

AP Top News at Midnight EST Monday, Nov. 22, 1999

DENVER (AP)

Ski resorts in the Colorado Rockies have finally received a pile of new snow, just in time for Thanksgiving. The snow snarled traffic in many areas and two people were killed yesterday in a massive pileup on fog-shrouded Interstate 70 near Genesee. More than a foot of snow fell in the foothills and mountains west of Denver. United Airlines canceled 190 of its 600 flights from Denver International Airport during the storm and the snow was thick elsewhere.

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Stocks Mixed in Early Trading

NEW YORK (AP)

Just before 10 a.m. EST, the Dow Jones industrial average was down 26.07 at 11,063.45. Declining issues on the New York Stock Exchange led advancers 842-800. The Nasdaq composite index was up 14.24 at 3,406.80.

Can Hokies Hold Off Huskers?

NEW YORK (AP)

AP Top News at Midnight EST Monday, Nov. 22, 1999

Even if unbeaten and second-ranked Virginia Tech beats No. 22 Boston College on Friday, the Hokies aren't a lock to face No. 1 Florida State in the Sugar Bowl on Jan. 4. While the Seminoles (11-0) have clinched a spot in the Bowl Championship Series' designated title game in New Orleans, second-place Virginia Tech (10-0) is locked in a numbers scramble with Nebraska. Nebraska (9-1) has closed within 0.63 points of the Hokies in the BCS standings.

Clinton Ends Overseas Diplomacy Tour

UROSEVAC, Yugoslavia (AP)

President Clinton wrapped up a grueling 10-day overseas trip today by urging Kosovo's schoolchildren to forgive oppression and telling U.S. peacekeeping soldiers their example can help overcome the sectarian violence that still grips the province. Addressing several hundred American troops in a tent, Clinton called ethnic hatred the world's most important issue. In spite of the warm reception the Kosovars offered the president, most seemed unenthusiastic about his call for reconciliation.

Egyptian Experts Join Crash Probe

CAIRO, Egypt (AP)

A team of Egyptian air safety, maintenance and voice analysis experts headed for the United States today to join the investigation into the crash of EgyptAir Flight 990. Meanwhile, the FBI has sent agents to Cairo to pursue the probe from that end, a U.S. diplomat said. The Egyptian government has opposed handing over the probe to the FBI for a criminal inquiry _ but the diplomat said Egyptian officials had consented to sending agents here to assist the probe.

U.N. Says AIDS Is Still Spreading

LONDON (AP)

Despite powerful new drugs and massive information programs, the AIDS virus is spreading at a growing rate, according to a report released today. The U.N. Program on HIV/AIDS and the World Health Organization said it expected the number of infections worldwide to continue to grow, fueled by an increase in the use of injected drugs. According to the report, 33.6 million people, including 1.2 million children, are carrying HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

Pentagon Finds Minority Complaints

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Homeless Have Food Stamps Quandary

WASHINGTON (AP)

Some homeless people may not be getting food stamps because they don't have a place to live. Federal law doesn't require someone to have an address in order to qualify for food stamps, but homeless shelters and feeding programs surveyed by the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty reported that people are denied the assistance anyway. Of 72 charities that responded to the survey, 45 percent said their homeless clients were sometimes or frequently denied food stamps for lack of an address.

US Airways Might Face Strike

AP Top News at Midnight EST Monday, Nov. 22, 1999

ARLINGTON, Va. (AP)

US Airways flight attendants have taken a step toward a possible strike during the end-of-year holiday travel season. The Association of Flight Attendants asked the National Mediation Board to break off contract negotiations with US Airways. The request came after 19 days of round-the-clock talks. It is now up to the board to decide whether to require the two sides to remain at the bargaining table or declare the talks at an impasse as the flight attendants say they want.

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seasonally adjusted \$200.9 billion.

Stocks Lower at Midmorning

NEW YORK (AP)

Just before 11 a.m. EST, the Dow Jones industrial average was down 81.35 at 11,008.17. Declining issues on the New York Stock Exchange led advancers 1,765-806. The Nasdaq composite index was down 71.31 at 3,321.25.

Agassi Opens ATP Championship With Win

HANOVER, Germany (AP)

Top-ranked Andre Agassi opened his bid for his second ATP Tour World Championship title today with a 6-1, 6-2 victory over Nicolas Lapentti. Agassi won the season-ending championship in 1990, the first time it was held in Germany. The elite \$3.6 million event is leaving Germany after this year and will be held in Lisbon, Portugal in 2000. The tournament brings together the eight players with the best records of the year.

Pentagon Tracks Race Relations

WASHINGTON (AP)

The Pentagon, in the most thorough survey ever of race relations in the military, reported today that racial minorities in uniform remain more pessimistic than whites about their chances for advancement. Seventy-five percent of blacks and 67 percent of Hispanics said they had experienced racially offensive behavior, compared to 62 percent of whites. Despite years of efforts to promote equal opportunity in the military, major differences remain in the perceptions of progress among whites and minorities, the survey said.

Muslims Prepare Mosque Construction

NAZARETH, Israel (AP)

Undeterred by Christian protests that shuttered key holy sites, Muslims in the town of Jesus' boyhood today unveiled the massive cornerstone for a mosque next to a major Christian shrine. The Vatican sharply criticized Israel for allowing Muslims to build the mosque next to the Basilica of the Annunciation, saying it would fuel "future conflicts and tensions" between Christians and Muslims in the town. Several thousand Islamic activists held prayers and listened to speeches before the uncovering of the slab.

NOW Opposes 'Choose Life' Plates

AP Top News at Midnight EST Monday, Nov. 22, 1999

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP)

The National Organization for Women is seeking to block Florida's planned sales of "Choose Life" license plates, arguing the plates unconstitutionally promote an anti-abortion slogan. The plates, which would be sold to drivers for an extra \$22 fee, also bear a crayon drawing of children. Proceeds would support organizations that serve pregnant women who plan to put their babies up for adoption.

Egyptian Experts Join Crash Probe

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A team of Egyptian air safety, maintenance and voice analysis experts headed for the United States today to join the investigation into the crash of EgyptAir Flight 990. Meanwhile, the FBI has sent agents to Cairo to pursue the probe from that end, a U.S. diplomat said. The Egyptian government has opposed handing over the probe to the FBI for a criminal inquiry _ but the diplomat said Egyptian officials had consented to sending agents here to assist the probe.

China Rebukes Bush Over Criticism

BEIJING (AP)

China today rebuked Republican presidential front-runner George W. Bush for criticizing China's human rights record. Healthy China-U.S. relations benefit both sides, as well as world peace and stability, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Sun Yuxi said when asked about Bush's remarks Saturday in California. Bush rejected President Clinton's view of China and Russia as "strategic partners," saying they should be treated "without ill will, but also without illusions."

Pope Gives Aid for Vietnam Floods

VATICAN CITY (AP)

Pope John Paul II has donated \$100,000 for food, clothing and medical aid for some 1.8 million flood victims facing starvation in Vietnam. The Vatican has been trying to improve relations with the communist-led country, with an eye on a visit the pope hopes someday to make there. Vietnam and the Vatican do not have diplomatic ties, and relations between the two sides have been tense over Hanoi's insistence it have final say over religious appointments, such as the naming of bishops.

Pfizer Sues Warner-Lambert

NEW YORK (AP)

Pfizer Inc., already seeking a hostile takeover of fellow drugmaker Warner-Lambert Co., sued its rival today alleging a breach of their deal to jointly market the blockbuster cholesterol-lowering drug Lipitor. The suit seeks to block Warner-Lambert's planned merger with American Home Products Corp. and allow Pfizer to make a higher bid for Warner-Lambert. Pfizer officials said the lawsuit does not attempt to break up the Lipitor marketing arrangement.

Stocks Lower at Midday

NEW YORK (AP)

Just before noon EST, the Dow Jones industrial average was down 52.29 at 11,037.23. Declining issues on the New York Stock Exchange led advancers 1,939-826. The Nasdaq composite index was down 48.72 at 3,343.84.

NFL Bans Throat Slash Gesture

NEW YORK (AP)

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The NFL is banning the new fad among NFL players a throat slash gesture now used as a way of taunting an opponent or celebrating a big play. NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said that a letter would be sent today to the 31 teams telling them that the gesture was now illegal. Aiello said that if it is done by a player on the field, it will be deemed taunting or unsportsmanlike conduct and be subject to a 15-yard penalty.

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N.Y. Democrat Criticizes First Lady

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)

A Democratic state lawmaker, who is Jewish, said in a letter to Hillary Rodham Clinton that he was "outraged and shocked" by her actions during her recent trip to the Mideast and that she should consider abandoning her expected Senate bid. State Sen. Carl Kruger, the Brooklyn Democrat who wrote the letter, was expected today to endorse Mayor Rudolph Giuliani for next year's Senate race. A TV ad financed by the Republican Jewish Coalition criticized the first lady for embracing the wife of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

Consumers' Web Complaints Increase

WASHINGTON (AP)

Consumers' complaints about service, purchases and auctions on the Internet are rising steadily and auto leasing is re-emerging as a major source of problems, according to a survey released today. The survey by the National Association of Consumer Agency Administrators and the Consumer Federation of America also shows a huge increase 1,037 percent last year in complaints about "cramming," the practice of padding telephone or credit card bills with unauthorized charges, typically from third parties.

McCain Notes Environmental Issues

PHOENIX (AP)

Republican John McCain said today he intends to increase the visibility of environmental issues in his presidential campaign. During a meeting with his Arizona leadership team, McCain said he plans to make major policy addresses regarding the environment, foreign policy and education over the next few weeks, but offered no specifics.

Muslims Prepare Mosque Construction

NAZARETH, Israel (AP)

Undeterred by Christian protests that shuttered key holy sites, Muslims in the town of Jesus' boyhood today unveiled the massive cornerstone for a mosque next to a major Christian shrine. The Vatican sharply criticized Israel for allowing Muslims to build the mosque next to the Basilica of the Annunciation, saying it would fuel "future conflicts and tensions" between Christians and Muslims in the town.

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Pfizer Sues Warner-Lambert

NEW YORK (AP)

Pfizer Inc. sued its partner Warner-Lambert Co. today alleging the company breached of their contract to jointly market the blockbuster cholesterol-lowering drug Lipitor. The lawsuit is part of Pfizer's aggressive legal strategy to break up Warner-Lambert's deal to merge with American Home Products. Pfizer, which countered with a higher bid for Warner-Lambert, filed a lawsuit earlier this month against both Warner-Lambert and American Home, claiming their deal was illegal.

Stocks Lower at Early Afternoon

NEW YORK (AP)

Just before 1 p.m. EST, the Dow Jones industrial average was down 59.33 at 11,030.19. Declining issues on the New York Stock Exchange led advancers 2,020-881. The Nasdaq composite index was down 46.43 at 3,346.13.

NBA Investigates Sprewell Behavior

NEW YORK (AP)

The NBA is investigating Latrell Sprewell for shouting at Golden State Warriors fans who taunted him during his first game against his former team. The game in Oakland, Calif., on Saturday night against the New York Knicks marked the first time Sprewell was facing coach P.J. Carlesimo, whom he choked two years ago. Sprewell shouted obscenities and vulgar remarks at some fans during the game.

Hillary Clinton Will Run for Senate

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)

Trying to end speculation that she is having second thoughts, Hillary Rodham Clinton was making it clear today that she will run for the Senate seat from New York. The first lady is telling supporters that she will formally announce her candidacy early next year. She plans to tell reporters today that there should be no doubt about her intentions, a senior adviser said. Both Harold Ickes and Housing Secretary Andrew Cuomo told The Associated Press that Mrs. Clinton told them she would run for the U.S. Senate seat.

Drug May Help Lower Risk of Strokes

WASHINGTON (AP)

Certain Americans at high risk for strokes are about to get a new drug that research suggests can help prevent attacks significantly better than typical daily aspirin therapy. The Food and Drug Administration approved Aggrenox

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today for patients who have suffered a mini-stroke called a transient ischemic attack and hope to prevent a full-blown stroke, and for stroke survivors hoping to ward off a recurrence. The pill combines the drug dipyridamole with low-dose aspirin.

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Queen Honors Northern Ireland Police

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP)

Queen Elizabeth II bestowed the United Kingdom's highest civilian honor on Northern Ireland's terrorism-hardened police force today, an apparent bid to woo Protestants to support peacemaking efforts. The award appeared connected to the British government's wider efforts to swing wavering Protestant support behind the Good Friday peace accord of 1998. The province's major Protestant party will vote this weekend on whether to form a power-sharing administration with Catholics.

Consumers' Web Complaints Increase

WASHINGTON (AP)

Consumers' complaints about service, purchases and auctions on the Internet are rising steadily and auto leasing is re-emerging as a major source of problems, a survey found. The survey by the National Association of Consumer Agency Administrators and the Consumer Federation of America also shows a huge increase 1,037 percent last year in complaints about "cramming," the practice of padding telephone or credit card bills with unauthorized charges, typically from third parties.

US Airways Attendants Mull Strike

WASHINGTON (AP)

US Airways flight attendants are raising the threat of a holiday season strike after negotiations stalled in a long-running contract dispute with the airline. Off-duty flight attendants are planning preliminary protests, which would not affect US Airways service, at airports in up to 16 cities beginning tomorrow. The flight attendants' union yesterday asked the National Mediation Board to officially declare negotiations with US Airways at an impasse.

Jordan Police Shoot Embassy Suspect

AMMAN, Jordan (AP)

Jordanian police shot a man who they thought was attacking the Israeli Embassy when he brandished what turned out to be a toy pistol. Police wounded the 20-year-old man in the hand and overpowered him after he "took out a pistol and directed it at Jordanian security forces" 30 yards away from the embassy, Jordan's Interior Ministry said. The man, believed to be from Oman, was shown to be "mentally deranged and suffers from psychological and family problems," the ministry said.

Stocks Lower in Afternoon Trading

NEW YORK (AP)

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Just before 2 p.m. EST, the Dow Jones industrial average was down 42.81 at 11,046.71. Declining issues on the New York Stock Exchange led advancers 2,051-915. The Nasdaq composite index was down 30.94 at 3,361.62.

76ers' Iverson Out With Broken Thumb

PHILADELPHIA (AP)

Allen Iverson broke the thumb on his shooting hand in a loss to the San Antonio Spurs and will be out 3-6 weeks. The Philadelphia 76ers' All-Star point guard, who scored 35 points in the game last night, left the arena without comment. He missed 21 of 34 shots. Iverson, the NBA's leading scorer last season, hurt his right thumb in the second quarter, perhaps diving for a loose ball.

Mrs. Clinton Will Run for Senate

NEW YORK (AP)

With an enthusiastic "yes" to supporters, Hillary Rodham Clinton left little room for doubt today that she is seeking the Senate seat from New York. "I will make a formal announcement after the first of the year," she said after an address to a New York teacher's group. Mrs. Clinton has been under pressure from some New York Democrats, including state party Chairwoman Judith Hope and state Comptroller H. Carol McCall, to quickly declare her candidacy and spend more time campaigning in New York.

Anti-Drunken Driving Efforts Graded

WASHINGTON (AP)

Drunken driving could cause as many as 250 deaths and 13,000 injuries during the Thanksgiving holiday weekend, Mothers Against Drunk Driving estimated today. The grim estimates were part of the national "Drunk Driving Report Card" released by the private group, known as MADD. MADD criticized Congress for failing to schedule a vote to set a national standard for blood alcohol levels at .08 percent for conviction of drunken driving. In 1998, 15,935 people were killed and nearly 900,000 were injured in alcohol-related traffic crashes, according to MADD.

Amtrak Financial Prognosis Unclear

WASHINGTON (AP)

Thanksgiving week, the busiest of the year for rail travel in America, finds Amtrak and its government monitors on different tracks regarding the future of the national railway. Amtrak's supporters say the railway is becoming a financially viable, fast and reliable alternative to air travel. Government watchdogs say Amtrak faces numerous obstacles to reaching self-sufficiency in time to avoid possible liquidation and a restructuring of rail service.

One-Third of Gene Map Completed

WASHINGTON (AP)

Government-supported scientists have sequenced one-third of the human genetic pattern and are on schedule to complete and verify the entire biological blueprint by 2003, officials said today. Dr. Francis Collins, head of the National Human Genome Research Institute, said that 1 billion of the 3 billion chemical base pairs in the human genetic pattern have now been identified, sequenced and published on a public database. By next spring, he said, a working draft of the entire human genome will be completed.

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Group Prepares Gay-Tolerance Book

WASHINGTON (AP)

A coalition of educators, doctors and counselors is mailing 12-page booklets on gay tolerance to public school superintendents, stating that homosexuality is not unhealthy and doesn't require a "cure." The booklet was produced in response to concerns that "school personnel were receiving inaccurate information on the issue of sexual orientation and how to address it best with students," according to the coalition that published "Just the Facts About Sexual Orientation & Youth: A Primer for Principals, Educators and School Personnel."

EgyptAir Data Points to Human Cause

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Controversy over what was said in the cockpit of EgyptAir Flight 990 has clouded hard evidence from the flight data recorder that someone aboard the plane caused it to crash. It is that evidence, among the most detailed the National Transportation Safety Board has ever had to work with, that enabled the agency to say that the plane did not appear to have been brought down by a mechanical problem or bad weather. Investigators believe the crash may have been caused by Gameel El-Batouty, a backup pilot.

Stocks Lower in Late Trading

NEW YORK (AP)

Just before 3 p.m. EST, the Dow Jones industrial average was down 72.48 at 11,017.04. Declining issues on the New York Stock Exchange led advancers 2,157-859. The Nasdaq composite index was down 38.27 at 3,354.29.

Sixers' Iverson Breaks Thumb

PHILADELPHIA (AP)

Allen Iverson, the NBA scoring leader, will miss 3-6 weeks with a broken thumb on his shooting hand. Iverson, who has never been on the injured list, was hurt in the first half of the Philadelphia 76ers' 94-91 loss to the San Antonio Spurs last night. He played the rest of the game, scoring 35 points but missing 21 of 34 shots. Iverson, leading the league with a 30.8 scoring average, has missed only 10 games in three-plus seasons since the Sixers drafted him No. 1 in 1996.

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Amtrak Financial Prognosis Unclear

WASHINGTON (AP)

Thanksgiving week, the busiest of the year for rail travel in America, finds Amtrak and its government monitors on different tracks regarding the future of the national railway. Amtrak's supporters say the railway is becoming a financially viable, fast and reliable alternative to air travel. Government watchdogs say Amtrak faces numerous obstacles to reaching self-sufficiency in time to avoid possible liquidation and a restructuring of rail service.

One-Third of Gene Map Completed

WASHINGTON (AP)

Government-supported scientists have sequenced one-third of the human genetic pattern and are on schedule to complete and verify the entire biological blueprint by 2003, officials said today. Dr. Francis Collins, head of the National Human Genome Research Institute, said that 1 billion of the 3 billion chemical base pairs in the human genetic pattern have now been identified, sequenced and published on a public database. By next spring, he said, a working draft of the entire human genome will be completed.

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Bush Vows Fairness Toward China

GREENVILLE, S.C. (AP)

Republican presidential front-runner George W. Bush today pledged to treat China fairly, even as Beijing chafed under his criticism of their nation's human rights record. "The relationship will be one of competitor, not one of

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strategic partner," Bush reiterated during a South Carolina stop. He pledged to honor the United States' promises to Taiwan, which wants to remain independent from mainland China.

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Experts Study Texas A&M Bonfire

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)

The state's engineering oversight board is investigating whether the Texas A&M University bonfire falls under its authority. Last week's log-construction collapse killed 12 people. The eight-member board will meet Dec. 10 to determine whether the state's Engineering Practice Act can be applied to bonfires. Texas A&M spokesman Lane Stephenson said he understood the bonfire was exempt from the law. "There is no question that we have been abiding," he said.

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American, Delta Raise Air Fares

DALLAS (AP)

American Airlines and Delta Airlines raised leisure and business-travel fares 3 percent, and other major carriers were considering today whether to match the move. American said it filed the increase to offset higher costs for fuel. The increase came just six weeks after a Continental Airlines-led move to raise leisure fares \$10 to \$20 each way.

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AP Top News at Midnight EST Monday, Nov. 22, 1999

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Sixers' Iverson Breaks Thumb

PHILADELPHIA (AP)

NBA scoring leader Allen Iverson will miss 3-6 weeks with a broken thumb on his shooting hand. Iverson was hurt in the first half of the Philadelphia 76ers' 94-91 loss to the San Antonio Spurs last night. He played the rest of the game, scoring 35 points but missing 21 of 34 shots. Iverson leads the league with a 30.8 scoring average.

Iraq Oil Standoff May Be Short-Lived

NEW YORK (AP)

Signs that Iraq's standoff with the United Nations may be short-lived sent oil prices lower today, a day after crude soared on news that Iraq would stop pumping oil to protest the terms of its oil-for-food program. U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said he expected Iraq to reverse its decision to halt exports, and that discussions were taking place to resolve the issue. An Iraqi official also said work on the humanitarian program was continuing, a sign that the overall program may not be in jeopardy. The 3-year-old deal allows Iraq to sell \$5.2 billion worth of oil every six months to buy food and humanitarian supplies.

Mrs. Clinton: 'I Intend To Run'

NEW YORK (AP)

Promising to curtail her duties as first lady, Hillary Rodham Clinton today ended speculation that she was getting cold feet about a Senate campaign. "The answer is yes. I intend to run," she said, telling supporters she would live in New York and only appear in Washington "from time to time" while President Clinton finishes his term in the White House. Mrs. Clinton made her commitment to the race amid rumblings from both critics and supporters that her potential candidacy against likely Republican challenger New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani was floundering.

Clinton Seeks Kosovo Healing

UROSEVAC, Yugoslavia (AP)

President Clinton urged ethnic Albanians in Kosovo Tuesday to try to forgive Serbs for their thwarted terror campaign in the province. His plea met with scant applause and silent stares. "The time for fighting has passed," Clinton said. He ended a 10-day European tour after going to Kosovo to urge reconciliation and visit U.S. peacekeepers before Thanksgiving. With his daughter, Chelsea, Clinton went to Camp Bondsteel, home for most of the 6,000 U.S. troops in Kosovo.

GOP Plans Anti-Gore Billboard

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)

For the next 12 months, the Republican National Committee will post anti-Al Gore ads on a huge billboard in a place sure to be seen: 500 feet from his presidential campaign headquarters. The first ad won't appear until next week, but already it has caused controversy. Today, the billboard company balked at posting it, then backed down under pressure from the RNC. The ad shows Gore hugging Clinton and includes the quote: "One of Our Greatest Presidents" a comment Gore made when the House voted to impeach Clinton.

Bush Vows Fairness Toward China

GREENVILLE, S.C. (AP)

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Republican presidential front-runner George W. Bush today pledged to treat China fairly, even as Beijing chafed under his criticism of its human rights record. "The relationship will be one of competitor, not one of strategic partner," Bush reiterated during a South Carolina stop. He pledged to honor the United States' promises to Taiwan, which wants to remain independent from mainland China.

Muslims Prepare Nazareth Mosque

NAZARETH, Israel (AP)

Thousands of triumphant Muslims on Tuesday unveiled a cornerstone for a mosque next to a major Christian shrine in the heart of Jesus' boyhood town. The Vatican said Israel, by allowing the mosque to be built, was "laying the foundation" for division. Israel hinted that the Holy See's protests were motivated in part by anti-Semitism. Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority backed the churches.

Woman Indicted in Charity Hoax

BOSTON (AP)

A woman who claimed to have ovarian cancer when she raised more than \$40,000 for cancer research was charged with spending the money on liposuction and a new car instead. Kristin Clougherty, 24, faces two counts of larceny, said a spokesman for the Suffolk County district attorney. The charge is punishable by up to 10 years in prison. Clougherty allegedly raised the money over the last year from friends, family and others. Prosecutors said she does not have cancer.

Japan Stocks Slip in Early Trading

TOKYO (AP)

Japanese stocks slipped on profit-taking Wednesday. The benchmark 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average shed 79.25 points to 18,742.87 points in early trading. In New York Tuesday, the Dow Jones industrial average fell 93.89 points to 10,995.63.

49ers Release Lawrence Phillips

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP)

Lawrence Phillips' stormy tenure with the San Francisco 49ers ended today when the team waived him. Phillips was still serving a three-game suspension for defying the coaching staff at the time of his release. Phillips has struck out with three NFL teams because of a string of personality clashes and run-ins with the law. Meanwhile, Phillips' agent said earlier today a grievance has been filed seeking to overturn the suspension.

Clinton Urges Forgiveness in Kosovo

UROSEVAC, Yugoslavia (AP)

In a plea met with scant applause and silent stares, President Clinton told ethnic Albanians in Kosovo Tuesday that "you must try" to forgive Serb neighbors and stop punishing them for the terror campaign of Slobodan Milosevic. Guarded by armed troops and tanks, Clinton ended a 10-day European tour by sweeping into war-torn Kosovo to urge reconciliation and to give a Thanksgiving boost to U.S. peacekeeping forces. Clinton and his daughter, Chelsea, went to Camp Bondsteel, which is home for most of the 6,000 U.S. troops in Kosovo.

Annan Expects To Resolve Iraq Oil Dispute

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Schools Promised \$3.6B for Internet

WASHINGTON (AP)

More than \$3.6 billion has been committed to schools and libraries to help pay for discounted connections to the Internet over two years. The company designated by federal regulators to distribute the money said today it has promised \$1.92 billion to schools and libraries for the program's second year. That's on top of the \$1.7 billion distributed during the first year. The company, which is overseen by the Federal Communications Commission, said most of the funding will help applicants pay for the internal wiring schools and libraries need to hook their computers together or to the Internet.

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New Charges in Nigerian Massacre

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP)

Large parts of the oil-rich Niger delta remained sealed off by the military Tuesday, following a weekend of fighting between protesters and troops that left dozens dead. An activist group claims more than 200 civilians were killed by soldiers and a witness charges that soldiers fired indiscriminately and burned down houses as they moved to seize control of the region. Government officials acknowledged Monday that 43 people, eight of them soldiers, were killed, but they declined comment on the latest allegations.

NYC Ballet Orchestra Strikes

NEW YORK (AP)

Members of the New York City Ballet Orchestra went on strike Tuesday, forcing the cancellation of the evening's opening gala. The 800 invited guests were turned away at the door. Union spokeswoman Judy West said the labor action also could affect performances of "The Nutcracker," one of the centerpieces of the holiday season, set to begin on Friday. Management said it had offered a 3.3 percent raise in the first year of the musicians' contract. The union last struck in 1976.

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No. 22 Purdue Upsets No. 6 Florida

LAHAINA, Hawaii (AP)

No. 22 Purdue used balanced scoring and excellent defense to beat No. 6 Florida 79-68 tonight in the semifinals of the Maui Invitational. Greg McQuay and Jaraan Cornell each had 19 points and Mike Robinson added 18 for Purdue. The Boilermakers (2-0) will face the winner of the game between No. 4 North Carolina and Georgetown in tomorrow's championship game.

U.S. Won't Restore Ties With Libya

WASHINGTON (AP)

Parting company with one of its closest allies, the United States declined today to follow Britain's lead and exchange ambassadors with Libya. Even to have economic sanctions lifted, Libya must act to stop its support for terrorism and cooperate with the investigation of the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 in 1988, pay compensation for the 270 people, including 189 Americans, who perished and accept responsibility for the attack, State Department spokesman James P. Rubin said. Britain announced yesterday that it expected to send an ambassador to Libya next month, restoring full diplomatic relations after nearly 16 years.

McCain's Rise in Polls Pays Off

WASHINGTON (AP)

Sen. John McCain's newfound strength in the polls is translating into cash for his campaign treasury, according to campaign officials. McCain's campaign has raised better than \$3 million since Oct. 1, more than he raised during the entire three-month period between July 1 and Sept. 30. McCain now has raised more than \$10 million, plus another \$2 million transferred from his Senate campaign account. The Arizona Republican still is running far behind Texas Gov. George W. Bush in the money chase. Bush has raised at least \$4.2 million since September to bring his total above \$60 million, his campaign officials said.

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UROSEVAC, Yugoslavia (AP)

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Cavs Snap Trail Blazers' Streak

CLEVELAND (AP)

The Cleveland Cavaliers snapped Portland's six-game winning streak tonight, stunning the Trail Blazers 103-100. Shawn Kemp had 28 points and 10 rebounds as Cleveland became the first team to score 100 points against Portland, the NBA's top team this season, and ended its own three-game losing skid. Portland, playing its fifth straight road game, lost for just the second time in 12 games. Detlef Schrempf had 22 points for the Blazers, who had their worst shooting performance of the season, hitting just 40 percent of their shots.

Load-Date: November 23, 1999

AP Top News at Noon EDT Friday, May 12, 2000

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May 12, 2000; Friday

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Section: Domestic, non-Washington, general news item

Length: 10820 words

Byline: RICHARD A. SOMMA

Body

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Million Mom March To Turn Political

WASHINGTON (AP)

The leader of Sunday's "Million Mom March" for gun control said today that her new, grass-roots movement will transform itself after the rally into a political organization that will endorse and oppose political candidates. Donna Dees-Thomases, a public relations executive from Short Hills, N.J., said that starting Monday, she and other mothers "will take off our oven mitts and look at candidates very closely. Shame on us if we do not keep it going." Dees-Thomases told a news conference that she expects the "Million Mom March" organization would likely apply for a tax-exempt status that would allow for political activities while promoting social welfare.

Struggle To Contain N.M. Blaze

LOS ALAMOS, N.M. (AP)

Decreasing wind and increased humidity are helping firefighters today as they struggled to hold the line against a fire that destroyed 280 homes and forced 25,000 people from the town where the atomic bomb was built. Gov. Gary Johnson told NBC's "Today" show that there have not been any new fires, and it's hoped that with the quieter weather, the fires can now be attacked from the air. Some of the people who fled their homes in Los Alamos returned. Firefighters are using helicopters, planes, bulldozers and hand tools to fight the fire.

U.S. Warns of Terrorism in Israel

WASHINGTON (AP)

AP Top News at Noon EDT Friday, May 12, 2000

The State Department today warned Americans in Israel, on the West Bank and in Gaza that there is an increased possibility of terrorism. While there is no reason to believe there is a specific threat against Americans, the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv and the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem urged all U.S. citizens to be vigilant, especially when using public transportation in Israel, the statement said. No reason was given for the heightened concern. But terrorists have often struck when Israel and the Arabs reached or approached agreement.

Battle Near Sierra Leone Capital

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone (AP)

U.N. peacekeeping troops and pro-government forces geared up for a possible rebel advance on the nervous capital, where up to 30,000 frightened villagers have sought refuge, a U.N. humanitarian official said today. Sierra Leone soldiers and pro-government militia drove rebel forces farther from Freetown yesterday, army spokesman Prince Nicol said. The fighting near Newton, 25 miles east of Freetown, pitted the forces of the Revolutionary United Front, or RUF, against the recently rearmed army and the pro-government Kamajors a militia made up of traditional hunters, he said. The army was disarmed under a July peace agreement but with U.N. permission the soldiers have taken up arms again to defend the city.

Portugal Prepares for Pope's Visit

FATIMA, Portugal (AP)

Portuguese officials expect as many as 1 million people to pour into Fatima for Pope John Paul's 24-hour visit. And its largest-ever security operation is being mounted for his arrival today. The Pope will beatify two shepherds who as children said they witnessed visions of the Virgin Mary at Fatima in 1917. The Shrine usually receives 350,000 visitors on May 13 each year.

Nasdaq Gains 113; Dow Rises 110

NEW YORK (AP)

Just before noon EDT, the Dow Jones industrial average was up 110.69 points at 10,656.66. Advancing issues on the New York Stock Exchange held a 1,469-1,139 lead over decliners. The Nasdaq composite index was up 113.09 at 3,612.67.

Corretja Knocks Out Hrbaty

ROME (AP)

Twenty-four hours after knocking out top-ranked Andre Agassi, Slovakia's Dominik Hrbaty lost in straight sets today to Alex Corretja in the quarterfinals of the Italian Open. Spain's Corretja, the No. 10 seed, rolled 6-1, 7-6 (5), against the hard-hitting No. 15 seed. Hrbaty double faulted on match point, just as Agassi had done the day before. Corretja, the 1998 French Open runner-up and 1997 Italian Open champion, advances to the semifinals, where he lost last year to eventual winner Gustavo Kuerten of Brazil. Also today, No. 3 seed Magnus Norman of Sweden rolled over Felix Mantilla of Spain 6-4, 6-3.

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Space Glue for Mir Repair Tested

MOSCOW (AP)

The crew of Russia's Mir space station ventured outside today for a five-hour spacewalk to test a cosmic version of super glue designed to seal cracks in the aging craft. Sergei Zalyotin and Alexander Kaleri checked the station's outer surface, inspected a broken solar panel and applied the glue to a special panel imitating the Mir's hull. Once back inside, the crew will study the panel to judge the quality of the glue, which forms a protective layer, said Mission Control spokesman Valery Lyndin. The space station is 14 years old.

Gulf War Battle Report Disputed

WASHINGTON (AP)

Retired Gen. Barry McCaffrey says an Army investigation just after the Gulf War refutes recently revived allegations that his troops violated a cease-fire and killed Iraqi prisoners. Newly released documents show that in 1991 the Army's criminal investigators interviewed dozens of soldiers and officers, reviewed maps and logs, and didn't find evidence to substantiate allegations of wrongdoing under McCaffrey's command of the 24th Infantry Division. McCaffrey, now the White House director of drug control, has waged a pre-emptive strike against an upcoming New Yorker magazine article by Seymour Hersh, the Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist who has done new research on the charges.

Nasdaq Gains 103; Dow Rises 116

NEW YORK (AP)

AP Top News at Noon EDT Friday, May 12, 2000

Just before 1 p.m. EDT, the Dow Jones industrial average was up 116.77 points at 10,662.74. Advancing issues on the New York Stock Exchange held a 1,539-1,170 lead over decliners. The Nasdaq composite index was up 103.75 at 3,603.33.

Corretja Knocks Out Hrbaty

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Twenty-four hours after knocking out top-ranked Andre Agassi, Slovakia's Dominik Hrbaty lost in straight sets today to Alex Corretja in the quarterfinals of the Italian Open. Spain's Corretja, the No. 10 seed, rolled 6-1, 7-6 (5), against the hard-hitting No. 15 seed. Corretja advances to the semifinals, where he lost last year to eventual winner Gustavo Kuerten of Brazil. Also today, No. 3 seed Magnus Norman of Sweden rolled over Felix Mantilla of Spain 6-4, 6-3.

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Struggle To Contain N.M. Blaze

LOS ALAMOS, N.M. (AP)

Slackening wind and increased humidity today gave firefighters a boost as they struggled to hold the line against a fire that destroyed 191 homes and forced 25,000 people from the town where the atomic bomb was built. "With the light winds, we're hoping to get air power in here today to put it out," Gov. Gary Johnson said this morning on NBC's "Today" show. "There haven't been any new fires so this is really positive." State Insurance Superintendent Don Letherer told The Albuquerque Tribune he estimated property losses could reach \$1 billion. He said the fire would be declared a catastrophe, which means insurance companies will have to settle claims in 90 days or face penalties.

Ulster Unionists To Meet

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP)

The ruling body of the Ulster Unionist Party will meet next weekend to decide whether to go back into a power-sharing government, party leader David Trimble said today. Trimble said the **Irish Republican Army**'s offer to put its weapons "beyond use" had raised questions that needed to be answered before he could make a recommendation to the party council. The British and Irish governments hope to restore power on May 22 to the Northern Ireland government, created under the peace agreement of Good Friday 1998. The government's powers were suspended in February to prevent a walkout by Trimble over the arms issue.

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Maine Enacts Drug Price Curbs

AUGUSTA, Maine (AP)

The state of Maine has a new law enabling it to negotiate on behalf of more than 300,000 residents for prescription drugs at lower prices. Gov. Angus King signed the legislation yesterday after it was approved overwhelmingly in the state's House and Senate. Under the measure the state, as a big buyer, would seek to obtain substantial discounts from suppliers similar to those provided to other large purchasers and pass on those savings to consumers.

Nasdaq Gains 86; Dow Rises 100

NEW YORK (AP)

Just before 2 p.m. EDT, the Dow Jones industrial average was up 100.07 points at 10,646.04. Advancing issues on the New York Stock Exchange held a 1,571-1,189 lead over decliners. The Nasdaq composite index was up 86.80 at 3,586.38.

Adam Petty Crashes During Practice

LOUDON, N.H. (AP)

Adam Petty, the fourth-generation driver of NASCAR's first family of racing, was airlifted to a hospital after crashing today during practice at New Hampshire International Speedway. There was no immediate word on his condition. The 19-year-old driver crashed shortly after noon during practice for this afternoon's qualifying in the Busch Grand National series. Petty is the grandson of the seven-time NASCAR champion Richard Petty and the son of Kyle Petty, a regular on the Winston Cup circuit. Adam's great grandfather was Lee Petty, one of the pioneers of NASCAR.

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New Plan for Defective Product Penalties

WASHINGTON (AP)

AP Top News at Noon EDT Friday, May 12, 2000

Hillary Rodham Clinton today unveiled the president's plan to toughen civil and criminal penalties for companies that fail to notify the government or consumers about potentially dangerous products. The legislation would upgrade willful criminal violations of product safety laws from misdemeanors to felonies, and eliminate the \$1.65 million cap on civil penalties. Although the changes would apply to most consumer products, today's announcement focused on children's products.

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Russia Search of Media Co. Criticized

MOSCOW (AP)

President Vladimir Putin today defended his commitment to news media freedom in the wake of a raid by submachine gun-toting police on a media company often critical of the Kremlin. Russian politicians and news organizations expressed concern that yesterday's search of the offices of Media-MOST, led by tycoon Vladimir Gusinsky, offices could be a prelude to restrictions on free speech. Gusinsky said the search was intended to punish the group's NTV television and other media properties for critical coverage of Putin.

Nasdaq Gains 54; Dow Rises 51

NEW YORK (AP)

Just before 3 p.m. EDT, the Dow Jones industrial average was up 51.06 points at 10,597.03. Advancing issues on the New York Stock Exchange held a 1,537-1,289 lead over decliners. The Nasdaq composite index was up 54.86 at 3,554.44.

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Hingis Reaches German Open Semis

BERLIN (AP)

Top-ranked Martina Hingis outlasted fifth-seeded Sandrine Testud 7-5, 5-7, 6-2 to advance to the semi-finals of the German Open. The victory brought the Swiss star's winning match streak to 13, leaving her two wins away from her second straight tournament title on clay. Hingis also won last week's event in Hamburg.

Los Alamos Blaze Isn't Out Yet

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before they reach consumers, dipped an expected 0.3 percent last month after having shot up in February and March, the Labor Department reported.

Dow Up 87; Nasdaq Gains 57

NEW YORK (AP)

Stock prices moved higher today after the government's report of a decline in wholesale prices in April helped quell recent worries about inflationary pressures and higher interest rates. Just before the 4 p.m. EDT close, the Dow Jones industrial average is up 87.39 at 10,633.36. The Nasdaq Composite Index is up 57.13 at 3,556.71.

NASCAR Driver Adam Petty Dies

CONCORD, N.H. (AP)

Adam Petty, the fourth-generation driver of NASCAR's most famous family, died after a crash today during practice at New Hampshire International Speedway in Loudon. The 19-year-old driver was taken to Concord Hospital, where he died of head trauma, spokeswoman Jennifer Dearborn said. Petty crashed during practice for today's qualifying race in the Busch Grand National series. Petty is the grandson of seven-time NASCAR champion Richard Petty and the son of Kyle Petty, a regular on the Winston Cup circuit. Adam's great grandfather was Lee Petty, one of the pioneers of NASCAR.

Los Alamos Blaze Isn't Out Yet

LOS ALAMOS, N.M. (AP)

Slackening wind and increased humidity today boosted they struggled against a brush fire that destroyed 260 homes and forced 25,000 people from the town that hosts America's nuclear lab. "We're hoping to get air power in here today to put it out," Gov. Gary Johnson said this morning on NBC's "Today" show. It's estimated that property losses could reach \$1 billion. Officials have said that the nuclear material at Los Alamos remains safe.

Big Game Winner Comes Forward

LANSING, Mich. (AP)

A Michigan swimming pool installer today claimed half of the \$363 million Big Game prize, the largest jackpot in U.S. lottery history. Larry Ross, 47, was accompanied by his wife and three children. Ross of Shelby Township said the family plans to move to a more secure neighborhood, invest the money wisely and to give some of it to charity. The other winning ticket was sold at a gas station in Lake Zurich, Ill., but that winner has not yet contacted lottery officials.

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forests and canyons, however, and residents were told they could not return to their houses for at least a week. "This fire is not over with and nobody here is pretending it is," Gov. Gary Johnson said.

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Ethiopia, Eritrea Go to War Again

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP)

Ignoring pleas to end their two-year border conflict, Ethiopia and Eritrea returned to open war on Friday with fighting reported on three fronts. U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan predicted "a very brutal war," and expressed frustration that peace efforts had failed. The two sides said war had erupted once again along the 620-mile frontier. In Munich, Germany, Richard Holbrooke, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, accused Ethiopia and Eritrea of "stupidity" for whipping up relatively minor disputes.

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Intentional Brush Burning Defended

WASHINGTON (AP)

Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt and Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman imposed a 30-day moratorium on prescribed fires in the West, as the New Mexico wildfire set by the National Park Service continued blazing uncontrolled today. When officials set a brush fire at Bandelier National Monument last week, the plan was to have a small fire prevent a big one. But the wrong weather patterns can turn such prescribed fires into just the kind of

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monster infernos they're meant to prevent. The federal government's controlled burn policy is out of control," said Rep. Joe Skeen.

Clintons Urge Product Defect Penalties

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Study: Gender Determined in Womb

BALTIMORE (AP)

A study of male children who were born without penises and raised as girls found that most of them considered themselves boys when they got older suggesting that gender identity is determined in the womb. The question the practice of surgically "reassigning" the sex of such infants, researchers at the Johns Hopkins Hospital said today. Researchers tracked the development of 27 children who had been born without a penis. Twenty-five of the children were sex-reassigned doctors castrated them at birth and their parents raised them as girls. But over the years, all of the children, now ages 5 to 16, exhibited the rough-and-tumble play of boys. Fourteen declared themselves to be boys.

Deal Creates Largest Ad Company

NEW YORK (AP)

In the advertising industry's biggest buyout, WPP Group PLC is paying about \$4.3 billion in stock for Young & Rubicam Inc., which created the Jell-O jingle, invited soda drinkers to "Be a Pepper" and made Snoopy an insurance salesman. The deal announced today after a rocky four-month courtship will make London-based WPP Group, which also owns the venerable U.S. ad companies J. Walter Thompson and Ogilvy & Mather, the world's largest ad and marketing company.

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The debate over how to control drug costs moved from the nation's capital to Maine this week when it became the first state to decide to use its bargaining power to negotiate prices of prescription medicine for people without coverage. Tired of waiting for Congress to act, many states are closely watching Maine's bold experiment. Maine's plan was signed into legislation late yesterday. Maine is also threatening to become the first state to enact price controls on prescription drugs if the negotiations fail to hold down prices by 2003. The pharmaceutical industry is expected to challenge the law in court.

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Indiana Trustees To Meet on Knight

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)

As a ring of accusations tightens around Bob Knight, Indiana University trustees will begin on Sunday to decide the fate of the fiery basketball coach. Charges of physical intimidation of players, staff and school officials, some going back more than 20 years, surfaced after a videotape of an Indiana practice was leaked to the media in March. Former player Neil Reed's claimed he was choked by Knight. The trustees will meet amid growing speculation they will consider asking Knight to resign rather than force a showdown that could lead to his dismissal.

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FBI Computer Flaw Halts Gun Sales

WASHINGTON (AP)

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All gun sales have been halted nationwide since yesterday afternoon because an internal software problem in the FBI criminal history database has temporarily halted instant background checks of gun buyers, the FBI said today. The FBI's Interstate Identification Index, a database that has the criminal histories of 36 million people, stopped working late yesterday afternoon. FBI and contractor employees expected to have it working again by tomorrow evening or Sunday morning, FBI spokesman Paul Bresson said. "It was an internal database problem, not the result of a hacking or external attack," Bresson said.

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Interactive TV: Shop by Remote

NEW ORLEANS (AP)

By unleashing the powers of interactivity, cable businesses are partnering with software and technology companies to turn television commerce into much more than home shopping channels. With a few points and clicks of a remote, consumers could order a pizza with their favorite toppings right off their TV screen, buy a CD during a live broadcast concert or request information from a local dealer during a car commercial. Special software added to cable boxes on consumers' TVs make possible interactive functions such as shopping directly from the screen.

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Gretzky Mulls Stake in Coyotes

PHOENIX (AP)

Wayne Gretzky, who retired last year planning to spend two years away from hockey, is considering becoming part owner of the Phoenix Coyotes along with prospective lead investor Steve Ellman. "It's definitely the right offer. It's just a question if it's the right time," Gretzky told The Arizona Republic. A spokesman for Ellman, Jeffrey Hecht, declined to discuss the timetable for reaching an agreement with the Hall of Fame forward, but said it could take place quickly.

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Indonesia, Rebels OK Cease-Fire

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia (AP)

Indonesian government and separatist rebel negotiators meeting in Switzerland signed the first cease-fire agreement in 25 years of fighting. One of the most striking examples of the positive reaction by the war-weary people to the first ray of hope in the territory came from a rebel stronghold south of the capital, Banda Aceh. There, dozens of young, heavily armed guerrilla fighters put down their weapons and gave thanks as they heard news that their leaders and Indonesia's reformist government had signed the landmark accord and would begin the three-month cease-fire on June 2.

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German Leader: Welcome Foreigners

BERLIN (AP)

Stepping into a national debate on immigration, Germany's president urged his compatriots Friday to show more tolerance for foreigners and condemned politicians who play on racist themes. In a speech marking his first year in office, President Johannes Rau also said Germany must not be afraid to think about controlling immigration if that would help ease the integration of 7 million foreigners already living here. "That people of different origins and cultures all live in our country will not change," Rau said. "We need a new effort so all people in Germany can live together an effort without fears, and without getting dreamy."

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Czechs Vs. Slovaks in Hockey Final

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia (AP)

The two halves of former Czechoslovakia will meet in a historic final at the World Hockey Championships. The world champion Czech Republic beat Canada 2-1 in one semifinal Friday after Slovakia upset Finland 3-1. The two nations have played before in the world championships, but Sunday's game will mark the first time the Czechs and Slovaks will play for a gold medal. Canada will play for the bronze on Sunday against Finland, which won the silver medal the last two years.

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Germany's president urged his compatriots Friday to show more tolerance for foreigners and condemned politicians who play on racist themes. In a speech marking his first year in office, President Johannes Rau also said Germany must not be afraid to think about controlling immigration if that would help ease the integration of 7 million foreigners already living here. "We need a new effort so all people in Germany can live together an effort without fears, and without getting dreamy," Raud said.

World's Great Apes Are Disappearing

LISLE, Ill. (AP)

The world's great apes are hurtling toward extinction at a rate that is alarming scientists. At an urgent meeting this week of wildlife and zoo researchers from 12 nations, experts said new estimates of the populations of chimpanzees, gorillas and orangutans are far lower than they were even a year or two ago, with some species down to a few thousand, or even a few hundred.

Dow Ends Up 63; Nasdaq Gains 29

NEW YORK (AP)

Stocks rose today after the report of a decline in wholesale prices in April helped quell worries about rising interest rates. The Dow Jones industrial average ended up 63.40 points at 10,609.37. On the NYSE, gainers led losers 1,604-1,330. The Nasdaq rose 29.48 to 3,529.06. For the week, the Dow lost a total of 31.51 points and the Nasdaq lost 287.78.

Red Sox Crush Orioles 9-0

BALTIMORE (AP)

Pedro Martinez pitched a two-hitter and struck out 15 as the Boston Red Sox beat the slumping Baltimore Orioles 9-0 tonight. Pitching for the first time since May 6 because of a suspension, Martinez (6-1) allowed only two baserunners. The 1999 Cy Young winner was suspended for hitting Cleveland's Roberto Alomar with a pitch on April 30.

Ethiopia, Eritrea Fighting Again

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP)

Ethiopia and Eritrea returned to open war on Friday with fighting reported on three fronts, ignoring international pleas to end their two-year border conflict. U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan predicted "a very brutal war," and expressed frustration that peace efforts had failed. The two sides issued contradictory statements on the details of the fighting, but both agreed that war had erupted once again along the 620-mile frontier, which contains a now-evacuated stretch of fertile land of great value in this drought-wracked region of Africa. The U.N. Security Council demanded the two countries immediately stop fighting and hinted at a possible arms embargo if Africa's newest war doesn't dissipate over the weekend.

New Mexico Fire Still Rages

LOS ALAMOS, N.M. (AP)

The blowtorch winds and searing heat that fed a raging wildfire broke today, easing the threat to Los Alamos from a blaze that destroyed 260 homes, damaged the town's nuclear weapons laboratory and forced 25,000 people to flee. The fire remained out of control in the nearby forests and canyons, however, and residents were told they could not return to their houses for at least a week. The blaze began as a government-prescribed burn to clear brush but exploded in size, fueled by dry weather, temperatures around 90 and wind gusts of more than 50 mph.

Clinton, Bush Offering Gun Ideas

WASHINGTON (AP)

President Clinton today announced grants to develop "smart gun" technology while Gov. George W. Bush said he will distribute free trigger locks in Texas. Filling out the election-year debate, Vice President Al Gore acknowledged that he often voted with the National Rifle Association during his early years in Congress, but they have parted ways. Bush and Gore sat down for interviews on morning television shows, raising their voices on one of the most volatile issues of the presidential campaign season. Recent polls show voters split between Gore and Bush on whom they trust on gun policies.

Kenyan Leader Supporting Rwanda

KIGALI, Rwanda (AP)

Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi on Friday pledged his support for Rwanda in an escalating crisis with its ally Uganda, whose troops have clashed with the Rwandan army in northern Congo. Moi's one-day visit, the first in more than a decade, marks a turnabout in Kenya's relations with Rwanda, which had been estranged since the 1994 genocide of more than 500,000 people on orders of the former Hutu extremist government that had enjoyed support of Moi. Rwandan President Paul Kagame, a former leader of the Tutsi-led rebels who in July 1994 won power and stopped the genocide, said the situation in the northern Congolese city of Kisangani, which is divided between Rwandan and Ugandan troops, was for the moment quiet.

Even Cheap Drugs May Not Aid Africa

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP)

A plan by pharmaceutical companies to reduce sharply the price of AIDS drugs was greeted Friday as a sign of progress but one that will have little impact on most of those infected. Five major drug companies announced in Geneva on Thursday they would work with governments in Africa and other poor regions to cut the overall costs of HIV/AIDS drugs by a reported 70 to 85 percent. However, few countries in sub-Saharan Africa, where 70 percent of the world's 33.6 million HIV-infected people live, have the resources to provide any large-scale programs to their infected populations.

Famed Authors Plane Said Found

MARSEILLE, France (AP)

A company preparing a documentary on the author of the children's classic "The Little Prince" said Friday they may have found traces of Antoine de Saint-Exupery's missing warplane a finding that could shed light on his disappearance during World War II. Engineers at a French maritime works company said they had likely discovered a piece of the writer's Lockheed P-38 Lightning plane as they probed the Mediterranean in a search for clues off the coast of Marseille.

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Indians Defeat Royals 7-3

CLEVELAND (AP)

Bartolo Colon and Kenny Lofton both returned from the disabled list tonight and made immediate impacts, leading the Cleveland Indians to a 7-3 victory over the Kansas City Royals. Colon held Kansas City to three hits in six innings while Lofton went 3-for-4 and bunted home the go-ahead run in the fifth for the Indians. Travis Fryman hit a clutch two-out, two-run double in the sixth and Manny Ramirez and David Justice homered for Cleveland.

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Midwest Storms Kill Two, Injure Dozens

DUNKERTON, Iowa (AP)

A quickly moving storm spawned tornadoes, high winds and baseball-sized hail from Texas to Michigan Friday, killing one person in Texas and injuring at least two dozen others. A 4-year-old Kansas girl died earlier in the day in aftermath of a tornado. One person died in Hill County, about 60 miles south of Dallas, when a twister touched down Friday evening, said Cpl. Charlie Morgan with the Texas Department of Public Safety. The storm ripped roofs off houses and flipped mobile homes as the storm moved through. In St. Nazianz, Wis., straight-line wind gusts up to 110 mph and baseball-size hail caused heavy damage to a mobile home park Friday night, where several people were injured.

Indian woman crowned Miss Universe 2000

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP)

A 21-year-old model from India who said beauty pageants give women a platform to "voice our choices and opinions" was named Miss Universe early Saturday. Lara Dutta succeeded Mpule Kwelagobe of Botswana to become the 49th winner of the pageant and the first Miss Universe of the new millennium. Claudia Morena, 22, of

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Venezuela was second and Helen Lindes, 18 of Spain was third. Dutta, who holds a master's degree in communications, won out over 78 other contestants.

Ethiopia, Eritrea Fighting Again

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP)

Ignoring international pleas to end their two-year border conflict, Ethiopia and Eritrea returned to open war on Friday with fighting reported on three fronts. U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan predicted "a very brutal war," and expressed frustration that peace efforts had failed. The two sides issued contradictory statements on the details of the fighting, but both agreed that war had erupted once again along the 620-mile frontier, which contains a now-evacuated stretch of fertile land of great value in this drought-wracked region of Africa. The U.N. Security Council demanded the two countries immediately stop fighting and hinted at a possible arms embargo if Africa's newest war doesn't dissipate over the weekend.

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Heat Defeat Knicks 77-76 in OT

NEW YORK (AP)

Anthony Carter's incredible shot from behind the backboard which didn't count until an offensive goaltending call was waved off gave the Miami Heat a 77-76 overtime victory over the New York Knicks on Friday night. In a strange finish to a one of the better Knicks-Heat playoff games ever, the fickle bounce of the ball and a rare reversal of a referee's call gave the Heat a 2-1 lead in the best-of-seven series.

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End of Document

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Byline: PAULINE M. MILLARD

Body

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Bush Opines on Roe Vs. Wade

COLFAX, Iowa (AP)

Republican presidential front-runner George W. Bush said Friday "it should be up to each state legislature" to decide what limits to place on abortions, adding that the Supreme Court erred by issuing a ruling on the issue 27 years ago. But Bush, an anti-abortion two-term Texas governor, did not directly call for the outright repeal of the 1973 Roe vs. Wade decision that legalized abortions, and his comments, in the closing days of the Iowa caucus campaign, drew a taunting reply from GOP rival Steve Forbes. Bush, who is campaigning as a compassionate conservative, opposes abortion except in cases of rape, incest and where the life of the mother is at stake. But he doesn't emphasize the issue.

Venezuela Damage Estimated at \$10B

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

Venezuela needs between \$10 billion and \$30 billion to repair the damage from December's massive floods and landslides, and much of the money will have to come from other countries, a top official said Friday. "The figures are astronomic because a substantial part of the national infrastructure has been destroyed," Vice Foreign Minister Jorge Valero told reporters. Valero's statement is the first official estimate of the damage since avalanches of mud, water and boulders came crashing down the mountain that separates the capital, Caracas, from the Caribbean Sea on Dec. 15.

Two Arrested For Date Rape Kits

AP Top News at 1 a.m. EST Saturday, Jan. 22, 2000

TRENTON, N.J. (AP)

Two brothers were arrested for allegedly using the Internet to sell \$200,000 in kits for making so-called date rape drugs, New Jersey Attorney General John J. Farmer Jr. said Friday. Jeffrey Suggs, 33, and Kenneth Suggs, 29, were being held without bond. The two men used the Internet to advertise kits containing the chemical GHB, or gamma hydroxybutyrate, Farmer said. The drug is a depressant that has been used in sexual assaults throughout the country. In sufficient quantities, it causes loss of consciousness and it usually leaves the victim with little or no memory of the attack. If convicted, the men face prison sentences of five to 10 years and fines of up to \$150,000.

Elian's Grandmothers To Meet Reno

NEW YORK (AP)

Elian Gonzalez's grandmothers flew to New York from Cuba Friday to appeal for his return, saying the boy's late mother will not "rest in peace" until the 6-year-old boy is back in his homeland. "Respect the memory of my daughter," said the boy's maternal grandmother, Raquel Rodriguez. She and the boy's paternal grandmother, Mariela Quintana, flew with a church delegation that has supported Elian's return over the objections of the boy's relatives in Miami. Those relatives have invited the grandmothers to visit, but the two refused.

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NEW YORK (AP) Blue-chip stocks fell for a fourth straight day as inflation-wary investors moved away from industrial companies and into high-tech. The technology-dominated Nasdaq rose 45.89 to 4,235.40, another record high. The Dow Jones industrial average ended down 99.59 at 11,251.71. On the NYSE, losers led gainers 1,746-1,326.

Flames Defeat Predators 5-4 in OT

CALGARY, Alberta (AP)

Valeri Bure scored twice, including the game-winner, as Calgary beat Nashville 5-4 on Friday night for the Flames' NHL-record ninth overtime victory of the season. Calgary improved its overtime record to 9-1-5, breaking the NHL record of eight victories set by Winnipeg in 1987-88. Marc Savard set up the winning goal 3:06 into the extra session, breaking into the Nashville zone and passing across to Bure, who beat goalie Mike Dunham for the Calgary forward's 24th goal of the season.

Suns Beat Nuggets 101-99

DENVER (AP)

Jason Kidd scored 12 of his 24 points in the fourth quarter and the Phoenix Suns handed the Denver Nuggets their sixth straight loss, 101-99 Friday night. Kidd and Cliff Robinson, who also had 24 points, hit key shots down the stretch. Tom Gugliotta added 21 points and 15 rebounds for Phoenix, and Kidd had 12 assists. Denver committed nine turnovers compared to Phoenix's two, but the Nuggets managed to trim the deficit to 27-21 at the end of the quarter.

Three-Person Junta Seizes Power in Ecuador

QUITO, Ecuador (AP)

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Bank Chiefs Gather for G7 Meeting

TOKYO (AP)

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Bradley Downplays Irregular Heartbeat

CLINTON, Iowa (AP)

Bill Bradley sought a final-weekend focus on tuning his political organization, but struggled to move the focus of his presidential campaign beyond discussions of his irregular heartbeat. Already trailing in polls in Iowa, and with Gore looking better in New Hampshire, Bradley found the health issue and his handling of the disclosures consuming his campaign as it headed into the final weekend before Iowa's leadoff nominating caucuses. Bradley sought to quell the uproar over his health late in the day, releasing a statement from his cardiologist. "These episodes have not, in any way, interfered with his busy schedule," said Dr. Robert H. Heissenbuttel.

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NTSB Head Disputes EgyptAir Theory

WASHINGTON (AP)

National Transportation Safety Board Chairman Jim Hall said Friday that additional studies must be completed before his agency can determine the cause of the EgyptAir 990 crash, and he disputed an Associated Press report that investigators are increasingly convinced the jet was crashed deliberately. Three government officials close to the investigation, speaking on condition of anonymity, said examinations of the jet's remains have revealed no signs of a mechanical failure that would have caused the plane to crash, AP reported Thursday. "No hypothesis for the cause of this accident has been accepted," Hall said Friday in a statement.

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Ecuador Junta Says President Will Be Tried

QUITO, Ecuador (AP)

A member of the three-person junta that replaced Ecuador's President Jamil Mahuad late yesterday said in an interview that the unpopular president would be tried, but did not specify for what alleged crime. Carlos Solorzano, a former Supreme Court judge, emerged from a meeting at the national palace shortly before midnight with Gen. Carlos Mendoza, the head of the joint military command who was named defense minister last week, and Antonio Vargas, leader of an Indian federation that organized the protests that led Mahuad to flee the palace where he worked and lived. They presented themselves to the media as Ecuador's new leaders.

U.N. Accord Targets Child Soldiers

UNITED NATIONS (AP)

An international agreement aimed at ending the use of child soldiers is being hailed as a major achievement after six years of wrangling over the details. The accord, completed in Geneva yesterday, would raise the minimum age for combat service to 18 years worldwide, and require people be 16 years old for voluntary service. According to U.N. estimates, 300,000 people under 18 are currently involved in wars across the globe.

Bush Confident on Iowa, N.H.

SIOUX CITY, Iowa (AP)

With polls showing him leading among likely voters, George W. Bush pushed on toward Monday's Iowa caucuses amid last-minute criticism of his abortion stance from his rivals for the Republican presidential nomination. The Texas governor expressed confidence about his chances in the first voting of the 2000 presidential race during informal conversations with reporters while flying aboard their press charter last night. Bush reiterated he is optimistic he can beat Arizona Sen. John McCain in the New Hampshire primary eight days after the Iowa balloting, perhaps sealing the GOP nomination.

China, U.S. Military To Have Contact

BEIJING (AP)

A senior Chinese general left for the United States today for the first military contact since Beijing broke off the exchanges eight months ago, following NATO's bombing of the Chinese Embassy in Yugoslavia. Lt. Gen. Xiong Guangkai, deputy chief of the general staff of the People's Liberation Army, will hold three days of talks in Washington next week with U.S. Undersecretary of Defense Walter Slocombe and other Pentagon officials. Their meetings are to be the first high-level meetings between the two militaries in 13 months, and should help dispel the lingering ill-will that has clouded Chinese-U.S. relations since the May 7 bombing.

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Junta Claims Control in Ecuador

QUITO, Ecuador (AP)

A member of the three-person junta that replaced Ecuador's President Jamil Mahuad late yesterday said in an interview that the unpopular president would be tried, but did not specify for what alleged crime. Carlos Solorzano, a former Supreme Court judge, emerged from a meeting at the national palace shortly before midnight with Gen. Carlos Mendoza, the head of the joint military command who was named defense minister last week, and Antonio Vargas, leader of an Indian federation that organized the protests that led Mahuad to flee the palace where he worked and lived. Protesters said Mahuad should go because of his plan to make the U.S. dollar Ecuador's official currency in an attempt to halt inflation and stabilize the economy.

Casualties Alleged in Kashmir Fight

JAMMU, India (AP)

Indian soldiers killed seven Pakistani soldiers who entered Indian-controlled territory in the disputed Kashmir region in a fierce gunbattle that also left two Indians dead, an army general said. Maj. Gen. P.P.S. Bindra, who heads the army's northern command, said a group of Pakistani soldiers had attacked an Indian army post in the Himalayan territory, which is divided between the two South Asian rivals and is a frequent center for tensions between them. "They came and attacked our post, and killed one junior commissioned officer and one soldier in the initial attack. We retaliated," Bindra told The Associated Press.

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U.N. Accord Targets Child Soldiers

UNITED NATIONS (AP)

An international agreement aimed at ending the use of child soldiers is being hailed as a major achievement after six years of wrangling over the details. The accord, completed in Geneva yesterday, would raise the minimum age for combat service to 18 years worldwide, and require people be 16 years old for voluntary service. According to U.N. estimates, 300,000 people under 18 are currently involved in wars across the globe.

Indonesia, Aceh Peace Talks Planned

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)

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Ecuador's Military Chief Dissolves Junta

QUITO, Ecuador (AP)

Ecuador's military chief said early today that a three-man provisional junta that took power after a chaotic rebellion had been dissolved and that the vice president would assume power. Gen. Carlos Mendoza told Ecuador Radio that he decided to join the junta in order to "prevent bloodshed" after middle-level officers backed a rebellion by Indians against President Jamil Mahuad. He said he had left the presidential palace with rebellious troops after midnight. There was no immediate confirmation if or when the vice president, Gustavo Noboa, would assume the presidency. Nor was there any confirmation that Mahuad, who fled during the rebellion, had resigned the office.

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Ecuador Military Chief Says Junta Is Dissolved

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Ecuador's military chief said early today that a three-man provisional junta that took power after a chaotic rebellion had been dissolved and that the vice president would assume power. Gen. Carlos Mendoza's announcement followed a whirlwind of events that began yesterday morning when Indian protesters joined by junior military officers stormed Congress and the Supreme Court demanding President Jamil Mahuad's ouster. Armed soldiers took over the palace and Mendoza announced late yesterday the formation of a three-man provisional junta. But Ecuador's neighbors and the United States stridently objected and U.S. officials said any overthrow of the constitutional order would mean a severing of aid from Washington and a boycott by international investors.

Secret Nuke Documents Made Public

WASHINGTON (AP)

The government's aggressive push five years ago to declassify historic papers led to about 1,000 documents containing nuclear weapons secrets to be mistakenly declassified, the Clinton administration told Congress. While the nuclear weapons documents were inadvertently opened to researchers, only one of the files on nuclear weapons deployment in foreign countries in the 1950s was actually examined by any outsiders before the mistakes were discovered, the Department of Energy said in a report.

Oil Closes in on \$30 a Barrel

NEW YORK (AP)

Oil prices this week climbed to almost \$30 a barrel for the first time since the Persian Gulf War, raising worries that consumer prices could follow and in turn drive up interest rates. But aside from the costlier heating oil, gasoline and

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transportation rates, and the fuel surcharges on airplane tickets, inflation remains tame. And the U.S. economy has barely blinked at oil's impact. The reason: Oil simply doesn't lubricate the new, tech-savvy U.S. economy the way it once did. Still, economists say there will be bigger trouble ahead if oil's rise isn't stopped soon.

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Packers Seek Help for Lambeau Field

MADISON, Wis. (AP)

The Green Bay Packers are hoping to get approval for a 0.5 percent sales tax in Brown County, which would help pay for a \$295 million renovation of Lambeau Field, The Associated Press learned. The tax would require approval in a referendum and would be in addition to the 5 percent state sales tax. It could generate \$160 million to help repay bonds issued for remodeling, sources who were briefed by Packers officials said yesterday.

Military-Backed Junta Is Dissolved in Ecuador

QUITO, Ecuador (AP)

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After the president fled a revolt, a military-backed junta took power in Ecuador, then hours later said today it would step aside to allow the vice president to take over. The head of the military announced early today he would dissolve the three-person junta, after Latin American nations sharply criticized the would-be coup and the United States threatened to cut off aid to the impoverished nation. "What we were trying to do was prevent the international isolation of Ecuador," said Gen. Carlos Mendoza, who was one of the junta members, as he announced on Ecuador Radio that the vice president would take control. There was no immediate confirmation if or when the vice president, Gustavo Noboa, would assume the presidency.

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Research With Humans Nixed in Ala.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP)

Alabama's largest medical center has been ordered to stop enrolling human volunteers in hundreds of federally-funded studies after a government citing potential safety concerns among the test subjects. University of Alabama at Birmingham officials said yesterday that about 25 percent of its 2,220 research projects including those on AIDS and cancer _ could be temporarily affected. The order, made public by the university, was issued this week by the National Institutes of Health's Office for Protection from Research Risks, which oversees patient safety procedures at federally funded institutions.

Tyson Mobbed During Visit to London

LONDON (AP)

Mike Tyson spent 45 minutes in a police station, and this time it was his idea. The former heavyweight champion, in England to fight British champion Julius Francis in Manchester on Jan. 29, was mobbed by more than 1,000 fans yesterday as he visited racially mixed Brixton. "If you're an African-American or you're a black man from any part of the world and you come to London, you go to Brixton to see your people out of respect for them alone," Tyson said on the eve of his visit.

Russia Intensifies Chechnya Attack

GUDERMES, Russia (AP)

Russian troops now control one third of the Chechen capital, Grozny, and are fighting their way yard-by-yard to the center of the city still held by Islamic militants, the Russian military said today. Fierce street fighting was reported in all four sections of Grozny, as federal troops moved forward, taking a few hundred yards of territory a day, the ITAR-Tass news agency said, quoting military sources. Despite the Russian advance, the rebels retain control of the northwestern section of the city, Minutka Square in the city center and adjoining areas, the federal headquarters in the North Caucasus told the Interfax news agency.

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33 Die As Bus Plunges in India

NEW DELHI, India (AP)

A bus winding through a narrow mountain path went out of control and plunged into a gorge in northern India, killing all 33 passengers, a local official said today. The lone survivor was the driver, who jumped out as the bus started tumbling down the mountain late yesterday in the Kalhel region of the northern Himachal Pradesh state, said Lajim Singh, an official in the District Collector's office in the nearby town of Chamba. "There is nothing left of the bus, just the crumpled iron," Singh said by telephone. The driver of the privately owned bus was recovering in a local hospital, he said.

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Ecuador Vice President Takes Power

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Vice President Gustavo Noboa assumed the presidency today with the military's backing after a tumultuous Indian revolt backed by the armed forces toppled President Jamil Mahuad. Noboa became Ecuador's sixth president in four years with the signing of a decree at the Defense Ministry. The military chief, Gen. Carlos Mendoza, dissolved the junta early this morning. Mendoza said the quick decision to elevate Noboa to the presidency was made after discussions with U.S. officials, who warned that Ecuador could lose its foreign aid and investment if it did not restore power to the elected government.

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Dallas Residents Asked To Cut Water Use

DALLAS (AP)

Dallas area residents will be urged to voluntarily conserve water beginning Monday as the region endures one of driest periods on record, The Dallas Morning News reported today. Utility officials will ask customers to reduce the number of times they water lawns and plants and wash cars for up to 60 days, the newspaper reported. Last year was one of the driest on record for the region with rainfall totals below half of the annual average in several parts of Texas.

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Syria Seeks Written Golan Pledge

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP)

Israel's prime minister should give the United States a written pledge to withdraw from the Golan Heights to 1967 prewar borders, a Syrian government-run newspaper said today. "(Ehud) Barak should adopt a clear-cut policy and deposit a written document to the American side in which he has to reaffirm that his promise to abandon the Golan was not mere talk," Al-Thawra said in an editorial. In Syria, newspapers are state-run and reflect government views. A third round of peace talks, scheduled to begin last week in the United States, has been postponed indefinitely.

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Eliau Gonzalez's grandmothers are scheduled to meet later today with Attorney General Janet Reno, who has said Eliau belongs with his father, and Immigration and Naturalization Service Commissioner Doris Meissner. "I invite them to come to my house so they can see the child. To see that we are not hiding him," Eliau's great-uncle Lazaro Gonzalez said in Miami after the grandmothers arrived in New York yesterday. Eliau was found clinging to an inner tube off the coast of Florida on Nov. 25 after the boat on which he was heading for the United States capsized, killing his mother.

Ohio Students Evacuated After Fire

TIFFIN, Ohio (AP)

Dozens of students at Heidelberg College were evacuated from their three-story dormitory after a fire broke out in the building's top floor early today. The fire was confined to the top floor and no injuries were reported, said college spokesman Jamie Abel. He said the dormitory, Williard Hall, is home to 70 students but he did not know how many

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were in the building when the fire broke out around 4 a.m. The cause of the fire has not been determined. The dormitory was built in 1907 and had major renovations in 1993 that included alarms and a sprinkler system.

Dallas Residents Asked To Cut Water Use

DALLAS (AP)

Dallas area residents will be urged to voluntarily conserve water beginning Monday as the region endures one of driest periods on record, The Dallas Morning News reported today. Utility officials will ask customers to reduce the number of times they water lawns and plants and wash cars for up to 60 days, the newspaper reported. Last year was one of the driest on record for the region with rainfall totals below half of the annual average in several parts of Texas.

Russia Intensifies Chechnya Attack

GUDERMES, Russia (AP)

Russian troops now control one third of the Chechen capital, Grozny, and are fighting their way yard-by-yard to the center of the city still held by Islamic militants, the Russian military said today. Fierce street fighting is reported in all four sections of Grozny, as federal troops move forward, taking a few hundred yards of territory a day, the ITAR-Tass news agency said. Despite the Russian advance, the rebels retain control of the northwestern section of the city, Minutka Square in the city center and adjoining areas, federal officials said.

Syria Seeks Written Golan Pledge

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP)

Israel's prime minister should give the United States a written pledge to withdraw from the Golan Heights to 1967 prewar borders, a Syrian government-run newspaper said today. "(Ehud) Barak should adopt a clear-cut policy and deposit a written document to the American side in which he has to reaffirm that his promise to abandon the Golan was not mere talk," Al-Thawra said in an editorial. In Syria, newspapers are state-run and reflect government views.

Report: DaimlerChrysler Plans Bank

BERLIN (AP)

The German-American automaker DaimlerChrysler is planning to get into the banking business, according to a newspaper report. Klaus Mangold, who heads the company's financial services subsidiary Debis, told the Welt am Sonntag newspaper in an interview to be published tomorrow that there are plans in the works for a bank, but declined to reveal any details. Mangold said the company is also planning to branch out soon into the life insurance business.

Heat Defeat Hawks 101-79

MIAMI (AP)

Tim Hardaway returned to the lineup after missing 26 games, but it was Jamal Mashburn, the subject of trade talks, who keyed Miami's 101-79 victory over the slumping Atlanta Hawks last night. Mashburn, playing in his first game since learning he was nearly dealt to Philadelphia, scored 28 points. Hardaway scored just two points on 1-of-6 shooting but dished out 11 assists in his first game since injuring his right knee Dec. 1.

Clinton Targets Medicare Fraud

LOS ANGELES (AP)

President Clinton said today he wants to send a "fraud fighter" to the office of every Medicare contractor in the country in a new campaign to crack down on billions of dollars in false claims. In his weekly radio address, Clinton

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asked Congress to approve the \$43 million cost of the initiative as part of the federal budget for fiscal 2001. He said it is needed to stop a raid on the Treasury that persists despite what he called aggressive detection and enforcement efforts.

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Ecuador Vice President Takes Power

QUITO, Ecuador (AP)

Buckling to U.S. pressure, Ecuador's military chief dissolved a three-man junta that had claimed power just few hours earlier, and allowed the vice president to resume civilian rule. Vice President Gustavo Noboa assumed the presidency this morning with the signing of a decree at the Defense Ministry. Noboa's sudden ascension comes as the fate of Jamil Mahuad, who fled his presidential palace yesterday, remains unknown. The insurrection was fueled by resentment over the downward economic spiral in the nation of 12 million.

Kashmir Clash Kills Seven Pakistanis

JAMMU, India (AP)

A fierce gunbattle between Indian and Pakistani troops along their disputed Kashmir border today left as many as seven Pakistani soldiers dead in the disputed Kashmir region. The head of the Indian army's northern command said the Pakistani soldiers were shot dead when they attacked an Indian army post in the Himalayan territory, which is divided between the two South Asian rivals.

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Elia's Grandmothers Head to D.C.

NEW YORK (AP)

One day after making a national appeal for the return of their 6-year-old grandson, the grandmothers of Elian Gonzalez headed to Washington this morning to meet with Attorney General Janet Reno. The two women are expected to hold an afternoon meeting with Reno and Immigration and Naturalization Service Commissioner Doris Meissner. U.S. officials said that the grandmothers requested the meeting. Reno and the INS have said Elian belongs with his father in Cuba.

G-7 Economies Seek Better Balance

TOKYO (AP)

The world's major industrial powers lauded the overall strength of the world economy at a meeting in Tokyo today, but pushed to spread that expansion more evenly. "The challenge remains to secure a more balanced pattern of growth among our economies," finance ministers and central bank governors from the Group of Seven nations said in a joint communique. The United States, which has the most robust economy in the G7, has been especially vocal in urging other members to carry out structural reforms that would open the door to greater expansion.

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QUITO, Ecuador (AP)

Buckling to U.S. pressure, Ecuador's military chief early today dissolved a three-man junta that seized power just a few hours before, and the vice president assumed the presidency. Vice President Gustavo Noboa assumed the office this morning with the military's blessing, becoming Ecuador's sixth president in four years. Ousted President Jamil Mahuad made a surprise appearance on television, condemning the coup against him but wishing his successor "the best of luck." "I ask you to give Gustavo Noboa the support you did not give to me," he said.

Spanish Cop Killed in Blast Mourned

MADRID, Spain (AP)

Premier Jose Maria Aznar joined military leaders and civilians today for the funeral of an officer killed in a car bombing blamed on Basque separatists, the first alleged attack since the end of a cease-fire last month. The interior minister, meanwhile, warned there could be more terrorist attacks ahead. ETA, which has killed nearly 800 people in a 30-year campaign for independent Basque nation, had warned Dec. 3 that the cease-fire it declared in Sept. 1998 was over.

Orioles Find Baseball Is Taxing

NEW YORK (AP)

While the New York Yankees won the most, the Baltimore Orioles paid the most, as their total bill for the three years of baseball's luxury tax was \$10,643,897, according to management records obtained by The Associated Press. The Yankees, who won the World Series twice in the three years of the tax, were second at \$9,919,651, followed by Los Angeles at \$2,712,672, Boston at \$2,205,960 and Cleveland at \$2,065,496. Teams received their bills for the last year of the tax Jan. 10, and they are payable Jan. 31.

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The grandmothers of Elian Gonzalez are en route to Washington this afternoon to meet with Attorney General Janet Reno, one day after making a national appeal for the return to Cuba of their 6-year-old grandson. The two women are expected to also meet with Immigration and Naturalization Service Commissioner Doris Meissner. U.S. officials said that the grandmothers requested the meeting. Reno and the INS have said Elian belongs with his father in Cuba.

Russia Claims One Third of Grozny

NOVAYA SUNZHA, Russia (AP)

Fighting Chechen rebels yard by yard for control of snow-coated Grozny, the Russian military claimed today to have seized one-third of the Chechen capital but it still had not reached the coveted, rebel-held center of town. Russian aircraft and artillery unleashed some of their most intense strikes yet on Grozny today, with four continuously

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U.S., N.Korea Discuss Missiles

BERLIN (AP)

The United States and North Korea began their latest round of talks today on improving relations, a meeting already marked by controversy over an American missile test earlier this week. One of the aims of the Berlin talks is dealing with Washington's request for North Korea to send a senior envoy to visit the United States. Such a groundbreaking trip would be in reciprocation for President Clinton sending William Perry, a former U.S. defense secretary, to North Korea in May.

Tokyo Schoolgirls Claim Harassment

TOKYO (AP)

About one-tenth of Tokyo junior high school girls say male teachers have asked them to serve tea or give them a massage, and a similar number say they were told to act more feminine, Kyodo News agency reported today. The information came in a survey done by the city's public school teachers' union, which also found that about one in 20 elementary-school girls had male teachers tell them the same thing. According to the report, slightly more than a tenth of junior high school girls said teachers had stared at their bodies, while slightly less than a tenth said teachers had touched their bodies.

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Elian's Grandmothers Meeting Reno

WASHINGTON (AP)

Elian Gonzalez' grandmothers went directly to the attorney general today with their emotional crusade to wrest the Cuban boy from his Miami relatives and have him returned to his native Cuba. Mariela Quintana, paternal grandmother of 6-year-old Elian, arrived at the Justice Department with maternal grandmother Raquel Rodriguez for a meeting with Attorney General Janet Reno and Doris Meissner, the Immigration and

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Naturalization Service commissioner. The INS has ordered the boy returned to Cuba and Reno concurred. The grandmothers requested the meeting, U.S. officials said.

Russian: Chechen President Wounded

NOVAYA SUNZHA, Russia (AP)

The Russian military claimed today to have seized one-third of Chechnya's capital and Russian commander Viktor Kazantsev said Chechen President Aslan Maskhadov had been wounded in fighting in the Argun Gorge in the southern mountains. Russian aircraft and artillery unleashed some of their most intense strikes yet on Grozny, with four continuously airborne combat helicopters shelling repeatedly. Fierce street fighting was reported in all four sections of Grozny.

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Sri Lanka Imposes Curfew

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)

AP Top News at 1 a.m. EST Saturday, Jan. 22, 2000

Backed by Sri Lankan soldiers, police descended on a southern town before dawn today in hundreds of trucks to impose a 10-hour curfew as a part of a massive hunt for separatist rebels. Setting up road barricades around Gampaha, a town outside the capital of Colombo and home to 800,000 people, the police told residents through loud speakers not to come out of their homes between 10:30 a.m. and 8:30 p.m. Police detained 2,268 people for questioning throughout the nation today. The 17-year civil war has claimed 61,000 lives.

No. 5 Duke 75, Wake Forest 61

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (AP)

Freshman Jason Williams scored 19 points and No. 5 Duke set an Atlantic Coast Conference record with its 28th consecutive regular season league victory, 75-61 over Wake Forest today. The Blue Devils (15-2, 6-0) last lost to an ACC opponent in the regular season on Feb. 5, 1998, to North Carolina.

Elia's Grandmothers Meet Reno

WASHINGTON (AP)

Expressing "how much they are suffering" over the failure to return Elia Gonzalez to Cuba, the boy's grandmothers told Attorney General Janet Reno today the youngster should be reunited with his father in his native land. The grandmothers met with a sympathetic Reno for about 45 minutes, giving her a letter asking that Elia be returned to "the normality of life with his father, brother, family, friends at schools, his toys, dog and parrot." No plans have been announced for the grandmothers to visit the boy, who is with his Miami relatives.

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Trimble Says IRA Must Disarm

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP)

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Northern Ireland's fledgling Protestant-Catholic government will likely be suspended within weeks if the **Irish Republican Army** doesn't start to disarm, the province's major Protestant party warned today. Ulster Unionist Party leader David Trimble said expects the British government to resume direct control of Northern Ireland in February if a disarmament commission reports too little progress in its negotiations with the IRA. Trimble oversees the four-party coalition government formed as part of Northern Ireland's peace process.

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Amish Siblings Mourned in Pa.

FRYBURG, Pa. (AP)

Small groups of men and boys dressed in black trudged across the snow-covered plains today, leading a procession of horse-drawn buggies toward a hilltop cemetery for four young Amish siblings who died Thursday when their farmhouse burned. Investigators suspect a kerosene lamp in one of the children's bedroom's started the fire while Levi and Anna Mast finished the morning chores in a nearby barn. The home had no smoke alarms, phone or electricity.

No. 5 Duke 75, Wake Forest 61

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (AP)

Freshman Jason Williams scored 19 points and No. 5 Duke set an Atlantic Coast Conference record with its 28th consecutive regular season league victory, winning 75-61 over Wake Forest today. The Blue Devils (15-2, 6-0) last lost to an ACC opponent in the regular season on Feb. 5, 1998, to North Carolina.

Missouri 81, No. 7 Kansas 59

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP)

Clarence Gilbert hit seven 3-pointers and scored a career-high 27 points in an 81-59 Missouri victory over the seventh-ranked Kansas Jayhawks today. Gilbert was 7-for-10 from 3-point range and hit his first four of the second half to help Missouri (11-6, 4-1) take a 20-point lead.

Eliau's Grandmothers Meet Reno

WASHINGTON (AP)

Expressing "how much they are suffering" over the failure to return Elian Gonzalez to Cuba, the boy's grandmothers told Attorney General Janet Reno today the youngster should be reunited with his father in his native land. The grandmothers met with a sympathetic Reno for about 45 minutes, giving her a letter asking that Elian be returned to "the normality of life with his father, brother, family, friends at schools, his toys, dog and parrot." No plans have been announced for the grandmothers to visit the boy, who is with his Miami relatives.

Russia Claims One Third of Grozny

NOVAYA SUNZHA, Russia (AP)

AP Top News at 1 a.m. EST Saturday, Jan. 22, 2000

Fighting Chechen rebels yard by yard for control of snow-coated Grozny, the Russian military claimed today to have seized one-third of the Chechen capital but it still had not reached the coveted, rebel-held center of town. Elsewhere, Russian commander Viktor Kazantsev said Chechen President Aslan Maskhadov had been wounded in fighting in the Argun Gorge in the southern mountains. There was no immediate response from the Chechen command.

Anniversary of Roe V. Wade Marked

WASHINGTON (AP)

Hundreds of activists on both sides of the abortion debate converged on the nation's capital today to mark the 27th anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision with a weekend of vigils, marches and protests. The weekend events are to lead up to Monday's annual March for Life rally and march up Constitution Avenue to the Capitol and the Supreme Court. It was Jan. 22, 1973, that the Supreme Court made abortion legal.

Gore Leads in Iowa, N.H. Polls

WASHINGTON (AP)

Al Gore has a strong lead over Bill Bradley in Iowa polls just days before the state's presidential caucuses, while several New Hampshire polls indicate Gore has an edge over Bradley in a very close Democratic contest. A new survey in Iowa gave Gore a 63 percent-to-26 percent lead over the former New Jersey senator. For the Republicans, Texas Gov. George W. Bush has been about 20 points or more ahead of Steve Forbes in recent Iowa polls. In the New Hampshire race, Bush and McCain remain very close. The Iowa caucuses are Monday and the New Hampshire primary is Feb. 1.

Trimble Says IRA Must Disarm

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP)

Northern Ireland's fledgling Protestant-Catholic government will likely be suspended within weeks if the **Irish Republican Army** doesn't start to disarm, the province's major Protestant party warned today. Ulster Unionist Party leader David Trimble said expects the British government to resume direct control of Northern Ireland in February if a disarmament commission reports too little progress in its negotiations with the IRA. Trimble oversees the four-party coalition government formed as part of Northern Ireland's peace process.

Ecuador Vice President Takes Power

QUITO, Ecuador (AP)

Ecuador's vice president assumed the presidency of this small Andean nation today ending, at least for now, a political crisis that exploded when Indian protesters aided by a cadre of junior military officers seized power and ousted a highly unpopular president. Vice President Gustavo Noboa's sudden ascension came after Ecuador's military chief, buckling to U.S. pressure, dissolved a three-man junta that had claimed power just few hours earlier. Noboa becomes the sixth president since 1996.

Amish Siblings Mourned in Pa.

FRYBURG, Pa. (AP)

Small groups of men and boys dressed in black trudged across the snow-covered plains today, leading a procession of horse-drawn buggies toward a hilltop cemetery for four young Amish siblings who died Thursday when their farmhouse burned. Investigators suspect a kerosene lamp in one of the children's bedroom's started the fire while Levi and Anna Mast finished the morning chores in a nearby barn. The home had no smoke alarms, phone or electricity.

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Eliau's Grandmothers Meet Reno

WASHINGTON (AP)

The grandmothers of the 6-year-old Cuban boy at the center of an international tug-of-war today told Attorney General Janet Reno he should be returned to his father in his homeland. The grandmothers gave Reno a letter asking that Elian Gonzalez be returned to "the normality of life with his father, brother, family, friends at schools, his toys, dog and parrot." The Immigration and Naturalization Service has ordered the boy returned to Cuba. But congressional lawmakers will attempt this week to declare Elian a U.S. citizen.

President Thanks Bush for Candor

LOS ANGELES (AP)

President Clinton said today that the future of legalized abortion depends on the outcome of the presidential race and thanked Republican front-runner George W. Bush for being upfront about his anti-abortion stance. He said Bush's stand makes it clear the choice voters face next November. Clinton said the next president will likely name more than two justices to the Supreme Court, which could tip the balance in favor of overturning the Roe vs. Wade decision that legalized abortion in 1973.

Anniversary of Roe V. Wade Marked

WASHINGTON (AP)

Activists from both sides of the abortion fight gathered here today on the 27th anniversary of the Supreme Court decision legalizing the procedure. The Jan. 22, 1973, ruling in Roe v. Wade is being marked with vigils, marches and protests this weekend. About 50 anti-abortion protesters wore T-shirts reading "Mr. Clinton Stop Killing Children" and "Abortion is Homicide." The protests come a day after a federal judge in Washington ordered abortion protesters not to obstruct access to reproductive health care clinics in the Washington area.

Gore Leads in Iowa, N.H. Polls

WASHINGTON (AP)

New polls indicate Vice President Al Gore is gaining strength in Iowa and New Hampshire just days prior to Democratic presidential votes in those states. Gore has a strong lead over Bill Bradley in Iowa before Monday's caucus. Several New Hampshire polls also show Gore has a slight edge over Bradley. On the Republican side, George W. Bush has been about 20 points or more ahead of Steve Forbes in recent Iowa polls, but Bush and John McCain are in a tight race in New Hampshire.

Widow of Gen. MacArthur Dies at 101

NEW YORK (AP)

Jean MacArthur, the widow of the late Gen. Douglas MacArthur, died today at age 101. Mrs. MacArthur represented the famed military commander at dozens of official and social functions. She remained active in philanthropic pursuits after his death in 1964 and served as honorary chairman of the foundation created as a memorial to her husband. The two married in 1937 and had one son, Arthur.

Ten Killed in Kashmir Border Clash

JAMMU, India (AP)

India and Pakistan traded gunfire and accusations today, each blaming the other for an attack along their disputed Kashmir border that left as many as 10 people dead. Indian officials claim seven Pakistani soldiers were killed when they attacked an Indian army post in the Himalayan territory. But Pakistan said it was the Indians who crossed the border and attacked a Pakistani post. The wary neighbors have fought three wars over Kashmir since 1947.

Judge Bars DVD Copier From Websites

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP)

A judge has ordered Web site operators to stop disseminating a software program called DeCSS that makes it easy to copy DVD movies and audio discs to personal computers. A DVD trade group sued the Web site operators, alleging theft of trade secrets. Lawyers for the site operators said the ruling was an affront to the open sharing of technology.

Nets 98, Mavericks 95

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)

Stephon Marbury scored 20 points and drove the length of the court for a go-ahead layup with 24.5 seconds left today as the New Jersey Nets beat the Dallas Mavericks 98-95. The Nets' win denied Mavericks coach Don Nelson his 900th career victory.

Fla. St. 76, No. 21 N. Carolina 71

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (AP)

Damous Anderson scored a career-high 25 points as Florida State beat No. 21 North Carolina 76-71 for the Tar Heels' fourth straight loss, their longest skid in nearly eight years. It was Florida State's first win in Chapel Hill since 1996.

Elian's Grandmothers Meet With Reno

WASHINGTON (AP)

Elian Gonzalez's grandmothers met with Attorney General Janet Reno today and expressed how much they want the boy back in Cuba. Reno, who has supported Elian's return, said in a written statement the grandmothers "made a very compassionate and heartfelt plea" but that the matter now is in federal court. Attorneys for the boy's relatives in Florida have asked a federal judge to prevent his return before he has an asylum hearing. The INS has ordered the boy returned to Cuba. Reno has agreed, saying the youngster belongs with his father in the communist island where he was reared.

GOP Candidates Squabble Over Taxes

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)

AP Top News at 1 a.m. EST Saturday, Jan. 22, 2000

Hitting every corner of the state, Republicans squabbled over abortion and taxes in a fight for their conservative base today, as presidential candidates in both major parties braved nasty weather to rally supporters to Iowa's caucuses. On Monday night, about 10 percent of the state's 1.8 million registered voters are expected to gather in living rooms, schools, church basements and fire stations to announce their support of candidates. Few convention delegates are at stake, but the real reward in Iowa and the Feb. 1 New Hampshire primary is momentum.

Ecuador Vice President Takes Power

QUITO, Ecuador (AP)

Ecuador's vice president assumed the presidency today ending, at least for now, a political crisis that exploded when Indian protesters aided by a cadre of junior military officers seized power and ousted a highly unpopular president. Vice President Gustavo Noboa's sudden ascension came after Ecuador's military chief, buckling to U.S. pressure, dissolved a three-man junta that had claimed power just few hours earlier. Noboa becomes the sixth president since 1996 in this troubled nation, which has suffered years of political and economic turmoil.

EgyptAir Families To Get \$115M

CAIRO, Egypt (AP)

The families of those killed on EgyptAir Flight 990 will receive a total of about \$115 million in insurance payouts, the airline's chairman said in remarks published Saturday. The figure conflicted with EgyptAir Chairman Mohammed Fahim Rayan's statements in November, when he said the payment would be \$100,000 for every one of the 217 people on board the plane that plunged into the Atlantic Ocean on Oct. 31. Investigators have speculated that the crash was the result of a deliberate action by the co-pilot, Capt. Gameel El-Batouty. EgyptAir has rejected the suicide possibility and said that all its pilots undergo routine physical and psychological testing.

Gore Ahead of Bradley in Polls

WASHINGTON (AP)

Recent polls have given Democrat Al Gore a strong lead over Bill Bradley in Iowa just days before the state's presidential caucuses. Several New Hampshire Polls also indicate Gore has an edge over Bradley in a very close contest. Likely Democratic voters in the Heartland Poll in Iowa saw Gore as stronger than Bradley on international affairs, the economy and even health care, Bradley's centerpiece issue.

Widow of Gen. MacArthur Dies at 101

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Jean MacArthur, the widow of the late Gen. Douglas MacArthur, died today at age 101. Mrs. MacArthur represented the famed military commander at dozens of official and social functions. She remained active in philanthropic pursuits after his death in 1964 and served as honorary chairman of the foundation created as a memorial to her husband. The two married in 1937 and had one son, Arthur.

No. 8 Connecticut Beats Georgetown 92-71

WASHINGTON (AP)

Khalid El-Amin, held without a field goal in the first half, scored 19 of his 22 points in the second half as No. 8 Connecticut defeated Georgetown 92-71 today. Kevin Braswell scored 26 points to lead the Hoyas (10-7, 2-4), who have lost four straight to UConn. Connecticut (13-3, 2-2 Big East), rebounding from a home loss to St. John's, stretched its conference-record road winning streak to 13 games. The Huskies visit unbeaten No. 6 Syracuse on Monday.

Texas A&M Beats No. 12 Okla. St. 64-59

AP Top News at 1 a.m. EST Saturday, Jan. 22, 2000

COLLEGE STATION, Texas (AP)

Bernard King scored 17 points, including two clinching free throws with nine seconds left, as Texas A&M defeated No. 12 Oklahoma State 64-59 for their first victory over a ranked team in 13 years. The Cowboys were the fourth ranked team the Aggies have faced in their last five games. It was the Aggies' first victory over a ranked team since the first round of the Southwest Conference tournament in 1987 when they beat No. 15 Texas Christian in the first round.

Reno Listens To Grandmothers' Pleas

WASHINGTON (AP)

Attorney General Janet Reno met with the grandmothers of Elian Gonzalez today and listened to their pleas to bring the young boy back to Cuba. Reno, who has supported Elian's return, said in a written statement the grandmothers "made a very compassionate and heartfelt plea" but that the matter now is in federal court. One source familiar with the meeting, speaking only on condition of anonymity, said the grandmothers were in tears through much of the meeting. The INS has ordered the boy returned to Cuba. Reno has agreed, saying the youngster belongs with his father in the communist island where he was reared.

Clinton Wary of Roe v. Wade Overturn

LOS ANGELES (AP)

President Clinton told members of the Democratic Party today that the future of legalized abortion depends on the outcome of the 2000 presidential race. This came after Republican George W. Bush, the Texas governor, said he thinks the legal reasoning behind Roe vs. Wade is thin, and he favors overturning the decision. Republican spokeswoman Mindy Tucker noted that Bush, at the same time, has said that "America is not ready" now for such a change, "and in the meantime we should all work to reduce the number of abortions in America."

Ecuador Vice President Takes Power

QUITO, Ecuador (AP)

The political crisis in Ecuador has ceased for the moment as the vice president took over the small country today. Vice President Gustavo Noboa's sudden ascension came after Ecuador's military chief, buckling to U.S. pressure, dissolved a three-man junta that had claimed power just a few hours earlier. Noboa becomes the sixth president since 1996 in this troubled nation, which has suffered years of political and economic turmoil.

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More Bodies Surface in Islamic Case

ISTANBUL, Turkey (AP)

Police today discovered the bodies of eight people allegedly killed by an Islamic militant group, raising the number of corpses unearthed in Turkey this week to 25, a news report said. Police said they discovered the bodies in the basement of a house in the central Anatolian city of Konya where they said Hezbollah militants buried their opponents, private NTV television reported. Hezbollah Arabic for "Party of God" is blamed in the kidnappings and

AP Top News at 1 a.m. EST Saturday, Jan. 22, 2000

murders of hundreds of people, almost all rivals of the group. Some corpses have been found with broken bones, possible signs of torture. Newspapers reported that some of the victims had been buried alive.

Syria Wants Israeli Pledge

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP)

Before peace talks resume, Israel should provide a written pledge to withdraw from the Golan Heights to 1967 prewar borders, a Syrian government-run newspaper said today. Syria and Israel resumed peace talks last month for the first time in nearly four years. A third round of negotiations was to have begun Wednesday in the United States, but it was delayed. In Syria, newspapers are state-run and reflect government views. The editorial was Damascus's first public indication that it may not return to the talks without such a written pledge.

Magic Beat Grizzlies 85-82

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP)

Pat Garrity hit a 3-point shot with 13.5 seconds left as the Orlando Magic snapped an eight-game losing streak by beating the Vancouver Grizzlies 85-82 today. Ben Wallace had nine points and 11 rebounds, and secured the victory by blocking Shareef Abdur-Rahim's 3-point attempt at the buzzer. Orlando, now 7-1 all-time against the Grizzlies, has defeated Vancouver in six straight meetings, including a 116-96 win earlier this month in Orlando.

No. 18 Ky. Beats No. 20 Vandy 81-73

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)

Jamaal Magliore had 23 points and 15 rebounds and coach Tubby Smith got his 200th career victory as No. 18 Kentucky beat No. 20 Vanderbilt 81-73 in overtime today. Sophomore Desmond Allison added a career-high 23 points for Kentucky (13-5 overall, 4-1 Southeastern Conference) in the SEC East battle, including shooting 6-for-9 on 3s. As a team, Kentucky was 12-for-27 from 3-point range and Vanderbilt was only 5-for-27. The Commodores' Dan Langhi, the SEC's leading scorer, was held to 15 points on 5-for-13 shooting.

Reno Listens To Grandmothers' Pleas

WASHINGTON (AP)

Elían Gonzalez's grandmothers met with Janet Reno today and tearfully explained to the Attorney General how much they wanted to bring the boy back to his homeland. The INS has ordered the boy returned to Cuba. Reno has agreed, saying the youngster belongs with his father in the communist island where he was reared. The grandmothers sought the meeting with Reno and Doris Meissner, the INS commissioner, U.S. officials said. While the matter goes through the U.S. courts, lawmakers in Congress plan an attempt this week to declare Elían a U.S. citizen. If such legislation becomes law, the boy no longer would be an immigrant under INS jurisdiction.

Brazilians Work To Clean Oil Spill

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP)

Hundreds of volunteers and experts cleaned up muck-covered beaches and tried to save endangered birds Saturday as the massive oil spill polluting Rio's Guanabara Bay continued spreading. The work continued four days after a pipeline sprung a leak and spewed 338,000 gallons of crude oil into the bay, according to Petrobras, the government-owned oil company. Local environmentalists say it is the worst ecological disaster to hit Rio de Janeiro in a decade. The oil slick spread through the Guapimirim and Jequia mangrove swamps, both protected areas and important spawning grounds for fish, birds and crustaceans. State biologists said it would take decades for nature to undo the damage.

Arkansas Crash Survivors Sue Airline

AP Top News at 1 a.m. EST Saturday, Jan. 22, 2000

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP)

Five more survivors of a deadly plane crash in Little Rock, Ark., have sued American Airlines, claiming the company fostered an atmosphere of carelessness. Eleven people died after the MD-82 with 145 people on board skidded off an airport runway while landing in a thunderstorm June 1. The plane broke into pieces and caught fire after crashing into a walkway near the Arkansas River. The lawsuits filed Friday in Dallas and Little Rock join more than a dozen others accusing the airline primarily of failing to adequately train its crew to deal with severe weather.

Vice President Takes Power in Ecuador

QUITO, Ecuador (AP)

The political crisis in Ecuador has ceased for the moment as the vice president took over the small country today. Vice President Gustavo Noboa's sudden ascension came after Ecuador's military chief, buckling to U.S. pressure, dissolved a three-man junta that had claimed power just a few hours earlier. Noboa becomes the sixth president since 1996 in this troubled nation, which has suffered years of political and economic turmoil.

Republican Hopefuls Hit Iowa

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)

Republican presidential hopefuls hit every corner of Iowa to rally supper for Monday's caucuses squabbling over everything from abortion to taxes. Abortion is a major issue for many caucus-goers, who tend to be more conservative than voters as a whole. That may be why the topic came up often at GOP campaign events. Few convention delegates are at stake, but the real reward in Iowa and the Feb. 1 New Hampshire primary is momentum: Campaigns can take flight or lose altitude in the first two contests of the presidential year.

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Bulls Beat Pistons 98-92

CHICAGO (AP)

Toni Kukoc scored 22 points, Chris Carr scored a season-high 15 and Dickey Simpkins grabbed a career-high 14 rebounds today as the Bulls beat the Detroit Pistons 98-92. It was Chicago's first victory over Detroit in six games, while it was the third straight loss for the Pistons. Though the Bulls picked up their eighth victory two more and those annoying comparisons to the 1972-73 76ers can stop they weren't exactly crisp. They had 23 turnovers, 13 in the second quarter alone.

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Cuban Grandmothers Cry for Elian

AP Top News at 1 a.m. EST Saturday, Jan. 22, 2000

WASHINGTON (AP)

Janet Reno said today that the grandmothers of Elian Gonzalez made a very compassionate and heartfelt plea to bring the boy back to Cuba, but the matter is now in federal court. The INS has ordered the boy returned to Cuba. Reno has agreed, saying the youngster belongs with his father in the communist island where he was reared. The grandmothers sought the meeting with Reno and Doris Meissner, the INS commissioner. While the matter goes through the courts, lawmakers in Congress plan an attempt this week to declare Elian a U.S. citizen. If such legislation becomes law, the boy no longer would be an immigrant under INS jurisdiction.

Scientists To Study Ozone Loss

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP)

Scientists from Europe, the United States and other countries have launched one of the largest projects ever aimed at studying ozone loss in the Arctic atmosphere and developing ways to counteract it. The project, which involves the use of aircraft, high-altitude balloons, satellites and ground-based monitoring stations, was scheduled to run through March of 2001. Ozone depletion in the Arctic stratosphere has reached up to 50 percent at some altitudes during the past decade, scientists have determined. The ozone layer prevents most of the sun's harmful ultraviolet radiation from reaching earth.

Suspect Arrested in Bishop Slaying

GUATEMALA CITY (AP)

A third military suspect was arrested today in the 1998 slaying of a Roman Catholic bishop whose office had issued a human rights report critical of the military. Army guard Jose Obdulio Villanueva was detained in the city of Quezada, about 40 miles east of the capital. Bishop Juan Gerardi was bludgeoned to death in his garage on April 26, 1998, two days after presenting a report blaming the military and pro-government death squads for most of the deaths during Guatemala's 36-year civil war, which ended in 1996.

Ecuador Names New President

QUITO, Ecuador (AP)

The political crisis in Ecuador was temporarily put on hold today after Vice President Gustavo Noboa took the helm as the small country's leader. Noboa's sudden ascension came after Ecuador's military chief, buckling to U.S. pressure, dissolved a three-man junta that had claimed power just a few hours earlier. Noboa becomes the sixth president since 1996 in this troubled nation, which has suffered years of political and economic turmoil. Angry at ousted president Jamil Mahuad's inability to stop Ecuador's economic slide, hundreds of Indian protesters stormed the empty Congress building Friday.

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Republican presidential hopefuls campaigned their way through Iowa this weekend hoping to rally voters before the caucuses on Monday. Few convention delegates are at stake, but the real reward in Iowa and the Feb. 1 New Hampshire primary is momentum: Campaigns can take flight or lose altitude in the first two contests of the presidential year. The candidates braved nasty weather to squabble over a spectrum of issues ranging from taxes to abortion.

Brazilians Work To Clean Oil Spill

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP)

AP Top News at 1 a.m. EST Saturday, Jan. 22, 2000

Hundreds of volunteers and experts cleaned up muck-covered beaches and tried to save endangered birds Saturday as the massive oil spill polluting Rio's Guanabara Bay continued spreading. The work continued four days after a pipeline sprung a leak and spewed 338,000 gallons of crude oil into the bay, according to Petrobras, the government-owned oil company. Local environmentalists say it is the worst ecological disaster to hit Rio de Janeiro in a decade.

Spurs Beat Knicks 96-83

SAN ANTONIO (AP)

Tim Duncan had 33 points and 15 rebounds to lead the San Antonio Spurs to a 96-83 victory over the New York Knicks today in the first matchup between the teams since last season's NBA Finals. Terry Porter added 18 points and 11 rebounds in his first start of the season in front of 34,429 at the Alamodome, the Spurs' largest home crowd of the season.

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Cubans Demand Boy's Return

PINAR DEL RIO, Cuba (AP)

While Elian Gonzalez's grandmothers continued their visit to the United States, an estimated 150,000 Cubans echoed their demand for the boy's return at a rally tonight. While the government had encouraged people to attend, many at the rally insisted they were happy to be there on their day off because they said they had strong feelings about the case. Today's rally was the latest of dozens of gatherings organized by the island's communist government.

Republicans Campaign in Iowa

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)

Candidates for the Republican presidential nomination hit every corner of Iowa this weekend braving nasty weather in hopes of rallying supporters to the Iowa caucuses. "We're going to make a good showing maybe and surprise a lot of people," said former New Jersey senator Bill Bradley, the sole rival to Democrat Al Gore. The vice president holds a wide lead over Bradley in Iowa polls and has broken out of a long-running tie in New Hampshire surveys. Few convention delegates are at stake, but the real reward in Iowa and the Feb. 1 New Hampshire primary is momentum: Campaigns can take flight or lose altitude in the first two contests of the presidential year.

Vice President Takes Charge in Ecuador

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Suspect Arrested in Bishop Slaying

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A third suspect has been arrested in connection to the 1998 slaying of a Catholic bishop in Guatemala. Army guard Jose Obdulio Villanueva was detained in the city of Quezada, police spokesman Gerson Lopez said. Bishop Juan Gerardi was bludgeoned to death in his garage on April 26, 1998, two days after presenting a report blaming the military and pro-government death squads for most of the deaths during Guatemala's 36-year civil war, which ended in 1996. On Friday, National Civil Police arrested two other military brass in connection with the slaying.

Volunteers Clean Brazil Spill

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Hundreds of volunteers and experts cleaned up muck-covered beaches and tried to save endangered birds Saturday as the massive oil spill polluting Rio's Guanabara Bay continued spreading. The work continued four days after a pipeline sprung a leak and spewed 338,000 gallons of crude oil into the bay, according to Petrobras, the government-owned oil company. Local environmentalists say it is the worst ecological disaster to hit Rio de Janeiro in a decade.

Jazz Beat Kings 104-101

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) - Karl Malone and Bryon Russell each scored 24 points as the Utah Jazz held off the Sacramento Kings 104-101 today. Clinging to a 96-94 lead, Malone drove the lane for a basket and then followed with a jumper, putting Utah ahead 100-94 with 1:09 left. Twice the Kings pulled within a basket in the final 21 seconds, but John Stockton, who had 22 points and 13 assists, made three free throws in the final 20 seconds, and Chris Webber missed two 3-point shots in the closing moments as the Jazz held on for the victory.

Capriati Reaches Australian Quarters

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)

Jennifer Capriati surged to her first Grand Slam quarterfinals since 1993 on Sunday in the Australian Open. Capriati won 20 of the last 22 points in a 6-3, 4-6, 6-1 victory over Patty Schnyder. Capriati, who finished 1998 ranked No. 101, had been as high as No. 6 in 1991 and 1992, when she won the Olympic gold medal in Barcelona. She dropped off the tour for several years, amid much-publicized problems, after three quarterfinal finishes in major tournaments and a first-round loss in the U.S. Open in 1993.

Cubans Rally for Elian

PINAR DEL RIO, Cuba (AP)

An estimated 150,000 Cubans echoed their demand for Elian Gonzalez's return at a rally tonight. The boy's grandmothers met with Attorney General Janet Reno. Announcers at the event in this western provincial capital denounced "the mafia of Miami" for "kidnapping" the 6-year-old boy, referring to him as "the small captain of

AP Top News at 1 a.m. EST Saturday, Jan. 22, 2000

happiness" and the "elfin prince." Tonight's rally was the latest of dozens of gatherings organized by the island's communist government. coworkers.

Clinton Addresses Abortion in 2000

LOS ANGELES (AP)

The future of legalized abortion depends on the outcome of the 2000 presidential race, President Clinton told Democratic Party donors today. Clinton added that since Republican presidential front-runner George W. Bush, endorsed a constitutional amendment banning abortion, American voters faced quite a choice in November. Bush, the Texas governor, recently said he thinks the legal reasoning behind Roe vs. Wade is thin, and he favors overturning the decision. Spokeswoman Mindy Tucker noted that Bush, at the same time, has said that "America is not ready" now for such an amendment, "and in the meantime we should all work to reduce the number of abortions in America."

Iowa Prepares for Caucus

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)

Nasty weather was no obstacle for the Republican presidential candidates who hit every corner of Iowa this weekend hoping to rally support for Monday's Iowa caucus. "Every vote matters!" said GOP front-runner George W. Bush, who attempted to burnish his anti-abortion credentials for a third consecutive day. The Texas governor pledged to keep the abortion plank in a staunchly conservative GOP platform. Abortion is a major issue for many caucus-goers, who tend to be more conservative than voters as a whole. That may be why the topic came up often at GOP campaign events Saturday.

New Ozone Depletion Study Launched

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP)

Scientists from all over the world have launched one of the largest projects ever aimed at studying ozone loss in the Arctic atmosphere and developing ways to counteract it. Scientists have determined ozone depletion in the Arctic stratosphere has reached up to 50 percent at some altitudes during the past decade and is worst in the northern hemisphere in winter. The project, which involves the use of aircraft, high-altitude balloons, satellites and ground-based monitoring stations, was scheduled to run through March of 2001.

Ecuador's Vice President Takes Charge

QUITO, Ecuador (AP)

Ecuador's Vice President Gustavo Noboa took the helm as the small country's leader today, resolving rampant political strife. Noboa's sudden ascension came after Ecuador's military chief, buckling to U.S. pressure, dissolved a three-man junta that had claimed power just a few hours earlier. Noboa becomes the sixth president since 1996 in this troubled nation, which has suffered years of political and economic turmoil.

Suspect Arrested in Bishop Slaying

GUATEMALA CITY (AP)

A third suspect has been arrested in connection to the 1998 slaying of a Guatemalan Catholic bishop. Army guard Jose Obdulio Villanueva was detained in the city of Quezada, police spokesman Gerson Lopez said. Bishop Juan Gerardi was bludgeoned to death in his garage on April 26, 1998, two days after presenting a report blaming the military and pro-government death squads for most of the deaths during Guatemala's 36-year civil war, which ended in 1996. On Friday, National Civil Police arrested two other military brass in connection with the slaying.

Islanders Beat Lightning 2-0

AP Top News at 1 a.m. EST Saturday, Jan. 22, 2000

UNIONDALE, N.Y. (AP)

Kevin Weekes made 28 saves as the New York Islanders snapped a six-game losing streak with a 2-0 victory over the Tampa Bay Lightning today. The shutout was Weekes' second this season and second of his career as the Islanders won for just the second time in their last 14 games. Gino Odjick and Jorgen Jonsson scored for the Islanders, who won at home for the first time since beating Boston 3-0 on Dec. 27. The loss was the fourth straight for the Lightning, whose last win was Dec. 10, a 4-2 victory against the Islanders on Jan. 13.

Capriati Reaches Australian Quarters

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)

Jennifer Capriati surged to her first Grand Slam quarterfinals since 1993 on Sunday in the Australian Open. Capriati won 20 of the last 22 points in a 6-3, 4-6, 6-1 victory over Patty Schnyder. Capriati, who finished 1998 ranked No. 101, had been as high as No. 6 in 1991 and 1992, when she won the Olympic gold medal in Barcelona. She dropped off the tour for several years, amid much-publicized problems, after three quarterfinal finishes in major tournaments and a first-round loss in the U.S. Open in 1993.

Cuba Rallies Again For Elian

PINAR DEL RIO, Cuba (AP)

While Elian Gonzalez's grandmothers met with Attorney General Janet Reno in the United States, thousands in Cuba rallied yet again for the return of the young boy. Authorities estimated 150,000 people attended the rally, held in a field beside the local baseball stadium. The crowds extended through surrounding streets, where long lines of buses and trucks had dropped off many of the people. While the government had encouraged people to attend, many at the rally insisted they were happy to be there on their day off because they said they had strong feelings about the case.

Gore Leads in Iowa, N.H. Polls

Polls in Iowa and New Hampshire show that Vice President Al Gore leads Bill Bradley in the race for the Democratic presidential nomination. Recent polls in Iowa have given Gore more than a 20-point edge and a new survey in Iowa gave him an even larger lead, 63 percent-to-26 percent, over Bill Bradley. Likely Democratic voters in the Heartland Poll in Iowa saw Gore as stronger than Bradley on international affairs, the economy and even health care, Bradley's centerpiece issue. For the Republicans, Texas Gov. George W. Bush has been about 20 points or more ahead of Steve Forbes in recent Iowa polls.

Ecuador Names New President

QUITO, Ecuador (AP)

QUITO, Ecuador (AP)

Ecuador's vice president assumed the presidency of this small Andean nation Saturday ending, at least for now, a political crisis that exploded when Indian protesters aided by a cadre of junior military officers seized power and ousted a highly unpopular president. Vice President Gustavo Noboa's sudden ascension came after Ecuador's military chief, buckling to U.S. pressure, dissolved a three-man junta that had claimed power just a few hours earlier. Noboa becomes the sixth president since 1996 in this troubled nation, which has suffered years of political and economic turmoil.

Chileans Demand Trial of Pinochet

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP)

AP Top News at 1 a.m. EST Saturday, Jan. 22, 2000

Several hundred people marched through downtown Santiago on Saturday to oppose the release of Gen. Augusto Pinochet from detention in Britain and demand that he be tried for human rights abuses. The peaceful demonstration was called by human rights groups and relatives of victims of repression under Pinochet's 1973-90 dictatorship. Pinochet was arrested in London 15 months ago on a warrant by judge Baltasar Garzon. The demonstration came as the British government sought more information from the parties in the case before deciding whether to free the 84-year-old former dictator for health reasons or send him to Spain.

New Ozone Depletion Study Launched

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP)

Scientists from all over the world have launched one of the largest projects ever aimed at studying ozone loss in the Arctic atmosphere and developing ways to counteract it. Scientists have determined ozone depletion in the Arctic stratosphere has reached up to 50 percent at some altitudes during the past decade and is worst in the northern hemisphere in winter. The project, which involves the use of aircraft, high-altitude balloons, satellites and ground-based monitoring stations, was scheduled to run through March of 2001.

Judge Bars DVD Copier From Websites

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP)

A judge has ordered Web site operators to stop disseminating a program that makes it easy to copy DVD movies and audio discs, a victory for the digital video and film industries. The software, called DeCSS, allows users to unlock the security code on DVDs and copy movies to personal computers. A DVD trade group sued the Web site operators, alleging theft of trade secrets. Internet activists said the decision abridged the Web site operators' free speech rights, but the judge disagreed.

Rangers Beat Blues 4-1

ST. LOUIS (AP)

Jan Hlavac, awarded a goal while he was in the dressing room, scored twice as the New York Rangers extended their winning streak to five with a 4-1 victory over the St. Louis Blues on Saturday night. Radek Dvorak added a goal and an assist, and Mike Richter made 28 saves for the Rangers, who have won seven of eight. The loss was only the third for the Blues in their last 17 at home (10-3-4).

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Load-Date: January 22, 2000

AP Top News at 11 a.m. EDT Thursday, Sept. 21, 2000

Associated Press Online

September 21, 2000; Thursday

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Section: Domestic, non-Washington, general news item

Length: 11579 words

Byline: KRISTEN DE GROOT

Body

Firestone: Ford Had Wrong Pressure

WASHINGTON (AP)

Bridgestone/Firestone Inc., "shaken to the core" by a recall of tires linked to 101 U.S. traffic deaths, told a congressional panel today that Ford Motor Co.'s recommended tire pressure apparently contributed to accidents. Executive vice president John Lampe told a House subcommittee that his company recommended the tires be inflated to 30 pounds per square inch (PSI). But Ford, which uses the tires on its popular Explorer and some other light trucks, suggested they only be inflated to 26 pounds. He said Bridgestone/Firestone send a letter to Ford yesterday urging the company to change its recommendation to 30 PSI.

Bush Says Campaign Is Like 'Survivor'

NEW YORK (AP)

George W. Bush today said the presidential campaign feels like his own personal version of "Survivor." Appearing this morning on "Live With Regis" in pursuit of **female** voters, Bush told host Regis Philbin and guest co-host Susan Hawk, one of the finalists on the CBS show, that he watched the program as the number of contestants was winnowed down. Asked by Philbin to say in one sentence why he should be president, Bush said, "I'm going to call upon the nation to usher in a period of personal responsibility. I want each and every American to know for certain that I'm responsible for the decisions I make and each of you are as well."

Gore: Tap Emergency Petroleum Reserve

WASHINGTON (AP)

Facing a growing concern over the threat of high heating costs, Al Gore is expected this hour to urge President Clinton to tap the government's emergency petroleum reserve and force down oil prices before winter arrives. Gore will also called on Congress to provide \$400 million in additional energy assistance for low income families and tax credits to oil distributors to help build up dwindling heating oil stocks. The Energy Department predicts heating costs will be a third higher on average this winter than last and could go even higher if there is severe weather.

British Spy HQ Attack Probed

LONDON (AP)

AP Top News at 11 a.m. EDT Thursday, Sept. 21, 2000

Attackers who blasted the headquarters of Britain's intelligence service MI6 may have used a type of rocket launcher readily available to the **Irish Republican Army** and the hardline splinter groups which reject a cease-fire, police said today. No one was injured and damage was minimal when the building was struck by what police called a "small missile" last night. But the attack put Londoners on guard against a renewed spate of terrorist attacks and dealt a further blow to the security of the secretive spy agency.

Russia Freezes Laser Deal With Iran

MOSCOW (AP)

Russia has frozen a deal to sell laser technology to Iran equipment the United States said could be adapted to a nuclear weapons program. Yuri Bespalko, chief of the Atomic Energy Ministry's press service, said Russia was suspending deliveries to Iran of laser technology for scientific and medical purposes. "We think that the equipment meant for Iran does not fall under the limits of the international exports regime," Bespalko said today. Iran maintains the technology it seeks from the Yefremov Scientific Research Institute of St. Petersburg would be used for peaceful purposes.

Ford Offers To Buy Hertz in Total

DETROIT (AP)

Ford Motor Co. said today it would spend \$597 million to buy the remaining publicly-held 18.5 percent of rental car company Hertz Corp. Ford, which already owns the rest of Hertz, said it would offer Hertz shareholders \$30 a share for their stock. The automaker had spun off the Hertz shares in 1997, when interest in rental car companies was growing among investors. The stock hit a high of just over \$60 a share in May 1999 but has fallen since and is now trading below its initial public offering price.

Dow Up 52, Nasdaq Down 28

NEW YORK (AP)

Just before 11 a.m. EDT, the Dow Jones industrial average was up 51.70 points 10,739.62. Decliners on the NYSE led advancers 1,303-961. The Nasdaq was down 27.68 at 3,869.76.

Raducan Wins Gold in Gymnastics

SYDNEY, Australia (AP)

Andreea Raducan of Romania won the Olympic all-around gold medal in **women's** gymnastics today with a score of 38.893. Simona Amanar of Romania won the silver and teammate Maria Olaru won the bronze. It's the first time a country has swept the all-around since the former Soviet Union did it in 1960. "It was my dream to have my Olympic champion," said coach Octavian Belu, who took over the Romanian team after Bela Karolyi defected to the United States in 1981.

Gore Urges Clinton To Tap Oil Reserve

HOLLYWOOD, Md. (AP)

Al Gore urged President Clinton today to tap the government's emergency petroleum reserve and force down oil prices before winter arrives and called on Congress to provide \$400 million in additional energy assistance for low income families and tax credits to oil distributors. "We need aggressive action right now," he said, speaking at an oil distributorship in Maryland. Rival George W. Bush's campaign complained that taking oil from the reserve could leave the nation vulnerable to foreign suppliers. Both campaigns are scrambling to deal politically with the higher energy prices.

Sick Nuclear Workers Petition Congress

AP Top News at 11 a.m. EDT Thursday, Sept. 21, 2000

WASHINGTON (AP)

Nuclear plant workers today are bringing a message today to lawmakers considering help for people exposed to health-robbing levels of radiation hurry up, and don't be stingy. "Many of us do not have time left on this Earth. We need your action now," Ann Orick of Knoxville, Tenn., said in remarks prepared for delivery at a House committee hearing today. Rep. Lamar Smith, R-Texas, chairman of the Judiciary Committee panel with jurisdiction over the issue, has indicated that he wants more time to develop a compensation program.

Polls Say Debate Weakened Lazio

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)

Two statewide polls indicate voters don't view Rep. Rick Lazio to be quite as likable in the wake of his first debate last week against Senate rival Hillary Rodham Clinton. A poll released today by Marist College's Institute for Public Opinion found the race remaining very tight with the two tied at 48 percent among likely voters. But a New York Times/CBS News poll released last night, found the first lady leading the Long Island Republican, 48 percent to 39 percent, among likely voters.

Cuba Calls Plane Hijack 'Piracy'

HAVANA (AP)

The taking of a state-owned plane with people aboard was an act of piracy that complicates migration relations with the United States, Cuba said today as the two countries headed into talks in New York. "Although the pilot spoke by radio of a hijacked plane with children aboard, more than a hijacking it was an act of piracy to commandeer an airplane destined to fumigate and fertilize fields of rice," the Communist Party daily Granma said today. The plane crashed Tuesday in the southern Gulf of Mexico, killing one of the 10 people on board. The others were rescued by a merchant ship and taken to Key West, Fla.

Russian Probe of U.S. Spy Case Ends

MOSCOW (AP)

Russia's investigation into the case of alleged U.S. spy Edmond Pope has been completed in preparation for his trial next month, the prisoner's lawyer said today. Pope has been jailed in Moscow's Lefortovo Prison since April, when he was arrested on charges of illegally buying plans for a high-speed torpedo. A Moscow court this week turned down Pope's appeal to be freed for medical treatment, saying the charges against him were too serious. Pope has suffered from a rare blood-and-bone cancer.

Firestone: Ford Had Wrong Pressure

WASHINGTON (AP)

Bridgestone/Firestone Inc., "shaken to the core" by a recall of tires linked to 101 U.S. traffic deaths, told a congressional panel today that Ford Motor Co.'s recommended tire pressure apparently contributed to accidents. Executive vice president John Lampe told a House subcommittee that his company recommended the tires be inflated to 30 pounds per square inch (PSI). But Ford suggested they only be inflated to 26 pounds.

KeyCorp Cutting More Jobs

CLEVELAND (AP)

KeyCorp said today it is moving ahead with the second phase of previously announced job cuts that will eliminate about 2,300 jobs over the next 15 months. About 10 months ago, the banking and financial services company said it would cut 3,000 jobs, or 11 percent of its coast-to-coast work force, with the goal of improving profits in 2002. Hundreds of jobs have already been cut, and the company said it is ready to move ahead with the next phase.

AP Top News at 11 a.m. EDT Thursday, Sept. 21, 2000

Dow Unchanged, Nasdaq Down 63

NEW YORK (AP)

Just before noon EDT, the Dow Jones industrial average was unchanged at 10,687.92. Decliners on the NYSE led advancers 1,490-998. The Nasdaq was down 62.99 at 3,834.45.

Titans Receiver Lost for Season

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)

Tennessee Titans receiver Kevin Dyson will miss the rest of the season after tearing knee ligaments during a collision in practice. An MRI showed that Dyson tore the anterior cruciate ligament and the medial collateral ligament in his left knee, Titans spokesman Robbie Bohren said today. Dyson, better known for his role in the Music City Miracle and the final play of the Titans' Super Bowl loss, collided with safety Perry Phenix while going up for a deep pass from Neil O'Donnell.

Gates Still Tops Richest List

NEW YORK (AP)

Bill Gates, the cofounder and chairman of Microsoft Corp., is still the richest American but not by nearly as much after the drubbing his company's stock has taken in the past year, Forbes magazine says in its annual ranking of the nation's wealthiest people. The vagaries of the stock market have pared Gates' fortune tallied at \$85 billion last year down to \$63 billion. Oracle Corp. CEO Lawrence J. Ellison, worth an estimated \$58 billion, is second. The total net worth of all the people on the list jumped 20 percent to \$1.2 trillion, nearly equal to the gross domestic product of Britain. Gates' fortune alone tops the annual economic output of Peru.

Rescued Cubans Await Word From INS

KEY WEST, Fla. (AP)

Six of the nine Cubans rescued after their stolen crop-duster crashed at sea were taken to Miami today for interviews with immigration officials. The others a married couple hospitalized with injuries from the crash and their 6-year-old son remained in Key West. Cuba, which had called the incident a hijacking, now says it was an act of piracy that will complicate previously planned migration talks beginning today between Cuba and the United States. The nine survivors are waiting today for the Immigration and Naturalization Service to decide whether they can stay in the United States.

Tornado Sweeps Through Ohio Town

XENIA, Ohio (AP)

A tornado swept through this city that was devastated by a twister a generation ago, killing one person and injuring dozens of others as it heavily damaged buildings, overturned cars and downed power lines. Authorities searched through the night for other possible victims of the storm that hit last night. The storm confirmed as a tornado by the National Weather Service was a frightening reminder of a twister that struck the southwestern Ohio city in 1974, leaving 33 people dead and millions of dollars in damage.

Gore Urges Clinton To Tap Oil Reserve

HOLLYWOOD, Md. (AP)

Al Gore urged President Clinton today to tap the government's emergency petroleum reserve and force down oil prices before winter arrives and called on Congress to provide \$400 million in additional energy assistance for low income families and tax credits to oil distributors. "We need aggressive action right now," he said, speaking at an oil distributorship in Maryland. Rival George W. Bush's campaign complained that taking oil from the reserve could

leave the nation vulnerable to foreign suppliers. Both campaigns are scrambling to deal politically with the higher energy prices.

Justice Dept. Seeks Census Case Dismissed

WASHINGTON (AP)

The Justice Department asked a federal court today to dismiss a case involving a Virginia statute that requires an exact population count when the state redraws its political districts. The case is the first of what are expected to be numerous legal challenges revolving around the Census Bureau's scheduled release of a population count adjusted using a statistical method known as "sampling." This is in addition to the traditional head count conducted every decade. The Virginia Legislature passed the law this year prohibiting the use of sampled data as a basis for redistricting.

Iran Marks Iran-Iraq War

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)

Iran today marked the 20th anniversary of the beginning of the Iran-Iraq war with a military parade in Tehran, calls for a just peace and for the first time no anti-American slogans. Thousands of veterans of the eight-year war, some in wheelchairs, turbaned clerics, black-robed women militia volunteers and the elite Revolutionary Guards paraded before President Mohammad Khatami and top military brass. In previous years, troops trampled on a large U.S. flag painted on the street. Last year a banner was carried denouncing the United States.

Dow Up 33, Nasdaq Down 47

NEW YORK (AP)

Just before 1 p.m. EDT, the Dow Jones industrial average was up 32.93 points at 10,720.85. Decliners on the NYSE led advancers 1,582-1,013. The Nasdaq was down 46.81 at 3,850.63.

Redskins' Stubblefield Arrested

FAIRFAX, Va. (AP)

Washington Redskins lineman Dana Stubblefield has been arrested on charges of assaulting his wife in a dispute about luggage. An argument between the 315-pound tackle and his wife escalated into a fight, Fairfax County police said. Kim Stubblefield called police to their Great Falls, Va., home last night. Other details were not immediately available. Stubblefield was taken to Fairfax County jail. He was released on \$2,500 bail and told not to have any contact with his wife for 48 hours.

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Gore Urges Clinton To Tap Oil Reserve

HOLLYWOOD, Md. (AP)

Al Gore today proposed tapping the nation's emergency oil reserve to force down gas and heating oil prices, making an election-year pitch for voters as Americans prepare for winter. "We need aggressive action right now," Vice President Gore said today, speaking at an oil distributorship in Maryland. Republican rival George W. Bush, a former oil man from Texas, said that could leave the country vulnerable to foreign suppliers. Bush said the United States should use its "strong hand in the diplomatic circles" to persuade oil-producing countries to increase production.

Report Faults America on Racism

WASHINGTON (AP)

The laws of the United States meet the requirements of an international treaty on eliminating racism, but American society itself has not achieved that goal, according to a new federal report. In its first-ever analysis of U.S. compliance with the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the U.S. government admitted that racism remains a stubborn problem despite efforts over the past 30 years to stamp it out through laws. While whites are a majority of Americans 196.1 million they are a shrinking percentage of the population, falling from 75.7 percent in 1991 to 71.9 percent today.

Court Reduces Iran Jews Sentences

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)

An appeals court has reduced the sentences against 10 Iranian Jews found guilty of cooperating with Israel, the judiciary announced today, casting aside two of the three charges on which they were convicted in a trial that gained international condemnation. Israeli and Jewish leaders, who maintain the convicted men are innocent, immediately criticized the court for not going far enough. Branch 9 of the appeals court in Fars province, reduced their prison terms from a range of four to 13 years to terms of two to nine years, the provincial judiciary chief said.

Summers, Bono Push Debt Relief

WASHINGTON (AP)

Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers, whose signature appears on American currency, and Bono, a rock star with the Irish band U2, staged a news conference today in support of debt relief for the world's 40 poorest countries. Both the House and the Senate have cut significantly back from the administration's requested \$435 million. Bono has spent the last several years lobbying governments around the world on the issue as part of a campaign being pushed by Jubilee 2000, a coalition of religious organizations.

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House OKs Aid for Ex-Soviet States

WASHINGTON (AP)

The House today approved a new program to shore up military forces in former Soviet states. The measure is part of a two-year \$7.7 billion U.S. foreign aid bill that also authorizes foreign military financing and training and anti-terrorism and non-proliferation programs. The bill authorizes \$45.5 million for the countries of Georgia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Uzbekistan, Moldova and Ukraine. They would they get an assortment of help, including military training and anti-terrorism training.

Dow Up 48, Nasdaq Down 56

NEW YORK (AP)

Just before 2 p.m. EDT, the Dow Jones industrial average was up 47.91 points at 10,735.83. Decliners on the NYSE led advancers 1,606-1,045. The Nasdaq was down 55.93 at 3,841.51.

2 More Bulgarian Lifters Fail Tests

SYDNEY, Australia (AP)

Two more Bulgarian weightlifters have tested positive for banned drugs and will be thrown out of the Sydney Olympics, the head of the International Weightlifting Federation said. "Two of the Bulgarian weightlifters used diuretics to lose bodyweight," IWF secretary general Tamas Ajan said. "The IOC will disqualify them from the competition." Beltcho Ivanov, secretary general of the Bulgarian national Olympic committee, told the AP that women's gold medalist Izabela Dragneva and men's bronze medalist Sevdalin Minchev were the two cases being discussed by the IOC medical board.

Gore Urges Clinton To Tap Oil Reserve

HOLLYWOOD, Md. (AP)

Making an election-year pitch for votes as Americans prepare for winter, Al Gore today proposed tapping the nation's emergency oil reserve to force down gas and heating oil prices. "We need aggressive action right now," Gore said at an oil distributorship in Maryland. Republican rival George W. Bush, a former oil man from Texas, said that could leave the country vulnerable to foreign suppliers. Bush said the United States should use its "strong hand in the diplomatic circles" to persuade oil-producing countries to increase production.

World Bank Issues Inequality Warning

PRAGUE, Czech Republic (AP)

The World Bank issued a stark warning today that rising economic inequality threatens global growth and stability. Despite threats of mass protests as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and G7 finance ministers came to town, a rally drew barely 100 protesters and a tent city set up for activists was virtually empty. World Bank President James Wolfensohn said rising oil prices and the falling euro were big concerns at present, but he called widespread poverty a serious long-term issue that must be resolved to ensure steady economic expansion.

Belgrade Court Sentences Clinton

AP Top News at 11 a.m. EDT Thursday, Sept. 21, 2000

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP)

A Belgrade court found President Clinton and other world leaders guilty of war crimes and sentenced them in absentia to 20 years in prison for NATO's bombing campaign against Yugoslavia. The four-day trial was held in an attempt to resurrect anti-NATO sentiment here and win votes for President Slobodan Milosevic ahead of Sunday's elections. Belgrade's district court pronounced Clinton and 13 other leaders "guilty as charged" and ordered warrants be issued immediately for their arrest. Court-appointed lawyers represented the defendants.

U.N. Aid Workers March For Protection

GENEVA (AP)

About 1,500 U.N. aid workers wearing white arm bands and carrying photographs of slain and abducted colleagues marched today to demand more protection while working in some of the world's most dangerous places. "Refugees' lives depend on us, but they can depend on us only if we stay alive," Sadako Ogata, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, told the Geneva rally to protest the killing of four UNHCR workers killed this month three in West Timor and one in Guinea and the abduction of a fifth.

Dog Owner Acquitted in Mauling

CHESTER, S.C. (AP)

A pit-bull owner whose dogs allegedly attacked and killed a man was cleared of involuntary manslaughter today. Lawyers for Frank Paul Speagle successfully argued no evidence directly linked his dogs to the December attack on John Mickle. Speagle did not testify but was supported by testimony of experts and friends who said the dogs were docile and had not been known to attack before. Prosecutors charged Speagle should have known his dogs were dangerous, calling witnesses who said the dogs bit them or attacked their car tires. The dogs, 14-months and 8-months old, were put to death after Mickle's death.

Gates Tops Richest Americans' List

NEW YORK (AP)

Bill Gates, the cofounder and chairman of Microsoft Corp., is still the richest American but not by nearly as much after falls in his company's stock, Forbes magazine says in its ranking of the nation's wealthiest people. Gates' fortune, tallied at \$85 billion last year, has been pared down to \$63 billion, Forbes said. Oracle Corp. CEO Lawrence J. Ellison, worth an estimated \$58 billion, is second. The total net worth of all the people on the list jumped 20 percent to \$1.2 trillion, nearly equal to the gross domestic product of Britain. Gates' fortune alone tops the annual economic output of Peru.

Dow Up 26, Nasdaq Down 71

NEW YORK (AP)

Stocks are mixed today amid lingering gloom on Wall Street about corporate profits and higher oil prices. The uncertainty threatens to end a high-tech rally from the previous two sessions. Just before 3 p.m. EDT, the Dow Jones industrial average was up 25.90 points at 10,713.82. Decliners on the NYSE led advancers 1,704-1,034. The Nasdaq was down 71.34 at 3,826.10.

Redskins' Stubblefield Arrested

ASHBURN, Va. (AP)

Washington Redskins lineman Dana Stubblefield has been arrested on charges of assaulting his wife in a dispute about luggage. An argument between the 315-pound tackle and his wife escalated into a fight, Fairfax County police said. Kim Stubblefield called police to their Great Falls, Va., home last night. "Nobody got hurt, nobody was

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drinking, nobody was doing anything out of the ordinary," Stubblefield said from practice today. Stubblefield was taken to Fairfax County jail. He was released on \$2,500 bail and told not to have any contact with his wife for 48 hours.

Gore Proposes Tapping Gov't Oil Reserve

HOLLYWOOD, Md. (AP)

Facing growing concern over the threat of high heating costs, Al Gore proposed tapping the government's emergency petroleum reserve to force down oil prices before winter arrives. The Democratic presidential candidate also urged Congress to provide \$400 million in additional energy assistance for low income families and tax credits to oil distributors to help build up dwindling heating oil stocks. Republican rival George W. Bush objected to Gore's proposal, saying, "The strategic reserve should not be used as an attempt to drive down oil prices right before the election ... for short-term political gain at the cost of long-term security." Both campaigns are scrambling to deal politically with the higher energy prices that have annoyed motorists all summer.

Tornado Hits Ohio Town and Kills 1

XENIA, Ohio (AP)

A tornado swept through this city that was devastated by a twister a generation ago, killing one person and injuring dozens of others as it heavily damaged buildings, overturned cars and downed power lines. Authorities searched through the night for other possible victims of the storm that hit around 7:30 p.m. yesterday. In central Ohio, a second tornado that hit about an hour after the Xenia storm damaged about 15 homes north of Columbus in Delaware County. There also was damage to homes and businesses in neighboring Licking County, including damage to 12 barns at a large egg producer, Buckeye Egg Farm.

British Police Find Grenade Launcher

LONDON (AP)

Police today found part of a rocket-propelled grenade launcher near the scene of an attack on the headquarters of Britain's MI6 intelligence service, which they believe may have been the work of IRA dissidents. No one was injured in the attack last night and damage was limited to one window and two wall panels on the eighth floor. But it raised fears of a renewed spate of terrorist attacks in London and dealt another blow to the security of the secretive spy agency. The grenade launcher was found in a nearby park this afternoon, but police did not yet know whether it had been fired from the same spot. Tests were being carried out to determine its make.

Merger Off for British Airways, KLM

LONDON (AP)

British Airways PLC and KLM Royal Dutch Airlines broke off talks about a long-planned merger today, blaming intractable commercial and regulatory issues. The collapse is a major setback for both companies, which have struggled to find their place amid the accelerating consolidation of Europe's airline industry. "We always recognized that this would be a complex transaction, involving not only commercial and economic issues, but also aeropolitical, regulatory and other matters. Although we made considerable progress, it has not been possible to resolve these," BA chief executive Rod Eddington and his KLM counterpart Leo van Wijk said in a statement. Relations between the two companies "remained amicable," they said.

Japan Unmoved by Whale Kill Critics

TOKYO (AP)

Beer flowed and cheers went up today as a ship pulled into port carrying Japan's latest ocean catch 88 whales: the nation, which consumes whales both cooked and raw as a delicacy, remains unabashedly defiant before growing

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international criticism, defending the hunt as scientific research. Next year, Japan plans to catch up to 160 whales and much of the meat will end up in upscale restaurants. Japan's hunt has drawn international ire. The United States punished Japan last week by denying it some fishing rights in U.S. waters and launched an investigation that could lead to trade sanctions.

Dow Up 42, Nasdaq Down 68

NEW YORK (AP)

Stocks are mixed today amid lingering gloom on Wall Street about corporate profits and higher oil prices. The uncertainty threatens to end a high-tech rally from the previous two sessions. Just before 4 p.m. EDT, the Dow Jones industrial average was up 41.80 points at 10,729.72. Decliners on the NYSE led advancers 1.725 -1.074. The Nasdaq was down 68.49 at 3,828.95.

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Bush Opposes Using Oil Reserves

HOLLYWOOD, Md. (AP)

Republican George W. Bush objected to Al Gore's proposal today to dip into the nation's strategic oil reserves, saying, "The strategic reserve should not be used as an attempt to drive down oil prices right before the election ... for short-term political gain at the cost of long-term security." Gore today proposed tapping the emergency petroleum reserve to force down oil prices before winter arrives. The Democratic presidential candidate also urged Congress to provide \$400 million in additional energy assistance for low income families and tax credits to oil distributors to help build up dwindling heating oil stocks.

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Felonies Keep Black Men From Voting

WASHINGTON (AP)

On Election Day, nearly 1.4 million voting-age black men more than one in eight will be ineligible to cast ballots because of state laws that strip felons of the right to vote. "Here we are, 50 years after the beginning of the civil rights movement, and we actually have an increasing number of African-Americans who are disenfranchised each year," said Marc Mauer of The Sentencing Project, which analyzed 1996 Justice Department statistics along with Human Rights Watch. Disenfranchised black males account for 35 percent of all Americans now barred from voting because of felony convictions. Two percent of all Americans, or 3.9 million, have lost the right to vote, compared with 13 percent of adult black men.

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Warnings on Tropical Storm Helene

PENSACOLA, Fla. (AP)

Storm warnings were posted along the Gulf Coast today after Tropical Storm Helene formed and quickly gained strength in the Gulf of Mexico. The storm center could come ashore anywhere from Florida's Panhandle to Louisiana, according to the National Hurricane Center near Miami. At least 5 to 8 inches of rain were expected in most areas. "At this moment, we do not feel it's going to actually reach hurricane strength," said Robert Molleda, a forecaster. "It'll mostly be a rain event."

Firestone: Ford Had Wrong Pressure

WASHINGTON (AP)

Bridgestone/Firestone Inc., "shaken to the core" by a recall of tires linked to 101 U.S. traffic deaths, told a congressional panel today that Ford Motor Co.'s recommended tire pressure apparently contributed to accidents. Executive Vice President John Lampe told a House subcommittee investigating the recall that his company recommended the tires be inflated to 30 pounds per square inch (PSI). But Ford, which uses the tires on its popular Explorer and some other light trucks, suggested they be inflated to 26 pounds instead.

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Monkey Business: Primates Pelt Cars

JARRATT, Va. (AP)

AP Top News at 11 a.m. EDT Thursday, Sept. 21, 2000

Three monkeys hurled bananas and crab apples at cars on Interstate 95, then fled into the woods, police said, adding they believe the monkeys escaped while being taken to the state fair in Richmond or a circus in North Carolina. State Trooper Mike Scott was flagged down Sunday by a driver who had pulled over near Jarratt. "When I walked up to the car, it looked like a banana had been smeared on the side," Scott said. The woman told him a monkey had thrown the fruit about a mile back.

Astros Beat Cardinals 7-5

ST. LOUIS (AP)

A day after St. Louis clinched the NL Central, Houston rookie Tony McKnight allowed two earned runs in 6 2-3 innings to lead the Astros over the Cardinals 7-5 today. Cards manager Tony La Russa didn't start Jim Edmonds and three other regulars. Mark McGwire flied out against Marc Valdes as a pinch hitter with two on in the eighth and is 3-for-9 with two homers since returning from the disabled list.

Gore, Bush Tangle Over Releasing Oil

HOLLYWOOD, Md. (AP)

Democrat Al Gore proposed tapping the nation's emergency oil reserve to force down gasoline and heating oil prices, pushing fuel costs to the front in the presidential campaign today as both cold weather and the election draw closer. Republican rival George W. Bush said the vice president was risking national security for "short-term political gain." With half-full heating oil tanks in the background at a Maryland oil distributorship, Gore said he had urged President Clinton to approve "several" releases of 5 million barrels of oil from the government's stockpile to ease tight supplies.

Accuser Sues Clinton, First Lady

WASHINGTON (AP)

Presidential accuser Kathleen Willey sued President Clinton, his wife and his lawyers today, alleging they illegally released personal letters Willey sent the president. The lawsuit filed in federal court alleges invasion of privacy and recounts the White House's decision to publicize Willey's friendly correspondence with Clinton. The release was designed to undermine her story that she was the victim of an unwelcome sexual advance by the president in 1993. Willey wrote the letters after the alleged advance. The White House released the letters in 1998 during the Monica Lewinsky scandal after Willey detailed the alleged sexual advance on national television.

State Laws, Felonies Disenfranchise Blacks

WASHINGTON (AP)

More than one in eight black men of voting age nearly 1.4 million will not be able to vote this Election Day because of some states' laws that strip felons of the right to vote. "Here we are, 50 years after the beginning of the civil rights movement, and we actually have an increasing number of African-Americans who are disenfranchised each year," said Marc Mauer of The Sentencing Project, which analyzed 1996 Justice Department statistics along with Human Rights Watch. Disenfranchised black males account for 35 percent of all Americans now barred from voting because of felony convictions. Two percent of all Americans, or 3.9 million, have lost the right to vote, compared with 13 percent of adult black men.

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Alaska Oil Payout: \$2K Per Person

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP)

Practically every man, woman and child in Alaska will get nearly \$2,000 each in oil royalties next month, the biggest payout since the annual checks were first issued in 1982. The booming stock market was credited with the 11 percent increase over last year's dividend from the Alaska Permanent Fund. More than 585,000 Alaskans everyone who lived in the state for all of 1999 will get \$1,963.86, compared with \$1,769.84 last year, the previous high, the state announced today.

Intel Warns On 3Q Expectations

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)

Stung by weakened demand in Europe, Intel today warned that its third-quarter revenues will be significantly below Wall Street's expectations. The news sent shares of Intel down \$11.67, or nearly 19 percent, to \$49.81, after finishing the regular trading session on the Nasdaq Stock Market at \$61.48, down \$1.58. The Santa Clara-based chip maker said its revenue for the period ending Sept. 30 will range between \$8.5 billion and \$8.7 billion, about 3 percent to 5 percent higher than second-quarter revenue of \$8.3 billion.

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50-State Poll: Gore Gaining Ground

WASHINGTON (AP)

Since the political conventions, Al Gore has made the presidential race competitive or has gained an edge over George W. Bush in many battleground states that could decide the election, a 50-state poll project suggests. The polls, taken by the American Research Group of Manchester, N.H., back up earlier polls in many of the battleground states showing a far more competitive landscape than before the convention. In Pennsylvania, a big prize with 23 electoral votes where some recent polls had placed Gore ahead, the two candidates were very close. In several states considered tossups, like Washington and Oregon, Gore had a narrow edge.

Veterans Affairs Computers At Risk

WASHINGTON (AP)

AP Top News at 11 a.m. EDT Thursday, Sept. 21, 2000

Department of Veterans Affairs computers are wide open to hackers and dishonest agency workers, putting veterans' medical and financial information as well as VA funds at risk, department officials said today. The VA's top technical officials and their internal watchdog office told the House Veterans Affairs' oversight subcommittee that when the department contracted a security company to see whether their defenses were enough, the hackers had no trouble breaking in to the system with simple tools, taking total control of it.

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Arafat Reportedly OKs Land Swap

JERUSALEM (AP)

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat agrees to trade land with Israel to accommodate Jewish settlers in the West Bank, and proposes to deal with Palestinian refugees in Lebanon before those in other countries, an American Jewish leader who met with him said Thursday. Israel and the Palestinians are waiting for the United States to decide whether to offer bridging proposals to break the logjam in their negotiations, officials from both sides said.

Peru Armed Forces Support Fujimori

LIMA, Peru (AP)

After days of silence that stirred fears of a coup, the powerful armed forces sided publicly today with President Alberto Fujimori in a political crisis over his dismantling of the much-feared national spy agency. The declaration of military support, the first since Fujimori announced his move against the agency Saturday, appeared aimed at easing public worries in a country with a long history of military coups. It also appeared to quiet speculation over who really controlled Peru: the president or his national intelligence chief, who is embroiled in a bribery scandal that is forcing Fujimori to cut short his presidency.

Rescued Cubans Await Word From INS

KEY WEST, Fla. (AP)

Six of the nine Cubans rescued after their stolen crop-duster crashed at sea were taken to Miami today for interviews with immigration officials. The others a married couple hospitalized with injuries from the crash and their 6-year-old son remained in Key West. Cuba, which had called the incident a hijacking, now says it was an act of piracy that will complicate previously planned migration talks beginning today between Cuba and the United States.

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Red Sox Beat Indians 9-8

BOSTON (AP)

A day after getting swept by Cleveland, the Boston Red Sox overcame a seven-run, first-inning deficit and beat the Indians 9-8 today in the opener of another day-night doubleheader. Boston scored twice in the first, then took the lead when Justin Speier (4-2) walked Jose Offerman with the bases-loaded in a six-run third.

Gore, Bush Battle Over Oil Reserve

HOLLYWOOD, Md. (AP)

Democrat Al Gore today proposed tapping the nation's emergency oil reserve to force down gasoline and heating oil prices, as both cold weather and the election draw closer. Republican rival George W. Bush said the vice president was risking national security for "short-term political gain." With half-full heating oil tanks in the background at a Maryland oil distributorship, Gore said he had urged President Clinton to approve "several" releases of 5 million barrels of oil from the government's stockpile to ease tight supplies.

Yugoslav Commander Warns on Unrest

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP)

Trailing in polls days before key elections, President Slobodan Milosevic's allies turned up their anti-Western propaganda campaign Thursday, claiming plots have been crafted abroad to bring the opposition to power in Yugoslavia. A top Yugoslav army commander who supports Milosevic said the West's plans could include infiltration of his troops during Sunday's elections. Conspiracy theories have led to fears that Milosevic was preparing ground for the possible annulment of the presidential, parliamentary and municipal elections if he loses and force, if needed, against his opposition.

Firestone: Ford Had Wrong Pressure

WASHINGTON (AP)

The tire pressure that Ford recommends for Explorers is lower than what Bridgestone/Firestone suggests and makes the popular sport utility vehicle less safe, a tire company executive told Congress Thursday. The tire maker wrote Ford this week requesting it raise the recommended pressure from 26 pounds per square inch (psi) to 30 pounds, Bridgestone/Firestone executive vice president John Lampe told a House Commerce subcommittee. Firestone tires, which have been linked to 101 U.S. traffic deaths, are standard equipment on the Explorer, the world's best-selling sport utility vehicle.

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US Gets Weightlifting Gold Medal

SYDNEY, Australia (AP)

Two more Bulgarian lifters tested positive for banned drugs at the Olympics. The International Olympic Committee said Friday (Thursday night EDT) that gold medalist Izabela Dragneva the first **women's** weightlifting champion in Olympic history and men's bronze medalist Sevdalin Minchev tested positive for banned diuretics at the Sydney Games.

Tropical Storm Heads to Gulf Coast

PENSACOLA, Fla. (AP)

Storm warnings were posted along the Gulf Coast today after Tropical Storm Helene formed and quickly gained strength in the Gulf of Mexico. The center of the storm was expected to make landfall sometime tomorrow near Fort Walton Beach, east of Pensacola. A hurricane watch was posted for much of the western Florida coast and at least 5 to 8 inches of rain were expected in many areas.

Clinton: Bring Tech To Disabled

AP Top News at 11 a.m. EDT Thursday, Sept. 21, 2000

FLINT, Mich. (AP)

President Clinton got a close-up demonstration today of technology that's helping people with disabilities connect to cyberspace. Clinton toured a center that trains people with disabilities to use new tools to access the Internet. He also was to speak to about 800 people at a reception that will raise an estimated \$350,000 for the Democratic Party in Michigan.

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Democrat Al Gore today proposed tapping the nation's emergency oil reserve to force down gasoline and heating oil prices, as both cold weather and the election draw closer. Republican rival George W. Bush said the vice president was risking national security for "short-term political gain." With half-full heating oil tanks in the background at a Maryland oil distributorship, Gore said he had urged President Clinton to approve "several" releases of 5 million barrels of oil from the government's stockpile to ease tight supplies.

Iraq's Allies Work Against U.N. Sanctions

UNITED NATIONS (AP)

Iraq's Security Council allies stepped up their campaign against U.N. sanctions today with proposals to cut the compensation fund for victims of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and delay a \$16 billion payout to Kuwait's oil company. The maneuvering over the U.N. compensation fund for Persian Gulf War reparations comes amid plans for more passenger flights by Russia and France into Baghdad that are seen as new attempts by Iraq's friends to slowly whittle away the decade-old embargo and tweak its main supporter, the United States.

Tropical Storm Heads to Gulf Coast

PENSACOLA, Fla. (AP)

Storm warnings were posted along the Gulf Coast today after Tropical Storm Helene formed and quickly gained strength in the Gulf of Mexico. The center of the storm was expected to make landfall sometime tomorrow near Fort Walton Beach, east of Pensacola. A hurricane watch was posted for much of the western Florida coast and at least 5 to 8 inches of rain were expected in many areas.

Crimes Keep Many Blacks From Voting

WASHINGTON (AP)

On Election Day, nearly 1.4 million voting-age black men more than one in eight will be ineligible to cast ballots because of state laws that strip felons of the right to vote. "Here we are, 50 years after the beginning of the civil rights movement, and we actually have an increasing number of African-Americans who are disenfranchised each

AP Top News at 11 a.m. EDT Thursday, Sept. 21, 2000

year," said Marc Mauer of The Sentencing Project, which analyzed 1996 Justice Department statistics along with Human Rights Watch.

Firestone: Ford Had Wrong Pressure

WASHINGTON (AP)

The tire pressure that Ford recommends for Explorers is lower than what Bridgestone/Firestone suggests and makes the popular sport utility vehicle less safe, a tire company executive told Congress Thursday. The tire maker wrote Ford this week requesting it raise the recommended pressure from 26 pounds per square inch (psi) to 30 pounds, Bridgestone/Firestone executive vice president John Lampe told a House Commerce subcommittee. Firestone tires, which have been linked to 101 U.S. traffic deaths, are standard equipment on the Explorer, the world's best-selling sport utility vehicle.

Rescued Cubans Await Word From INS

KEY WEST, Fla. (AP)

Six of the nine Cubans rescued after their stolen crop-duster crashed at sea were taken to Miami today for interviews with immigration officials. The others a married couple hospitalized with injuries from the crash and their 6-year-old son remained in Key West. Cuba, which had called the incident a hijacking, now says it was an act of piracy that will complicate previously planned migration talks beginning today between Cuba and the United States.

Iran Test-Fires Missile

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)

Iran has successfully test-fired its first solid-liquid fuel missile, which the defense minister said was part of a program for launching satellites, the state news agency said Thursday. Defense Minister Vice Adm. Ali Shamkhani said the missile, the Shahab-3D, would be used for nonmilitary purposes, the Islamic Republic News Agency said.

Dow Ends Up 78; Nasdaq Falls 68

NEW YORK (AP)

Stocks closed mixed today amid lingering gloom on Wall Street about corporate profits and higher oil prices. The uncertainty ended a two-day rally in the high-tech sector. The Dow Jones industrial average closed up 77.60 at 10,765.52, according the preliminary calculations. Decliners led advancers by a 8-to-5 margin on the NYSE. The Nasdaq composite index fell 68.57 to 3,828.87.

Red Sox 9, Indians 8, Game 1

BOSTON (AP)

A day after getting swept by Cleveland, the Boston Red Sox overcame a seven-run, first-inning deficit and beat the Indians 9-8 today in the opener of another day-night doubleheader. Boston scored twice in the first, then took the lead when Justin Speier (4-2) walked Jose Offerman with the bases-loaded in a six-run third.

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Alaska Oil Payout: \$2K Per Person

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP)

Practically every man, woman and child in Alaska will get nearly \$2,000 each in oil royalties next month, the biggest payout since the annual checks were first issued in 1982. The booming stock market was credited with the 11 percent increase over last year's dividend from the Alaska Permanent Fund.

Mexico Hotel Becomes Jail for Iraqis

TIJUANA, Mexico (AP)

About 150 men, women and children were being held Thursday by Mexican authorities in a shabby Tijuana hotel that has become an internationally known way station for Iraqi Christians seeking political asylum in the United States. In nearby San Diego, across the world's busiest border crossing, 45 more Iraqis were being detained by

AP Top News at 11 a.m. EDT Thursday, Sept. 21, 2000

U.S. authorities after they tried to enter the United States without visas Wednesday. It wasn't immediately known what prompted the crackdown at the hotel.

World War II Memorial Approved

WASHINGTON (AP)

Planners approved a World War II memorial for the National Mall tonight, rejecting complaints that the design was confusing and its siting would obstruct views of the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument. "This will allow the ground-breaking to begin and I'm delighted with that," said Chairman Harvey B. Gantt of the National Capital Planning Commission after the panel voted 7-5 to approve the design.

Tokyo Stocks Sharply Lower

TOKYO (AP)

Tokyo stocks dropped Friday, pushed lower by a decline in technology stocks on Wall Street. The Nikkei Stock Average shed 308.57 points to 16,002.48 points in early trading. In New York, the Nasdaq composite index saw a 68.57-point loss, finishing at 3,828.87. The Dow Jones industrial average gained 77.60 points to end at 10,765.52.

Blue Jays 3, Yankees 1

TORONTO (AP)

David Wells became the majors' first 20-game winner, pitching a five-hitter to send the New York Yankees to their fifth straight loss, 3-1 to the Toronto Blue Jays tonight. Wells (20-6), became the second oldest pitcher to win 20 games for the first time.

Load-Date: September 21, 2000

End of Document

Editors:; Publishers:

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>+++++ NOTES FROM EVERYWHERE:

>+++++

PUBLISHING:

Newspapers increasing interaction with readers

Editors;; Publishers:

WASHINGTON (AP) - Fighting to regain readers, newspapers are increasing their interaction with the public by offering everything from new designs to reporters' e-mail addresses.

"The greatest writing in the world won't make a whit of difference if no one is there to read it," said Chris Peck, president of The Associated Press Managing Editors association and editor of The Spokesman-Review in Spokane, Wash.

"Editors and other journalists are stepping forward from the sidelines and saying, 'We have to find ways to engage our readers and communities again,'" Peck said July 26 at the National Press Club.

The APME sponsored a survey of 360 newspapers with the Pew Center for Civic Journalism and the National Conference of Editorial Writers.

It found many editors are soliciting tips from readers and using polls to spot trends that affect coverage. Papers also are allowing readers to contact reporters directly, publish their own stories and discuss community problems in ways beyond letters to the editor.

For the past decade, newspaper circulation has fallen generally by 0.5 percent to 1 percent every year, industry analyst John Morton said, and editors are eager to stop the decline.

Nevertheless, he said, the changes have not solved the problem.

Nine of 10 editors surveyed said the industry's future depends on greater interaction with readers. The same number said their jobs involve more than merely delivering the news but also explaining the stories they publish and serving as investigative watchdogs.

Peck said editors are realizing that the next generation of readers has grown up in a world of cell phones and the Internet. "They want their world and their journalism to be interactive," he said.

About a fourth of newspapers have more education stories than five years ago and more information on health, medicine and personal fitness, the survey found. Three-quarters of the newspapers surveyed were covering fewer government meetings. There were smaller decreases in coverage of politics and crime.

The Campaign Study Group of Springfield, Va., handled the survey, initially sent to about 500 daily newspapers with at least 20,000 readers. Responses by mail, e-mail, fax and telephone from senior editors at 360 newspapers were collected between Jan. 1 and April 3.

The survey found:

- More than 40 percent of editors publish the reporter's telephone number with each story, and more than half print the reporter's e-mail address.
- About 90 percent had changed their publications' designs during the past five years.
- More than 70 percent allow readers to have their ideas printed in formats other than letters to the editor.
- About 80 percent solicit tips from readers. More than a quarter have Web chat groups.
- More than half said they are trying to move away from stories framed around conflict. They instead looked at things like potential impact on community or ways to find solutions to problems.
- About two-thirds of the editors have worked as partners with other local organizations on stories.

Editors;; Publishers:

- Eighty percent assign reporters to roaming "beat development" days in which reporters are not required to write stories. More than 60 percent of the newsrooms are organized around beats, with reporters given specific subjects to cover.

- Editors overwhelmingly are not comfortable with the label "civic journalism." About half said they like the philosophy of engaging readers in certain issues but dislike the label.

On the Net:

<http://www.pewcenter.org>

<http://www.apme.com>

>+++++ Reuters plans to cut 1,100 jobs, pretax profit falls

LONDON (AP) - Reuters Group PLC plans to cut 1,100 jobs, or about 6 percent of its work force, by the end of next year in an effort to boost profits.

The announcement July 24 came as Reuters reported a 20 percent decrease in its profits before taxes and other one-time items for the first six months of the year even as its revenues grew.

Reuters employed 17,265 people at the end of last year and said the job cuts will come by the end of 2002. "Where possible, these reductions will be taken through natural turnover," the company said.

In addition, the company said its electronic brokerage business, Instinet, will cut 240 jobs by the end of this year. Instinet had 2,021 employees in 2000.

No details were provided on where the cuts will be made.

Reuters will take a special charge of \$ 36 million to help pay for the job cuts.

Reuters said its profit before taxes, amortization costs and writedowns or gains on asset sales fell to \$ 322 million. Revenue grew to \$ 2.75 billion. Underlying revenues, which exclude the effects of acquisitions, asset sales and currency movements, rose 8 percent.

"This is a sound set of results reflecting a resilient core business," chief executive Tom Glocer said.

"We are accelerating the business transformation program and taking new actions to drive profit growth in the slower market conditions we expect to continue through the end of the year."

>+++++ Los Angeles Times cuts 1,600 part-time distributors

LOS ANGELES (AP) - The Los Angeles Times will eliminate about 1,570 part-time circulation jobs as part of a previously announced change in its distribution system, the company said July 30.

The employees, who handle single-copy distribution to newsracks and stores, work an average of 20 hours a week. The job cuts will be completed at the end of September, spokeswoman Martha Goldstein said.

The Times said in May it would stop using employees to distribute single copies of the paper, instead going with independent companies. Home delivery already is done by independent distributors.

The change will create 38 to 40 independent distributorships. The affected employees all have been invited to apply for those positions, Goldstein said.

The company also will close 12 Southern California distribution centers used to assemble newspapers.

Editors;; Publishers:

Goldstein declined to say how much the company hopes to save.

Separately, the Times is taking applications for a voluntary early retirement program announced in June by parent Tribune Co. That program is open to newsroom staff. Editor John Carroll, in a memo to employees at the time, said he expected to limit the number to 30.

The Times has a total workforce of about 6,000.

Tribune Co. said in June it would reduce its work force by 6 percent because of an advertising slump that has sharply reduced revenues.

>+++++ New York Times alters communication with free-lancers

NEW YORK (AP) - The New York Times Co. has made some changes in its communications with free-lancers who could be involved in a pending copyright lawsuit.

The Times has agreed not to run additional ads in the newspaper inviting free-lancers to give permission to include their articles in its electronic archives.

The company also agreed to tell free-lancers on the Times' Web site that if they agree to have their work included in the archives, they might be affecting their rights in a lawsuit filed this month by two free-lance writers and the Authors Guild.

The Guild suit is seeking class-action status to represent all free-lance writers whose work was used without permission.

It follows the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling on June 25 that the Times and two other publishers had infringed on the copyrights of free-lance writers by using articles they wrote in databases such as Lexis-Nexis.

The Times responded by pulling the writers' articles from databases, saying it would be too unwieldy to negotiate payments for the thousands of free-lance writers whose work was affected.

But Toby Usnik, a Times spokesman, said July 30 that some free-lancers whose work appeared in the paper from 1980 to 1995, the period covered by the Supreme Court case, might want their stories to appear in the electronic databases - an option that was made available to them through ads in the Times and on the paper's Web site.

"We were asked by the plaintiffs' attorneys to take down the Web site and stop running the ads," Usnik said. "We agreed to finish running those ads still in the pipeline, and we agreed that we would keep our site up and keep our voice mail system running."

On the Net:

<http://www.nytimes.com/freelance>

>+++++

Time Inc. to pay \$ 1.6 billion for IPC Media

NEW YORK (AP) - Time Inc., the magazine publishing division of media giant AOL Time Warner, announced July 25 it will pay \$ 1.6 billion to acquire Britain's largest publisher of consumer magazines.

The deal for IPC Media, still facing approval by European regulators, marks the first major international acquisition by Time Inc., which is heavily focused on domestic mass-market magazines such as Time, People, Fortune and Sports Illustrated.

Editors;; Publishers:

Already the largest magazine publisher in the country as measured by ad revenues, Time Inc. has been on a buying spree that included a \$ 68 million deal last month for Business 2.0 and a \$ 475 million purchase of the Times Mirror magazine group last fall.

IPC publishes more than 100 magazines in Britain, including Marie Claire, TVTimes and Loaded, a racy lifestyle magazine for young men.

IPC also publishes the music magazines NME, Uncut and Muzik, as well as specialist publications such as Horse and Hound, Decanter, Shooting Gun and Bird Keeper.

Time Inc. is buying IPC from Cinven, a major European buyout firm that had acquired the publisher in 1998 from Reed Elsevier, the business and legal publishing company whose holdings include Lexis/Nexis.

On the Net:

<http://www.ipc.co.uk>

<http://www.aoltimewarner.com>

>+++++ Merc News reporter resigns in dispute over identifying self

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) - A San Jose Mercury News reporter has resigned after being criticized for failing to identify himself while doing research on a series about orphans who were taught to stutter, the newspaper said July 30.

Executive Editor David Yarnold said Jim Dyer, who is also a master's degree candidate at the University of Iowa, presented himself only as a graduate student to gain access to an Iowa archive. The archive is not open to journalists.

"And he did not fully disclose the purpose of his research," Yarnold wrote in a column.

The Mercury News series detailed how a teacher caused some children at an Iowa orphanage to stutter. The 1930s experiment eventually helped thousands of children overcome the speech problem, but it also condemned some to lives as outcasts.

"Dyer says he subsequently verified all of the information he obtained in the archives through his own independent reporting," Yarnold added. "There will be some who argue that Dyer did nothing improper or that the outcome justified the means. We disagree."

Mercury News editors said Dyer didn't get their approval for his tactics.

Mercury News spokesman John O'Neill said that the paper would have no other comment on Dyer's employment status beside a statement he attributed to Yarnold and managing editor Susan Goldberg.

"Jim Dyer has resigned effective immediately. He will be returning to the Midwest. We wish him the very best," O'Neill said.

Messages left with Dyer and Luther Jackson, executive officer of the San Jose Newspaper Guild, were not returned.

>+++++ SF Chronicle sports columnist reinstated

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) - San Francisco Chronicle sports columnist Tom FitzGerald was reinstated July 25, a week after being suspended without pay amid plagiarism allegations.

Editors;; Publishers:

Chronicle editors suspended FitzGerald, a staff member since 1983, after a reader complained that information similar to that in his "Open Season" humor column had appeared in The Boston Globe. Upon further investigation, Chronicle editors said they found several other instances, dating to November, in which FitzGerald used the work of others without giving proper attribution.

Executive Editor Phil Bronstein noted that much of the material in FitzGerald's columns has been gleaned from a variety of sources, including other publications and the Internet. "Tom attributes most of that material appropriately," Bronstein said, "and it was clear to me that, in these instances where he did not, there was no intent on his part to sneak someone else's material past his readers and hope that they would take it as his own."

FitzGerald, whose column reappears Aug. 1, said he is satisfied with the way the paper resolved the issue and that he understands the Chronicle's concern about "something that could give rise to the appearance of plagiarism."

>+++++ Kids' news service to fold after running out of money

NEW YORK (AP) - Twenty-six years after it gained instant fame by scooping the establishment on a major political story, Children's Express news service is shutting down.

The nonprofit Children's Express is \$ 2.4 million in debt with no money to continue operations, Ed Jones Jr., vice chairman of the organization's board of trustees, told The New York Times.

As a result, the news service's bureaus in New York, Washington, D.C., Marquette, Mich., and Tokyo are being closed.

Jones said that after a "potential shortfall" became apparent last March, Children's Express authorized some layoffs and took out a \$ 400,000 line of credit, but was unable to tap into foundations or other customary sources for new money.

"We tried to seek additional funding to operate Children's Express, but we were unsuccessful," Jones said. "So on June 30, the board of trustees voted to cease bureau operations."

The Times said Jones was investigating the matter and promised an accounting to Children's Express funders in 60 days.

Children's Express did not return messages left by The Associated Press.

Children's Express was founded in 1975 by former Wall Street lawyer Robert Clampitt to encourage and train children 8 to 18 years old as journalists.

It scored an overnight success when a 13-year-old reporter broke the news at the 1976 Democratic National Convention that presidential nominee Jimmy Carter had chosen Sen. Walter Mondale as his vice presidential running mate.

>+++++ South Jersey Publishing to market itself under new name

PLEASANTVILLE, N.J. (AP) - The parent company of The Press of Atlantic City has changed its trade name.

South Jersey Publishing Co. will be known as The Press of Atlantic City Media Group in its marketing efforts.

"The new name better reflects who we are and what we do as a media company," said Keith L. Dawn, chief operating officer of the parent company and publisher and executive vice president of the newspaper. "It also allows us to brand ourselves under one trade name with the core part of our business reflected in our logo. We intend to grow as a media company by expanding our product lines."

Editors;; Publishers:

In addition to the newspaper, the company produces a visitors' magazine, real estate and entertainment guides and newsletters as well as contract publishing and Internet services.

South Jersey Publishing is owned by ABARTA Inc., a private holding company based in Pittsburgh.

>+++++ Philly newspapers join celebration of murderer's return

PHILADELPHIA (AP) - After two decades on the lam, fugitive killer Ira Einhorn's return has brought jubilation to his victim's family and law enforcers.

But they're not the only ones celebrating.

The extradition of the Age of Aquarius' counterculture guru also has brought glee to his hometown newspapers, which have printed "Welcome Home Ira" messages and sing-along editorials.

"We've gone over the top - characteristically," Philadelphia Daily News editor Zack Stalberg said July 27 of the tabloid's Einhorn coverage. "We haven't gotten a single complaint, except from Ira, of course."

Einhorn, 61, is behind bars for the 1977 bludgeoning death of girlfriend Holly Maddux. The 30-year-old Maddux vanished 18 months before her mummified remains were found stuffed in a steamer trunk in Einhorn's apartment.

He disappeared on the eve of his trial in 1981, was convicted in absentia in 1993 and was discovered living in France in 1997. He battled his extradition until July 20, when he was returned to the United States.

Einhorn is serving a life sentence at a maximum-security prison and has not yet requested a retrial, which Pennsylvania guaranteed as a condition of his extradition.

"The job of a newspaper, and particularly the editorial page, is to capture the mood of the community and that's what we were trying to do," The Philadelphia Inquirer editorial page editor Chris Satullo said of the July 20 piece written to the tune of "Hello, Dolly:"

We say, hello, Ira

Yes, hello, Ira

It's so nice to send you just where you deserve.

Cots that sag, Ira, food to gag, Ira

While you're moanin', while you're groanin',

Paint this ... license tag.

Einhorn's lawyer Norris E. Gelman declined to comment other than to say: "I haven't seen any of it. I really don't resort to reading that kind of media."

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SECOND QUARTER EARNINGS:

Belo Corp. posts second-quarter loss

Editors;; Publishers:

DALLAS (AP) - Belo Corp. reported a narrow second-quarter loss as newspaper advertising and broadcast revenue fell, and warned it will miss earnings targets for the third quarter.

Belo lost \$ 315,000, less than one cent per share, in the quarter ended June 30, compared with a profit of \$ 32.3 million, or 27 cents per share, a year earlier.

Revenue fell to \$ 361.8 million from \$ 412.2 million.

Belo's reported earnings included a \$ 29 million charge, or 11 cents per share, to write down investments in Internet companies and a \$ 4.5 million charge, or 2 cents per share, to cover costs related to early retirements and layoffs.

Excluding one-time items, the earnings of 13 cents per share - compared with 27 cents a year earlier - matched the expectation of analysts surveyed by Thomson Financial/First Call.

Belo had warned last month that second-quarter earnings would be below the expectations of the time. It issued a similar caution July 26 about analysts' prediction for the current quarter.

"We will maintain very tight cost controls in the third quarter and for the balance of the year," chairman and chief executive Robert W. Decherd said. He said only critical positions would be filled and the company would slash its capital budget by 30 percent.

"However, because advertising trends are not improving, we will not meet the current analysts' consensus estimate of 11 cents (per share profit) for the third quarter," Decherd said.

Decherd did not offer a target figure.

Dallas-based Belo said advertising revenue at its four newspapers, which include The Dallas Morning News, fell 12 percent. Revenue from its 17 television stations fell 8 percent.

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INTERNET:

Tribune Interactive cutting staff, costs

CHICAGO (AP) - Tribune Interactive Inc., the Internet subsidiary of Tribune Co., said July 26 it is making unspecified reductions in staff and expenses as part of a restructuring aimed at cutting costs.

The moves were announced a day earlier to the unit's 500 employees, about 175 of whom are based in Chicago. The others are distributed throughout Tribune's 10 other U.S. newspaper markets.

Tribune Interactive spokeswoman Christine Hennessey said the company would not comment on specifics of the cutbacks, including whether they are in addition to planned reductions announced by Tribune Co. last month.

Chicago-based Tribune, whose newspapers include the Los Angeles Times and Chicago Tribune, said June 14 it would trim 6 percent of its work force, or about 1,400 jobs, because of declining ad sales. About half were to come through voluntary retirements and half through job eliminations and reorganizations.

Tribune Interactive, created two years ago to manage Tribune's Internet activities, said the cuts result from the "very difficult economic conditions affecting all Internet and other media companies."

"The steps we're taking today will allow us to focus our resources on revenue growth opportunities," said David Hiller, president of the unit.

Editors;; Publishers:

Tribune Interactive operates more than 50 interactive news and information sites in 18 of the 30 largest U.S. metropolitan markets. Its Web sites include those of its newspapers, television and radio stations as well as classified ad and community and leisure sites.

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BROADCASTING-CABLE:

FCC approves News Corp. acquisition of Chris-Craft stations

WASHINGTON (AP) - A divided Federal Communications Commission cleared News Corp.'s \$ 4.4 billion bid to buy television station owner Chris-Craft, giving the companies a temporary reprieve from government rules that restrict media concentration.

With final approval in hand, Fox Television Stations, part of News Corp., can complete the deal that gives it 32 stations, reaching nearly 41 percent of U.S. viewers.

FCC Chairman Michael Powell defended the agency's review and decision, even as his Democratic colleagues and public interest groups accused the commission of giving up on its duty to protect diversity on the nation's airwaves.

Technically, the deal brings News Corp. in violation of a federal rule that allows a company to reach 35 percent of the population through its TV stations. The deal also runs afoul of a prohibition on one company owning broadcast stations and newspapers in the same market.

But on both fronts, the FCC delayed enforcing its rules. The commission decided to hold off on requiring the company to meet the 35 percent cap until an appeals court rules on a legal challenge to the limit - which is being raised by Fox and other networks.

On the newspaper-broadcast restriction, the agency gave the company two years to come into compliance. News Corp. already has a special waiver to operate the New York Post and one TV station in that market. The commission concluded that the old waiver did not extend to the company acquiring a second station in the city.

Still, the company may not have to shed any assets if the FCC relaxes that rule within the next two years. In the coming months, the commission plans to look at whether to modify the quarter-century-old restriction and some believe that under Powell, the agency will look to ease or even eliminate that restriction.

The merger boosts News Corp.'s presence in some of the nation's largest markets. Under the deal, the company gets nine of Chris-Craft's stations, giving it two TV stations each in New York, Los Angeles and Phoenix.

To resolve concerns raised by the Justice Department and the FCC, Chris-Craft must shed its ABC affiliate in Salt Lake City. Without that, News Corp. would have owned two of Salt Lake's top four television stations.

News Corp.'s television division owns the Fox network and 23 television stations.

On the Net:

<http://www.fcc.gov>

<http://www.newscorp.com/>

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CBS News president criticizes the critics on intern story

Editors;; Publishers:

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) - "CBS Evening News" was unfairly scrutinized for its lack of coverage of the Chandra Levy story while other news outlets gorged on it, CBS News president Andrew Heyward said.

"It seems to me that the harsh light of criticism should be directed at the end of the spectrum that's most guilty of tabloid excess," Heyward said July 24.

Heyward told the Television Critics Association he was most disturbed by the implication that there is an "orthodoxy of conformity" in news coverage that requires media to be in lockstep.

The decision by "CBS Evening News" to remain silent until two weeks ago on the story about the missing federal intern who was linked romantically to Rep. Gary Condit provoked much second-guessing.

The newscast ended its holdout when there was a development "worthy of national note," anchor Dan Rather said July 18. Levy vanished three months ago.

Correspondent Jim Stewart reported the case had been taken up by an FBI "cold cases" section that believed Democratic Condit's possible involvement had been overemphasized.

"There seemed to be a level of indignation that was disproportionate," Heyward said, defending Rather and executive producer Jim Murphy.

"They had highroad reasons for every news judgment they made," he said.

>+++++ CNN's big names back legal counsel in dispute

NEW YORK (AP) - Some of CNN's best-known personalities, including Larry King, Greta Van Susteren and Christiane Amanpour, have reportedly signed an appeal to management on behalf of chief legal counsel Eve Burton, who left her job recently.

Published reports link her departure to a corporate dispute over "The Wind Done Gone," a satire of "Gone With the Wind." Copyright holders to Margaret Mitchell's 1936 novel have gone to court to block publication of the new book.

Several of Burton's defenders, including anchorwoman Judy Woodruff, signed on to a letter to CNN Chairman Walter Isaacson calling Burton an "unabashed champion of journalism." The letter, quoted in The New York Times, said Burton "is a key resource in helping CNN to maintain its high level of credibility."

CNN this spring initially joined other news organizations in filing a supportive legal motion on behalf of publishers of "The Wind Done Gone." But CNN later withdrew its support.

Two divisions of CNN's corporate parent, AOL Time Warner, have interests in the other side of the dispute. Warner Books owns the copyright to a sequel sanctioned by Mitchell's estate, and Turner Entertainment owns the movie rights to "Gone With the Wind."

The Web site Inside.com reported that Burton's superiors within AOL Time Warner were angered that she took the side of the satire's publisher.

But Isaacson on July 27 denied Burton's departure had anything to do with that case or with the First Amendment, saying it was purely a personnel matter.

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COURTS-FREE SPEECH:

Editors;; Publishers:

U of Oregon proposes restrictions in sports coverage

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) - The University of Oregon's effort to limit the broadcast of football game highlights and interviews has stirred a debate on freedom of speech.

"We think it is a blatant infringement on First Amendment rights, imposing a prior restraint on broadcasters," Bill Johnstone, president of the Oregon Association of Broadcasters, said July 25.

The university has allowed TV stations to use video clips on the evening news for free and sold broadcast rights for complete games. It has proposed to limit highlights to 20 seconds for 48 hours after a game and 30 seconds for up to a week after a game. The rule also would apply to interviews with coaches and players.

Three national media organizations - the Society of Professional Journalists, the Radio-Television News Directors Association and The Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press - sent university President Dave Frohnmayer a letter complaining about the proposed rule.

Frohnmayer has said the university will not do anything to limit reporters' First Amendment rights.

School spokeswoman Pauline Austin said July 25 the university has not taken final action on the rule change.

If adopted, the rule would allow university officials to revoke the press passes of alleged violators and deny them access to future games.

Lucy Dalglish, executive director of The Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, based in Arlington, Va., called the proposed rule "spectacularly stupid."

"It's shortsighted and it does not recognize the very important role that taxpayers play in funding a state university," Dalglish said.

Oregon was 10-2 last year and won the Holiday Bowl.

The university has a \$ 775,000 contract with ESPN for games in 2001 and 2002, the final two years of a five-year agreement.

KEZI-TV in Eugene pays ESPN \$ 270,000 for exclusive local rights, but KEZI's competitor, KVAL-TV, runs its own highlights show. KEZI and the university claim that constitutes entertainment rather than news, and therefore violates KEZI's contract with ESPN.

John Larkin, general manager of KOB-TV in Medford, southern Oregon's largest market, said he was astonished at the proposal: "This is the dumbest thing we've ever had. If they were 3-7 we wouldn't be having this discussion."

>+++++ SD Supreme Court allows cameras in courtroom

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) - Media may now record, broadcast and take photos during state Supreme Court sessions.

Chief Justice Robert A. Miller said rules adopted by the justices will allow expanded media coverage as a pilot project, subject to annual review by the high court.

Guidelines for recording, broadcasting and photographing Supreme Court proceedings were proposed during a study by court employees, attorneys and media representatives. Media that break the rules may be cited with contempt of court and punished.

Miller has said he believes electronic media and photographers can be part of the Supreme Court setting without interfering with the legal process.

Editors;; Publishers:

The high court meets several times a year to consider appeals from circuit court cases. Lawyers for both sides make their arguments in front of the five justices. There are no jurors or witnesses.

Each case approved for oral arguments is allotted 50 minutes.

In addition to cases in which lawyers argue before the high court, the justices also consider many other cases based on arguments in written documents.

Media have said expanded coverage of Supreme Court sessions will foster improved public understanding of the appellate process. Michael W. Day, president of the State Bar, said his organization has no qualms about the coverage.

South Dakota becomes the 49th state to allow cameras and broadcasting equipment in courtrooms, leaving Mississippi as the lone holdout. However, the Mississippi Supreme Court began broadcasting its proceedings a few months ago on a Web site, and media may tap into it for audio and video.

>+++++ Judge dismisses privacy lawsuit against San Antonio newspaper

SAN ANTONIO (AP) - A judge has thrown out a lawsuit filed by a woman who said a newspaper defamed her and invaded her privacy by showing a photo of her home with an article on "visual pollution."

The San Antonio Express-News included the photograph of Juanita R. Rodriguez's home in a collage last year under the headline "One ugly dilemma."

State District Judge David Peebles on July 26 granted the newspaper's motion for summary judgment, finding Rodriguez suffered no injury to her reputation, said the newspaper's attorney, Mark J. Cannan. The ruling meant the judge essentially found that there were no issues to take the case to trial.

Because the house was in public view and the photo was taken on public property, it was not a privacy invasion, Cannan said.

Rodriguez's attorney, Reynaldo L. Diaz Jr., argued that the newspaper was not justified in humiliating his client by publishing a photo of her house without her permission and "grossly distorting it to fit one of their articles."

Diaz said he would recommend that his client appeal.

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Appeals court rules for American-Statesman in lawsuit

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) - An appeals court dismissed an invasion-of-privacy lawsuit filed by a man seeking damages over a photo of his dead wife in her coffin.

Edward Wootten sued the Austin American-Statesman and the All Faith's Funeral Service after a picture of his wife appeared in the paper with a story about the funeral industry in 1998.

Although she was not identified, Wootten recognized his wife in the photo.

Wootten's lawsuit said he had a deal with the funeral director that her casket was to be kept closed and that her body was not to be viewed.

He said he would have refused permission to run the photograph if asked, and sued on grounds that the picture with an article entitled "The Cheap Way Out" sullied her dignity.

The newspaper asked for dismissal on First Amendment grounds.

Editors;; Publishers:

The Third District Court of Appeals said July 26 that Wootten presented no evidence that the newspaper knew of his agreement with the funeral home.

The court also said the photograph, which shows an unidentified woman wearing a long white dress, with her face concealed and her hands on a prayer book, was dignified and solemn.

The ruling pertained only to the newspaper and did not affect Wootten's lawsuit against the funeral service.

>+++++ Judge may close trial to protect trade secrets

AKRON, Ohio (AP) - A federal judge is considering barring the public and reporters from the criminal trial of a scientist accused of helping steal sensitive biological material from the Cleveland Clinic.

At issue is whether anyone, including Clinic rivals, should be able to hear details about the microscopic lab samples at the heart of the case.

Federal prosecutors say the materials, used in Alzheimer's disease research at the Clinic, are the institution's trade secrets and shouldn't be revealed in the courtroom.

Lawyers for defendant Hiroaki Serizawa say he is entitled to a public trial and that thorough review of the samples is crucial to their argument that the items are widely available, not trade secrets.

U.S. District Judge David Dowd Jr.'s decision could affect whether future victims of trade-secret theft are willing to help prosecutors go after the thieves, observers say.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 1985 that keeping criminal trials open adds to their fairness. The court said closing any aspect of a criminal trial, though not absolutely forbidden, must be rare, done for compelling reasons and be "narrowly tailored."

The Justice Department on July 23 proposed keeping the trial open, but limiting access to evidence and exhibits that include trade secrets. The prosecutors suggested, for example, showing material on TV screens shielded so that only the judge, lawyers and jury can see.

But Serizawa's lawyers worry that special provisions might inadvertently prejudice the jury by signaling that the material must be trade secrets.

The (Cleveland) Plain Dealer and the Akron Beacon Journal will oppose closing the trial.

Serizawa, a researcher at the University of Kansas Medical Center, and his friend and former Cleveland Clinic scientist, Takashi Okamoto, were charged in May with violating the Economic Espionage Act. Okamoto allegedly stole or destroyed biological materials used in his Clinic lab after taking a research job in Japan; Serizawa is accused of briefly storing some of the stolen materials and aiding in covering up the theft.

>+++++ N.C. TV station airs videotape taken surreptitiously

ASHEVILLE, N.C. (AP) - A television news program aired portions of a videotape taken surreptitiously at a rest home after a judge ruled that blocking the broadcast would violate constitutional free speech rights.

Buncombe County District Court Judge Earl J. Fowler Jr. did bar WLOS-TV from broadcasting parts of the tape that showed medical records of patients at Pleasant Cove Assisted Living Facility in Candler.

He also criticized the station and reporter Amy Davis for not notifying authorities immediately when they learned of possible patient neglect.

Editors;; Publishers:

Davis said she entered the home in May with the help of a current and a former Pleasant Cove employee.

Inside, Davis said, she used a hand-held video camera to tape "a medicine room and medication administration records in addition to patients."

The footage that aired July 25 profiled a resident with diabetes who suffered from severely swollen feet.

One patient was shown lying on his or her side, wearing an adult diaper that was partially pulled down. An unidentified person on the videotape said the diaper had not been changed in several hours.

A complaint filed by Pleasant Cove's owner, Havon Inc., charged that Davis invaded residents' privacy. It also said Havon would suffer "immediate and irreparable harm" if WLOS aired the videotape.

Fowler rejected Havon's request to block WLOS from showing the video, saying news outlets have a constitutional right to publish information without direction from the courts.

Havon attorney Walter Currie declined to specify the rest home's next move, saying: "We look forward to continuing this matter and it will be shown that Havon and Pleasant Cove are not bad places and in fact we take very good care of our residents."

Station attorney Gary Rowe said WLOS and Davis wanted to collect information appropriately before approaching state health officials.

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INTERNATIONAL:

Zimbabwe suspends BBC press accreditation

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP) - Zimbabwe has suspended all press accreditation for the British Broadcasting Corp., accusing its correspondents of distorted coverage of President Robert Mugabe's campaign to seize mostly white-owned farms.

Information Minister Jonathan Moyo said visiting BBC correspondent Rageh Omaar incorrectly reported on Mugabe's speech at Parliament's official opening on July 24, the state-run Herald newspaper reported. The BBC confirmed the suspension and issued a statement in support of its journalists.

Moyo told the Herald that a BBC report that Mugabe "vowed to continue with the forcible acquisition of white farmland," was incorrect. He said Mugabe had made it clear that white-owned farms were being acquired for landless blacks under the nation's land reform laws.

Courts have declared the government's plan illegal. The plan would nationalize about 4,500 mostly white-owned farms without paying compensation.

"It is apparent that, as has happened before, the BBC approached the president's speech with a preconceived view to distorting it, to give a false impression there is no law and order in Zimbabwe," Moyo was quoted as saying.

Omaar left Harare for Britain July 24 as scheduled and his two-man television crew later returned to neighboring South Africa. The status of two local Zimbabwean BBC reporters was not clear.

Visiting correspondents are required to hold government media accreditation. Local reporters without it have little access to official events.

Editors;; Publishers:

All BBC accreditation was suspended "pending agreement, if at all possible, on an ethical and professional code of conduct," Moyo said in a letter to Milton Nkosi, BBC News chief of bureau in South Africa. Nkosi said the BBC was disappointed with the decision and stands by Omaar's report.

>+++++ EM.TV chairman and founder resigns embattled company

MUNICH, Germany (AP) - The founder and head of embattled media company EM.TV, Thomas Haffa, is resigning, the company said July 25.

Haffa will be replaced by Werner Klatten, who is in management at Hamburg's Spiegel Publishing. Spiegel is taking over 25.1 percent of EM.TV's capital shares. Haffa has asked that he be immediately released from his duties, and Klatten will take over by January, EM.TV said.

Under Haffa, EM.TV has bought Jim Henson's Muppets and Formula One racing. But those buys led to massive losses of \$ 1.26 billion last year.

To help support the struggling EM.TV, Germany's Kirch Group media conglomerate bought 16.7 percent of its shares in December in a deal that faces review by German antitrust authorities.

Haffa founded the company in 1989 and EM.TV had recently been a star of the German stock exchange. But a massive fall in share price has frustrated shareholders.

The losses have forced EM.TV to say it would sell the Muppets, but no deal has yet been made.

>+++++ Data-entry company is Cambodia's wedge into global tech

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP) - Eng Naleak was born with deformed feet, and only two fingers and a thumb on each hand. But she can type a respectable 30 words a minute in English, and that puts her at the forefront of Cambodia's high-tech hopes.

The proud 20-year-old is one of two dozen poor or disabled Cambodians hired to type the earliest issues of Harvard University's student newspaper into a computer for electronic archiving.

"My life was hopeless before this opportunity," she said. "Disabled persons in Cambodia are never given priority for jobs in Cambodia."

More than 300,000 of Cambodia's 11 million people are disabled, many of them by land mines.

Digital Divide Data, the company employing her, opened its local office July 25 with a project to put the 1873-1899 editions of the Harvard Crimson in databases by year's end and to help spread the wealth from the hi-tech revolution to Cambodia and its people.

The idea came from Jeremy Hockenstein, a Harvard-educated business consultant who helped start Follow Your Dreams Cambodia, a nonprofit organization to create technology-related jobs for Cambodians.

Though Internet cafes speckle the capital, there is no high-tech industry in Cambodia, a country still recovering from nearly 30 years of civil war that ended in 1998.

Nhev Sithsophary, general manager for Digital Divide Data, said data-entry jobs are ideal for most Cambodians.

"Our workers here have few skills, and little education, but they type very fast," he said.

Inputting data for Western multinationals and institutions has become an industry in India, Ghana and other developing countries, "and technology today allows Cambodia to compete," said Hockenstein.

Editors;; Publishers:

Digital Divide Data signed a \$ 30,000 contract to retype articles from the Crimson, and Hockenstein obtained the 1873-1899 editions on microfilm. He had the pages converted to digital images and loaded onto CD-ROMs for quick shipment to Cambodia.

The Crimson job is projected to employ 20 typists working two six-hour shifts a day on 10 computers for six months, with more editions of the Crimson to come if the work goes well.

For the Crimson it looks like a good deal at low cost, while from a Cambodian perspective, work conditions are better than usual.

The typists earn \$ 50 a month, better than the \$ 45 minimum wage paid in the garment sector, Cambodia's biggest industry. The company says it plans to raise salaries to \$ 65 after three months, will provide English lessons and pick up workers' medical expenses. It also hopes to expand into Cambodian villages.

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PEOPLE:

Tribune Co. VP FitzSimons elected president

CHICAGO (AP) - The Tribune Co. board of directors elected the company's executive vice president, Dennis J. FitzSimons, as the new president and chief operating officer.

FitzSimons, 51, succeeds John W. Madigan as president. Madigan, 64, will continue as Tribune's chairman and chief executive officer.

The position of chief operating officer has been vacant since 1995. Duties were handled by FitzSimons.

Madigan said FitzSimons' promotion was "a natural extension of his current role."

"While his roots are in the broadcasting business, Dennis has rapidly acquired a thorough understanding of Tribune's newspaper and interactive operations, giving him a perspective that is vital in today's multimedia environment," Madigan said.

Under FitzSimons, Tribune Television became the nation's fourth-largest station group, growing from six stations in 1992 to 22.

The company said FitzSimons was instrumental in developing The WB Network, in which Tribune owns a 25 percent interest.

Madigan also announced that Jack W. Fuller, 54, president of Tribune Publishing, was elected the 13th member of the company's board of directors.

Tribune owns 11 daily newspapers as well as its television stations and Internet operations.

>+++++ New York Times names Gerald Boyd new managing editor

NEW YORK (AP) - The New York Times has named Gerald M. Boyd as its managing editor, part of an ongoing changing of the guard in its newsroom leadership.

Boyd, a deputy managing editor for the past four years, will move into his new post in September, coinciding with the promotion of Howell Raines to executive editor, the Times said July 26.

Editors;; Publishers:

"I think this is one of the world's greatest jobs," Boyd said in an interview. "To have a chance to work with Howell Raines, who is one of the premiere journalists of his generation, and help lead this staff of devoted and talented people is something that every editor dreams of. I feel very fortunate."

Boyd, 51, will replace Bill Keller as managing editor and will be the first black to hold that position at the Times.

"I'm not about to dwell on the firstness of all of this," Boyd said, "but if somewhere a kid of color who reads about this can smile tomorrow or dream a little bigger dream, then that makes me very happy."

Keller is set to become an op-ed columnist and senior writer for The New York Times Magazine.

Gail Collins, Raines' replacement as editorial page editor, will be the first woman to direct the newspaper's editorial board.

The current executive editor, Joseph Lelyveld, is retiring in September.

Boyd joined the Times in 1983, after 10 years at the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. He was a national political correspondent and White House correspondent during the Reagan and Bush administrations.

He was named special assistant to the managing editor in 1991, then briefly held posts as a top editor in the newspaper's Washington, D.C., bureau and on its national and metropolitan desks. He was metropolitan editor, then was named an assistant managing editor in 1993 and deputy managing editor for news in 1997.

Boyd was a senior editor of the newspaper's 2000 series on race, which won a Pulitzer Prize for national reporting this year.

>+++++ Pamela Thomas-Graham named chief executive of CNBC

NEW YORK (AP) - CNBC named Pamela Thomas-Graham as its chief executive July 24, completing a transition that will put a relatively young executive at the head of a major cable network.

Thomas-Graham, 38, replaces Bill Bolster, a former local television executive who built CNBC into a major money maker for NBC since taking over in 1996.

Bolster, 57, will head CNBC's international operations, a joint venture with Dow Jones & Co.

Thomas-Graham and Bolster were named to temporary posts in February while the transition took place. Now, Thomas-Graham is becoming CEO of CNBC, reporting to NBC president Andrew Lack, while Bolster will be CEO of CNBC International, reporting to NBC chairman and CEO Robert Wright.

Thomas-Graham had been in charge of CNBC's online operations before being named Bolster's successor. Previously, she had headed the media practice at the consulting firm McKinsey & Co., where she was the first black woman to become a partner in 1995.

During the transition, Thomas-Graham led CNBC's aggressive response to longtime rival Lou Dobbs, who recently returned to CNN to take the reins of his old evening news show "Moneyline."

CNBC.com has been cut back and its operations are to be merged with Microsoft's in a new financial site due to begin this summer.

On the Net:

<http://www.cnbc.com/>

>+++++ Bloomberg says he won't return to company if he loses mayoral

Editors;; Publishers:

NEW YORK (AP) - Mayoral candidate Michael Bloomberg said he has no intention of returning to his financial news and information company should he lose his bid for the city's top job.

Bloomberg, 59, will cut day-to-day ties with Bloomberg LP, the company he founded 20 years ago, campaign spokesman Ed Skyler said July 24. "The company is moving on without him," Skyler said.

Skyler said that if Bloomberg does not win the fall election, "he wants to do public service." Bloomberg's options, he said, would include running for a different office or going into the nonprofit sector.

"If I am not mayor ... then I will do something else," Bloomberg said in a July 23 meeting with New York Post editors and reporters. "I don't know Day One what I will do. I'm not going to spend the next four years ... running for mayor. I think that's ridiculous."

In March, Bloomberg stepped down as chairman and named Peter Grauer, a member of Bloomberg's board, as his successor.

>+++++ Jackson takes top job with USA Entertainment Group

LONDON (AP) - The chief executive of Britain's Channel 4 TV network announced his resignation July 23 to take a job with the USA Entertainment Group.

Michael Jackson said he will become chief executive of the New York-based company, a division of USA Networks Inc. USA Networks said Jackson would be filling a new position.

A date for his departure from Channel 4 has not been set, the network said.

The former British Broadcasting Corp. controller joined Channel 4 in July 1997. During his four years leading the network, Jackson oversaw the commissioning of programs such as "Big Brother" and the popular, but controversial, series "Queer as Folk" about a group of gay friends living in Manchester in northern England.

He also was responsible for the launch of the pay TV channel FilmFour and digital entertainment channel E4.

The USA Entertainment Group is a division of the USA Networks Inc.

>+++++ Inside.com editor in chief Michael Hirschorn leaves for VH1

NEW YORK (AP) - Michael Hirschorn, a founder and editor in chief of Inside.com, is leaving the media news Web site to become senior vice president of news and production at VH1.

Hirschorn's departure, which had been rumored for some time, marked the latest loss of senior staff for Inside.com. The site has established a strong reputation for breaking news and solid writing since its launch a year ago, but like most Internet companies it also struggled to find ways to make money.

Hirschorn, a former editor of Spin magazine, founded Inside.com in late 1999 with Kurt Andersen, another magazine veteran and a former editor of New York magazine and Spy.

A third founder, Deanna Brown, left Inside.com shortly after its parent company was purchased this spring by a company controlled by Steven Brill, founder of the media watchdog magazine Brill's Content.

Several Inside staff have departed since the merger, and Brill dropped plans to combine Inside's recently launched print magazine with his own. Inside.com recently began charging fees again for full access to the site, a strategy that numerous other Web sites have tried and then abandoned.

Editors;; Publishers:

Brill has combined Inside.com with a portfolio of media industry trade magazines and newsletters, and hopes to use the site to sell subscriptions and research.

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Kunes named Redbook editor in chief

NEW YORK (AP) - Ellen Kunes, who oversaw the launch of O, The Oprah Magazine, as its first editor in chief, and then left after only three issues, has been hired by Hearst Corp. to be editor in chief of Redbook.

Kunes' hiring was announced July 23 by Hearst Magazines president Cathleen P. Black. Kunes, 42, replaces Lesley Jane Seymour, who left the magazine for the U.S. edition of Marie Claire.

Kunes is no stranger to Redbook, serving as executive editor from 1994 to 1998, before moving to O, which is published by a joint venture of Hearst and Harpo Entertainment, the company run by Winfrey.

She will take the reins of the magazine beginning Aug. 13.

>+++++ Weaver named president and publisher of The Tampa Tribune

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) - Steve M. Weaver has been named president and publisher of The Tampa Tribune, succeeding Reid Ashe, who became president and chief operating officer of Media General on July 1.

Weaver joined the Tribune 18 months ago as vice president of sales and marketing.

Before that, he was vice president of advertising and circulation at the San Jose Mercury News, where he worked his way from circulation director to advertising director.

Weaver began his newspaper career in 1980 at The Dallas Times Herald and later led the advertising and circulation divisions of the Daily Camera of Boulder, Colo.

"We're fortunate to have someone of Steve's ability," said H. Graham Woodlief Jr., vice president of Media General and president of the publishing division. "His experience with convergence and background in marketing will be extremely important to the future of The Tampa Tribune."

The Tribune also promoted Gilbert C. Thelen to senior vice president and executive editor. He joined the Tribune as vice president and executive editor in 1998.

Thelen previously was vice president and executive editor of The State, the daily newspaper in Columbia, S.C., and vice president and editor of The Sun News in Myrtle Beach.

Media General is an independent, publicly owned communications company primarily in the Southeast with interests in newspapers, television stations, interactive media and diversified information services.

In addition to the Tribune, its publications include the Richmond (Va.) Times-Dispatch and the Winston-Salem (N.C.) Journal.

>+++++ Rochester newspaper names Sutter managing editor

ROCHESTER, N.Y. (AP) - Jane E. Sutter, executive editor of the Star-Gazette in Elmira, has been named managing editor of the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle, effective Aug. 13.

Both papers are owned by Gannett Co.

Editors;; Publishers:

Sutter, 42, was managing editor at the Star-Gazette for a year before becoming executive editor, a position she has held for three years.

A native of Iowa and a graduate of the University of Missouri School of Journalism, she started her newspaper career as a reporter for The Hawk Eye in Burlington, Iowa.

Before joining the Star-Gazette, Sutter worked for 10 years for Knight Ridder in Columbia, S.C., and Bradenton Fla., and at Knight Ridder's corporate news division, helping with training and coaching.

>+++++ Lawrence Young new managing editor of Press-Enterprise

RIVERSIDE, Calif. (AP) - Lawrence Young, executive editor of The Arlington (Texas) Morning News, has been named managing editor of The Press-Enterprise.

Executive Editor Maria De Varenne also announced July 19 that the newspaper's assistant managing editor/news, John Gryka, was named deputy managing editor.

Young, 45, fills a vacancy created in June when De Varenne was named executive editor of The Press-Enterprise and vice president/news of The Press-Enterprise Co.

The Press-Enterprise and The Arlington Morning News are owned by Dallas-based A.H. Belo Corp., whose holdings include The Dallas Morning News, the Providence (R.I.) Journal, 17 television stations, cable news channels and Belo Interactive.

Young, formerly a reporter and editor at The Dallas Morning News, joined the Arlington paper in 1996 as managing editor and was named executive editor last year. He also serves on the Newspaper Association of America's Diversity Board and is a board member of the National Association of Minority Media Executives.

>+++++ Robert Hooker named deputy managing editor of St. Pete Times

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) - Robert Hooker, a 30-year veteran of the St. Petersburg Times, has been named deputy managing editor.

Hooker, 54, will oversee investigative projects and recruit journalists, with an emphasis on attracting minorities, said Neil Brown, managing editor and vice president.

Hooker spent the past five years as metro editor. He is an award winning reporter whose duties have included state editor, political editor and business editor.

Brown also announced that Tim Nickens, 42, succeeds Hooker as editor in charge of metro and state news. Nickens had been the newspaper's political editor.

>+++++ Key West Citizen publisher resigns

KEY WEST, Fla. (AP) - William M. Barry will resign Sept. 1 as the publisher of The Key West Citizen and will be replaced by the son of the corporate owner's chairman of the board.

John Kent Cooke Jr. will replace Barry as publisher of the Citizen and Free Press newspapers. He is the son of John Kent Cooke Sr., chairman of Cooke Communications, which purchased the 10,500-circulation Citizen and several nondaily newspapers in the Keys from Thomson Corp. last August.

"I am grateful that Bill Barry remained with us this past year to complete the transition of ownership to the Cooke family from the Thomson Corporation. I wish Bill the very best in his new ventures," the elder Cooke said July 27.

Editors;; Publishers:

Barry, who had been publisher for six years, called the experience "a privilege."

Cooke Jr. was named associate publisher in April, and worked on the paper's new design and the introduction of the Saturday edition. That marked the first time in the Citizen's 125 years that the Keys had its own seven-day newspaper.

The elder Cooke is a former president and an owner of the Washington Redskins, which was sold in 1999 after the death of his father, Jack Kent Cooke.

>+++++ Weber resigns as president, general manager of Ames Tribune

AMES, Iowa (AP) - Allen Weber, president and general manager of The Tribune, announced his resignation to become vice president and director of operations for the Sigler Companies in Ames.

Weber joined The Tribune in 1990 as marketing director and special projects coordinator. He was named was named president and general manager of the paper's production and printing facility in 1994.

"Al's institutional knowledge, his dedication and his leadership will be missed at The Tribune," said Tom Hawley, president and publisher.

Weber begins at Sigler Companies on Sept. 4. His new position includes management of the production and accounting departments and general administration of the company, which operates Sigler Printing and Publishing, Innova Ideas and Services and McMillen Publishing.

>+++++ Funk becomes president and publisher of Everett newspaper

EVERETT, Wash. (AP) - Allen Funk has become president and publisher of The Herald newspaper.

Funk, 41, took on his new duties July 24. He joined The Herald in 1993 as general manager, and will continue to handle those duties.

Funk succeeds Larry Hanson, who will stay on until Feb. 1 as publisher emeritus.

A Stanford University graduate, Funk earned his master's degree in business administration from Harvard. He said he hoped to use his training "to create a stronger, more flexible and more integrated organization."

>+++++ Nielsen retiring as executive editor in Maine

AUGUSTA, Maine (AP) - Soren W. Nielsen, executive editor of the Morning Sentinel in Waterville and the Kennebec Journal in Augusta, announced he will step down effective Aug. 3.

Nielsen's retirement closes a journalism career that began in 1967 in upstate New York and has taken him to newspapers in Texas and Iowa before he came to Maine three years ago.

"I have worked with some fine and dedicated people, here and elsewhere, and I will miss that aspect of my life," the 57-year-old Nielsen said. "But now it is time to focus on family interests."

John T. Christie, president of Central Maine Newspapers, which publishes the two newspapers, praised Nielsen's "sense of fair play and decency" that earned the respect of colleagues and community.

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Heath retires as president, publisher of Marshfield News-Herald

Editors;; Publishers:

MARSHFIELD, Wis. (AP) - Bill Heath announced his retirement July 24 as president, publisher and editor of the Marshfield News-Herald after 42 years in the newspaper business.

"It's been a great career and has given me an opportunity to meet a lot of wonderful people," he said. "I treasure the last 26 1/2 years working in Marshfield."

In addition to his editorial writing and newsroom management duties, Heath assumed the role of acting publisher in November 1999. He was named publisher and editor in February 2000 and added the title of president when Gannett Newspapers assumed ownership last summer.

Heath, 63, is a past president of the Wisconsin Associated Press Association and the Arizona Associated Press Managing Editors and served for three years on the board of directors of the national Associated Press Managing Editors organization.

>+++++ Fleming resigns as Colorado Springs editor

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (AP) - Terri Fleming, editor and vice president of The Gazette, has resigned and two managing editors will take other positions.

No successor was named. Jon Stepleton, public editor and assistant to the publisher, will serve as interim editor, and Jeff Thomas, computer-assisted reporting editor, will serve as interim managing editor, according to publisher and president Thomas J. Mullen.

Fleming, who worked for the newspaper for 20 years, became editor in January 2000 after three years as managing editor.

"She has made many, many valuable contributions, not the least of which was her passion for listening to readers about their expectations and working to strengthen the newspaper accordingly," Mullen said.

Managing Editors Cliff Foster and Keith Brisco have been assigned to other duties, according to the newspaper.

The newspaper is owned by Freedom Communications of Irvine, Calif. It has a daily circulation of about 99,000 and a Sunday circulation of about 118,000.

>+++++ Robin Meade, former Miss Ohio, to join CNN Headline News

ATLANTA (AP) - Robin Meade, weekend anchor and reporter with the NBC affiliate in Chicago and a former Miss Ohio, will join CNN Headline News in September as co-anchor of one of the network's new three-hour blocks.

Meade, one of 10 semifinalists in the 1993 Miss America Pageant, won a regional Emmy for her coverage of a fatal bus/train collision in 1995.

CNN Headline News begins its revised format Aug. 6. Former actress/model Andrea Thompson, another high-profile hire by the network, will co-anchor the 6-9 p.m. news block with Miles O'Brien beginning that day.

>+++++ Florence newspaper names Logan as regional editor

FLORENCE, S.C. (AP) - Harry L. Logan, deputy managing editor of The (Columbia) State, has been named editor of MediaGeneral's Florence Morning News and regional editor for its weekly operations.

The appointment is effective Aug. 13.

Editors;; Publishers:

Logan succeeds J. Stephen Fagan as editor. The regional editor's position is newly created.

Logan began his career in 1970 as a reporter at The Columbia Record, and moved to city editor before becoming assistant managing editor at Knight Ridder's The State newspaper in 1980. Logan is a past president of the South Carolina Associated Press News Council and past board member of the South Carolina Press Association.

As regional editor, Logan will oversee the content of the Morning News, The Star and Enterprise in Marion and Mullins, The News and Post in Lake City and The Observer in Hemingway.

>+++++ Kahn named AP correspondent in Roanoke, Va.

ROANOKE, Va. (AP) - Chris Kahn, who has been acting correspondent for The Associated Press in Roanoke since March, has been named to that position on a regular basis.

The appointment was announced by Richmond Chief of Bureau Dorothy Abernathy.

Kahn, 28, joined the AP in Phoenix in 1999. He moved to Richmond last year after completing his master's degree in mass communications at Arizona State University.

Kahn, a native of Phoenix, earned his undergraduate degree at the University of Arizona.

>+++++

In other changes in the news industry:

- Denny Bonavita, who has been editor of The (Du Bois, Pa.) Courier-Express and three other McLean Publishing Co. papers in the region for the last two years, was named publisher at the four newspapers. Bonavita, 58, who became editor in 1999, will keep that title at the newspapers. As publisher, he will oversee their news, business, advertising, circulation and production departments. In addition to the daily Courier-Express of Du Bois, the other newspapers are the Tri-County Sunday, the weekly Jeffersonian Democrat in Brookville and the weekly Leader-Vindicator in New Bethlehem. Bonavita is the 2000-01 president of the Pennsylvania Associated Press Managing Editors Association and has been active with the Pennsylvania Newspaper Association.

- Michael C. Bush, 46, vice president of operations for MediaNews Group, has been named publisher of the Las Cruces (N.M.) Sun-News. Bush said being both a vice president and a publisher is part of the new strategy for Denver-based MediaNews Group: putting executives into the field. Bush replaces David McCollum, who left the Sun-News in February.

- Ken Rogers, 50, a journalist in the Bismarck, N.D., area for 25 years, has been named managing editor of The Bismarck Tribune. Rogers will work alongside editor Dave Bundy and will continue to have many of the responsibilities he picked up as interim editor earlier this year, Bundy said.

- Sandy Falk, 42, publisher of Gannett Co.'s Daily Tribune of Wisconsin Rapids, has been named advertising director of The Wausau Daily Herald and director of advertising for Gannett's central Wisconsin region, which also includes the Stevens Point Journal and Marshfield News-Herald. Mark Baldwin, 44, executive editor of The Wausau Daily Herald, will continue to oversee the Wausau newsroom and now will have a hand in directing the news operations of the three other papers.

- Africa Gordon Price, a former editor at The Times in Shreveport, La., takes over as managing editor of The Jackson (Tenn.) Sun on Aug. 6. Price, 31, replaces David Risser, who took a job at The Montgomery Advertiser in Alabama. She said she will work with reporters to develop a crisper writing style and produce fresher stories. Price was assistant managing editor at The Times, and has worked at USA Today as a business reporter.

Editors;; Publishers:

- Editors from Oklahoma and Colorado were selected July 24 to lead the Great Plains Associated Press Sports Editors Association in 2001-2002. Mike Koehler, deputy sports editor of The Daily Oklahoman in Oklahoma City, was named chairman of the organization, which represents sports editors at AP member newspapers in Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska and Oklahoma. Kevin Dale, sports editor of The Denver Post, was selected vice chairman.

>+++++

KATHARINE GRAHAM:

Mrs. Graham leaves shares to family trust

WASHINGTON (AP) - The late Katharine Graham left her shares of Class A stock in The Washington Post Co. to a family trust.

The former Washington Post publisher, who died earlier this month after a fall, owned 30.8 percent of the Class A shares in the company. Members of her family own the rest.

Holders of Class A shares elect 70 percent of the board, giving the family effective control of the company, which had revenues \$ 2.5 billion last year.

Mrs. Graham also left her less powerful Class B shares to the trust, noting that "a substantial number" would have to be sold to pay taxes on her estate, which another document valued at more than \$ 359 million.

Class A shares may be converted to Class B shares before being sold.

In an 18-page document signed Jan. 12, 2000, Mrs. Graham stipulated that the Freer Gallery of Art be given numerous Chinese scrolls, paintings and other art objects from her collection.

Mrs. Graham bequeathed to the National Gallery of Art a cubist still life by Diego Rivera.

She stipulated that all of her papers and those of her deceased husband, Philip, be given to the Library of Congress.

Her personal effects and most other property are to be divided among her four children.

DEATHS:

JONATHAN RICE, 85, co-founder of San Francisco public broadcasting station KQED-TV, July 22 in San Francisco. Rice co-founded KQED with Jim Day in 1954. For the first six months, Rice's station wagon served as KQED's only office. In 1972, he became the second recipient of the prestigious Ralph Lowell Medal from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for outstanding contributions to public broadcasting. The programming broke new ground for television in terms of scope and variety, with subjects ranging from poetry, cooking, music, art and architecture to hard-hitting current affairs, news and politics. Survivors include a son and daughter.

>+++++

J. EDWARD GERALD, 95, a media critic and scholar whose books broadened the definitions of media law and encouraged journalists to think about their ethical responsibilities, July 18 in Minneapolis. Gerald published his first

Editors;; Publishers:

book, "The Press and the Constitution, 1931-1947," in 1948, shortly after arriving at the University of Minnesota. Gerald worked as a journalist until he became a journalism professor at the University of Missouri. In 1946, he earned his doctorate from the University of Minnesota, where he taught and wrote scholarly articles. Gerald also wrote a 1963 textbook, "The Social Responsibility of the Press," which was one of the first to offer ethical guidance to journalists. In 1970, he was one of the founders of the Minnesota News Council, the independent jury that hears complaints against media institutions. He served as its secretary from 1970 to 1974. He retired from the University of Minnesota in 1974. In 1975, he was honored with the Society of Professional Journalists' Award for Distinguished Teaching in Journalism. In 1983, he published his final book, "News of Crime in Courts and Press in Conflict." Survivors include his wife, son and daughter.

>+++++

RICARDO MIRANDA, 33, The Associated Press correspondent in Guatemala, July 26 in Guatemala City of a stroke. Before joining the AP last year, Miranda had worked for several local magazines, as well as the newspapers Siglo 21 and El Periodico and the news agency Reuters. He had also worked as a free-lance reporter for Time magazine and was president of the Guatemala Foreign Press Club. "Ricardo was a complete journalist with a great news sense, fast in pursuing a story and fair in reporting it," said Eloy Aguilar, The Associated Press chief of bureau for Mexico and Central America. Survivors include three children.

>+++++

ZELL DRAZ, 78, former associate publisher of The Tribune Chronicle of Warren, Ohio, July 26, in Concord, Mass. Draz, a Cleveland native who followed her mother and grandmother running the paper, was an inductee of the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame. In 1976, she joined the newspaper her family had owned for a century. In 1979, she became vice president of the company and general manager of the paper. In 1981, she was named associate publisher. The family sold the business in 1986 to Ingersoll Publications, which assumed all management roles. Survivors include three sons.

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PAUL FRY, 84, former chief executive officer of Inland Broadcasting Inc., July 24 in Omaha, Neb., of heart failure. Fry began his radio career as general manager of KBON-AM of Omaha. He later became chief executive officer of Inland, whose radio stations included KBON. He retired in the late 1970s. Survivors include two daughters.

>+++++

TED TRUBY, 55, opinion page editor for the Benton County (Ark.) Daily Record, July 22 in Bentonville. Truby had joined the newspaper in May. He previously worked at the La Grange (Ga.) Daily News as a weekend editor and at newspapers in Missouri, Mississippi and Louisiana. Truby wrote personal columns and was responsible for editorials and the editorial pages for the Daily Record. Andrea Lovejoy, the newspaper's editor, said Truby was instrumental in starting the paper's Sunday edition. Truby also had served as a representative for Louisiana and Mississippi in The Associated Press Managing Editors association. Survivors include his wife, three sisters and a brother.

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GUS SCHRADER, 79, longtime sports editor and columnist for The Gazette of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, July 27 in Cedar Rapids. Schrader started at the Gazette in 1947 and became sports editor in 1951. His column, "Red Peppers," became a reading staple for many sports fans. Schrader worked as sports editor until 1987, when he started writing a weekly column that appeared in The Gazette on Mondays. Survivors include his wife, two daughters and son.

>+++++

FRANK SHEPHERD, 61, sports editor of The Coshocton Tribune for 28 years, July 25 in Coshocton of cancer. Shepherd wrote about sports for the Tribune from 1964 to 1992 and rejoined the newspaper as a correspondent in 1998. Survivors include his wife and two daughters.

Editors;; Publishers:

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KEN WARD, 74, former state editor and harness racing columnist at the Bangor (Maine) Daily News, July 23 in Bangor during heart surgery. Ward joined the News in 1960 as a printer in the composing room. He served as a camera operator, advertising makeup man and proofreader before joining the editorial department in 1980. Ward served as state editor from 1983 until his retirement as a full-time employee in 1991. In 1978 Ward parlayed his interest in harness racing into a regular column, "The Railbird." Survivors include his wife, three sons and two daughters.

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WILLIAM SAINSBURY, 50, a photographer for the New York Post, July 27 in New York. Sainsbury started at the Post in 1993 as a darkroom printer. He later became a sports photographer and an imaging technician. Survivors include his wife and three children.

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MILTON LEVY, 79, a former reporter for The Associated Press and later a public relations executive, July 29 in Westfield, N.J. Levy worked as a reporter and editor for the AP at the State House in Trenton from 1947 to 1954. He also worked as a reporter at the Bergen Evening Record. After leaving the AP, Levy was named the first public relations director of the New Jersey Highway Authority. After 18 years, he became public relations director at a New Jersey engineering firm. Survivors include wife, son, brother and sister.

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AP STYLEBOOK:

The new edition of the AP Stylebook and Briefing on Media Law, with a special section on Internet and computer terms, is now available.

Changes are effective Aug. 11.

The revised Stylebook includes:

New entries: Aborigine; Ecstasy; chip-maker, chip-making; Ecuadorean; cell phone and source code (Internet section); Jaws of Life; Kwanzaa; Mercedes-Benz; pronouncers; Olympics (sports section); Nasdaq (business section).

Updated or otherwise revised entries include: Boeing; Chinese names; Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and Mormon Church; courtesy titles; datelines (foreign cities); Emmy, Emmys; euro; the Internet section; **Irish Republican Army**; J.C. Penney; Jewish congregations; Medal of Honor; parishioner; Western; athletic director (sports); college conferences (sports).

The spiral-bound book is available to members for \$ 7.75 a copy; to college bookstores for \$ 9.95, and to others for \$ 11.75. Shipping charge is \$ 4 for up to nine books, \$ 8 for 10 or more.

Members can be directly assessed; prepayments from others should be sent to Stylebook, The Associated Press, 50 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10020.

The Stylebook is also available in an updated electronic version, which can be downloaded to an intranet system, for a site license fee. (Members requesting the electronic version will be assessed a site license fee based on circulation.)

Editors;; Publishers:

The book can also be ordered online by credit card, at <http://www.apbookstore.com>. Requests for the electronic version can be made at that site or by e-mail to apstylebook@ap.org.

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NOTES FROM EVERYWHERE:

Reid MacCluggage, editor and publisher of The (New London, Conn.) Day, is the winner of the 2001 Ida B. Wells award for promoting racial diversity in the news media. The jury for the award, presented annually by the National Conference of Editorial Writers and the National Association of Black Journalists, cited MacCluggage for pushing vigorously for minority hiring at The Day, where 20 percent of the employees are minorities. ... It sells for \$ 65,000, has a 5.5 liter V-8, goes 0-to-60 in six seconds and can be had for free: A black Mercedes Benz SUV, just like the one publicist Lizzy Grubman was driving when she backed into a crowd at the Hamptons, is the grand prize in a new contest by the New York Post. "The ML55, which we've learned travels quickly in reverse, is even more powerful going forward," the Post told readers. ... Members of the White House press corps who were housed on a cruise ship in Genoa harbor during the Group of Eight summit have been offered a free cruise after complaints about the accommodations. The certificates offered a complimentary cruise for two aboard the "Mistral," "European Vision" or "European Stars" on any cruise departing between July 2001 and July 2002. ... A new summer journalism camp started last week in Devils Lake, N.D., with about 30 students and eight advisers setting their sights on the school year. The camp, modeled on similar programs at Iowa State, Michigan and Columbia University, is a joint venture of the Northern Interscholastic Press Association and the University of North Dakota's Department of Communications.

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AP Top News at 7 a.m. EDT Wednesday, Oct. 25, 2000

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Byline: MARIA CODER

Body

Gore, Bush Fight for Home States

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP)

A tight race for the White House is forcing George W. Bush and Al Gore to fight for political home turf, with the Texas governor seeking a boost from his brother in Florida and the vice president stumping in his native Tennessee. Central to their appeals is a hyperbolic squabble over who is the bigger tax-and-spender. The candidates are tied in both states in a snapshot of national polls that show a race with no clear front-runner 13 days before the Nov. 7 election. Playing electoral musical chairs in the same states, Bush and Gore are sharpening their rhetoric on spending taxpayer money and strengthening Social Security.

Albright Urges Nuclear Disclosure

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said today that North Korea must remove lingering uncertainty about its nuclear weapons activities if efforts at accommodation with the United States are to succeed. A 1994 U.S.-North Korean agreement was designed to freeze a suspected nuclear weapons program in Yongbyan but there are concerns Pyongyang may have stockpiled one or more such weapons beforehand. North Korea's development of missiles and its missile exports to the Middle East have been a key area of U.S. concern but outside experts said the nuclear issue should not be underestimated.

Mideast Conflict Could Drag On

JERUSALEM (AP)

Government and army officials are advising Israelis to brace themselves, saying the conflict with the Palestinians could drag on for months. The words of advice Tuesday came amid a hail of firebombs, rocks, and gunfire that has not waned in a month of clashes between Israeli soldiers and Palestinian rioters, and has left the Mideast peace process in tatters. In Washington, President Clinton raised the possibility of inviting Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat separately to Washington in an attempt to break the cycle of bloodshed in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Balkan Leaders Meet For New Era

AP Top News at 7 a.m. EDT Wednesday, Oct. 25, 2000

SKOPJE, Macedonia (AP)

With Slobodan Milosevic out of power in Yugoslavia and prospects for peace their best in years, Balkan leaders began arriving today in the Macedonian capital in hopes of launching a new era of regional cooperation. The gathering of Balkan leaders marks the return of Yugoslavia to regional diplomacy following two years of isolation imposed because of the Kosovo crisis and the NATO bombing campaign. The leaders are hoping to push aside their disputes in hopes of drawing greater support from the rich countries of Western Europe for their requests for economic aid and integration into Western institutions, including NATO and the European Union.

Congress To Vote on Abortion Aid

WASHINGTON (AP)

Congress appears ready to approve lifting the ban on U.S. aid for groups performing abortions overseas, a move that lawmakers on both sides of the issue say is a pre-election victory for abortion-rights advocates. The abortion provision was included in a \$14.9 billion foreign aid bill that the House and Senate planned to vote today and that President Clinton was expected to sign into law. The measure also contained aid to help some of the world's poorest countries reduce their international debt, and assistance for Serbia in the wake of the overthrow of President Slobodan Milosevic.

Divers Ready To Enter Kursk

MURMANSK, Russia (AP)

Divers concluded the painstaking job of cutting a hole into the sunken nuclear submarine Kursk's thick inner hull today and awaited orders for a risky venture inside to recover remains of the crew. If the divers enter, they will get the first close-up look at the interior of the stricken submarine since a massive explosion tore through the Kursk, a vessel that was considered among the most formidable of its type in the world. It took the divers' team five days to cut one hole through the Kursk's thick steel double hull, 356 feet below the surface in the cold waters of the Barents Sea.

Tokyo Stocks Fall

The benchmark 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average shed 153.24 points, or 1.01 percent, to 14,994.95 at the end of the morning session. On Tuesday, the average closed up 50.23 points, or 0.33 percent.

Mets Beat Yankees 4-2 In Game Three

NEW YORK (AP)

Back in their raucous den, with its ear-splitting music and jets roaring overhead, the New York Mets were right at home and right back in this Subway Series. Benny Agbayani got Shea Stadium shaking with a go-ahead double in the eighth inning as the Mets handed Orlando Hernandez his first postseason defeat, beating the New York Yankees 4-2 Tuesday night to cut their World Series deficit to 2-1. A sellout crowd of 55,299 went crazy as Armando Benitez held on in the ninth inning this time, helping the Mets end the Yankees' record 14-game winning streak in the World Series.

Gore, Bush Fight for Home States

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A tight race for the White House is forcing George W. Bush and Al Gore to fight for political home turf, with the Texas governor seeking a boost from his brother in Florida and the vice president stumping in his native Tennessee. Central to their appeals is a hyperbolic squabble over who is the bigger tax-and-spender. The candidates are tied in both states in a snapshot of national polls that show a race with no clear front-runner 13 days

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before the Nov. 7 election. Playing electoral musical chairs in the same states, Bush and Gore are sharpening their rhetoric on spending taxpayer money and strengthening Social Security.

Uprising Steering Committees Alleged

JERUSALEM (AP)

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's loyalists are cooperating with Islamic militants in leading the month-old Palestinian uprising, participants in daily planning sessions said today. Representatives from a dozen Palestinian groups, including the Islamic militant Hamas and Arafat's Fatah faction, have been directing the protests such as setting the times and places for street marches, said Mahmoud Zahar, a Hamas leader. The existence of such committees would contradict Arafat's assertion that the Palestinian protests have been a spontaneous outburst of anger against Israel.

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Earthquake Shakes Indonesia Capital

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)

A strong earthquake shook the western end of Indonesia's Java island today, sending residents of the capital running in panic from office buildings. The 6.5-magnitude quake struck at 4:32 p.m., the Indonesian Meteorology and Geophysics Agency said. The epicenter was 145 miles southwest of Jakarta, beneath the Indian Ocean. There were no immediate reports of damage or casualties, but magnitude-6 temblors are capable of causing severe destruction near their epicenter.

Discovery Lands in California

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. (AP)

After high wind prevented a Florida touchdown for a third day, Discovery swooped through nearly cloudless skies yesterday, ending a 13-day flight during which the seven astronauts got the international space station ready for the arrival of its first full-time crew. NASA's 100th space shuttle flight ended where most of the earliest flights touched down. In recent years, however, the space agency has opted to land its shuttles near its launch site at Cape Canaveral, Fla.

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Tokyo Stocks Fall

TOKYO (AP)

Tokyo's key stock market index fell more than 2 percent today on worries that high-flying technology shares may be shot down by disappointing earnings reports. The Nikkei Stock Average dropped 307.72 points to 14,840.47.

Mets Beat Yankees 4-2 in Game 3

NEW YORK (AP)

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Clinton Might Hold Mideast Meetings

WASHINGTON (AP)

President Clinton is willing to meet separately with Israeli and Palestinian leaders at the White House if they will make efforts on their own to halt violent uprisings in the Mideast, a White House official said. The president said yesterday that in order for him to make a fresh attempt at brokering a Mideast peace pact, both sides must show sufficient progress toward living up to commitments made at last week's emergency summit at Sharm el-Sheik, Egypt.

Albright Urges Nuclear Disclosure

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said today that North Korea must remove lingering uncertainty about its nuclear weapons activities if efforts at accommodation with the United States are to succeed. A 1994 U.S.-North Korean agreement was designed to freeze a suspected nuclear weapons program in Yongbyan, but there are concerns that Pyongyang may have stockpiled one or more such weapons beforehand. Albright, who arrived here today after two days in Pyongyang, said at a news conference that she raised the issue with North Korean leader Kim Jong Il.

Balkan Leaders Discuss Stability

SKOPJE, Macedonia (AP)

Yugoslavia's president promised a new era in relations with its Balkan neighbors as leaders of the turbulent region met today to explore ways of improving cooperation now that Slobodan Milosevic is gone. Arriving for the one-day summit, President Vojislav Kostunica said his rise to power this month "opened a new page" in his country's history after a decade of ethnic conflict under Milosevic.

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Russian Life Expectancy Rates Drop

MOSCOW (AP)

Russia's average life expectancy fell by a year in the course of just 12 months, a top health official said in the latest sign of Russia's alarming demographic decline. The overall average life expectancy fell to 65.5 years in 1999, according to a report presented yesterday by Oleg Shepin, a member of Russia's Academy of Medical Science, the Interfax news agency reported. The rate for men was 59.9 years, while the average life expectancy for women was 72 years, he said.

Earthquake Shakes Indonesia Capital

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)

A strong earthquake shook the western end of Indonesia's Java island today, sending residents of the capital running in panic from office buildings. The 6.5-magnitude quake struck at 4:32 p.m., the Indonesian Meteorology and Geophysics Agency said. The epicenter was 145 miles southwest of Jakarta, beneath the Indian Ocean. There were no immediate reports of damage or casualties, but magnitude-6 temblors are capable of causing severe destruction near their epicenter.

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Clinton Offers Help With Peace

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Ivory Coast Junta Leader Flees

AP Top News at 7 a.m. EDT Wednesday, Oct. 25, 2000

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (AP)

Junta leader Gen. Robert Guei fled today as many of his security forces turned against him and joined thousands of demonstrators protesting his claim to the presidency, soldiers said. Outside his campaign headquarters in suburban Abidjan, opposition leader Laurent Gbagbo, who also claimed to have won the elections, thanked protesters for opposing what he called Guei's "electoral coup d'etat." Gbagbo, who was ahead when some of the ballots were counted earlier this week, had called on supporters to protest the junta's claim of victory.

Gore, Bush Fight Close to Home

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP)

George W. Bush is seeking a boost from his brother in Florida and Al Gore is stumping in his home state of Tennessee as the race for the White House winds down. Arguments over who is the bigger tax-and-spender also continued today. The candidates are tied in both states and national polls that show a race with no clear front-runner 13 days before the Nov. 7 election.

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Discovery Lands in California

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. (AP)

After high wind prevented a Florida touchdown for a third day, Discovery swooped through nearly cloudless skies yesterday, ending a 13-day flight. Discovery was originally scheduled to land Sunday at Cape Canaveral, but the attempt was scrubbed because of high wind. Gusts also kept the shuttle from landing Monday, the same day rain clouds at Edwards scuttled plans there. To the astronauts' relief, the weather was ideal at Edwards yesterday.

AT&T To Break Into Smaller Companies

NEW YORK (AP)

AT&T Corp. is breaking itself into smaller companies for the third time since 1984, scrapping its vision of one-stop shopping for communications services and dismantling a telephone and cable TV empire that took three years and more than \$100 billion to build. The widely expected breakup officially announced this morning will create four distinct entities, including an independent cable company and an independent wireless company, all operating under the AT&T brand name.

Nasdaq Drops 100 in Opening Minutes

NEW YORK (AP)

The Nasdaq Composite Index fell more than 100 points in the opening minutes of trading today. Just before 10 a.m. EDT, the Nasdaq Composite Index is down 114.09 at 3,305.70. The Dow Jones industrial average is down 70.29 at 10,322.78. Losing issues on the New York Stock Exchange hold a 2-1 lead over gainers. The Standard & Poor's 500 Stock Index is down 19 points.

Bruins Fire Head Coach Pat Burns

BOSTON (AP)

AP Top News at 7 a.m. EDT Wednesday, Oct. 25, 2000

The Boston Bruins fired coach Pat Burns today, following a tumultuous offseason. Bruins general manager Harry Sinden said he decided to fire Burns after the team dropped four straight games. The team had opened the season 3-0-1. The team is expected to name a successor at an 11 a.m. EDT news conference.

Mets Beat Yankees 4-2 in Game 3

NEW YORK (AP)

Benny Agbayani got Shea Stadium shaking with a go-ahead double in the eighth inning as the Mets handed Orlando Hernandez his first postseason defeat, beating the New York Yankees 4-2 last night to cut their World Series deficit to 2-1. A sellout crowd of 55,299 went crazy as Armando Benitez held on in the ninth inning this time, helping the Mets end the Yankees' record 14-game winning streak in the World Series.

Uprisings May Be Orchestrated

JERUSALEM (AP)

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's loyalists are cooperating closely with Islamic militants in orchestrating the month-old Palestinian uprising, participants in the daily planning sessions revealed today. Representatives of a dozen Palestinian groups, including the Islamic militant Hamas and Arafat's Fatah faction, have been directing the protests, such as setting the times and places for street marches, said Mahmoud Zahar, a Hamas leader. The existence of the steering committees would undermine Arafat's contention that the Palestinian protests have been a spontaneous outburst of anger against Israeli occupation.

Opponent Hailed As New Ivory Coast Leader

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (AP)

Junta leader Gen. Robert Guei fled today as many of his security forces turned against him and joined thousands of demonstrators backing opposition leader Laurent Gbagbo. After the news of Guei's departure to Cotonou, Gbagbo was introduced on state television as "president." Crowds of protesters exploded in celebration, beating drums and dancing in the streets of Abidjan and the western city of Gagnoa, a Gbagbo stronghold.

Gore, Bush Stump Close to Home

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George W. Bush is seeking a boost from his brother in Florida and Al Gore is stumping in his home state of Tennessee as the race for the White House winds down. "We're each in places we thought maybe we wouldn't be in at this time," said Gore's running mate, Joseph Lieberman. "That's a big message to voters come out and vote."

Mrs. Clinton Returns Contribution

NEW YORK (AP)

Hillary Rodham Clinton's Senate campaign has returned a \$1,000 donation from Abudrahman Alamoudi, of the American Muslim Council, who reportedly has voiced support for the terrorist group Hamas that has carried out suicide attacks on Israeli civilians, a campaign spokesman said today. The Clinton campaign learned of Alamoudi's support for Hamas yesterday and returned his contribution immediately, Clinton spokesman Howard Wolfson said. "Hillary is a strong supporter of peace and security for Israel," he said.

Albright Urges Nuclear Disclosure

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)

North Korea must remove lingering uncertainty about its nuclear weapons activities if efforts at accommodation with the United States are to succeed, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said today. An agreement was reached in

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1994 to freeze North Korea's suspected nuclear weapons program, but there are concerns that Pyongyang may have stockpiled one or more such weapons beforehand.

Study: Internet Doesn't Make People Anti-Social

LOS ANGELES (AP)

Concerns the Internet revolution has dehumanized America may be unfounded. Nearly two-thirds of all Americans have ventured online, and the majority of them deny the Internet creates social isolation, according to a study released today by the University of California in Los Angeles. In fact, the majority of Internet users said e-mail, Web sites and chat rooms have a "modestly positive impact" on their abilities to make new friends and communicate more with family.

Used-Home Sales Drop in September

WASHINGTON (AP)

Sales of existing homes dipped 2.7 percent in September after a big jump the month before, reflecting an easing in demand as the nation's robust economy slows to a more moderate pace. The National Association of Realtors reported today that sales of previously occupied single-family homes slipped last month to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 5.14 million, the lowest level since July. Even with the expected dip, existing-home sales are expected to do extremely well this year, association officials said.

Stock Prices Fall Sharply

NEW YORK (AP)

The Dow Jones industrial average struggled to rise today, up 11.10 at 10,404.17 just before 11 a.m. EDT. Broader stock indicators also fell. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 19.13 to 1,379.00, and the Nasdaq composite index is down 60.34 to 3,359.45 after being down more than 100.

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Clinton Offers Peace Venue

WASHINGTON (AP)

If Palestinian and Israeli leaders are willing to make efforts to halt violent uprisings in the Mideast, President Clinton will help them, a White House official said. "The president's message is that both sides left Sharm el-Sheik with commitment that they have to keep and we're still looking for steps on both sides to fully implement the agreement," said P.J. Crowley, national security spokesman at the White House.

Ivory Coast Opposition Thanks Supporters

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More Bioengineered Corn Found in Market

WASHINGTON (AP)

An unapproved variety of gene-altered corn has been found in another brand of taco shells, a report from anti-biotech groups says. The taco shells, labeled with the name of Western Family Foods Inc. of Tigard, Ore., were purchased in Eugene, Ore. in late September, the groups said. Two other companies, Kraft Foods and Mission Foods, have earlier recalled taco shells after their products tested positive for the StarLink corn, which was not approved for human consumption because of unresolved questions about its potential to cause allergic reactions.

Study: Internet Users Still Social

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Dow Up 14, Nasdaq Down 88

NEW YORK (AP)

The Dow Jones industrial average struggled to rise earlier today, but registered up 14.24 at 10,407.31 just before noon EDT. Broader stock indicators were lower. Decliners on the New York Stock Exchange hold a 8-5 lead over advancers. The Standard & Poor's 500 Stock Index is down 7.04 at 1,391.09, and the Nasdaq composite index is down 87.86 at 3,331.93 after being down more than 100.

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Mets Win With Eighth Inning Double

NEW YORK (AP)

The Yankees still lead the World Series by one game, but the Mets put up a blockade last night by winning the third game of the series. Benny Agbayani got Shea Stadium shaking with a go-ahead double in the eighth inning as the Mets handed Orlando Hernandez his first postseason defeat, beating the New York Yankees 4-2 last night to cut their World Series deficit to 2-1.

Bruins Fire Burns, Hire Keenan

BOSTON (AP)

The Boston Bruins fired coach Pat Burns today and replaced him with Mike Keenan, a coach they passed over when they hired Burns three years ago. The sometimes irascible Keenan, 51, won a 1993-94 Stanley Cup with the New York Rangers. But he was fired by the Vancouver Canucks, his fifth NHL club, midway through the 1998-99 season. Bruins general manager Harry Sinden said he decided to fire Burns after the team dropped four straight games.

Russian Plane Crashes; 75 On Board

MOSCOW (AP)

A Russian Defense Ministry plane with 75 people on board crashed today in Georgia, a spokesman for Russia's Emergency Situations Ministry said. The plane, an Il-18 transport with 64 passengers and a crew of 11, went down near the town of Batumi in the Caucasus Mountains country, said ministry spokeswoman Marina Rylina.

Three Bodies Recovered From Kursk

MURMANSK, Russia (AP)

Deep-sea divers entered the hull of the sunken nuclear submarine Kursk today and found the bodies of three of the 118 victims, a Russian navy official said. The bodies were found several hours after a team of Norwegian and Russian divers succeeded in cutting the first hole in the thick hull of the submarine on the bottom of the Barents Sea, Northern Fleet Chief of Staff Mikhail Motsak said on state-run RTR television. The divers are getting the first close-up look at the interior of the stricken submarine since it sank after a massive explosion on Aug. 12.

Clinton: Arafat Can Make Peace

WASHINGTON (AP)

President Clinton said today that he believes Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has the authority to end the bloodshed that has dashed hopes for peace in the Middle East. Clinton has raised the possibility of meeting separately with Arafat and Barak at the White House if both Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak do their parts to halt violent uprisings in the Mideast. The White House said the two leaders are still considering the offer.

Top Pentagon Gulf Official Resigns

WASHINGTON (AP)

The Pentagon's top intelligence expert on terrorist threats in the Persian Gulf region resigned the day after the USS Cole was attacked in Yemen, reportedly because his warnings about potential terrorist attacks went unheeded, members of the Senate Armed Services Committee revealed today. "What he felt is that his assessment was not given that proper level of consideration by his superiors and, as such, was not incorporated in" the final intelligence reports provided to military commanders in the Gulf, said Committee Chairman Sen. John Warner.

Accused Serb Helped Hide Atrocities

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THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP)

A Bosnian Serb general on trial for genocide testified today that his superiors wanted to cover up the murder of thousands of Muslims and threatened his family in order to keep him quiet. Gen. Radislav Krstic told the U.N. tribunal for the former Yugoslavia that he knew about mass executions by Serb forces in July 1995 at the Muslim enclave of Srebrenica, but did not investigate them. He said he feared his wartime chief of staff, Gen. Ratko Mladic, would harm him or his family if he took any action.

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Pope Gives His Blessing To Pizza

VATICAN CITY (AP)

Pizza chefs from the world over made a special delivery today to St. Peter's Square, getting Pope John Paul II's blessing for his Jubilee of the Pizza-Makers. It was the latest in the church's 2000 Holy Year days honoring a wide range of people and trades, from doctors to traveling circus workers. Chefs concocted a pizza for the pontiff: the "Papizza" "Papa" being Italian for "pope." Mozzarella, zucchini flowers and yellow peppers stood in for the yellow and white Vatican colors.

Dow Up 10, Nasdaq Down 110

NEW YORK (AP)

Stocks were mixed today, with the Nasdaq composite index falling more than 100 points and the Dow increasing slightly. Just before 1 p.m. EDT, the Nasdaq, which fluctuated in morning trading, was down 110.29 at 3,309.50. The Dow Jones industrial average, which struggled to maintain a slim opening lead, was up 10.36 at 10,403.43. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 17.34 to 1,380.79.

Bruins Fire Burns, Hire Keenan

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The Boston Bruins fired coach Pat Burns today and replaced him with Mike Keenan, a coach they passed over when they hired Burns three years ago. The sometimes irascible Keenan, 51, won a 1993-94 Stanley Cup with the New York Rangers. But he was fired by the Vancouver Canucks, his fifth NHL club, midway through the 1998-99 season. Bruins general manager Harry Sinden said he decided to fire Burns after the team dropped four straight games.

Russian Officials' Plane Crashes

MOSCOW (AP)

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Sources: Local Helped Cole Attackers

ADEN, Yemen (AP)

A Yemeni carpenter now in custody helped two men modify a small boat to carry explosives, sources said today, as investigators turn their attention to the network the bombers used to plan and carry out the attack on the USS Cole. Yemeni sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said authorities also have detained a woman who bought the car used to haul the boat. The sources said charges had not yet been filed in either case. Officials believe two suicide bombers maneuvered a small boat next to the Cole and detonated it on Oct. 12, killing 17 U.S. sailors and injuring 39.

Uprisings May Be Orchestrated

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Bush Gives \$2M to Congress GOPs

WASHINGTON (AP)

George W. Bush's presidential campaign contributed \$1 million each to the Republican House and Senate campaign committees to preserve their majorities, party officials reported. Bush campaign spokesman Ari Fleischer said the money will be used to help elect members of Congress "who will pass the Bush agenda to save Social Security, add prescription drugs to Medicare, rebuild the military, reform education and provide tax relief." The money was left over from Bush's primary campaign, one Republican official said.

Gore Jabs at Bush's Education Plan

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)

In a speech at Tennessee State University, Al Gore criticized George W. Bush's education plan as "half measures" that fall short of what we really need. "Under his proposal, he would spend more money on tax cuts to the wealthiest 90,000 multimillionaires than all of the new spending he proposes in all of the 90,000 public schools combined," Gore said. Vice President Gore and running mate Sen. Joseph Lieberman were in Tennessee shoring up their support in Gore's home state.

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Dow Down 20, Nasdaq Down 146

NEW YORK (AP)

After a weak increase earlier in the day, the Dow Jones industrial average dropped 20.72 to 10,372.35 before 2 p.m. The Nasdaq, which fluctuated in morning trading, was down 145.94 at 3,273.85. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 8.26 to 1,389.87.

Strawberry Arrested Again, Jailed

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)

Troubled baseball star Darryl Strawberry was arrested today on charges he tested positive for cocaine use and violated curfew during his sentence on a drug charge. Strawberry was arrested at a private treatment center in Tampa and booked into the Hillsborough County Jail, said C.J. Drake, a spokesman for the Florida Department of Corrections. He was being held without bail. An afternoon news conference is planned at the state probation office in Tampa.

U.S. May Have Been Warned About Attack

WASHINGTON (AP)

The Pentagon's top intelligence expert on terrorist threats in the Persian Gulf region resigned the day after the USS Cole was attacked in Yemen, reportedly because his warnings about potential terrorist attacks went unheeded, members of the Senate Armed Services Committee revealed today. "What he felt is that his assessment was not given that proper level of consideration by his superiors and, as such, was not incorporated in" the final intelligence reports provided to military commanders in the Gulf, said Committee Chairman Sen. John Warner.

Clinton, GOP Near Tax Compromise

WASHINGTON (AP)

President Clinton and congressional Republicans were nearing agreement today on a tax bill that would boost retirement savings, pay for health care, revitalize poor areas and help businesses absorb the cost of a higher minimum wage. As the GOP worked to nail down the final pieces of their end-of-session tax cut, expected to cost just under \$250 billion over 10 years, Clinton suggested that he could support the legislation with certain key changes. Although the president did not fully embrace the Republican plan, his letter was a departure from the partisan tax battles that have raged the past two years.

Bush Gives \$2 Million to Congress GOPs

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George W. Bush's presidential campaign contributed \$1 million each to the Republican House and Senate campaign committees to preserve their majorities, party officials reported. Bush campaign spokesman Ari Fleischer said the money will be used to help elect members of Congress "who will pass the Bush agenda to save Social Security, add prescription drugs to Medicare, rebuild the military, reform education and provide tax relief." The money was left over from Bush's primary campaign, a Republican official said.

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combined," Gore said. Vice President Gore and running mate Sen. Joseph Lieberman were in Tennessee shoring up their support in Gore's home state.

Uganda Ebola Death Toll Rises

KAMPALA, Uganda (AP)

The death toll in Uganda from an Ebola outbreak climbed to 63 today, with 175 cases identified, a health ministry official said. All the confirmed cases have been confined to the Gulu region, 225 miles north of Kampala. Experts say the virus is a strain of Ebola first identified in Sudan in 1979, but they are unsure how it found its way to Uganda, which until the present outbreak was confirmed Oct. 14 had no known cases of Ebola.

Russian Officials' Plane Crashes

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Dow Up 3, Nasdaq Down 145

NEW YORK (AP)

Just before 3 p.m. EDT, the Dow Jones industrial average was up 3.33 to 10,396.40. The Nasdaq composite, which fluctuated in morning trading, was down 144.91 at 3,274.88. Standard & Poor's 500 index also was down 22.93 to 1,375.20.

Boxer Dies Following Fight

BOSTON (AP)

A boxer who collapsed into a coma after a fight last week died today without regaining consciousness. Robert Benson, 26, a featherweight from Saugus, Mass., who fought under the ring name Bobby Tomasello, had just fought Steve Potse of Ghana to a 10-round draw Friday night when he collapsed in his dressing room. He was taken to the hospital, where he underwent surgery Saturday morning to remove a blood clot, relieve swelling and stop bleeding in his brain.

Strawberry Arrested Again, Jailed

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)

Troubled slugger Darryl Strawberry, already on probation for drug charge, was jailed today after he was arrested for allegedly testing positive for cocaine. Strawberry was sentenced to 18 months probation May 1999 after pleading no contest to drug and solicitation charges. In September, Strawberry was sentenced to two years' house arrest after violating his probation. He could have been sent to prison for that violation, but he was sent to the treatment facility from which he was arrested today.

Analyst: Terrorism Warning Ignored

WASHINGTON (AP)

Walter Slocombe, the undersecretary of defense for policy, refuted a claim by a former intelligence analyst who said he warned U.S. officials of a possible terrorist attack in the Persian Gulf as recently as June. "Information of that kind, if it had existed which it didn't would have been disseminated on the most urgent basis to all the people who were potentially affected by it," Slocombe told the Senate committee investigating the allegations. The intelligence

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Texas Death Row Inmate To Be Resentenced

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)

An inmate's death sentence for strangling a Houston jogger was overturned by a Texas appeals court today because his lawyer failed to object to improper statements made by prosecutors. The court affirmed the murder conviction of Arthur Lee Burton, 30, but ordered that he be resentenced. Burton confessed to killing Nancy Adleman, 48, who was abducted while jogging in her neighborhood in 1997, but he recanted his confession on the witness stand. The jury took about 30 minutes to sentence him to die by lethal injection.

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DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP)

Tied in national polls only 13 days before the election, presidential candidates George W. Bush and Al Gore were forced to stump in states they hoped to have locked up by now. In Tennessee, Gore accused Bush of giving short shrift to education, while Bush got a boost from his brother, the governor, in Florida. Bush had a 46-41 edge in Florida, a new poll said. Polls have put them about even in Tennessee, which Gore represented in Congress for 16 years.

House OKs Foreign Debt Relief Bill

WASHINGTON (AP)

The House passed a foreign aid spending bill today that gives President Clinton the full \$435 million he requested to forgive debts of the world's poorest countries. The agreement on debt relief, part of the \$14.9 billion foreign aid bill for fiscal 2001, was praised by both parties as a means of freeing poor nations from crushing financial obligations to let them feed and educate their people better. The bill also increases military aid for Israel, provides \$100 million in conditional aid to the new government in Serbia and includes \$300 million to fight HIV infections and AIDS around the world. The Senate is expected to take up the bill soon.

Russian Prisoner's Health a Concern

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The wife of an American on trial in Russia on espionage charges saw her husband today for the first time since August and told reporters he could die unless he is set free. "I'm not optimistic about the outcome of the trial, but I'm hoping there will be a humanitarian release for my husband," Edmond Pope's wife, Cheri Pope, said outside the closed courtroom. Pope's family says he suffers from a rare form of bone cancer that was in remission when he was arrested in April for allegedly trying to buy blueprints for a high-speed torpedo.

Dow Down 61, Nasdaq Down 204

NEW YORK (AP)

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Stocks fell this afternoon, with the Nasdaq, which has struggled amid disappointing company earnings this quarter, down 204.19 at 3,215.60, just before the close. The Dow Jones industrial average flirted with slim gains before falling 61.04 at 10,332.03. On the New York Stock Exchange, decliners outdistanced advancers.

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Tied in national polls only 13 days before the election, presidential candidates George W. Bush and Al Gore were forced to stump in states they hoped to have locked up by now. In Tennessee, Gore accused Bush of giving short shrift to education, while Bush got a boost from his brother, the governor, in Florida. Bush had a 46-41 edge in Florida, a new poll said. Polls have put them about even in Tennessee, which Gore represented in Congress for 16 years.

House OKs Foreign Debt Relief Bill

WASHINGTON (AP)

The House passed a foreign aid spending bill today that gives President Clinton the full \$435 million he requested to forgive debts of the world's poorest countries. The agreement on debt relief, part of the \$14.9 billion foreign aid bill for fiscal 2001, was praised by both parties as a means of freeing poor nations from crushing financial obligations to let them feed and educate their people better. The bill also increases military aid for Israel, provides \$100 million in conditional aid to the new government in Serbia and includes \$300 million to fight HIV infections and AIDS around the world. The Senate is expected to take up the bill soon.

Russian Prisoner's Health a Concern

MOSCOW (AP)

The wife of an American on trial in Russia on espionage charges saw her husband today for the first time since August and told reporters he could die unless he is set free. "I'm not optimistic about the outcome of the trial, but I'm hoping there will be a humanitarian release for my husband," Edmond Pope's wife, Cheri Pope, said outside the closed courtroom. Pope's family says he suffers from a rare form of bone cancer that was in remission when he was arrested in April for allegedly trying to buy blueprints for a high-speed torpedo.

Nasdaq Ends Down 190; Dow Falls 67

NEW YORK (AP)

Stocks fell sharply today, pulling the Nasdaq down 190.20 points to 3,229.59, as disappointing revenue figures from Nortel Networks reawakened the market's worries about earnings. The Dow Jones industrial average closed down 66.59 at 10,326.48, according to preliminary figures. On the NYSE, losers led gainers by a 2-to-1 margin.

Strawberry Arrested Again, Jailed

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)

Ex-New York Yankees slugger Darryl Strawberry, already on probation for drug charge, was jailed today after he was arrested for allegedly testing positive for cocaine. Strawberry was sentenced to 18 months probation May 1999 after pleading no contest to drug and solicitation charges. In September, Strawberry was sentenced to two years' at a treatment facility after violating his probation.

Israel, Palestinians Hold Talks

AP Top News at 7 a.m. EDT Wednesday, Oct. 25, 2000

JERUSALEM (AP)

Israeli and Palestinian troop commanders met at U.S. insistence Wednesday to try to pave the way for a truce, and relative calm prevailed in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. No one was killed in clashes for the first time in a week despite sporadic exchanges of gunfire. Israel said that if there were no new outbreaks of violence, it could withdraw troops from friction points and then look into ways of resuming peace talks. However, army officials were skeptical a cease-fire would hold for long. President Clinton has raised the possibility of holding separate meetings in Washington with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

Three Bodies Recovered From Sub

MURMANSK, Russia (AP)

Laboring in the frigid murk of the Barents Sea on Wednesday, divers found and removed the first bodies from the wreckage of the sunken nuclear submarine Kursk, Russian officials said. The bodies of three crew members were found several hours after two Russian divers entered the submarine, where 118 sailors died on Aug. 12. The remains were taken from the wreckage and placed in a special container, which would raise them to the surface with the divers, Northern Fleet Chief of Staff Mikhail Motsak said. A team of Russian and Norwegian divers worked for five days to enter the submarine.

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Yemeni President: One Cole Bomber Egyptian

ADEN, Yemen (AP)

One of the men believed to have bombed the destroyer USS Cole is an Egyptian, and several senior members of a Muslim militant group have been detained in connection with the blast, Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh said Wednesday. Saleh said the detainees including Yemenis, Egyptians and Algerians _ belonged to Islamic Jihad. He described the group as consisting of Arabs who fought Soviet troops in Afghanistan. Terrorist suspect Osama bin Laden was prominently involved in the Afghanistan resistance, but Saleh declined to say whether the attackers or detainees had any connection to bin Laden's Al-Qaida group.

Scholars Press Vatican on Holocaust

VATICAN CITY (AP)

Pressing the Vatican to open up its wartime archives, Roman Catholic and Jewish scholars raised explosive new questions today about Pope Pius XII's silence amid Holocaust-era reports that Jews were being deported and killed. Eleven wartime volumes provided by the Vatican do not "put to rest significant questions" about the Vatican's role during the Holocaust, said a team of scholars appointed by the Vatican and a Jewish group to examine Pius XII's wartime actions.

Jews and Arabs Cooperate on Floods

JERUSALEM (AP)

AP Top News at 7 a.m. EDT Wednesday, Oct. 25, 2000

Gratitude and acts of compassion are rare these days when Arabs and Jews mostly approach each other with suspicion, even hatred but neighbors from both sides were brought together in the Jaffa area of Tel Aviv Wednesday when 3 inches of rain fell in six hours. Trapped in her apartment, floodwater quickly rising to her neck, Yehudit Hadad clung desperately to her three young children as her Arab neighbors frantically tried first the door and then the window in hopes of saving them. When the Daka family reached Hadad, her youngest child had slipped from her grasp and drowned. "If the Arabs hadn't come, we all would have died," said a sobbing Hadad, who is Jewish.

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Gore Fights for Tennessee Vote

JACKSON, Tenn. (AP)

Al Gore called it a homecoming, but a comeback in Tennessee was what he sought today as the entire Democratic ticket two candidates, two wives swept across the state that Gore must fight to keep from losing for the first time in his career. Earlier, in Nashville, he served up more of the tough talk against Republican George W. Bush that appears to have pulled him back into a tie in recent days' national polls. The vice president dissected Bush's education agenda point by point and scoffed that it added up to "nice-sounding rhetoric and a few half measures."

Bush Hunts Florida Votes

SANFORD, Fla. (AP)

George W. Bush reached out today for Florida votes he once thought were already locked up and accused rival Al Gore of "trying to scare the seniors" on Social Security and Medicare. Bush rolled across the central part of the state in a bus caravan fortified by the presence of his younger brother, Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, and former rival John McCain. "The team that's got the best grass-roots operation is the one that is going to win," Bush told supporters at Seminole Community College.

AP Top News at 7 a.m. EDT Wednesday, Oct. 25, 2000

Russian Officials' Plane Crashes

TBILISI, Georgia (AP)

A Russian Defense Ministry plane slammed into a mountain while trying to land in bad weather Wednesday evening in Georgia. Officials said all 75 people on board were feared dead. A search and rescue team sent to the crash site about 15 miles east of the city of Batumi found pieces of the plane and scorched earth, Georgia's Emergency Situations Department said. Russia's RTR television reported that bodies had been found, and showed footage of flaming pieces of wreckage lit by rescue workers' floodlights. The cause of the crash was not immediately known.

Democrats: Nader Is Threat

WASHINGTON (AP)

Suddenly, Ralph Nader is no longer being ignored and the Green Party candidate's 5 percent in national polls is now viewed as a major threat to Al Gore in at least a half-dozen normally Democratic states. That has prompted a vigorous Democratic campaign arguing that voting for him only helps Republican George W. Bush. Nader says he welcomes "the new and enhanced attention."

IRA Promises New Inspections

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP)

Under pressure to deliver on its disarmament pledge as part of Northern Ireland's peace accord, the **Irish Republican Army** announced Wednesday it would allow international inspectors to revisit some of its secret weapons dumps. The outlawed group said the inspectors appointed by Britain and Ireland as part of a deal that formed Northern Ireland's joint Catholic-Protestant government in May would be escorted back to three IRA bunkers in the neighboring Irish Republic.

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NBA Penalizes Minnesota

NEW YORK (AP)

NBA commissioner David Stern came down hard on the Minnesota Timberwolves for the secret salary agreement with Joe Smith, making him a free agent, fining the team \$3.5 million and taking away their next five first-round draft picks. The issue of possible suspensions for owner Glen Taylor and general manager Kevin McHale have not yet been decided, the NBA said in a statement today.

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Mideast Commanders Discuss Cease-Fire

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Clinton: Arafat Could Cut Violence

WASHINGTON (AP)

President Clinton said he believed Palestinian Leader Yasser Arafat has the ability to cut the violence that has swept the West Bank and Gaza and dampened peace prospects. "I do think Chairman Arafat can dramatically reduce the level of violence," Clinton said. The threat of more chaos prompted the State Department to tell Americans not to visit Israel.

NRA Buys Ads for Bush

WASHINGTON (AP)

The National Rifle Association spent almost \$1 million last month on behalf of George W. Bush's presidential campaign, an effort that is cutting into Al Gore's support in key states. The powerful lobby for gun owners' rights spent \$610,610 on radio commercials and \$336,216 on billboards in support of the Texas governor, according to new Federal Election Commission reports. Organization president Charlton Heston has held rallies in key battleground states.

Congress OKs Foreign Debt Relief

WASHINGTON (AP)

Congress passed a foreign aid spending bill today that gives President Clinton the full \$435 million he requested to forgive debts of the world's poorest countries. Rep. John Kasich said the support for debt relief was "a historic act of grace." The agreement on debt relief, part of the \$14.9 billion foreign aid bill for fiscal year 2001, was praised by both parties as a means of freeing poor nations from crushing financial obligations to let them feed and educate their people better.

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At least 75 people are feared dead after Russian Defense Ministry plane slammed into a mountain while trying to land in bad weather Wednesday evening in Georgia. A rescue team sent to the crash site about 15 miles east of the city of Batumi found pieces of the plane and scorched earth, Georgia's Emergency Situations Department said. Russia's RTR television reported that bodies had been found.

Pollution Adds To Global Warming

WASHINGTON (AP)

New evidence shows man-made pollution has "contributed substantially" to global warming and the Earth is likely to get a lot hotter than previously predicted, a United Nations-sponsored panel of hundreds of scientists finds. The conclusions by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the most authoritative scientific voice on the issue, is expected to widely influence climate debate over the next decade.

HIV Test Kits Sold Without FDA OK

AP Top News at 7 a.m. EDT Wednesday, Oct. 25, 2000

NEWARK, N.J. (AP)

Hundreds of people used the Internet to buy an HIV home test kit that lacks federal approval and doesn't yield accurate results, authorities said today. The online sites selling the Ana-Sal kit claimed it produced results in five minutes that were more than 99 percent accurate. However, tests by the Food and Drug Administration disproved those claims, Assistant U.S. Attorney Scott Christie said.

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Officials Uncovered Terrorist Plot

WASHINGTON (AP)

U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf states of Bahrain and Qatar were placed on high alert over the weekend because U.S. officials got wind of plans for terrorist attacks on multiple targets in both countries, a senior defense official said today. The targets included a school in Bahrain that is attended by American and other international children, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity. The school was closed indefinitely on Monday. Other targets included the U.S. embassies in Manama, the Bahrain capital, and Doha, the capital of Qatar, the official said.

Poll: Many U.S. 'Swing Voters'

WASHINGTON (AP)

Almost a fourth of the nation's voters are "swing voters," meaning they are only loosely committed and could still change their minds about Campaign 2000, according to a poll by the Pew Research Center for the People and the Press. Voters are generally satisfied with the country's direction but uneasy about presidential candidates Al Gore and George W. Bush, part of the reason polls are still seesawing so close to Election Day. That factor is causing the national polls to shift, most recently from a narrow Bush lead to a neck-and-neck race and back toward Bush in the closest presidential campaign in 40 years.

Israelis, Palestinians Confer

JERUSALEM (AP)

AP Top News at 7 a.m. EDT Wednesday, Oct. 25, 2000

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'Kennewick Man' Lawsuit Reactivated

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)

U.S. Magistrate John Jelderks today reactivated a 1996 lawsuit by scientists who want to continue studying Kennewick Man, a set of 9,000-year-old bones that have already forced anthropologists to rethink theories about the origin of Native Americans. Five American Indian tribes have claimed him as an ancestor, and have said study of the bones would violate their religious traditions. The lawsuit contesting a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers decision to turn the bones over to the tribes was put on hold, pending research by the Interior Department.

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CBS Settles Discrimination Lawsuit

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)

CBS agreed to settle a class-action sex discrimination lawsuit involving about 200 women technicians for \$8 million, attorneys said today. The agreement, which must be approved by a federal judge, also includes changes in how CBS handles job, training and overtime opportunities, said Susan Stokes, one of the attorneys representing the women. The lawsuit was filed in 1996.

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Former 49ers QB Brodie Has Stroke

LOS ANGELES (AP)

John Brodie, the second-leading passer in San Francisco 49ers history, was hospitalized near Palm Springs following a major stroke. The 64-year-old Brodie was taken to Eisenhower Medical Center in Rancho Mirage yesterday morning. A hospital spokesperson said today that Brodie was "stable."

Official Cites Terrorist Plots

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The tight race for the White House forced George W. Bush and Al Gore to fight for political home turf today. The vice president campaigned in his native Tennessee, accusing Bush of giving short shrift to education, while Bush got a boost from his brother, the governor, in Florida. "It's time we have someone who inspires us in the White House. We have not had that in seven years," said Florida Gov. Jeb Bush. Tied in national polls, both Bush and Gore were forced to stump in states they hoped to have locked up by now.

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Panel: Global Warming Is Danger

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The Earth is likely to get a lot hotter than previously predicted and man-made pollution has "contributed substantially" to global warming, a United Nations-sponsored panel of hundreds of scientists finds. It is the first full-scale review and update of the state of climate science since 1995 when the same panel concluded there is "a

AP Top News at 7 a.m. EDT Wednesday, Oct. 25, 2000

discernible human influence" on the Earth's climate because of the so-called "greenhouse" effect caused by the buildup of heat-trapping chemicals in the atmosphere.

Women School Superintendents Rare

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP)

Around the country, educators struggle to explain why there are so few **female** school superintendents when the teaching profession is otherwise dominated by **women**. According to the American Association of School Administrators, the number of **women** occupying the top office in school districts across the nation seems to have stalled at just under 20 percent in most states. "I don't want a promotion and I don't want the raise if it means I have to work in a building that students never even enter," said Margaret Jaskulek, principal at Samuel Fels High in Harrisburg, Pa.

Vote Web Site Changes Name

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)

A Web site offering to sell 21,000 votes for president to the highest bidder has changed its domain name and switched its registrar to a company based in Germany. Federal and state laws prohibit the sale of votes, but the Austrian owners of www.vote-auction.com denied they had moved operations overseas to avoid legal challenges. The site asks voters to fill out personal details and then offers to sell the votes to the highest bidder.

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World Series Game 4 Is Under Way

NEW YORK (AP)

Derek Jeter hit a leadoff home run for the New York Yankees on the first pitch tonight from Bobby J. Jones of the New York Mets in Game 4 of the World Series at Shea Stadium. Denny Neagle started for the Yankees, who had a 2-1 lead in the the best-of-7 Series.

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Clinton To Stump for Gore in Calif.

AP Top News at 7 a.m. EDT Wednesday, Oct. 25, 2000

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President Clinton will visit California late next week to campaign for Al Gore and Democratic congressional candidates, White House officials said today. Clinton's decision came after pleas from Democrats who are growing anxious amid signs the presidential race is tightening in the nation's most populous state. Democratic Gov. Gray Davis was among those who called Clinton, days after an aide sharply criticized Gore's strategy in California.

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Cabinet Members Backing Gore

WASHINGTON (AP)

As Election Day nears, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and other Cabinet members are going to bat for Democrat Al Gore's presidential campaign, drawing a harsh reaction from George W. Bush's team. While Albright faulted Bush on foreign policy, Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers this week said Bush's plan for Social Security reveals "a fundamental misunderstanding" of the retirement system. Bush running mate Dick Cheney, campaigning in New Mexico, said Albright and the others should keep out of the campaign.

Fujimori Confines Peru's Forces

LIMA, Peru (AP)

President Alberto Fujimori on Wednesday ordered Peru's armed forces confined to barracks in an apparent move against his former intelligence adviser, Vladimiro Montesinos. Two days after Montesinos returned from Panama, fueling talk of a power showdown with Fujimori, the president said he had ordered a "complete freeze" of the armed forces. Local radio and TV stations speculated that Fujimori was trying to corner and capture Montesinos, who has not been seen publicly since he returned from Panama after a failed asylum bid.

Israelis, Palestinians Talk Cease-Fire

JERUSALEM (AP)

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United Pilots Ratify Contract

AP Top News at 7 a.m. EDT Wednesday, Oct. 25, 2000

CHICAGO (AP)

United Airlines pilots overwhelmingly ratified a contract that gives them industry-leading pay and ended a summer of labor strife at the world's largest carrier, results released today showed. The Air Line Pilots Association said 95 percent of more than 8,000 United pilots who voted on whether to authorize the pact had voted "Yes." The result had been expected ever since the pilots and United tentatively agreed to terms Aug. 26 after a turbulent summer of more than 25,000 canceled flights.

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Yankees Lead Mets 3-2 in 3rd Inning

NEW YORK (AP)

Derek Jeter homered off Bobby J. Jones on the game's first pitch, then tripled and scored in the third as the New York Yankees took a 3-2 lead over the Mets after three innings in Game 4 of the World Series on tonight.

Peru Government OKs Election Date

LIMA, Peru (AP)

Peru's government agreed Wednesday to a date for new elections and President Alberto Fujimori ordered the armed forces confined to barracks reportedly part of a manhunt to capture his feared former intelligence adviser, Vladimiro Montesinos. The rapid-fire developments Wednesday evening came in a nation thrown into political turmoil by Montesinos' return from Panama. Many here have speculated that the former spy chief still commands the loyalty of much of the military and had come back Monday to force a showdown for power with Fujimori.

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Nixon Tapes Worry Bush Campaign

WASHINGTON (AP)

AP Top News at 7 a.m. EDT Wednesday, Oct. 25, 2000

The George W. Bush campaign has expressed concern about the scheduled release tomorrow of 420 hours of former President Nixon's secret White House tapes that include the voice of the presidential candidate's father. The elder Bush is heard talking, or is talked about, in more than 100 of the 4,140 conversations that are to be made public by the National Archives, according to a listing prepared by the archives. The tapes carry conversations that occurred in late 1971, when former President Bush was U.S. ambassador to the United Nations.

75 Feared Dead in Russia Plane Crash

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At least 75 passengers and crew are feared dead after a Russian Defense Ministry plane slammed into a mountain while trying to land in bad weather Wednesday evening in Georgia. The cause of the crash was not immediately known. The plane veered off course on approach in "difficult weather conditions," said Alexander Silagadze, head of the civil aviation agency Sakaeronavigatsiya. Russian military officials said the plane, an Il-18 transport, was at an altitude of 5,300 feet when communications with it were lost, Interfax reported. Both military and civilian personnel were aboard, the agency said.

New Colon Cancer Test Developed

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)

Researchers at the Mayo Clinic have developed a new test that detects colon cancer without the invasive procedures so many people try to avoid, but it could be years before the test is widely available. Rather than using a long scope to examine the colon, the new test measures genetic abnormalities in the patient's stool. According to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, an estimated 129,400 people are diagnosed with colorectal cancer each year and 56,000 die from it. It can be cured if detected early, but because of the uncomfortable procedures, only 30 percent of Americans over the age of 50 get tested, Ahlquist said.

Tokyo Stocks Fall

TOKYO (AP)

Tokyo stocks fell sharply early Thursday to their lowest intraday level this year on selling of technology issues. The Nikkei shed 226.40 points to 14,614.07 in early trading. On Wednesday, the average closed down 307.72 points. In New York, the Dow Jones industrial average lost 66.59 points to 10,326.48 at Wednesday's close. The Nasdaq composite index fell 190.22 to end at 3,229.57.

Yankees Take 3-2 Lead Over Mets

NEW YORK (AP)

Derek Jeter homered off Bobby J. Jones on the game's first pitch, then tripled and scored in the third as the New York Yankees took a 3-2 lead over the Mets after six innings in Game 4 of the World Series on tonight. The Yankees scored one run in each of the first three innings for a 3-0 lead before Mike Piazza hit a two-run homer in the third off Denny Neagle.

Maple Leafs Beat Wild, 6-1

TORONTO (AP)

Gary Roberts, playing his 800th NHL game, scored twice and added an assist as the Toronto Maple Leafs beat the Minnesota Wild 6-1 tonight. The Maple Leafs won their third straight since Roberts joined Mats Sundin on the top line.

Peru Govt. Agrees to Election Date

LIMA, Peru (AP)

AP Top News at 7 a.m. EDT Wednesday, Oct. 25, 2000

Peru's government agreed Wednesday to hold new elections in April, and President Alberto Fujimori ordered the army confined to barracks while he and his security forces hunt for his feared former intelligence adviser, Vladimiro Montesinos. The rapid-fire developments Wednesday evening came in a nation thrown into political turmoil by Montesinos' return from Panama. Many here have speculated that the former spy chief still commands the loyalty of much of the military and had come back Monday to force a showdown for power with Fujimori. Fujimori said late Wednesday that no arrest order had been issued against Montesinos.

Motion To Impeach Mugabe Presented

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)

The speaker of Zimbabwe's parliament on Wednesday accepted an opposition motion to impeach President Robert Mugabe but said he needed time to study it before scheduling a debate. The impeachment motion which is unlikely to pass because Mugabe's party holds a parliamentary majority accuses Mugabe of abusing his office and failing to uphold the nation's constitution. Parliamentary rules require the speaker, Emmerson Mnangagwa, to put the motion on the agenda, but there is no provision saying when that must be done. The impeachment motion needs a two-thirds majority of the nation's 150 lawmakers to pass, a move that would lead to new presidential elections within three months.

Mideast Terrorist Plans Discovered

WASHINGTON (AP)

U.S. officials discovered plans for terrorist attacks on multiple targets in the Persian Gulf states of Bahrain and Qatar over the weekend and forces were placed on high alert, a senior defense official said Wednesday. The targets included a school in Bahrain that is attended by American and other international children, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity. Other targets included the U.S. embassies in Manama, the Bahrain capital, and Doha, the capital of Qatar, the official said.

Pollution Adds To Global Warming

WASHINGTON (AP)

New evidence shows man-made pollution has "contributed substantially" to global warming and the earth is likely to get a lot hotter than previously predicted, a United Nations-sponsored panel of hundreds of scientists finds. The conclusions by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the most authoritative scientific voice on the issue, is expected to widely influence climate debate over the next decade. The report's summary, a copy of which was obtained by The Associated Press, was being distributed to government officials worldwide this week.

28 Said Dead in Algeria Storms

ALGIERS, Algeria (AP)

Storms and floods have ravaged western Algeria over the past several days, leaving at least 28 people dead, national newspapers reported Wednesday. The worst-hit area was Naama, 340 miles southwest of Algiers, where at least 17 people died. Though the rains had abated, security services remained on alert Wednesday.

Clinton To Stump for Gore in Calif.

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)

President Clinton will visit California late next week to campaign for Al Gore and Democratic congressional candidates, White House officials said Wednesday. Clinton's decision came after pleas from Democrats who are growing anxious amid signs the presidential race is tightening in the nation's most populous state. Democratic Gov. Gray Davis was among those who called Clinton, days after an aide sharply criticized Gore's strategy in California.

AP Top News at 7 a.m. EDT Wednesday, Oct. 25, 2000

Nixon Tapes Worry Bush Campaign

WASHINGTON (AP)

The George W. Bush campaign has expressed concern about the scheduled release Thursday of 420 hours of former President Nixon's secret White House tapes that include the voice of the presidential candidate's father. The elder Bush is heard talking, or is talked about, in more than 100 of the 4,140 conversations that are to be made public by the National Archives, according to a listing prepared by the archives. The tapes carry conversations that occurred in late 1971, when former President Bush was U.S. ambassador to the United Nations.

Tokyo Stocks Fall

TOKYO (AP)

The Tokyo stock market's main index fell to its lowest intraday level this year Thursday morning after declines on Wall Street. The Nikkei shed 129.79 points, or 0.87 percent, to 14,710.68 at the end of the morning session. In New York, the Dow Jones industrial average lost 66.59 points to 10,326.48 at Wednesday's close. The Nasdaq composite index fell 190.22 to end at 3,229.57.

Yankees Beat Mets 3-2, Win Game 4

NEW YORK (AP)

Derek Jeter led off with a drive over the left-field fence and the Yankees led the rest of the way, beating the New York Mets 3-2 Wednesday night in Game 4 to move within one victory of their third straight World Series championship.

Load-Date: October 25, 2000

End of Document

AP Top News at Midnight EST Sunday, Nov. 21, 1999

Associated Press Online

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Body

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The Occupational Safety and Health Administration is set to propose new workplace rules that would protect millions of people who work at computers, on assembly lines or at other jobs where workers suffer from repetitive stress injuries, according to published reports. The Washington Post said the proposed standards will be unveiled Monday. Business and some lawmakers have opposed the standards for years, insisting there should be no new rules issued until there is scientific proof that workplace problems cause the injuries.

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Solzhenitsyn Backs Russia Campaign

MOSCOW (AP)

In an interview broadcast Sunday, Russian writer Alexander Solzhenitsyn endorsed Moscow's military campaign against breakaway Chechnya saying Russia must defend itself against terrorism and stop capitulating to the West.

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The outspoken, 80-year-old Nobel laureate said the new operation was different from the 1994-1996 Chechnya war, which he blamed on a series of Kremlin mistakes caused by greed, corruption and bad judgment. Solzhenitsyn's comments reflect the opinions of many Russians, who opposed the last Chechnya war but have supported this autumn's military campaign.

Bush Skips 2nd Candidates' Debate

TEMPE, Ariz. (AP)

Front-runner George W. Bush was the only major absentee as four Republican presidential hopefuls debated Sunday in Arizona, but he was the center of attention from the participants. The debate at Arizona State University was sponsored by the Arizona Republican Party and broadcast live on C-SPAN. More than 2,000 people bought tickets for the event. The Texas governor already has missed two debates in New Hampshire, because of what he said were scheduling conflicts. Another Arizona debate was added Dec. 6 to accommodate the front-runner.

School of the Americas Protested

FORT BENNING, Ga. (AP)

More than 3,000 protesters, many wearing black robes and white death masks, marched onto Fort Benning on Sunday to protest human rights abuses they say are committed by graduates of the Army's School of the Americas. The School of the Americas is best known for its training of Latin American officers who were fighting communist insurgencies. It has long been criticized for human rights abuses later committed in Latin America by some of those graduates. The annual demonstration commemorates the Nov. 16, 1989, killings in El Salvador of six Jesuit priests, their housekeeper and her young daughter.

Japan Stocks Gain Sharply

TOKYO (AP)

Japanese stocks gained sharply in early trading Monday. The Nikkei Stock Average rose 247.13 points, or 1.33 percent, to 18,817.97 points in the first 30 minutes of trading. On Friday, the Dow industrials closed down 31.81 at 11,003.89. The Nasdaq was up 21.99 at 3,369.10.

Suns 99, SuperSonics 86

PHOENIX (AP)

Jason Kidd scored 18 of his 25 points in the second half, and the Phoenix Suns beat Seattle 99-86 Sunday night, handing the SuperSonics their first loss in seven games against Western Conference opponents. Kidd also had 14 assists and seven rebounds, helping the Suns keep up their recent mastery of the SuperSonics by beating them for the sixth consecutive time. Tom Gugliotta scored 16 points for Phoenix, including a three-point play that gave the Suns a 93-84 lead with 2:11 remaining. He muscled in a layup with 1:35 to play, sending the Suns ahead by nine points.

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Teen-agers' drug use is leveling off amid growing evidence that America's youth, which once viewed drugs as almost a rite of passage, now views them as uncool, according to the annual survey by the Partnership for a Drug-Free America. The 12th survey of U.S. teen-agers, released Monday, found that 40 percent of those questioned felt "really cool" teens did not use drugs an increase of 5 percentage points from last year. Among 13- to 15-year-olds, only 8 percent believed marijuana smokers were popular, down from 13 percent last year and 17 percent in 1997, the survey found.

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Jaguars 41, Saints 23

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP)

Mark Brunell and Jimmy Smith played their best games of the season Sunday night and the Jacksonville Jaguars of old returned in grand fashion. Brunell threw for 351 yards and two touchdowns to lead Jacksonville to a 41-23 victory over the New Orleans Saints, the seventh consecutive win for the Jaguars.

China Holds Unmanned Space Test

BEIJING (AP)

China's first successful test of a spacecraft for manned flight also had major military implications, proving China has mastered technology that could defeat U.S. anti-missile defenses, an official Chinese newspaper reported today. The same low-power propulsion technology used to adjust a spacecraft's orbit in flight could also be used to alter the path of offensive missiles, helping them evade proposed U.S. anti-missile defense systems known as TMD and NMD, military expert Song Yichang told the state-run China Business Times. China's development of low-momentum rocket propulsion "is equivalent to having a trump card to counter TMD and NMD," the newspaper said.

Texas A&M Victims Mourned

COLLEGE STATION, Texas (AP)

While Pastor Dwight Edwards comforted the mourners grieving for the 12 people killed in the collapse of the bonfire tower at Texas A&M, he also tried to reassure those who survived the ordeal, students who may have wondered why they escaped harm when their friends did not. Local, state and federal officials were to meet Monday to map out a strategy for finding the cause of Thursday's collapse of the 40-foot pyramid of logs. But Charles Anderson, pastor of A&M United Methodist Church, said the answers would do little to comfort those left behind.

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Japanese Stock Prices Close Higher

TOKYO (AP)

The Nikkei gained 251.28 points to close at 18,822.12.

Raptors 111, Lakers 102

LOS ANGELES (AP)

Vince Carter had a career-high 34 points and 13 rebounds despite bruising his right hip as the Toronto Raptors defeated the Lakers 111-102 Sunday night for the first time in Los Angeles. Dee Brown and Doug Christie had 15 points each as the Raptors had six players in double figures. Antonio Davis and Del Curry added 13 points each and Tracy McGrady had 12 points.

Deposed Premier To Appear in Court

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP)

Defiant former Premier Nawaz Sharif, appearing in court today in response to army allegations of treason and hijacking, reiterated that the charges he faces are baseless. Elsewhere, army officials said Sharif's family members were free to leave their homes, where they had been confined since the Oct. 12 military coup that ousted Sharif.

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Kings 110, Rockets 105

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)

Chris Webber had 28 points and 11 rebounds and Jason Williams added 25 points and 12 assists as the Sacramento Kings won their sixth straight game Sunday night, beating the Houston Rockets 110-105. The Kings improved to 7-1, tying the franchise mark for the best start, held by the 1952-53 Rochester Royals. Rookie Steve Francis had 21 points and nine assists for Houston.

Deposed Premier Appears in Court

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP)

Saying he was an innocent man, former Premier Nawaz Sharif left an anti-terrorist court today after his second appearance on army allegations of treason and hijacking. He was ordered to remain in police custody at least until Friday, when charges were to be officially filed. Elsewhere, army officials said Sharif's family members were free to leave their homes, where they had been confined since the Oct. 12 military coup that ousted Sharif from power. The deposed leader's wife, mother and daughter were expected to visit him soon, though his lawyers did not know exactly when or where.

Israel Forces Bomb Southern Lebanon

NABATIYEH, Lebanon (AP)

Israeli forces bombed suspected guerrilla hideouts in south Lebanon today, wounding a Lebanese woman, Lebanese security officials said. The shelling followed a rocket attack by Iranian-backed Hezbollah fighters inside an Israeli enclave in south Lebanon. In a statement issued in Beirut, Hezbollah said its guerrillas scored "confirmed hits" and destroyed an Israeli tank at the outpost. But Israel responded, and Najat Ali Harb, 26, was wounded by shrapnel when an artillery shell from the occupied zone fell near her house, Lebanese officials said.

Churches Close Throughout Holy Land

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Sri Lanka Pulls Army From Church

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)

AP Top News at Midnight EST Sunday, Nov. 21, 1999

The military said today its troops have vacated a 17th century Dutch-built Catholic church where an artillery attack killed 44 people. The army still controls the northern town of Madhu, where the church is located, military officials said. They blamed the rebels, called the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, for Saturday's artillery attack on Madhu, 130 miles north of the capital, Colombo. But in a statement issued by its London office, the LTTE denied the charge and accused the military of using the victims as human shields.

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Cougars Football Coach Said Fired

HOUSTON (AP)

Houston football coach Kim Helton reportedly will be fired today despite posting a winning record this season. Helton will be dismissed with two years left on his contract, worth \$600,000, KRIV-TV reported last night, citing sources close to the university. Houston athletic director Chet Gladchuk was unavailable for comment last night.

Generals Implicated in E. Timor Violence

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)

Indonesian investigators have implicated several top generals in the burning and looting spree that followed the overwhelming vote for independence in East Timor, one investigator said today. Several military commanders — including former military chief Gen. Wiranto, who is now a senior Cabinet minister in charge of security will be

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summoned before a tribunal investigating human rights abuses in the former Indonesian province, said Munir, a member of the investigative commission set up by the government in the wake of the violence.

China Indicts Member of Banned Sect

BEIJING (AP)

A suspected leader of the outlawed Falun Gong spiritual movement was formally charged today by a court in the southern town of Shenzhen, more than two months after he was detained by police. An official in the prosecutors office in the Futian district of Shenzhen, which borders Hong Kong, said Li Jianhui had been formally charged with "using an evil cult to violate the law." Investigations into Li's case were continuing, said the official, who gave his surname as Lin. The Hong Kong-based Information Center of Human Rights and Democratic Movement in China said the case against Li was intended to send a warning to Falun Gong members in Hong Kong.

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Tavarez, Rockies Agree to Contract

DENVER (AP)

Reliever Julian Tavarez, claimed on waivers last week, and the Colorado Rockies agreed yesterday on a one-year contract. The Rockies got the 26-year-old right-hander on waivers from the San Francisco Giants last Tuesday. Tavarez had until yesterday to decide whether to join the team or become a free agent. Tavarez was 2-0 with a 5.93 ERA last season.

Madeleine Albright Visits Slovakia

BRATISLAVA, Slovakia (AP)

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright arrived for a one-day visit to Slovakia today in a sign of improved relations with this former communist country following the end of authoritarian rule. At Bratislava airport, Albright was welcomed by Slovak Foreign Minister Edward Kukan. She was scheduled to meet with Premier Mikulas Dzurinda. A statement from the U.S. embassy said Albright will discuss a range of issues, including U.S. support for Slovakia's integration into western institutions and support for a democratic transition in Serbia.

2 Cops, 4 Civilians Killed in Aceh

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia (AP)

Unidentified gunmen torched buildings in Indonesia's strife-torn Aceh province, and six people, including two policemen, were found dead, police said today. The latest upsurge in violence in Aceh comes after a period of relative calm that followed the election last month of Wahid Abdurrahman as Indonesia's new president. It also follows calls by senior police and military officers in Jakarta, Indonesia's capital, for the imposition of martial law in the independence-minded region.

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Indonesian investigators have implicated several top generals in the burning and looting spree that followed the overwhelming vote for independence in East Timor, one investigator said today. Several military commanders — including former military chief Gen. Wiranto, who is now a senior Cabinet minister in charge of security — will be summoned before a tribunal investigating human rights abuses in the former Indonesian province, said Munir, a member of the investigative commission set up by the government in the wake of the violence.

China Indicts Member of Banned Sect

BEIJING (AP)

AP Top News at Midnight EST Sunday, Nov. 21, 1999

A suspected leader of the outlawed Falun Gong spiritual movement was formally charged today by a court in the southern town of Shenzhen, more than two months after he was detained by police. An official in the prosecutors office in the Futian district of Shenzhen, which borders Hong Kong, said Li Jianhui had been formally charged with "using an evil cult to violate the law." Investigations into Li's case were continuing, said the official, who gave his surname as Lin.

Deposed Premier Appears in Court

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP)

Saying he was an innocent man, former Premier Nawaz Sharif left an anti-terrorist court today after his second appearance on army allegations of treason and hijacking. He was ordered to remain in police custody at least until Friday, when charges were to be officially filed. Elsewhere, army officials said Sharif's family members were free to leave their homes, where they had been confined since the Oct. 12 military coup that ousted Sharif from power. The deposed leader's wife, mother and daughter were expected to visit him soon.

Israel Forces Bomb Southern Lebanon

NABATIYEH, Lebanon (AP)

Israeli forces bombed suspected guerrilla hideouts in south Lebanon today, wounding a Lebanese woman, Lebanese security officials said. The shelling followed a rocket attack by Iranian-backed Hezbollah fighters inside an Israeli enclave in south Lebanon. In a statement issued in Beirut, Hezbollah said its guerrillas scored "confirmed hits" and destroyed an Israeli tank at the outpost. But Israel responded, and Najat Ali Harb, 26, was wounded by shrapnel when an artillery shell from the occupied zone fell near her house, Lebanese officials said.

Churches Close Throughout Holy Land

JERUSALEM (AP)

Churches closed throughout the Holy Land today as part of a dispute that has poisoned Christian-Muslim relations and left Israel caught in the middle. At the heart of the dispute is a controversy over what to build a Muslim mosque or a Christian visitors' plaza on a plot of land in Nazareth, the town of Jesus' boyhood. By closing the churches for two days, Christians hope to draw the world's attention to what they say are growing threats to their shrines.

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SOFIA, Bulgaria (AP)

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Russia Closes In on Chechen Capital

SLEPTSOVSKAYA, Russia (AP)

Russian forces closed in around the Chechen capital today and searched for rebels, while fearful civilians kept up their exodus from the breakaway region. The Federal Migration Service said today that 222,556 refugees had fled Chechnya since Russian airstrikes began in late August. More than 1,850 had left Chechnya over the past 24 hours, the Interior Ministry said today. Weary-looking people, mostly women and children, piled out of trucks at the border with the neighboring Russian region of Ingushetia, and began their trek to find shelter in tent camps or private homes.

U.S. Envoy Tours E. Timor Refugee Camps

MOTAAIN, Indonesia (AP)

Saying thousands of East Timorese refugees are too frightened to return home, U.S. envoy Richard Holbrooke toured squalid camps today and helped Indonesian and U.N. officials reach an accord to stop border clashes. Elsewhere, Indonesian investigators announced in Jakarta that top generals have been implicated in the violence that followed East Timor's overwhelming vote for independence from Indonesia on Aug. 30. Senior commanders including former military chief Gen. Wiranto, now a Cabinet minister will give evidence regarding human rights abuses, said a member of the government's investigative commission.

Israeli Warplanes Bomb S. Lebanon

NABATIYEH, Lebanon (AP)

Israel's warplanes and artillery blasted suspected guerrilla hideouts in southern Lebanon today following attacks on its forces, Lebanese security officials said. There was no immediate word of casualties from the violence. An Israeli jet fired at least one missile at a valley eight miles southeast of the port city of Tyre, the officials said on customary condition of anonymity. Guerrillas use the valley to launch attacks on an Israeli-occupied zone in south Lebanon.

Madeleine Albright Visits Slovakia

BRATISLAVA, Slovakia (AP)

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright arrived for a one-day visit to Slovakia today in a sign of improved relations with this former communist country following the end of authoritarian rule. At Bratislava airport, Albright was welcomed by Slovak Foreign Minister Edward Kukan. She was scheduled to meet with Premier Mikulas Dzurinda. A statement from the U.S. embassy said Albright will discuss a range of issues, including U.S. support for Slovakia's integration into western institutions and support for a democratic transition in Serbia.

2 Cops, 4 Civilians Killed in Aceh

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia (AP)

Unidentified gunmen torched buildings in Indonesia's strife-torn Aceh province, and six people, including two policemen, were found dead, police said today. The latest upsurge in violence in Aceh comes after a period of relative calm that followed the election last month of Wahid Abdurrahman as Indonesia's new president. It also follows calls by senior police and military officers in Jakarta, Indonesia's capital, for the imposition of martial law in the independence-minded region.

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New Workplace Rules Planned

WASHINGTON (AP)

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration is set to unveil new workplace standards designed to protect workers who are subject to repetitive stress injuries, according to published reports. The proposed rules, reported today in The Washington Post and The New York Times, would protect millions of people who work at computers,

on assembly lines and other jobs where workers suffer from RSI. The Times said the rules would require employers to adopt ergonomic programs, even if only a few employees have been injured. Business groups say they will continue to fight the proposed standards.

FBI Agents Help With Probe in Egypt

CAIRO, Egypt (AP)

The FBI has sent agents to Egypt to participate in a noncriminal investigation into EgyptAir's Flight 990 crash, an American diplomat said today. Meanwhile, Egyptian Transport Minister Ibrahim el-Dumeiri was expected to issue a report in Parliament later today on the Oct. 31 crash, which killed all 217 people on board. The jetliner crashed into the Atlantic off Massachusetts' Nantucket Island. The report is likely to provide only a review of the findings so far of the U.S. and Egyptian investigators.

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Gretzky Joining Hall of Fame

TORONTO (AP)

Wayne Gretzky today will join his boyhood idols in the Hockey Hall of Fame as the sport he helped expand in the United States pays tribute to its premier performer. The Hall waived the normal three-year waiting period for the 10th time in honor of Gretzky, 38, whose name was engraved four times on the Stanley Cup. He also won just about every major award MVP, highest scorer, playoff MVP multiple times. Hoopla surrounding Gretzky's induction is unprecedented. Along with the 2,300-square foot exhibit, an ice sculpture of Gretzky graces the street corner outside.

Iraq Paper Predicts New U.S. Attack

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP)

An Iraqi newspaper today expressed fears that the United States and Britain would launch military strikes on Iraq on the pretext that President Saddam Hussein's government has rejected a proposal that calls for a resumption of U.N. weapons inspections. Babil, a daily published by Saddam's eldest son Odai, said it expected "the military act" before the start of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, which begins between Dec. 7 and 9. Over the weekend, Iraq dismissed a British-Dutch proposal that would conditionally ease sanctions.

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More than 7,000 law enforcement agencies are cracking down this week on enforcement of child-safety and seat-belt laws in all 50 states. "I'd like this to be the No. 1 enforcement item on our highways," James Hall, chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, told NBC. "Highway deaths are the No. 1 killer of our kids." More than 81,000 young kids under the age of 20 were killed on U.S. highways in the 1990s, he said, including 15,000 children under the age of 10.

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Fog Blamed in Penn. St. Bus Crash

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Dow Drops 12; Nasdaq Down 4

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President Clinton, on the first-ever visit to this former communist nation by an American head of state, told a jubilant crowd of thousands that Bulgaria must "stay the course" to build a democracy. Huge American and red-white-and-green Bulgarian flags formed part of the backdrop for Clinton's speech in the heart of the Bulgarian capital. Clinton urged Bulgaria to ally itself with America and avoid the ethnic conflict that has crippled many of its Balkan neighbors. But he cautioned against expecting a rapid transition to prosperity after a long period of communism and official corruption.

Lawmaker: Many Y2K Problems Fixed

WASHINGTON (AP)

Rep. Stephen Horn, who gave failing grades to many federal agencies when he began tracking their Y2K preparations in 1996, says in a final report today that the government for the most part has succeeded in fixing its computers. But Horn, R-Calif., also singled out the Justice Department for not completing work on three mission-critical systems and said that of 43 federal programs deemed crucial to Americans, 18 still have work to do. Those programs include child nutrition, food stamps, Medicare and Medicaid, public housing and unemployment insurance.

Repetitive Motion Rules Announced

WASHINGTON (AP)

Employers will have to correct injury-causing workplace conditions that require repetitive motion, overexertion or awkward posture under proposed regulations the Labor Department announced today. The proposal affects about 1.9 million work sites one of every three and more than 27 million workers. Each year, 1.8 million workers have musculoskeletal injuries related to ergonomic factors, according to Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Serb Party Criticizes Clinton Trip

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP)

President Slobodan Milosevic's ruling party today blasted President Clinton's planned visit to Kosovo, saying it represents his "return to the scene of the crime." Clinton is scheduled to visit Kosovo tomorrow, five months after a 78-day NATO bombing campaign which ended the Serbian government clampdown against majority ethnic Albanians in the province.

AP Top News at Midnight EST Sunday, Nov. 21, 1999

Churches Close Throughout Holy Land

NAZARETH, Israel (AP)

With Israel caught in the middle, churches closed throughout the Holy Land today as part of a dispute that is souring Christian-Muslim relations. The dispute centers over whether to build a Muslim mosque or a Christian visitors' plaza on a plot of land in Nazareth, the town of Jesus' boyhood. By closing churches for two days, Christians hope to draw attention to what they say are growing threats to their shrines.

Fog Blamed in Penn. St. Bus Crash

WHITE HAVEN, Pa. (AP)

Heavy fog is being blamed for a deadly chain-reaction crash involving four charter buses loaded with Penn State University students returning from a shopping trip to New York City. Students began returning to campus yesterday, several hours after the crash that killed two people a female student and one of the bus drivers and injured at least 106 others. Seven people remain hospitalized today, university officials said.

Microsoft Helps Push Dow Higher

NEW YORK (AP)

Just before noon EST, the Dow Jones industrial average is up 29.67 to 11,033.56. Decliners on the NYSE outnumber advancers 1,775-979. The Nasdaq Composite Index is up 3.96 at 3,373.21. The Dow traded in positive territory in part on the strength of Microsoft, which rose late Friday and continued to gain today after a federal judge appointed a mediator to oversee antitrust settlement talks between the company and the government. The surprise move dramatically increased chances for an out-of-court agreement. Microsoft was up 31/4 today at 891/4.

Gretzky Being Inducted Today

TORONTO (AP)

Wayne Gretzky, holder of 61 NHL records, is being inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in Toronto today. "To be here today in this group is pretty special," Gretzky said. The Hall waived the normal three-year waiting period for the 10th time in honor of Gretzky, 38, whose name was engraved four times on the Stanley Cup. He also won just about every major award MVP, highest scorer, playoff MVP multiple times. The Great One will be formally inducted along with former referee Andy Van Hellemond and former referee-in-chief Scotty Morrison.

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Banned Algeria Party Leader Killed

ALGIERS, Algeria (AP)

The third-ranking leader of the banned Islamic Salvation Front, was shot and killed today in Algiers, family members said. An unidentified gunman shot Abdelkader Hachani twice in the head and once in the stomach just before he entered a dentist's office. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the killing that came after the worst week of violence in the North African nation since President Abdelaziz Bouteflika was elected in April.

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Israeli Officer Ousted for Comment

JERUSALEM (AP)

Israel's army chief has dismissed an officer who said the liberal Reform and Conservative movements of Judaism had caused greater damage to the Jewish people than the Nazis. Lt. Gen. Shaul Mofaz ordered Lt. Peretz Gamliel dismissed, the army said today. Gamliel told soldiers during a lecture last week that the moderate streams have harmed the Jewish people more than the Nazis. They had caused 8 million Jews to assimilate, he said, whereas the Nazis had murdered 6 million Jews. "We simply don't want someone who says such things to serve in our ranks," Brig. Gen Elazar Stern said.

Dow Gains 40; Nasdaq Rises 12

NEW YORK (AP)

Just before 1 p.m. EST, the Dow Jones industrial average was up 40.37 at 11,044.26. Decliners outnumbered advancers on the NYSE 1,891-1,002. The Nasdaq Composite Index was up 12.44 at 3,381.69.

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Buchanan Eyes Talks With Iran, Iraq

WASHINGTON (AP)

Pat Buchanan today rejected the isolationist label pinned on him by rivals for the presidency, saying he supports opening a dialogue with Iran and Iraq. The Reform Party candidate called the current policy of containing both Persian Gulf countries "sterile and unsustainable." Buchanan also challenged claims of Serb atrocities in Kosovo, saying one estimate put the number of ethnic Albanian deaths at 2,500. "Twenty-five hundred is a terrible tragedy; Auschwitz it is not," Buchanan said.

Boy Scouts Mourn Texas A&M Victim

COLLEGE STATION, Texas (AP)

Thousands of mourners said goodbye today to another of the 12 people killed by collapse of a bonfire tower of logs assembled in a football season ritual at Texas A&M. Boy Scouts took turns eulogizing a dead comrade, Chad Anthony Powell, today at Harvest Baptist Church in Watauga, a suburb of Fort Worth. The 100 uniformed Scouts were among 2,200 mourners for the 19-year-old former Eagle Scout. Three more funerals are scheduled elsewhere today.

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'Peanuts' Creator Battling Cancer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)

"Peanuts" cartoonist Charles M. Schulz is fighting colon cancer, his secretary confirmed today. Doctors found the cancer last week, when performing emergency surgery to clear a blocked abdominal artery. His wife, Jean, indicated that the 76-year-old artist will undergo chemotherapy, said Schulz's secretary, Edna Poehner. Schulz remains hospitalized today in Santa Rosa, about 50 miles north of San Francisco where he lives and works.

Dow Gains 54: Nasdaq Rises 11

NEW YORK (AP)

Just before 2 p.m. EST, the Dow Jones industrial average was up 54.13 at 11,058.02. Decliners outnumbered advancers on the NYSE 2,025-936. The Nasdaq Composite Index was up 11.08 at 3,380.33.

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Microsoft Faces Class-Action Suits

SEATTLE (AP)

A wave of private lawsuits against Microsoft Corp. including a class-action lawsuit on behalf of millions of California consumers that is expected to be filed today suddenly has the company fighting on several legal fronts at once. Consumers are demanding potentially billions of dollars in compensation for alleged overcharging on Windows software. "This is the start of the race to get to the courthouse," an antitrust lawyer said. The suits could intensify pressure on Microsoft to settle its antitrust battle with the Justice Department.

Police Crack Down on Seat-Belt Use

WASHINGTON (AP)

Deaths of young children in car crashes have dropped about 12 percent in two years, Transportation Secretary Rodney Slater said today. He credited enforcement of laws on buckling up children. In 1998, some 575 children age 4 or younger died in auto crashes, down from 656 children in 1996, the Transportation Department said. The data

were released as more than 6,500 law enforcement agencies begin a safety awareness campaign including ticketing motorists who fail to buckle up children.

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Russia Closes In on Chechen Capital

SLEPTSOVSKAYA, Russia (AP)

Russian forces are moving steadily to encircle Chechnya's capital and believe civilians will encourage Chechen militants to abandon the city rather than wage an all-out battle, Russia's top army officer said today. Meanwhile, fearful civilians kept up their exodus from Chechnya and foggy weather put Russian airstrikes on hold throughout the day. Some 5,000 to 6,000 militants have barricaded themselves in Grozny in anticipation of a Russian assault.

N.M. School Reopens After Shooting

DEMING, N.M. (AP)

Holding hands and praying, about 150 students and adults formed a human chain halfway around Deming Middle School today to remember a 13-year-old girl gunned down on campus last week. Araceli Tena died of a bullet wound to the back of her head. Fellow student Victor Cordova Jr. is charged with the Friday shooting. The 12-year-old boy made a brief court appearance late this morning before a magistrate who ordered him detained on charges of first-degree murder, attempted murder and aggravated assault.

Dow Gains 54: Nasdaq Rises 10

NEW YORK (AP)

Just before 3 p.m. EST, the Dow Jones industrial average was up 54.13 at 11,058.02. Decliners outnumbered advancers on the NYSE 2,091-938. The Nasdaq Composite Index was up 10.87 at 3,380.12.

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Iraq Halting Oil Exports

UNITED NATIONS (AP)

Iraq has begun wrapping up oil exports after rejecting the Security Council's decision to extend the oil-for-food program for two weeks, U.N. and Iraqi officials said today. The 3-year-old exemption to crippling economic sanctions allows Iraq to sell \$5.2 billion worth of oil every six months to buy food, medicine and other humanitarian supplies as well as to pay reparations stemming from the 1991 Gulf War. Iraq's rejection of the extension is not expected to have a major impact on the humanitarian program because U.N. officials say supplies are continuing to arrive normally.

Puerto Rico Can't Shut Navy's Water

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)

A federal judge today ordered the Puerto Rican government not to shut off the water to a U.S. Navy base while he considers a complaint that the military is using the water illegally. The allegations are part of an escalating feud between the U.S. military and the Puerto Rican government, which is demanding the Navy abandon its bombing range on the outlying island of Vieques. U.S. District Court Judge Hector Laffitte issued the order during a hearing on the dispute today.

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Dow Gains 88.39: Nasdaq Rises 25.93

NEW YORK (AP)

Just before the close, the Dow Jones industrial average was up 88.39 at 11,092.28. Decliners outnumbered advancers on the NYSE 2,131-933. The Nasdaq Composite Index was up 25.93 at 3395.18.

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Stocks End Mixed; Dow Up 85.63

NEW YORK (AP)

Wall Street turned in a mixed performance today with a handful of large, well-known issues advancing, but most other stocks declining as investors took profits following last week's rally. The Dow Jones industrial average closed up 85.63 at 11,089.52. But decliners outnumbered advancers on the NYSE 2,131-933. The Nasdaq composite reached its 14th record high close in the past 17 sessions, rising 23.28 to 3,392.53.

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Gore Questions Bradley's Commitment

BURLINGTON, Iowa (AP)

Vice President Al Gore, focusing squarely on his party's political base, told Democratic activists today that "my passions" are rooted in the party's core themes. Meanwhile, he questioned his rival's commitment, urging "those who care about Democratic values" to look closely at proposals offered by former Sen. Bill Bradley on issues ranging from schools to health care. "I feel passionately about these issues," said Gore. From abortion rights to more money for schools to popular health programs, Gore left few traditional Democratic issues untouched. In an Iowa campaign swing, he went to a high school to tout education proposals with students and local activists, then headed to a union hall to firm up labor backing and to a senior citizens center.

Pakistan's Sharif Claims Innocence

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP)

Former Premier Nawaz Sharif spoke out publicly today for the first time since the army swept him from power last month, insisting he is innocent of treason and railing against the military leadership that is putting him on trial.

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Sharif, making his second appearance before a special anti-terrorism court, was also allowed to meet with his wife and family, whom he had not seen since his ouster Oct. 12 by soldiers loyal to army chief Gen. Pervez Musharraf.

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Mannesmann Fights Vodafone Bid

DUESSELDORF, Germany (AP)

Mannesmann AG said today it will start plying its stockholders with information in an attempt to derail a hostile takeover bid by British-based Vodafone Airtouch PLC, claiming the \$128 billion offer is insufficient. Meanwhile, Vodafone chairman Chris Gent was in Germany offering conciliatory words for Mannesmann and criticism of German politicians who oppose the deal. Mannesmann plans to start its own road show next week to inform its shareholders of the company's future plans and profit prospects, a spokesman said.

Stocks End Mixed; Dow Up 85.63

NEW YORK (AP)

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Gretzky Joins Hall of Fame

TORONTO (AP)

AP Top News at Midnight EST Sunday, Nov. 21, 1999

Not far from where he first played hockey, Wayne Gretzky took up a new residence today the Hall of Fame. The Great One received his Hall of Fame blazer and ring along with former referee Andy Van Hellemond and former referee-in-chief Scotty Morrison at a morning induction ceremony. Friends and family will join the trio for a nationally televised gala ceremony tonight. The 38-year-old Gretzky left an extraordinary mark on the game, with four championships and 61 NHL records.

Campus Mourns Bonfire Victims

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)

The usual pre-Thanksgiving frenzy of school spirit and football mania that sweeps the University of Texas was put aside today as the mourning continued for the 12 people killed in the bonfire collapse at archrival Texas A&M. Across Texas, thousands of mourners crowded into one church after another, many wearing the maroon-and-white colors of the Aggies, to bid farewell to five of those who died. At UT, a candelight vigil tonight was to take the place of the annual "hex rally," when Longhorns traditionally put a curse on the Aggies' football team before the annual day-after-Thanksgiving game.

Clinton Praises Bulgaria's Progress

SOFIA, Bulgaria (AP)

President Clinton promised tens of thousands of cheering Bulgarians today that "you too shall overcome" in the struggle for democracy and prosperity. Clinton, the first American president to visit this one-time Soviet bloc state, received a hero's welcome. The president offered encouraging words for Bulgaria's campaign for NATO membership, which promises Western security protection against any threat from Moscow.

Congo Won't OK Mandela As Mediator

KIGALI, Rwanda (AP)

The tortuous peace process in Congo hit another snag when Congolese President Laurent Kabila's representatives refused to endorse Nelson Mandela as the mediator in the country's peace process, rebels said today. Three rebel groups, which fought a yearlong rebellion before signing a peace agreement in August, agreed over the weekend to ask the former South African president to mediate a national dialogue that is supposed to bring a democratic government to Africa's third-largest nation.

Buchanan Eyes Iran, Iraq Dialogue

WASHINGTON (AP)

Reform Party presidential contender Pat Buchanan declared today that the longstanding U.S. policy of "dual containment" of Iraq and Iran is unsustainable and he suggested opening a dialogue with the Gulf nations. Delivering a foreign policy speech, Buchanan asked: "If we can engage China and North Vietnam and even North Korea, why can we not at least talk to Iran and Iraq?" The third-party candidate also countered claims by his rivals that he is an isolationist.

Gore Questions Bradley's Commitment

BURLINGTON, Iowa (AP)

Vice President Al Gore, focusing squarely on his party's political base, told Democratic activists today that "my passions" are rooted in the party's core themes. During a presidential campaign swing in Iowa, Gore questioned his party rival's commitment, urging "those who care about Democratic values" to look closely at proposals offered by former Sen. Bill Bradley on issues ranging from schools to health care. "I feel passionately about these issues," said Gore. From abortion rights to more money for schools to popular health programs, Gore left few traditional Democratic issues untouched.

AP Top News at Midnight EST Sunday, Nov. 21, 1999

Pakistan's Sharif Claims Innocence

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP)

Former Premier Nawaz Sharif spoke out publicly today for the first time since the army swept him from power last month, insisting he is innocent of treason and railing against the military leadership that is putting him on trial. Sharif, making his second appearance before a special anti-terrorism court, was also allowed to meet with his wife and family, whom he had not seen since his ouster Oct. 12 by soldiers loyal to army chief Gen. Pervez Musharraf.

Repetitive Motion Rules Announced

WASHINGTON (AP)

The 27 million Americans who labor on assembly lines, at computer work stations or in jobs involving heavy lifting could benefit from a government proposal aimed at lessening repetitive-motion injuries, supporters say. Business threatened to fight the rules in court. Businesses face an estimated \$4.2 billion in annual costs to fix job sites and pay workers recovering from injuries under the initiative announced today by the Labor Department's Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

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Online Trading Faces Scrutiny

NEW YORK (AP)

New York's attorney general launched a campaign today to educate investors about the pitfalls of trading on the Internet and asked online brokerages to disclose more about the computer glitches that irritate amateur investors. A report released separately today by a top federal securities regulator in Washington recommends that online brokerages be encouraged in some cases to ensure that their customers make investments that are appropriate for them.

SBC To Buy 43 Percent of Prodigy

SAN ANTONIO (AP)

SBC Communications announced today it will buy 43 percent of Prodigy and make the online provider its primary high-speed Internet access service for consumers and small businesses. Financial terms were not disclosed. SBC, the nation's largest local telephone service company, will offer Prodigy's Digital Subscriber Line, or DSL service in markets covering about 100 million U.S. residents. Prodigy Communications Corp., based in White Plains, N.Y., will take over management of SBC's 650,000 Internet customers, increasing Prodigy's managed subscriber base to more than 2 million.

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Ultimatum on IRA Disarmament Issued

LONDON (AP)

Seeking to build Protestant support for the latest compromise plan, Britain's minister for Northern Ireland pledged today to suspend a new Protestant-Catholic administration for the province if the ***Irish Republican Army*** refuses to begin disarming. Northern Ireland Secretary Peter Mandelson appealed to the Ulster Unionists, the major Protestant party, to back leader David Trimble in a crucial vote Saturday. The vote will determine whether plans mediated by American diplomat George Mitchell to establish the new provincial government next week, and for the IRA to gradually disarm in response can proceed.

Bush Unfazed by Uncertain Support

STRATHAM, N.H. (AP)

Touring a footwear company, George W. Bush today brushed off the notion that people who support him for the GOP presidential nomination can't say exactly why. "That's a good sign," he said, a day after a poll indicated more than a third of his backers couldn't site a specific reason. "People make up their minds in all kinds of ways. I think the people of New Hampshire, the more they know about me, they'll see I've got an optimistic vision for America."

Bradley Attacks Gore Fund-Raising

MANCHESTER, N.H. (AP)

For the first time in a tight New Hampshire race for the Democratic presidential nomination, Bill Bradley today resurrected the specter of Al Gore's questionable 1996 fund-raising tactics. Bradley accused the Clinton administration of "a secret handshake" with congressional Republicans to let campaign finance legislation die. Gore's camp fired back that Bradley is a hypocrite and a latecomer to the fight for political reform.

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Bond, Ichabod Break Box Office Record

LOS ANGELES (AP)

Hollywood's juggernaut year is cranking into high gear with two mega-hits dominating the weekend and two more likely blockbusters opening over Thanksgiving as a second straight record year at the box office winds down. The world's favorite spy copped the top spot at the box office over the weekend as the latest James Bond flick, "The World Is Not Enough," debuted with \$35.5 million, according to industry figures today. "Sleepy Hollow" turned some heads for second-place as Tim Burton's take on Washington Irving's tale of Ichabod Crane and a headless horseman opened with \$30.06 million.

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Prosecutors Seek Monitor for IBF

NEWARK, N.J. (AP)

Federal prosecutors asked a judge today to appoint a monitor to oversee the International Boxing Federation, which is one of the sport's major governing bodies and allegedly riddled with corruption. The IBF would become the first sports group and one of only a dozen entities, mostly labor unions to be placed under court control through the 20-year-old Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization Act, U.S. Attorney Robert Cleary said.

Business Blasts New OSHA Rules

WASHINGTON (AP)

Businesses today decried a government proposal aimed at lessening repetitive-motion injuries and threatened to fight the rules in court. The new rules would require employers to minimize everyday physical or ergonomic stresses of certain jobs. Businesses face an estimated \$4.2 billion in annual costs to fix job sites and pay workers recovering from injuries under the initiative, which was announced today by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. AFL-CIO president John Sweeney said the action was long overdue.

Churches Close in Israel

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Churches closed on Monday across the Holy Land in a final attempt to block the building of a mosque in the heart of Nazareth, the town of Jesus' boyhood. The two-day Vatican-backed move highlights the increasingly volatile relations between Christians and Muslims. The church closures, just weeks before the last Christmas of the millennium, left many pilgrims disappointed. "Nazareth should be a city for everyone," said Jozeph Wietsiers, 54, a

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Millions Travel Thanksgiving Week

WASHINGTON (AP)

Almost 20 million passengers will take to the skies this Thanksgiving week and millions more will travel in cars and buses. U.S. airlines are expecting a record 19.8 million passengers in the week and a half surrounding the holiday. That's 10 percent more than the 18 million who flew during the Thanksgiving holiday last year, said David Fuscus, a spokesman for the Air Transport Association, which represents major air carriers.

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Penguins' Jagr May Play Tuesday

PITTSBURGH (AP)

Jaromir Jagr's sore right thigh improved following acupuncture treatments over the weekend and he might try to play tomorrow against the Toronto Maple Leafs. Jagr, the NHL's leading scorer, played only three shifts Nov. 16 against Buffalo before leaving with a thigh injury. He played a team-high 29 minutes two nights later against Tampa Bay but was not effective, and he sat out Saturday's loss at Florida. But Jagr felt much better after undergoing acupuncture treatments over the weekend.

Microsoft Besieged by Lawsuits

NEW YORK (AP)

Microsoft Corp. said today through a spokesman that it has plenty of legal resources to fight a growing wave of private lawsuits. "It's unfortunate that plaintiffs' attorneys have decided to file baseless lawsuits," said Jim Cullinan, the spokesman. At least seven suits, including one filed today in San Francisco, have been filed on behalf of computer users following a Nov. 5 finding that Microsoft is a software monopolist. The determination provided grist for allegations by computer users that Microsoft's monopoly gave it substantial leeway to overcharge for its Windows software program.

Extradited Colombian Pleas Innocent

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An accused heroin trafficker from Colombia pleaded innocent today to drug charges and was ordered held without bail. Jaime Orlando Lara, the first accused drug dealer turned over by Colombia in nearly a decade, was brought to the United States last night from Bogota. His appearance carried special significance because it fell 10 days after a deadly terrorist bomb exploded in Bogota in what many suspected was a warning against extraditions. President Andres Pastrana defiantly signed Lara's extradition papers just hours after the Nov. 11 explosion killed eight bystanders in an upscale shopping district.

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Judge Cites Rifle in King Inquiry

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)

A judge said today he doubts whether the rifle identified as the one used to kill Martin Luther King Jr. was the murder weapon. Criminal Court Judge Joe Brown, who presided over confessed killer James Earl Ray's recent try for freedom, was called to testify in a suit in which the King family brought against a retired Memphis businessman who has claimed he took part in a conspiracy to kill King. Brown said the rifle found at the scene of King's murder was equipped with a scope that had not been properly sighted. A shooter, he said, "could not hit the broad side of a barn" with that rifle.

Thanksgiving Travelers May Set Record

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43 Killed in Niger Delta Violence

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP)

At least 43 people, eight of them soldiers, have been killed since the army moved in to restore order to the oil-rich Niger Delta, said government officials who spoke on condition of anonymity. It was not clear if the fighting was continuing Monday. Nigeria earns billions of dollars in petroleum profits every year. But the Delta remains desperately poor and is regularly rocked by violence among feuding ethnic groups. Western oil companies, their workers and their installations are also often targets of Delta residents.

Dow Closes Up

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Celtics Beat Pacers 95-85

BOSTON (AP)

The Boston Celtics beat Larry Bird's Pacers for the first time tonight, getting 13 fourth-quarter points from Dana Barros to defeat Indiana 95-85. Barros hit a 3-pointer with 7:54 left to break a 69-69 tie and put Boston ahead to stay. He hit two more 3-pointers during the 19-4 Celtics run that gave them an 83-73 lead with 3:47 to play. The Pacers had been 8-0 against Boston since Bird became the head coach in 1997. Indiana had beaten the Celtics in 10 consecutive games overall before tonight.

Repetitive Motion Rules Announced

WASHINGTON (AP)

Employers will have to correct injury-causing workplace conditions that require repetitive motion, overexertion or awkward posture under proposed regulations the Labor Department announced today. The proposal affects one of every three work sites and more than 27 million workers. Each year, 1.8 million workers have musculoskeletal injuries related to ergonomic factors, according to Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Brick Victim's Family Not Mad at NY

NEW YORK (AP)

The family of the Texas woman whose head was smashed with a brick said they bear no anger toward New York City, where Nicole Barrett was attacked. Ms. Barrett, 27, was attacked last week near Grand Central Terminal by a man who police believe might have been homeless. Ms. Barrett required brain surgery after the assault. Her family said she is now talking, smiling and recognizing them, and that she has asked why she is in the hospital. "This is the act of one man," said Mrs. Barrett. "It could have happened in Athens (Texas)."

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2 Dead in Colorado Pileup

GOLDEN, Colo. (AP)

Two people were killed and at least 29 injured when a car spun out of control in heavy snow and fog on an interstate today, causing a chain-reaction crash that involved up to 83 cars. Up to 11 inches of snow fell in the foothills, and the Front Range of the Rockies was under a winter storm warning tonight. The storm was good news for ski resorts, which dealt with an extremely bad season last year and then delayed opening this year because of unusually balmy weather. Steamboat Springs reported a base of up to 36 inches close to the top.

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Load-Date: November 22, 1999

World Briefing: France and Ireland Arrest 7 Linked To Real I.R.A.

NEW YORK TIMES

November 5, 2003 Wednesday

Information Bank Abstracts

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Section: Section A; Column 4; Pg. 10

Length: 48 words

Byline: By Brian Lavery

Body

Joint operation between French and Irish authorities nets arrest of nine people suspected of involvement with Real IRA, paramilitary wing of ***Irish Republican Army***; three men and two **women** are arrested in France after small cache of weapons is found near Dieppe; two men are arrested in Dublin.

Load-Date: June 24, 2004

World Briefing Europe: Northern Ireland: Four Charged In Gun Plot

The New York Times
November 29, 2002 Friday
Late Edition - Final

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Section: Section A; Column 4; Foreign Desk; Pg. 22

Length: 65 words

Byline: By Warren Hoge (NYT)

Body

Two **women** and two men were charged with providing cash to ***Irish Republican Army*** guerrillas to buy guns and ammunition smuggled from the United States in 1999.

Four people have been convicted in Florida and four others jailed in the Irish Republic in connection with the gun-running operation. The four charged yesterday were ordered held until a hearing on Dec. 20. Warren Hoge (NYT)

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Load-Date: November 29, 2002

'Real' IRA bomb suspect arrested

Times Colonist (Victoria, British Columbia)

February 19, 2003 Wednesday Final Edition

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Section: News; Pg. A9; Crime

Length: 123 words

Dateline: DUBLIN, Ireland

Body

DUBLIN, Ireland (AP) -- Police arrested a suspected chief of the dissident "Real" ***Irish Republican Army*** on Tuesday and said he will be charged with terrorism-related offences. Associated Press

Seamus Daly, 32, has long been on the police's list of suspects responsible for the 1998 Real IRA car-bombing of Omagh, which was the deadliest attack in the last 33 years of civil unrest in Northern Ireland.

The blast tore apart the main shopping street of the religiously mixed town, killing 29 people -- mostly ***women*** and children -- and wounding more than 330 others.

Police said they arrested Daly near his home in rural County Monaghan, bordering Northern Ireland, in response to a warrant issued by Dublin's three-judge Special Criminal Court.

Load-Date: February 19, 2003

World Briefing Europe: Northern Ireland: Arrests On Both Sides

The New York Times

November 27, 2002 Wednesday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2002 The New York Times Company

Section: Section A; Column 4; Foreign Desk; Pg. 12

Length: 114 words

Byline: By Warren Hoge (NYT)

Body

The police arrested seven men and a woman in Londonderry in what officials said was the beginning of a crackdown on Protestant paramilitary fighters linked to at least three killings in recent months. In Belfast and North Antrim, four men and two women were arrested in connection with an **Irish Republican Army** gun-running operation uncovered in 1999, which has resulted in the jailings of four people in Florida and the conviction of four others in Ireland. Britain and Ireland have been pressing the I.R.A. to end paramilitary activities. Sinn Fein, the I.R.A.'s political wing, has complained that similar pressure has not been applied to Protestant guerrillas. Warren Hoge (NYT)

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Load-Date: November 27, 2002

World Briefing Europe: France And Ireland Arrest 7 Linked To Real I.R.A.

The New York Times

November 5, 2003 Wednesday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2003 The New York Times Company

Section: Section A; Column 4; Foreign Desk; Pg. 10

Length: 118 words

Byline: By Brian Lavery (NYT)

Body

In a joint operation, the police in Dublin and northwestern France arrested seven people suspected of involvement with the Real I.R.A., a paramilitary group that split from the **Irish Republican Army** and that opposes the Northern Irish peace process.

In France, three men and two **women** from Brittany were arrested after the police found a small cache of weapons and ammunition near the port city of Dieppe. At the same time, two Irishmen in their 20's were arrested in Dublin. The Real I.R.A. killed 29 people in a bombing in 1998 in Omagh, Northern Ireland, but has been less active since the imprisonment of its leader, Michael McKevitt, convicted in August of directing terrorism. Brian Lavery (NYT)

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Load-Date: November 5, 2003

Bomb explodes outside police station

June 1, 2001, Friday, BC cycle

Copyright 2001 Associated Press All Rights Reserved The Associated Press

Section: International News

Length: 125 words

Dateline: LONDON

Body

A bomb exploded early Friday outside a police station in Northern Ireland's County Tyrone, police said.

There were no reports of injuries.

Police said they received several warnings and evacuated the area around the Royal Ulster Constabulary station in Sion Mills, about 60 miles west of Belfast.

The device exploded before it could be defused by bomb disposal experts.

Similar blasts have been blamed on the Real IRA, a hardcore Catholic militant group that surfaced in the wake of the **Irish Republican Army**'s 1997 cease-fire in the province.

The group's most notorious act was a 1998 car bombing in the town of Omagh, Northern Ireland. The blast killed 29 people, Protestant and Catholic alike, most of them **women** and children, and wounded more than 300.

Load-Date: June 2, 2001

INSIDE

The New York Times
July 17, 2002 Wednesday
Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2002 The New York Times Company

Section: Section A; Column 2; Metropolitan Desk; Pg. 1

Length: 123 words

Body

I.R.A. Apologizes

The **Irish Republican Army** issued its first unmitigated apology to families of civilians killed in its 30-year effort to unite Ireland. PAGE A3

Cigarette Taxes as a Spur

As 16 states have raised cigarette taxes by 7 to 70 cents a pack this year, more and more smokers are trying to quit. PAGE A14

Ted Williams's Will Is Filed

The will stated he wanted to be cremated, but the executor said Mr. Williams changed his mind. PAGE D1

Rape Case Bares a Society

Basic aspects of Pakistani life, like **women**'s low status and feudal honor, played a role in the rape case that has shocked the country. PAGE A3

Deutsche Telekom Ouster

Ron Sommer, the chief executive of Deutsche Telekom, resigned under intense pressure. PAGE C1

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Load-Date: July 17, 2002

Leader of Real IRA arrested

Guelph Mercury (Ontario, Canada)
February 19, 2003 Wednesday Final Edition

Copyright 2003 Metroland Media Group Ltd

Section: NEWS; Pg. A11; NEWS

Length: 143 words

Dateline: DUBLIN, IRELAND

Body

Police arrested a suspected chief of the dissident "Real" **Irish Republican Army** on Tuesday and said he will be charged with terrorism-related offences.

Seamus Daly, 32, has long been on the police's list of suspects responsible for the 1998 Real IRA car-bombing of Omagh, which was the deadliest attack in the last 33 years of civil unrest in Northern Ireland.

Associated PressThe blast tore apart the main shopping street of the religiously mixed town, killing 29 people -- mostly **women** and children -- and wounding more than 330 others.

Police said they arrested Daly near his home in rural County Monaghan, bordering Northern Ireland, in response to a warrant issued by Dublin's three-judge Special Criminal Court. He is scheduled to be arraigned Wednesday on unspecified charges before the judges, who handle most terror-related cases in Ireland without a jury.

Load-Date: February 19, 2003

WILL WE GO AFTER ALL OTHER TERRORISTS, SUCH AS THE IRA?

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

December 14, 2001 Friday

SOONER EDITION

Copyright 2001 P.G. Publishing Co.

Section: EDITORIAL,; LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Length: 118 words

Body

President Bush, Secretary of State Colin Powell and the rest of our leaders keep saying that we are in a war against terrorism. They also say that we are going to fight terrorism throughout the world.

It seems that the only terrorists that we are at war with are those of the al-Qaida network!

There is another terrorist group that has been around for a long time that has killed innocent men, women and children. What I speak of is the Irish Republican Army. I am angered that many of our citizens have actually supported the IRA by sending money for the purchase of arms, etc. They are terrorists! The IRA hasn't attacked, killed and maimed us -- only our ally, England.

ARLENE C. STEPHENSON

Indiana Township

Load-Date: December 14, 2001

U.K. intelligence arm targets al-Qaida

United Press International

July 26, 2004 Monday

Copyright 2004 U.P.I.

Length: 163 words

Dateline: LONDON, July 26 (UPI)

Body

Britain has deployed a covert military intelligence unit to hunt down suspected members of al-Qaida, The Times of London reported Monday.

The elite 14 Intelligence company first began gathering information three months ago in the north of England, and sources told the newspaper a team of four from the secret unit, with several members of the SAS, also went to Baghdad at the request of U.S. officials to give advice on how to tackle terrorist surveillance techniques.

The unit has extensive experience in infiltrating the **Irish Republican Army** and other terror groups in Northern Ireland.

The unit was set up in the 1970s, when it was initially known as the Mobile Reconnaissance Force. It has since built a reputation for blending in with republican or loyalist communities and collecting crucial intelligence on the movements of suspected terrorists, the newspaper said.

Agents wear civilian clothes and often work in male-**female** teams, appearing as normal couples in unmarked cars.

Load-Date: July 27, 2004

Bomb Explodes in N. Ireland County

Associated Press Online

June 1, 2001; Friday

Copyright 2001 Associated Press All Rights Reserved

Section: International news

Length: 128 words

Dateline: LONDON

Body

A bomb exploded early Friday outside a police station in Northern Ireland's County Tyrone, police said.

There were no reports of injuries.

AP-NIreland-Bomb ,0162Police said they received several warnings and evacuated the area around the Royal Ulster Constabulary station in Sion Mills, about 60 miles west of Belfast.

The device exploded before it could be defused by bomb disposal experts.

Similar blasts have been blamed on the Real IRA, a hardcore Catholic militant group that surfaced in the wake of the **Irish Republican Army**'s 1997 cease-fire in the province.

The group's most notorious act was a 1998 car bombing in the town of Omagh, Northern Ireland. The blast killed 29 people, Protestant and Catholic alike, most of them **women** and children, and wounded more than 300.

Load-Date: June 1, 2001

Nireland-Bomb

Broadcast News (BN)

June 1, 2001 Friday

Copyright 2001 Press News Limited, All Rights Reserved

Section: GENERAL AND NATIONAL NEWS

Length: 135 words

Body

INDEX: International, Politics, Justice

LONDON -- A bomb exploded early today outside a police station in Northern Ireland's County Tyrone.

There are no reports of injuries.

-BODY- Police say they received several warnings and evacuated the area around the Royal Ulster Constabulary station in Sion Mills, about 100 kilometres west of Belfast.

The device exploded before it could be defused by bomb disposal experts.

Similar blasts have been blamed on the Real I-R-A, a hardcore Catholic militant group that surfaced in the wake of the **Irish Republican Army**'s 1997 ceasefire in the province.

The group's most notorious act was a 1998 car bombing in the town of Omagh, Northern Ireland.

The blast killed 29 people, Protestant and Catholic alike, most of them **women** and children, and wounded more than 300. (AP) --- mcw

Load-Date: October 9, 2002

Bomb explodes outside police station

Associated Press International

June 1, 2001; Friday

Copyright 2001 Associated Press All Rights Reserved

Section: International news

Length: 130 words

Dateline: LONDON

Body

A bomb exploded early Friday outside a police station in Northern Ireland's County Tyrone, police said.

There were no reports of injuries.

Nireland-BombPolice said they received several bomb warning and evacuated the area around the Royal Ulster Constabulary station in Sion Mills, about 60 miles (100 kms) west of Belfast.

The device exploded before it could be diffused by bomb disposal experts.

Similar blasts have been blamed on the Real IRA, a hardcore Catholic militant group that surfaced in the wake of the **Irish Republican Army**'s 1997 cease-fire in the province.

The group's most notorious act was a 1998 car bombing in the town of Omagh, Northern Ireland. The blast killed 29 people, Protestant and Catholic alike, most of them **women** and children, and wounded more than 300.

(cf)

Load-Date: June 1, 2001

US-Terrorism

Broadcast News (BN)

May 16, 2001 Wednesday

Copyright 2001 Press News Limited, All Rights Reserved

Section: GENERAL AND NATIONAL NEWS

Length: 130 words

Body

INDEX: International

WASHINGTON -- The group believed responsible for Northern Ireland's deadliest bomb attack has been designated as a terrorist group under U-S law.

The designation by the State Department means members of the group can be denied visas to enter the United States.

-BODY- The order also bans the organization from raising money in the U-S and its holdings in American banks can be frozen.

The group calls itself the Real **Irish Republican Army**.

It broke away from the I-R-A after that group declared a cease-fire in 1997 that paved the way for a power-sharing government in Northern Ireland.

The Real I-R-A's most notorious act is believed to be a 1998 car bombing in the town of Omagh (oh-MAH').

The blast killed 29 people, most of them **women** and children. (APB) --- RMo

Load-Date: October 9, 2002

At least 7 policemen injured in Belfast clashes

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

August 11, 2002, Sunday 03:47 Central European Time

Copyright 2002 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: Politics

Length: 176 words

Dateline: Belfast

Body

At least seven police officers were injured late Saturday in clashes in the northern Ireland capital of Belfast, police officials said.

The officers were attacked in the Catholic enclave Short Strand, from where five petrol bombs and a number of other incendiary objects were thrown towards a Protestant neighbourhood.

The clashes occurred as Protestants returned home from a march in Londonderry. As the police intervened, the group had grown to at least 200 people.

Women and children blockaded the street, and automobiles were parked as barricades to keep security forces from entering Short Strand.

Earlier this month, a military volunteer died in a blast that occurred as he handled an explosive device contained in a lunch box in Londonderry.

Although the **Irish Republican Army** has declared a ceasefire while its political wing Sinn Fein participates in the province's power-sharing executive, dissident republicans continue a sporadic bombing campaign aimed at ending the British presence in Northern Ireland. dpa gp pr

Load-Date: August 12, 2002

Army defuses bomb under pregnant woman's car

Associated Press International

February 1, 2002 Friday

Copyright 2002 Associated Press All Rights Reserved

Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Length: 164 words

Dateline: GREYSTONE, Northern Ireland

Body

Soldiers defused a lunchbox packed with explosives that was placed under a car belonging to a woman who was seven months pregnant, officials said.

Army bomb disposal experts carried out several controlled explosions on the device, which police said was strong enough to be deadly.

It had been placed under a car in Greystone, southwest of Belfast, in front of the woman's home.

"The (intended) victim of this attack was a **female** who was heavily pregnant," said David Boyd, the Police Service's acting chief inspector for Dungannon. "Had this device gone off it could have caused death or serious injury."

He did not identify the woman.

Michelle Gildernew, a legislator from the **Irish Republican Army**-aligned Sinn Fein party, linked the device to other recent attacks on Catholics and blamed Protestant paramilitaries.

"This is worrying stuff," Gildernew said. "There have been fears about loyalist death squads in the area targeting Catholics and I believe this has very sinister overtones."

Load-Date: February 1, 2002

Women arrested over bombing campaign in England

January 18, 2002, Friday, BC cycle

Copyright 2002 Associated Press All Rights Reserved The Associated Press

Section: International News

Length: 161 words

Dateline: LONDON

Body

A woman was arrested in London in an investigation of a bombing campaign by **Irish Republican Army** dissidents, police said Friday.

The 35-year-old was arrested under the Terrorism Act at a house in north London on Thursday and was being questioned by police, authorities said.

Her name was not released. British police do not generally identify suspects who have not been charged with an offense.

Two men face trial in May over a series of bomb attacks in London and the central English city of Birmingham that have been blamed on the so-called Real IRA.

At least six explosions in London in the last 18 months have been linked with IRA dissidents, including a rocket-propelled grenade attack on the headquarters of MI6, the British secret intelligence service.

Police have blamed the attacks on a group known as the Real IRA, which split from the IRA in protest over the 1997 cease-fire that led to the involvement of Sinn Fein, the IRA-allied party, in a 1998 peace accord.

Load-Date: January 19, 2002

major news items in leading british newspapers

Copyright 1999 Xinhua News AgencyXinhua News Agency

APRIL 2, 1999, FRIDAY

Length: 162 words

Dateline: london, april 2; ITEM NO: 0402153

Body

the following are major news items in leading british newspapers friday. the times: --three bruised and battered american soldiers, snatched by yugoslav troops across the border from kosovo, are to appear at a show trial in belgrade friday. the daily telegraph: --a retired british rail ticket inspector was given two life sentences thursday for murdering unknown jewish women, after britain's first and probably last war crimes trial relating to the second world war. the independent: --sinn fein and the irish republican army were told thursday by the british and irish governments that an act of republican disarmament will be necessary to secure entry into northern ireland's new government. the guardian: --nato is for the first time seriously considering sending ground forces into yugoslavia, reflecting growing concern about the failure of air strikes, reliable sources have told the guardian on thursday.

Load-Date: April 3, 1999

End of Document

On this day

The Daily Telegraph (Sydney, Australia)

June 19, 2001, Tuesday

Copyright 2001 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: FEATURES; Pg. 43

Length: 158 words

Body

1829

Sir Robert Peel's Act of Parliament which establishes the London metropolitan police is given royal assent.

1917

During World War I, King George V orders the British royal family to drop German titles and surnames and the family takes the name Windsor, after the castle.

1937

J.M. Barrie, creator of book and stage character Peter Pan -- the boy who never grew up -- dies, aged 77.

1953

Julius and Ethel Rosenberg go to the electric chair in New York for passing atom bomb secrets to the Soviets. They are the first American civilians to be executed for espionage.

1969

The Australian Arbitration Commission declares women should be paid the same as men. The increases are to be phased in over three years.

1970

The Soviet spacecraft Soyuz-9 lands in Kazakhstan after the longest manned space flight, of nearly 18 days.

1996

The *Irish Republican Army* claims responsibility for the June 15 bombing in Manchester, which injured more than 200 people.

Load-Date: November 20, 2001

ON THIS DAY

The Daily Telegraph (Sydney, Australia)

June 19, 2002, Wednesday

Copyright 2002 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: FEATURES-TYPE- FEATURE-COLUMN- ON THIS DAY; Pg. 43

Length: 168 words

Body

1908 The ship Kasato Maru arrives in Santos with 168 Japanese families, beginning Japanese immigration to Brazil.

1937 J.M. Barrie, creator of the book and stage character Peter Pan, the boy who never grew up, dies. MATPHe was 77.

1953 Julius and Ethel Rosenberg go to the electric chair for passing secrets to the Soviets, the first Americans to be executed for espionage.

1963 The contraceptive pill is made available free to British women, sparking fury among church and community groups.

1969 The Australian Arbitration Commission declares women should be paid the same as men, phased in over three years.

1970 The Soviet spacecraft Soyuz-9 lands in Kazakhstan after 17 days, 16 hours and 59 minutes in space, a record for a manned flight.

1976 Eddy Arnold confirms his status as the No1 country artist, recording his 100th hit on the country and western charts with Cowboy.

1996 The Irish Republican Army claims responsibility for the June 15 bombing in Manchester, England, that injures more than 200 people.

Load-Date: June 18, 2002

Yoko Ono says Lennon gave money to Ireland, but not to the IRA

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

February 21, 2000, Monday, BC Cycle 12:44 Central European Time

Copyright 2000 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: International News

Length: 162 words

Dateline: Zaragoza

Body

Yoko Ono, the widow of ex-Beatle John Lennon, Monday denied reports that Lennon had donated money to the *Irish Republican Army* (IRA).

"My husband did not give money to the IRA," the artist said when inaugurating an exhibition entitled "Yoko Ono Ebro" in Zaragoza, northern Spain.

But she conceded that "we sometimes gave money to countries depending on their necessities, and Ireland was no exception".

Whenever Lennon gave money, "he thought that it would be used to help children, orphans or women in need", Ono said.

Two papers in London on Sunday had reported that Lennon had given an undisclosed amount of money to the IRA before its split between the Official and Provisional wings.

The report in The Sunday Times had been written in a "very negative" way, Ono complained.

Whenever she now gave money to Ireland, she gave written instructions that it must be used for helping children, Ono added.

Lennon was murdered in New York in 1980. dpa st wo

Load-Date: February 21, 2000

Car crashes into Downing Street gates

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

January 15, 2000, Saturday BC Cycle 15:07 Central European Time

Copyright 2000 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: International News

Length: 161 words

Dateline: London

Body

A man was being quizzed by police Saturday after a car ploughed into the gates of Downing Street, injuring a **female** tourist and a child. The red Vauxhall car collided with the security gates facing on to Whitehall at midday but did not break through, Scotland Yard said.

Officers were investigating whether the driver deliberately attempted to smash down the heavy security barrier which protects the prime minister's residence, or had simply lost control of the vehicle. The woman and child were said to have suffered minor injuries. A Downing Street spokeswoman said Prime Minister Tony Blair and his wife were not at home at the time of the incident. But Blair had been informed, she said. The woman was said to have been standing outside the gates with members of her family when the car crashed. The barrier was erected in the early 1980s when Margaret Thatcher was prime minister to protect against possible attacks by the **Irish Republican Army**. dpa vc

Load-Date: January 18, 2000

Women arrested over bombing campaign by IRA dissidents in England

The Canadian Press (CP)

January 18, 2002 Friday

Copyright 2002 Press News Limited, All Rights Reserved

Section: FOREIGN GENERAL NEWS

Length: 164 words

Body

LONDON (AP) _ A woman was arrested in London in an investigation of a bombing campaign by **Irish Republican Army** dissidents, police said Friday.

The 35-year-old was arrested under the Terrorism Act at a house in north London on Thursday and was being questioned by police, authorities said.

APHer name was not released. British police do not generally identify suspects who have not been charged with an offence.

Two men face trial in May over a series of bomb attacks in London and the central English city of Birmingham that have been blamed on the so-called Real IRA.

At least six explosions in London in the last 18 months have been linked with IRA dissidents, including a rocket-propelled grenade attack on the headquarters of MI6, the British secret intelligence service.

Police have blamed the attacks on a group known as the Real IRA, which split from the IRA in protest over the 1997 ceasefire that led to the involvement of Sinn Fein, the IRA-allied party, in a 1998 peace accord.

Load-Date: June 6, 2002

Girlfriends caught in bomb swoop

Hobart Mercury (Australia)

June 23, 1999, Wednesday

Copyright 1999 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Length: 163 words

Body

Dublin

THIRTEEN people have now been arrested in connection with the Omagh bombing, police said yesterday.

After the arrest of 10 people on Monday in a joint operation by Northern Ireland and Irish police, two women were detained yesterday in Dundalk, a Roman Catholic stronghold on the province's border with the Irish republic.

They are girlfriends of two of the men arrested on Monday.

So far, only one person has been charged, a 46-year-old man named Colm Murphy, who has been accused of conspiring to cause an explosion and membership of an illegal organisation.

Those arrested in Dundalk on Monday are suspected of being members of the "Real IRA" _ a breakaway faction of the *Irish Republican Army* opposed to the Northern Ireland peace process, which has claimed responsibility for the bombing.

The August 1998 bombing in the Northern Ireland market town of Omagh killed 29 people and injured 370. The attack was the bloodiest in Northern Ireland's 30-year-old conflict.

AFP

Load-Date: March 8, 2002

Today in history

The Daily Telegraph (Sydney, Australia)

June 19, 2000, Monday

Copyright 2000 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: FEATURES; Pg. 68

Length: 181 words

Body

1819 The S.S. Savannah arrives in Liverpool, England, after making the first Atlantic crossing by a steamship.

1937 Sir James Barrie, 77, creator of the book and stage character Peter Pan, dies.

1953 Julius and Ethel Rosenberg go to the electric chair in New York for passing atom bomb secrets to the Soviets. They are the first American civilians to be executed for espionage.

1963 The contraceptive pill is made available to women in Britain free on the National Health Service. The move sparks anger among church and community groups.

1969 The Australian Arbitration Commission declares that women should be paid the same as men. The increases are to be phased in over three years.

1970 The Soviet spacecraft Soyuz-9 lands in Kazakstan after establishing a record for the longest manned space flight at 17 days, 16 hours and 59 minutes.

1993 Nobel Prize-winning British author William Golding, 81, dies. His novel Lord Of The Flies became a classic.

1996 The Irish Republican Army claims responsibility for the June 15 bombing in Manchester, England, that injured more than 200 people.

Load-Date: December 3, 2001

Yoko denies Lennon IRA link

The Daily Telegraph (Sydney, Australia)

February 23, 2000, Wednesday

Copyright 2000 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WORLD; Pg. 30

Length: 161 words

Body

LONDON: Yoko Ono has denied claims her husband John Lennon donated money to the **Irish Republican Army**.

The widow of the former Beatle has spoken out after claims British intelligence files held in the United States showed Lennon supported the IRA.

Speaking from Spain, Yoko said there was no truth in the rumours but admitted Lennon may have donated money to the needy in Ireland.

"My husband did not give money to the IRA," she said.

"He gave money when there were people who asked for it, people who needed it.

"Sometimes he gave the money to some countries depending on their needs and Ireland was no exception.

"He thought this money was to be used for children, orphans or **women** who needed it."

The files compiled by MI5 and MI6 were handed to the FBI after the couple moved to America in the 1970s.

At the time then president Richard Nixon wanted to deport Lennon over his anti-Vietnam protests.

Lennon died when he was gunned down outside his New York home in 1980.

Load-Date: December 3, 2001

Widow denies Lennon funded IRA

Courier Mail (Queensland, Australia)

February 23, 2000, Wednesday

Copyright 2000 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WORLD; Pg. 17

Length: 167 words

Byline: Helen McCabe

Body

LONDON: Yoko Ono, pictured, has denied claims that her late husband, John Lennon, donated money to the IRA.

British intelligence files held in the United States are claimed to show that the former Beatle supported the **Irish Republican Army**.

Ono said: "My husband did not give money to the IRA. He gave money when there were people who asked for it, people who needed it. Sometimes he gave the money to some countries depending on their needs, and Ireland was no exception.

"He thought this money was to be used for children, orphans -- or **women** who needed it."

The files were given to the FBI after the couple moved to the US in the 1970s. The then US president Richard Nixon wanted to deport Lennon because of his anti-Vietnam War protests.

Lennon was killed outside his New York home in 1980.

The documents are alleged to show that he also helped finance the Workers Revolutionary Party and a marxist magazine.

A judge ordered their public release after a long court battle by an American history professor.

Load-Date: December 4, 2001

WASHINGTON: be frozen.

Associated Press International

May 16, 2001; Wednesday

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Section: International news

Length: 200 words

Body

More than 20 suspected members have been jailed, including Michael "Mickey" McKevitt, the group's alleged commander, who was arrested in Ireland on March 29 and is being held without bail on terrorism charges.

According to recent news reports, an American informant working for the FBI and the British domestic intelligence service MI5 succeeded in infiltrating the Real IRA and is expected to provide detailed testimony against its ringleaders later this year.

US-Terrorism, 1st Add

The Real IRA surfaced in the wake of the **Irish Republican Army's** 1997 cease-fire that paved the way for a power-sharing government in Northern Ireland. Its members bitterly oppose any accommodation with Britain and demand the unification of predominantly Protestant Northern Ireland and the solidly Roman Catholic Republic of Ireland.

The group's most notorious act was a 1998 car bombing in the town of Omagh. The blast killed 29 people, Protestant and Catholic alike, most of them **women** and children, and wounded more than 300.

It was designated a foreign terrorist organization by Edmund J. Hull, acting coordinator of the counterterrorism office of the State Department, in an entry in the Federal Register on Friday.

Load-Date: May 16, 2001

TODAY'S HISTORY

Dayton Daily News (Ohio)

March 1, 2001, Thursday,

CITY EDITION

Copyright 2001 Dayton Newspapers, Inc.

Section: NEWS,

Length: 187 words

Body

Today is Thursday, March 1, the 60th day of 2001. There are 305 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: Forty years ago, on March 1, 1961, President Kennedy established the Peace Corps.

On this date:

- * In 1781, the Continental Congress adopted the Articles of Confederation.
- * In 1790, Congress authorized the first U.S. Census.
- * In 1845, President Tyler signed a congressional resolution to annex the Republic of Texas.
- * In 1864, Rebecca Lee became the first black woman to receive an American medical degree, from Boston's New England **Female** Medical College.
- * In 1867, Nebraska became the 37th state.
- * In 1872, Congress authorized creation of Yellowstone National Park.
- * In 1932, the infant son of Charles and Anne Lindbergh was kidnapped from the family home near Hopewell, N.J. Remains identified as those of the baby were found the following May.
- * In 1954, Puerto Rican nationalists opened fire from the gallery of the U.S. House of Representatives, wounding five congressmen.
- * In 1981, **Irish Republican Army** member Bobby Sands began a hunger strike at the Maze Prison in Northern Ireland. He died 65 days later.

Graphic

PHOTO: John F. Kennedy

TODAY'S HISTORY

Load-Date: March 2, 2001

End of Document

TODAY'S HISTORY

Dayton Daily News (Ohio)
March 1, 2000, Wednesday,
CITY EDITION

Copyright 2000 Dayton Newspapers, Inc.

Section: NEWS,

Length: 196 words

Body

Today is Wednesday, March 1, the 61st day of 2000. There are 305 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On March 1, 1932, the infant son of Charles and Anne Lindbergh was kidnapped from the family home near Hopewell, N.J. (Remains identified as those of the baby were found the following May.)

On this date:

- * In 1781, the Continental Congress adopted the Articles of Confederation.
- * In 1790, Congress authorized the first U.S. Census.
- * In 1845, President Tyler signed a congressional resolution to annex the Republic of Texas.
- * In 1864, Rebecca Lee became the first black woman to receive an American medical degree, from the New England **Female** Medical College in Boston.
- * In 1867, Nebraska became the 37th state.
- * In 1872, Congress authorized creation of Yellowstone National Park.
- * In 1940, Native Son by Richard Wright was first published.
- * In 1954, Puerto Rican nationalists opened fire from the gallery of the U.S. House of Representatives, wounding five congressmen.
- * In 1961, President Kennedy established the Peace Corps.
- * In 1981, **Irish Republican Army** member Bobby Sands began a hunger strike at the Maze Prison in Northern Ireland; he died 65 days later.

Graphic

TODAY'S HISTORY

PHOTO: John F. Kennedy

Load-Date: March 2, 2000

End of Document

Lennon did not help IRA, says Yoko

The Advertiser

February 23, 2000, Wednesday

Copyright 2000 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: FOREIGN; Pg. 31

Length: 169 words

Byline: By HELEN McCABE in London

Body

YOKO Ono has denied claims her husband John Lennon donated money to the *Irish Republican Army*.

The widow of the former Beatle has spoken out after claims British intelligence files held in the United States showed Lennon supported the IRA.

Speaking from Spain, Ms Ono said there was no truth to the rumors.

"My husband did not give money to the IRA," she said.

"He gave money when there were people who asked for it, people who needed it. He thought this money was to be used for children, orphans or women who needed it."

The files, compiled by MI5 and MI6, were handed over to the FBI after the couple moved to the US in the 1970s.

At the time, President Richard Nixon wanted to deport Lennon for his anti-Vietnam protests.

John Lennon died when he was gunned down outside his home in New York in 1980.

For decades the FBI has refused to release the files on the grounds it was duty bound not to betray UK intelligence. The documents are supposed to show that Lennon also helped finance the WRP and a Marxist magazine.

Load-Date: December 3, 2001

No Headline In Original

Courier Mail (Queensland, Australia)

October 27, 2003 Monday

Copyright 2003 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WORLD; Pg. 16

Length: 224 words

Body

AFGHANISTAN

Bikini row

KABUL: The Taliban has been ousted from rule in Afghanistan and its hardline Islamic policies are a thing of the past, but many Afghans have been shocked and angered by an Afghan woman appearing in a bikini at a beauty pageant. Vida Samadzai, 25, the first Afghan entrant in more than 30 years, joined about 50 other women at a hotel in Manila last week for the Miss Earth competition.

TAIWAN

Chen call

KAOHSIUNG: Taiwan's President Chen Shui-bian, pictured, pledged yesterday to push for a new constitution that would state Taiwan was a separate country from China but enjoying the same independent sovereignty as its rival. Mr Chen said the present constitution, although amended six times in the past 12 years, still failed to satisfy the public.

CHINA

Strong quakes

BEIJING: Two powerful earthquakes shook a remote desert region of north-western China, killing eight people and seriously injuring dozens of others, the government said yesterday. Officials reported collapsed houses and scores of minor aftershocks.

BRITAIN

IRA arms

LONDON: The Irish Republican Army, Northern Ireland's most powerful Catholic paramilitary group, destroyed more than 100 tonnes of weapons during the disarmament it had announced last week, media reports said yesterday. The weapons put out of use accounted for almost a third of the IRA's arsenal.

Load-Date: October 26, 2003

No Headline In Original

End of Document

No Headline In Original

Courier Mail (Queensland, Australia)

August 16, 2001, Thursday

Copyright 2001 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WORLD; Pg. 12

Length: 268 words

Body

Thai floods

BANGKOK: Disastrous floods in northern Thailand have spread across 16 provinces, pushing the death toll to 135 including at least 109 who perished in a landslide tragedy on the weekend, officials said yesterday. Heavy rains continued, raising fears that the toll would go much higher as more towns and villages are submerged under metres of floodwater.

Raising a stink

BANGKOK: Angry with a bank for depleting his investment, an irate customer raised a stink by drenching himself in human excrement and walking into the bank to close his account, newspapers reported yesterday. Chuay Kotchasit, 65, said the stench from his body should be far more bearable than "the stink of mismanagement".

The last straw

LOS ANGELES: Police trapped a Los Angeles serial rape suspect when his "date", a **female** detective, snatched his soft drink straw for crucial DNA evidence. Experts matched his DNA from saliva to two crimes. Robert Williams Bradford jnr was yesterday sentenced to two life terms for the sexual assault of two **women**.

IRA penalties

BOGOTA: Three alleged members of the **Irish Republican Army** arrested in Bogota on suspicion of providing weapons training to Marxist rebels could face maximum prison terms of 15 to 20 years if convicted. Authorities have accused them of training rebels in the use of explosives.

Hunt for gangs

BEIJING: Investigators probing a tin mine disaster in southern China believed to have left hundreds dead are searching for armed gangsters who helped cover up the accident. The gangs rampaged the town of Chehe, intimidating victims' families into silence on the July 17 disaster.

Load-Date: November 12, 2001

No Headline In Original

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

August 28, 2004 Saturday

REGION EDITION

Copyright 2004 P.G. Publishing Co.

Section: LOCAL,

Length: 328 words

Body

Today is Saturday, Aug. 28, 2004

ON THIS DATE

One year ago (Thursday, Aug. 28, 2003)

* British Prime Minister Tony Blair denied that the government had "sexed up" a dossier on Iraq's weapons threat, and said he would have resigned if it had been true.

* A Defense Department survey found that nearly one in five **female** Air Force Academy cadets said they had been sexually assaulted during their time at the academy.

Five years ago (Saturday, Aug. 28, 1999)

* Three crewmen aboard the Mir space station returned safely to Earth after bidding farewell to the 13-year-old Russian orbiter.

Ten years ago (Sunday, Aug. 28, 1994)

* A Drug Enforcement Administration plane crashed in a remote area of Peru's cocaine-producing jungle, killing five U.S. agents.

Twenty-five years ago (Tuesday, Aug. 28, 1979)

* Chase Manhattan Bank raised its prime rate to 12.25 percent, the highest ever.

* An explosion ripped apart a temporary stage in Brussels, Belgium, where a British military band was scheduled to perform. The **Irish Republican Army** claimed responsibility.

Fifty years ago (Saturday, Aug. 28, 1954)

* The Pittsburgh Board of Public Education planned to float a \$5 million bond issue to build four new schools.

One hundred years ago (Sunday, Aug. 28, 1904)

No Headline In Original

* The Pittsburg Press carried an editorial denouncing even moderate consumption of alcohol, citing statistics that total abstainers lived longer on average.

Today's birthdays

Actor Ben Gazzara is 74. Actor David Soul is 61. Baseball manager Lou Piniella is 61. Actress Alice Playten is 57. Olympic gold medal figure skater Scott Hamilton is 46. Country singer Shania Twain is 39. Actor Billy Boyd ("The Lord of the Rings") is 36. Olympic gold medal swimmer Janet Evans is 33. Rock singer Max Collins (Eve 6) is 26. Actress Carly Pope is 24. Country singer LeAnn Rimes is 22.

Thought for today

"Whom the gods would make bigots, they first deprive of humor."

-- The Rev. James M. Gillis, Catholic author (1876-1957)

Load-Date: August 28, 2004

End of Document

No Headline In Original

Courier Mail (Queensland, Australia)

July 24, 2002, Wednesday

Copyright 2002 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WORLD; Pg. 16

Length: 318 words

Body

UK

Talks with Sinn Fein

BELFAST: Britain and Sinn Fein yesterday discussed what they could do to prevent Northern Ireland's power-sharing government from unravelling and to stop a wave of sectarian violence in Belfast, largely directed against Catholics. Gerry Adams led a delegation from his *Irish Republican Army*-linked party to Hillsborough Castle outside Belfast for talks with Britain's Northern Ireland Secretary, John Reid.

Rape statistics shock

LONDON: One in 20 women have been raped, mostly by current or former partners, and 167 women in England and Wales were being raped each day, according to a government survey. Researchers found that 45 per cent of rapes were perpetrated by the victim's current partner, compared with 8 per cent by strangers, The Independent daily said.

NZ

Kidnap plot foiled

WELLINGTON: Police said yesterday they had arrested three Englishmen and foiled a plot to kidnap a prominent local businessman and hold him for ransom in an underground bunker. The plot was uncovered after hikers reported seeing the bunker in a forested area outside Wellington. A two-week investigation determined the three suspects were planning to hide their intended victim there, police said.

CANADA

Youth numbers down

TORONTO: Tens of thousands of young Catholic pilgrims began arriving in Toronto yesterday for World Youth Day, a six-day spiritual celebration. Only 195,000 people have registered for the event, a quarter of the number initially projected, placing its success in question. And nearly half of them were from the US (55,000) and Canada (42,000).

ICELAND

Whale meat on sale

No Headline In Original

REYKJAVIK: Whale meat went on sale at Icelandic supermarkets yesterday for the first time in nearly 14 years, as the government said it would eventually resume commercial whaling. The meat on sale at chain store Noatun was part of an initial eight-tonne shipment of minke whale imported under an agreement from Norway.

Load-Date: July 23, 2002

End of Document

No Headline In Original

Sunday Mail (SA)

September 7, 2003 Sunday

Copyright 2003 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: FOREIGN; Pg. 42

Length: 367 words

Body

\$9bn drug ring smashed

LONDON: Police have smashed an international drugs ring and seized more than \$9.8 billion in suspected US bonds. However, it was yet to be established whether the bonds -- found at a house in Surrey -- were authentic.

Ozone hole growing

GENEVA: The "ozone hole" has formed again over the Antarctic and is showing signs of growing to a record size, the UN's weather organisation said yesterday. The so-called "hole" is actually a thinner-than-normal area in the protective layer high up in the earth's atmosphere.

Women unite to block Arnie

LOS ANGELES: Several **women**'s groups were planning to protest yesterday against actor Arnold Schwarzenegger, a Republican candidate for governor of California, for his past remarks about **women**.

The actor said in a 1977 interview with a men's magazine that he took part in group sex and, back in his bodybuilding days, worked hard to get a steady stream of **women** into bed.

Bush 'in pole position'

NEW YORK: Only 38 per cent of Americans think a Democrat can oust President W. Bush from the White House in next year's elections, according to a CNN/Time poll released yesterday.

IRA bombing suspect in court

BELFAST: A man suspected of involvement in Northern Ireland's deadliest bombing was arraigned yesterday on charges of conspiring to detonate a dissident **Irish Republican Army** car bomb and possessing explosive devices used in 13 attacks. Nine police officers escorted a handcuffed Sean Gerard Hoey, 34, into Craigavon Magistrates Court, south-west of Belfast, to hear the 15 charges against him. The unemployed electrician was arrested at his border home Tuesday in an operation involving about 200 helicopter-borne police and British soldiers.

Taliban leader captured

QALAT: Afghan government forces in the southern province of Zabul have captured five fugitive Taliban militants, including an insurgent leader, following a nine-day battle that left scores of rebels dead.

No Headline In Original

More giant panda twins born

BEIJING: China's streak continues. The fourth set of twin giant pandas to be born since the beginning of August at the Giant Panda Nature Reserve in Wolong in western China province of Sichuan, were in good condition yesterday hours after their birth.

Load-Date: September 8, 2003

End of Document

No Headline In Original

Courier Mail (Queensland, Australia)

May 5, 1999, Wednesday

Copyright 1999 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: NEWS; Pg. 19

Length: 310 words

Body

Irish peace hitch

LONDON: Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern has disowned a compromise Ulster peace formula reportedly favoured by Britain. Under the scheme, Belfast would assume governing powers in six months, provided the **Irish Republican Army** surrenders some of its weapons. "It is our determined view that to keep referring it back for six or nine months is not our preferred option or on the agenda at this stage," Mr Ahern said.

QNP

Suicide rate doubles

TOKYO: The number of Tokyo children committing suicide is reported to have nearly doubled last year, reflecting a growing tendency for young people to take their lives. A total of 74 people aged 18 or younger killed themselves in the Japanese capital in 1998, compared with 40 children the previous year, the Yomiuri newspaper said. Forty-five were male and 29 **female**.

Obuchi reassures US

WASHINGTON: Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi yesterday told President Bill Clinton the world's second largest economy is poised to make a "major turnaround". In talks between the two leaders, the President warned that Japan must cut back rising steel shipments to the US. A flood of cheap steel from Japan and other countries has led to layoffs in the US.

Jury orders execution

SANTA ANA: A Californian jury yesterday recommended that former US marine Charles Ng be sentenced to death for the killings of 11 people in a sex-and-torture murder spree in the mid-1980s. Ng, 38, the son of a wealthy Hong Kong businessman, was convicted on February 24 of killing six men, three **women** and two baby boys after luring them to a remote cabin.

Anwar set for trial

KUALA LUMPUR: Former deputy prime minister Anwar Ibrahim will stand trial on June 7 on a charge of sodomy. High Court judge Justice Abdul Wahab Patail has barred the trial's lawyers from talking to the media. Anwar is serving a six-year jail sentence for corruption.

No Headline In Original

Load-Date: March 1, 2002

End of Document

No Headline In Original

Courier Mail (Queensland, Australia)

October 5, 1999, Tuesday

Copyright 1999 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WORLD; Pg. 18

Length: 346 words

Body

Murder trial

LONDON: Britain's biggest multiple murder trial starts today when 53-year-old family doctor Harold Frederick Shipman steps into the dock charged with murdering 15 of his patients. Shipman, who denies the charges, is accused of killing 15 **women**, aged between 49 and 81, to gain their money. They were patients at his one-man practice in the northern England town of Hyde, near Manchester.

Pact stalls

JERUSALEM: Israeli-Palestinian talks on opening a Palestinian passageway through Israel broke up yesterday with no agreement reached but were scheduled to resume today. The access route between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip is one of the planks of last month's landmark Sharm el-Sheikh peace deal.

India poll

NEW DELHI: India's Hindu nationalist-led ruling coalition looks set to return to power after Sunday's final round of the country's month-long elections. Exit polls showed Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee's Bharatiya Janata Party and its allies were ahead of opposition parties led by Sonia Gandhi's Congress grouping. Counting of votes starts tomorrow.

IRA threat

LONDON: Dissidents members of the ***Irish Republican Army*** opposed to the Northern Ireland peace process were planning bomb attacks in London to coincide with the millennium festivities, The Times reported yesterday. The prime target was the much-heralded Millennium Dome especially built in Greenwich, London for the 2000 celebrations and London's main attraction for the millennium celebrations, the report said.

Aide stays

WASHINGTON: Vice-President Al Gore said yesterday his "close friend" Tony Coelho would stay on as his campaign chairman despite a government report finding questionable financial management while Mr Coelho directed the US pavilion at the 1998 world's fair in Portugal.

Turkish blasts

No Headline In Original

ISTANBUL: The Turkish city of Istanbul was rocked by three bomb blasts yesterday, causing minor damage and no casualties, the Anatolia news agency reported yesterday. Unidentified attackers placed bombs at a cafe and a car parked nearby in the city's Esenler district in the European quarter.

Load-Date: March 1, 2002

End of Document

No Headline In Original

Courier Mail (Queensland, Australia)

December 2, 2002, Monday

Copyright 2002 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WORLD; Pg. 15

Length: 378 words

Body

CAMBODIA

Trial plea

PAILIN: Surviving Khmer Rouge leaders have urged the United Nations not to put them on trial for genocide. Instead, they want a Truth and Reconciliation Commission capable of detailing how two million people perished under the regime. Former prime minister Khieu Samphan said yesterday he was prepared to give evidence on the secretive ultra-Maoist regime, headed by Pol Pot, if a truth commission were set up.

US

Rail car hiccup

CAPE CANAVERAL: A rail car crucial to the construction of the international space station stalled on its tracks, but a spacewalking astronaut from the shuttle Endeavour managed to get it moving again. The \$US190 million (\$340 million) stopped, after travelling about 13.5m, 3m short of its destination. After a five-hour interruption, the rail car resumed its trip down the tracks.

SWAZILAND

Judges quit

MBABANE: Six South African judges who make up Swaziland's top judicial body have quit in protest against a government decision to ignore rulings they made to limit the power of King Mswati III. Swaziland, an impoverished kingdom on the border of South Africa, has been rocked by a court challenge to Mswati's authority over the schoolgirl bride he chose to become his 10th wife.

IRELAND

IRA denial

BELFAST: A Sinn Fein leader rejected British media reports yesterday that the ***Irish Republican Army*** was about to make new peace gestures to revive Northern Ireland's Catholic-Protestant administration. Martin McGuinness, the Sinn Fein deputy leader and former IRA commander, said the reports "were unfounded and have no basis in fact".

FRANCE

No Headline In Original

Dumas transfer

PARIS: The remains of author Alexandre Dumas, draped in a blue velvet cloth inscribed with the Musketeers' famous motto -- one for all, all for one -- were transferred yesterday to the Pantheon, the monument in Paris where French luminaries are interred. Although Dumas died 132 years ago, President Jacques Chirac ordered the transfer to acknowledge the author's contribution to French literature and society.

BANGLADESH

Charity toll

DHAKA: At least 47 people, most of them women and children, were killed and hundreds injured in a stampede when thousands of Bangladeshis scrambled for clothes being handed out as charity in Gaibandha, about 190km north of the capital Dhaka.

Load-Date: December 1, 2002

End of Document

No Headline In Original

Courier Mail (Queensland, Australia)

December 11, 2004 Saturday

Copyright 2004 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WORLD; Pg. 24

Length: 503 words

Body

BRITAIN

Disarmament pledge

BELFAST: Breaking months of silence, the *Irish Republican Army* declared yesterday it was willing to get rid of all its weapons this month -- but only if Protestants backed a new power-sharing deal and dropped demands for photographic proof of disarmament. The IRA dismissed the idea of publishing photos of its disarmament as "an act of humiliation. This was never possible."

Record price for cabinet

LONDON: The Badminton Cabinet, one of the finest pieces of furniture in Britain, was sold for pound stg. 19 million (\$48.6 million) to become the most expensive non-pictorial work of art sold at auction, Christie's announced yesterday. It was bought by the Liechtenstein Museum in Vienna and broke its own record price of pound stg. 8.5 million established at Christie's in 1990.

SWEDEN

Noble award for Jagger

STOCKHOLM: Activist Bianca Jagger, pictured, was awarded an honour known as the Alternative Nobel Prize yesterday for her work to promote human rights and social justice. Ms Jagger, who became famous for her eight-year marriage to rock star Mick Jagger, shares the 2004 Right Livelihood Award with two others. Russian human rights and civil liberties lobby group Memorial was also awarded the prize, along with Argentine environmentalist Raul Montenegro, for his work with indigenous people and conservation of natural resources.

GUATEMALA

Massacre payout

GUATEMALA CITY: An international court has ordered Guatemala to pay a record sum of almost \$US8 million (\$10.6 million) in compensation to survivors of a 1982 army-led massacre of hundreds of civilians in the country's Maya Indian heartland. Troops entered the hilltop hamlet of Plan de Sanchez 22 years ago, raping women before herding the villagers into a building and blowing it up.

GHANA

Kufuor re-elected

ACCRA: Incumbent President John Kufuor has been re-elected President of Ghana, according to official results announced by the president of the electoral commission, Kwadwo Afari-Gyan, yesterday. According to official results from 225 of the 230 constituencies in the west African country after Tuesday's polls, Mr Kufuor had a lead of 52.75 per cent over his main opponent John Atta Mills, with 44.32 per cent.

EUROPE

Changing traditions

ROME: An Italian school's substitution of a Nativity play with Little Red Riding Hood so as not to offend Muslim children has raised the Vatican's ire and sparked debate on how much traditions should change to accommodate immigrants. Pope John Paul said Christians had to respect cultural differences but had to proclaim the gospel and defend traditions. Meanwhile, in Britain, a Christmas turkey cheated death after it was won in a raffle by a couple of vegetarians. Bert, weighing a plump 6.8kg, was destined to be carved up as a festive feast on December 25, but instead of joining the other 10 million turkeys killed annually in the run-up to Christmas, Bert escaped to freedom when he was won by vegetarians Ray and Maura Stroud as the mystery prize in a church raffle in Somerton, Somerset.

Load-Date: December 10, 2004

No Headline In Original

Courier Mail (Queensland, Australia)

January 24, 2003, Friday

Copyright 2003 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WORLD; Pg. 14

Length: 516 words

Body

US

Singer arrested

MIAMI: Grammy-award winning R&B star R. Kelly, pictured, was arrested in Miami yesterday on new child pornography charges after investigators said they found 12 photographs of a nude girl in one of his Florida summer homes. Kelly, 36, was already out on bond after an arrest last June on 21 counts of child pornography. Kelly was in south Florida to film a video.

Ecstasy warning

NEW YORK: Harry Potter's image was stamped on Ecstasy pills smuggled to the US to target children as young as 12, police warned yesterday. New York detectives discovered 400,000 of the tablets imprinted with the young wizard's face and pictures of cartoon characters the Smurfs and the Flintstones. Police said the pills were bought in Holland and brought to the US by couriers recruited in the Dominican Republic, Spain and America.

GERMANY

Doctors strike

BERLIN: About 6000 German doctors shut their offices for the day yesterday while others hit the streets in a protest against government plans to reform the public health service. The doctors are protesting against government plans to freeze their charge rates and change the way that payments are made between doctors and insurers. Further strike action is expected next week

BRAZIL

Legend mourned

RIO DE JANEIRO: Eusebia Silva de Oliveira, the grand dame of Brazil's famed Carnival, died yesterday, 75 years after helping establish one of the city's best known samba schools. She was 89. Dona Zica, as she was universally known, helped establish Rio de Janeiro's Mangueira samba school with her husband Agenor Oliveira, the legendary singer-songwriter nicknamed Cartola, in 1928, when she was only 15.

BRITAIN

War journalist

No Headline In Original

LONDON: Barbara Wace, one of the few **female** journalists to cover World War II from the European battlefields, has died. She was 95. Wace died on January 16 in London, her family said. Wace, pictured, went to France in July 1944, a month after the D-Day landings -- a time when news organisations rarely assigned **women** to war reporting. After the war, Wace was a freelance writer and photographer until her 80s, travelling the world.

IRELAND

Omagh action

DUBLIN: Five suspected **Irish Republican Army** dissidents accused of planning Northern Ireland's deadliest bombing will be sued for more than pound stg. 10 million (\$27.5 million) in damages, the victims' legal firm said yesterday. Relatives of the 29 people slain when the Real IRA bombed the town of Omagh on August 15, 1998 have spent years pursuing a civil lawsuit against the five men, who have been identified by anti-terrorist police as the principal planners of the attack.

ISRAEL

Gun runners

JERUSALEM: A ring of Israeli soldiers and civilians is stealing army machine-guns and selling them to the Palestinian Authority, media reports said yesterday. A report on Israel's Channel Two television said eight US-made M60 guns had been stolen over the past month from army bases in Israel to fill orders placed by the Palestinian Authority through Palestinian and Israeli middlemen. Neither the Israeli army nor Palestinian officials had any immediate comment on the allegations.

Load-Date: January 23, 2003

No Headline In Original

The Advertiser

November 27, 1999, Saturday

Copyright 1999 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: FEATURES; Pg. 79

Length: 504 words

Body

1497 Portuguese navigator Vasco Da Gama becomes first to sail around Cape of Good Hope in his search for a sea route to India.

1642 Dutch explorer Abel Tasman sights south-west coast of what is now Tasmania, and names the island Van Diemen's Land after Dutch governor-general who organised his voyage.

1718 English pirate Edward Teach, known as Blackbeard, killed in a battle off the Virginia coast.

1789 Convict James Ruse establishes experimental farm at Rose Hill (Parramatta), NSW.

1859 British naturalist Charles Darwin publishes *On the Origin of Species*, explaining his theory of evolution.

1877 Thomas A. Edison announces invention of the phonograph in United States.

1906 The S-O-S distress signal adopted at the International Radio Telegraphic Convention in Berlin.

1910 Royal Australian Navy created with the passing by Parliament in Melbourne of the Australian Naval Defence Act.

1920 The ***Irish Republican Army*** shoots dead 14 British agents in what becomes known as the country's first Bloody Sunday.

1923 Australia's first radio station, 2SB Sydney, goes on the air.

1928 *Bolero*, by Maurice Ravel, makes its debut in Paris.

1936 Opening of Hume Reservoir on Australia's River Murray.

1947 A group of US writers, producers and directors who become known as the Hollywood Ten are cited for contempt of Congress for refusing to answer questions about alleged communist influence in the movie industry.

1952 Agatha Christie play *The Mousetrap* opens in London.

1954 Death of Australia's most beloved comedian, Roy "Mo" Rene.

1956 Olympic Games open in Melbourne.

No Headline In Original

1963 US president John F. Kennedy is assassinated as he rides in motorcade in Dallas, Texas. Texas governor John B. Connally is seriously wounded. Vice-president Lyndon B. Johnson becomes 36th president. Lee Harvey Oswald, accused assassin of Mr Kennedy, is later shot to death by Jack Ruby in Dallas.

1963 Roman Catholic Vatican Council authorises use of vernacular instead of Latin in Sacraments.

1970 Japanese writer Yukio Mishima leads sword attack on army general's office in Tokyo, then kills himself in traditional harakiri fashion.

1974 21 people are killed and 162 injured in Birmingham, England, when bombs explode in two pubs. The IRA claims responsibility.

1978 Thieves rob Bank of New South Wales at Murwillumbah, NSW, of \$1.7 million.

1990 Margaret Thatcher resigns as prime minister of Britain.

1995 British housewife Rosemary West found guilty of killing 10 women and girls, including her daughter and stepdaughter and sentenced to life in prison for each.

1995 Irish voters decide to legalise divorce, passing a referendum by narrow margin.

1996 Martin Bryant, who gunned down 35 people at Port Arthur in Tasmania, sentenced to life in prison with no chance for parole.

1997 INXS frontman Michael Hutchence, Australia's most successful rock singer, is found dead in a luxury Sydney hotel after hanging himself with his belt from the door.

Load-Date: March 7, 2002

End of Document

No Headline In Original

United Press International

July 29, 1999, Thursday, BC cycle

Copyright 1999 U.P.I.

Section: International

Length: 487 words

Dateline: LONDON, July 29

Body

Prime Minister Tony Blair reshuffled his Cabinet amid accusations that he left controversial top-ranking ministers in place to avoid public friction. Two key figures tipped for the sack, Northern Ireland Secretary Mo Mowlam and Cabinet Office Minister Jack Cunningham kept their jobs today in the second reshuffle since Blair came to power in the Labour Party election win in May 1997. The only major shift was the appointment of a new Welsh secretary in place of Alun Michael, who became first secretary in the National Assembly for Wales. Michael was replaced by Mowlam's deputy at the Northern Ireland Office, Minister for Political Development Paul Murphy. All other appointments filled middle and junior ranks in the government. Foreign Office Minister Tony Lloyd, tainted in an arms-to- Africa scandal in 1997, was replaced by Industry Minister John Battle, but Foreign Secretary Robin Cook kept his job. The scandal centered on allegations that a British company, Sandline International, broke the U.N. arms embargo on Sierra Leone in order to help oust that country's military junta, with the apparent knowledge and approval of the Foreign Office. The story became one of freedom of information and the rights of Parliament as Cook clashed with the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Select Committee over access to documents. Opposition Conservative Party leader William Hague described the changes as a "non-shuffle," accusing Blair of lacking in authority over his senior ministers. "It looks as if he's locked in his Cabinet and John Prescott has thrown away the key," he said.

Cunningham defended the reshuffle. "The prime minister is not going to be driven into making ministerial changes by media hysteria," he said. "When he's made his mind up to do something, he does it." As the reshuffle rumors spread earlier this month, Mowlam and Health Secretary Frank Dobson went public expressing their wish to keep their jobs. Blair's decision to keep Mowlam was denounced by Northern Ireland's Protestant Unionists, who want her out for alleged sympathies with the catholic nationalists. Unionist Jeffrey Donaldson said Blair missed an opportunity "to bring in a new face at a very critical stage" in the peace process under last year's Good Friday agreement. Blair's initiative to form a power-sharing administration in Northern Ireland collapsed when unionists refused to join nationalists unless the ***Irish Republican Army*** handed in its weapons. Two of the government's best-known figures resigned. Oscar-winning actress Glenda Jackson quit as a junior transport minister to join the race for London mayor. Sports Minister Tony Banks becomes a special envoy for England's bid to host the 2006 World Cup. Britain's first black ***female*** minister, Baroness Scotland of Asthal, joined the Foreign Office as a junior minister. ---

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Load-Date: July 30, 1999

No Headline In Original

End of Document

No Headline In Original

St. Petersburg Times (Florida)

May 20, 2001, Sunday, 0 South Pinellas Edition

Copyright 2001 Times Publishing Company

Section: NATIONAL; OBITUARIES; Pg. 17A; OBITUARY

Length: 488 words

Body

ALEXEI MARESYEV, a Soviet war hero and fighter pilot who lost the lower part of both legs in World War II and then returned to combat, died Friday, minutes before a celebration to mark his 85th birthday, aides said. Hundreds of supporters had gathered in a Moscow theater for a tribute to Maresyev when the announcer told them the news. His birthday was to be today but the tribute was scheduled two days earlier.

OBITUARIES20

DR. DONALD E. CAMPBELL, 95, a small-town doctor who made house calls for more than a half-century and was a model for one of Norman Rockwell's most famous paintings, died Monday in Stockbridge, Mass. Rockwell, a neighbor and patient of Dr. Campbell's until his death, used the kindly doctor as a model for several illustrations, including *Before the Shot*, which he painted for the cover of *Saturday Evening Post* magazine in 1958. The only doctor in Stockbridge for decades, he charged \$ 2 for an office visit and \$ 3 for a home visit when he hung out his shingle in 1939. It was no way to get rich, Dr. Campbell said in a 1989 interview, "unless you mean rich in spirit."

SEAN MAC STIOFAIN, 73, a leader in forming the modern ***Irish Republican Army***, died Thursday in Navan, northwest of Dublin, the IRA-linked Sinn Fein party announced. Mr. Mac Stiofain served as chief of staff, the senior post in the Provisional IRA, following its formation in 1970.

RALPH TABAKIN, 79, an actor who played medical examiner Dr. Scheiner on the police drama *Homicide: Life on the Street*, died Sunday in Rockville, Md. He came into his film and television career by accident when he visited the set of director Barry Levinson's first film, *Diner*. Struck by Mr. Tabakin's hangdog look, Levinson gave him a part as a disgruntled appliance store customer who complains about color television.

JASON MILLER, 62, a playwright who won a Pulitzer Prize in 1973 for *That Championship Season*, died Sunday in Scranton, Pa., of a heart attack. He also won a Tony award for the play, and in the same year was nominated for an Oscar for his portrayal of Father Damien Karras in the horror movie *The Exorcist*.

DEBORAH WALLEY, 57, an actor who succeeded Sandra Dee in the first *Gidget* sequel, starred in several of the 1960s beach frolic movies and went on to become a writer and producer aiding children and American Indians, died May 10 in Sedona, Ariz., of esophageal cancer.

MAURO BOLOGNINI, 78, a prolific Italian film director admired for his skill at adapting works by writers, died Monday in Rome. One of his best-known films is the 1960 *Beautiful Anthony*, a commentary on the role of ***women*** in Sicily, starring Marcello Mastroianni and Claudia Cardinale.

ELEANOR AXSON SAYRE, 85, an authority on Spanish artist Francisco Goya and curator emeritus at Boston's Museum of Fine Arts, died Sunday in Cambridge, Mass. She was the granddaughter of President Woodrow Wilson.

No Headline In Original

- Area obituaries and the Suncoast Deaths list appear in local sections.

Load-Date: May 23, 2001

End of Document

No Headline In Original

The Advertiser

March 4, 2000, Saturday

Copyright 2000 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: FEATURES; Pg. 66

Length: 550 words

Body

1525 Cuauhtemoc, the last Aztec emperor, is tortured and executed by Spanish conqueror Hernan Cortes.

1700 South-west Pacific island of New Britain is discovered by English navigator William Dampier.

1784 John Wesley signs the "deed of declaration" formalising the establishment of the Wesleyan faith, or Methodists.

1788 Convicted thief Thomas Barrett becomes first person to be sentenced to death in New South Wales colony.

1804 Three hundred Irish convicts riot at Castle Hill, near Sydney, and march on Parramatta; 15 die the next day in clashes as troops put the riot down.

1815 Napoleon Bonaparte lands in France, forcing King Louis XVIII to flee.

1836 Texas declares its independence from Mexico.

1861 Warsaw Massacre occurs when crowd is fired upon by Russian troops during demonstration against Russian rule.

1867 Cyclone severely damages Townsville and Bowen, North Queensland.

1869 Death of King Billy (William Lanney), last full-blood Aborigine in Tasmania.

1922 The US Supreme Court unanimously upholds the 19th Amendment to the Constitution that guarantees the right of women to vote.

1933 Nazi decree suppresses civil liberties in Germany; the Reichstag, Germany's Parliament building in Berlin, is burnt, and Nazis blame Communists.

1940 Gone With the Wind wins eight Academy Awards, including best picture of 1939.

1946 Ho Chi Minh is elected president of North Vietnam.

1947 Taiwanese rebel against Nationalist forces moving in from mainland China and thousands die in a month-long bloodbath.

1948 The last British troops leave India.

No Headline In Original

- 1959 Work begins on Sydney Opera House.
- 1968 TAA pilots begin 39-day strike in Australia over the operation of DC-9s with only two-pilot crews.
- 1970 Indian-Pacific passenger service makes its first journey across Australia 3961km in 65 hours; nine Australians killed and 29 wounded in incidents at Long Hai hills during Vietnam War.
- 1973 Australia reduces federal voting age from 21 to 18.
- 1976 Eskimo leaders in Canada present government with claim to quarter of a million square miles of land.
- 1980 First election giving black majority full voting powers in Rhodesia (Zimbabwe).
- 1981 **Irish Republican Army** member Bobby Sands begins a hunger strike at the Maze Prison in Northern Ireland. He dies 65 days later.
- 1986 Ousted president Ferdinand Marcos starts life in exile in Hawaii after hurried departure from the Philippines.
- 1988 Bishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa is arrested for demonstrating outside Parliament.
- 1989 Yugoslavia imposes emergency measures in strife-torn southern province Kosovo.
- 1991 In a case that sparks an international outcry, motorist Rodney King is severely beaten by Los Angeles police in a scene captured by an amateur videographer.
- 1992 An IRA bomb explodes at one of London's busiest train stations, injuring 28 people.
- 1993 A 51-day siege begins at Waco, Texas, when four federal agents and six members of the Branch Davidian sect die in a shoot-out.
- 1995 Alan Bond's creditors accept a half cent in the dollar payout to free him from bankruptcy.
- 1996 Paul Keating's Labor Party suffers a massive defeat in Australian elections, ending 13 years of rule.
- 1997 Divorce becomes legal in Ireland.

Load-Date: December 3, 2001

No Headline In Original

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

April 27, 2002 Saturday

SOONER EDITION

Copyright 2002 P.G. Publishing Co.

Section: WORLD,; WORLD BRIEFS

Length: 609 words

Body

WHO TO DISCUSS FOOD CANCER SCARE

GENEVA -- The World Health Organization said yesterday that it plans to hold an urgent meeting to look into the health risks of a probable cancer-causing substance Swedish scientists discovered in potato products and other high carbohydrate foods.

The study, released Wednesday, found that the substance known as acrylamide forms in varying levels when carbohydrates are heated in a certain way, such as by frying potatoes or baking bread. Researchers said the discovery could offer a clue about food-related cancers.

War crimes trial

THE HAGUE, Netherlands -- Yugoslavia's former army commander pleaded innocent yesterday to charges of murdering ethnic Albanians and driving others from Kosovo, claiming he was fighting terrorists in the disputed Serb province.

Gen. Dragoljub Ojdanic, 60, surrendered to the U.N. war crimes tribunal on Thursday, the highest ranking Yugoslav army official to give himself up.

Yugoslavia's Interior Minister Zoran Zivkovic yesterday said another top associate of former President Slobodan Milosevic, Nikola Sainovic, is expected to surrender next week.

Mali Islamic presidential bid

BAMAKO, Mali -- Islamic clerics yesterday ordered Mali's Muslim majority to elect the presidential candidate of a surging new Islamic movement -- shocking many in a moderate nation that has become the West's favored West African democracy.

The clerics asked voters to choose former Primer Minister Ibrahim Boubacar Keita in tomorrow's first-round elections, despite his reputation for high-living, after he agreed to a list of the imams' demands.

Chernobyl anniversary

SLAVUTYCH, Ukraine -- Survivors of the world's worst nuclear disaster held a memorial in the pre-dawn darkness yesterday in the town built to house Chernobyl workers displaced by the accident 16 years ago.

No Headline In Original

Crowds also gathered at churches, cemeteries and public squares across the former Soviet Union for ceremonies that began at 1:23 a.m. -- the time on the clocks at the Chernobyl plant when its No. 4 reactor exploded on April 26, 1986, spewing radiation across Europe and contaminating swaths of then-Soviet Ukraine, Russia and Belarus.

The Ukrainian government says more than 4,000 people involved in the hastily and poorly organized Soviet cleanup effort after the accident have died and that more than 70,000 Ukrainians were disabled by the disaster.

Dog rescued from tanker

HONOLULU -- A dog stranded for 24 days aboard an abandoned tanker was captured and put inside a portable kennel yesterday by the crew of a tugboat.

The Coast Guard had sent the tugboat to prepare to move the tanker away from Johnston Atoll out of concern that it would break open and spill its 60,000 gallons of diesel fuel near the island, which is U.S. territory.

The tanker Insiko had been drifting about in the Pacific, hundreds of miles southwest of Honolulu. Yesterday, it was within 100 miles of Johnston Atoll.

A fire on March 13 disabled the tanker and left it without communications. One crewman died. The rest of the crew was rescued April 2 by the luxury cruise ship Norwegian Star, but The **female** mixed-breed white terrier, named Forgea, was left behind.

Also in the world . . .

France's far-right presidential candidate Jean-Marie Le Pen turned up his anti-immigration rhetoric yesterday, saying France should set up "transit camps" for illegal aliens and even organize a "special train" to ship immigrants to Britain . . . Police in Belfast intercepted a bomb planted in a van yesterday and Protestant politicians warned that Northern Ireland's coalition government could collapse from wider allegations of **Irish Republican Army** violence.

Load-Date: May 8, 2002

End of Document

No Headline In Original

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

August 22, 2001 Wednesday

SOONER EDITION

Copyright 2001 P.G. Publishing Co.

Section: WORLD,; WORLD BRIEFS

Length: 577 words

Body

'MOST WANTED' PEDOPHILE CAUGHT

BANGKOK, Thailand -- A confessed American pedophile who hoped to find work teaching children in Thailand was captured yesterday by FBI agents and Thai police, officials said.

Eric Franklin Rosser, 49, who is among the FBI's ten most-wanted fugitives, was training to be an English language teacher in hopes of landing a job tutoring children in northern Thailand, police said.

Rosser, formerly of Syracuse, N.Y., had returned to Thailand on a fake passport two months ago, police said. Last year he fled Thailand after being charged with possession of child pornography and lewd behavior. He is also wanted in the United States for producing and distributing child pornography.

Officials said Rosser would first be tried in Thailand before any decision was made about his extradition to the United States.

Argentina bailout

WASHINGTON -- Argentina will get \$8 billion in new financing from the International Monetary Fund to help the government convince investors the country can stay solvent.

Argentina will get \$5 billion as soon as the fund's executive board approves the package in early September, the IMF said. The money will be added to a \$14 billion credit line the fund announced in December to boost Argentina's foreign reserves and banking system.

The announcement last night caps months of speculation about whether the IMF will come to the rescue of Argentina, whose struggle to make payments on its \$130 billion debt sent the country's stocks and bonds tumbling and sparked investor concern from Brazil to Spain to the Philippines.

Charles' marriage backed

LONDON -- More Britons now want Prince Charles to marry long-time lover Camilla Parker Bowles than think they should stay apart, an opinion poll shows today.

The ICM poll for the Guardian newspaper suggested Charles's long-running public relations drive to win public acceptance of Camilla was finally paying off.

No Headline In Original

The poll showed 43 percent of Britons thought the heir-to-the-throne and Camilla should become man and wife, while 32 percent were opposed.

This marked a sharp change in public attitude from the days after the death of Charles's former wife, the late Princess Diana, in a Paris car crash in 1997.

IRA members charged

BOGOTA, Colombia -- Colombian authorities yesterday charged three suspected **Irish Republican Army** members with training Marxist rebels and carrying false passports.

Colombia's public prosecutor's office said Niall Terence Connolly, Martin McCauley and James Monaghan can be held in a Colombian jail for 240 days while the state prepares its case against them.

The trio trained the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, the country's largest guerrilla group, to make bombs and other weapons.

Afghan aid workers

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan -- Diplomats from the United States, Germany and Australia returned from Afghanistan yesterday after a failed weeklong effort to meet with eight aid workers jailed by the ruling Taliban for preaching Christianity.

The three diplomats called for the release of their compatriots -- who include two American **women** -- and said they were encouraged that care packages were delivered to the workers, who work for a group called Shelter Now International.

UNITA attack

LUANDA, Angola -- UNITA guerrillas attacked the site of a planned oil refinery, killing nine people, and injuring 14, news reports said yesterday.

The state-owned Sonangol oil company plans to start building a \$5 million refinery.

Load-Date: August 29, 2001

No Headline In Original

The Advertiser

September 30, 2000, Saturday

Copyright 2000 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: MAGAZINE; Pg. M16

Length: 550 words

Body

48 BC Pompey the Great, a leading statesman and general of the Roman Republic, is murdered in Egypt.

1066 William the Conqueror lands at Pevensey, Sussex, and begins the Norman Conquest of England.

1818 The first transfusion using human blood takes place at Guy's Hospital, in London.

1852 French inventor Henri Giffard makes the first flight in a powered airship, cruising with steam power over Paris.

1869 Thousands of businesses are ruined in a Wall Street panic that becomes known as Black Friday, after financiers Jay Gould and James Fisk attempt to corner the gold market.

1907 New Zealand becomes self-governing dominion within British Commonwealth.

1918 Allies launch offensive that eventually succeeds in breaking Germany's Hindenburg Line in World War I.

1923 Martial law is declared in Germany.

1924 Australian parliamentary act rules that women should not be justices of the peace because some cases "are not fit for them to hear".

1932 The Poona Pact between Hindu religious leaders, forced by Mahatma Gandhi's hunger strike, gives new electoral rights to "untouchables".

1941 Over two days, the Germans kill 33,771 Jewish men, women and children in the Babi Yar massacre at a ravine near Kiev in World War II.

1950 United Nations forces recapture Seoul, capital of South Korea.

1963 Australian Prime Minister Sir Robert Menzies receives Aboriginal delegation seeking referendum on racial discrimination.

1964 The Warren Commission issues a report concluding that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in assassinating US President J.F. Kennedy.

1970 Jordan's King Hussein and Palestinian guerilla leaders agree on ceasefire to end week-long "Black September" civil war in Jordan that leaves between 1000 and 5000 dead.

No Headline In Original

1976 American newspaper heiress Patricia Hearst is sentenced to seven years in prison for her part in a 1974 bank robbery.

1980 In West Germany, 13 people are killed and more than 200 injured in a terrorist bomb blast at the Munich beer festival.

1983 Thirty-eight prisoners, most of them **Irish Republican Army** members, escape from the high security Maze prison in Belfast, Northern Ireland; Australia II wins America's Cup yachting series off Newport, Rhode Island, the first US loss in 132 years.

1988 Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson sets a new world record of 9.79 seconds to win the men's 100m sprint gold medal at the Seoul summer Olympics. He is later stripped of the medal for taking drugs.

1994 Russian President Boris Yeltsin visits the White House; In Europe's worst peacetime maritime disaster, 852 people drown when the ferry Estonia sinks en route from Tallinn to Stockholm.

1996 Five children and four adults are killed when a cliff collapses during a school excursion south of Perth.

1997 Earthquakes in central Italy kill 11 people and cause the collapse of the Basilica of St Francis of Assisi.

1998 Two workers at Esso's Longford natural gas production plant near Sale in Victoria die in a massive explosion which cripples the state's gas supplies for weeks.

1999 Oregon teenager Kip Kinkel, who killed his parents and gunned down two classmates at school, abandons an insanity defence and pleads guilty to murder. (He was later sentenced to 112 years without parole.)

Load-Date: December 3, 2001

No Headline In Original

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

February 8, 2000, Tuesday,

SOONER EDITION

Copyright 2000 P.G. Publishing Co.

Section: WORLD,; WORLD BRIEFS

Length: 625 words

Body

Croatian voters choose Mesic

ZAGREB, Croatia - A candidate who pledged to lead Croatia away from its authoritarian past easily won yesterday's presidential runoff to replace the late Franjo Tudjman.

Stipe Mesic, a former member of Yugoslavia's collective presidency, defeated former Communist dissident Drazen Budisa in voting. Tudjman led the country to independence from Yugoslavia in 1991 and ruled until his death Dec. 10. U.S. Ambassador William D. Montgomery came to Mesic's headquarters late yesterday to congratulate him.

With more than 99 percent of the ballots counted, the election commission said Mesic won 56 percent. Budisa had about 44 percent. He acknowledged defeat shortly after polls closed.

The two candidates differed only slightly in the policies they supported during the campaign, leaving voters with a choice based largely on personality and presentation.

Voting took place in more than 7,000 polling stations in the country and 48 in embassies abroad.

IRISH PEACE APPEAL

BELFAST, Northern Ireland - Northern Ireland's most respected Catholic politician appealed yesterday for the **Irish Republican Army** to give up a cache of its most powerful explosives, saying such a gesture was needed to prevent the province's government from collapsing.

John Hume, the leader of the Social Democratic and Labor Party, sought to resolve the crisis that is threatening Northern Ireland's Catholic-Protestant administration after just two months in power.

Hume said the U.S.-brokered peace deal that got the administration formed also created expectations the IRA would start to disarm. The outlawed group has so far refused to do so.

2 killed in Peru jail riot

LIMA, Peru - Jailed Maoist Shining Path rebels demanding better conditions held about 20 police hostage yesterday after a battle in a prison in the Peruvian Andes. Two people were killed.

No Headline In Original

A policeman and a rebel were killed at the high-altitude Yanamayo prison late Sunday in a three-hour clash involving gunfire when security forces tried but failed to rescue the hostages.

Stirring memories of riots in the last two decades that have ended in massacres of rebels, about 300 soldiers and police poured yesterday into the prison grounds, which lie 12,700 feet above sea level.

Sunday's violence at the jail that holds over 300 inmates from Peru's rebel groups -

Shining Path and the Cuban-inspired Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement was the worst at a rebel prison for years.

Serial killer doctor

MANCHESTER, England - Police announced yesterday that they are investigating convicted serial killer Dr. Harold Shipman in connection with 39 other suspicious deaths.

A total of 175 new cases have been opened since Shipman, 54, was found guilty last week of injecting 15 middle-aged and elderly **female** patients with lethal heroin doses between March 1995 and July 1998. Prosecutors said he killed because he enjoyed "exercising the ultimate power of controlling life and death."

The family doctor also was found guilty of forging the \$ 620,000 will of his final victim, Kathleen Grundy, 81, and was sentenced to 15 life sentences, plus four years for forgery.

Also in the world . . .

The Security Council unanimously approved yesterday the strengthening of a U.N. peacekeeping force in civil war-ravaged Sierra Leone from 6,000 troops to 11,100, making it the biggest U.N. field operation . . . Bombs exploded on two buses in southeastern Sri Lanka yesterday, wounding at least 45 passengers and six bystanders . . . Britain's House of Lords yesterday rejected government plans to repeal controversial legislation stopping teachers from airing the view that homosexuality is an acceptable lifestyle . . . Mexico yesterday launched its 2000 census to document the lives of an estimated 100 million people.

Load-Date: February 9, 2000

No Headline In Original

Sunday Mail (Queensland, Australia)

November 23, 2003 Sunday

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Section: FEATURES; Pg. 101

Length: 664 words

Body

Top women

need not fear

WHEN men are leap-frogged by less-qualified and less-experienced women because of misguided notions of gender equality then of course there will be resentment, as Professor Rosemary Hunter (Nov 16) suggests. Only when women get promotion on their individual merits will there be true gender equality. But Di Fingleton wasn't jailed for queue-jumping, she was jailed for threatening to retaliate against a witness, so there is no reason for other women to be nervous unless they have been trying to "make a difference" in a similarly inappropriate manner.

Peter Schaper,

Biggenden.

Negus wrong

on gay claim

GEORGE Negus claims (Nov 16) that only the Koran has any definitive statement on homosexuality. I suggest he read Leviticus 20:13 in the King James version of the Bible: "If a man lie with another man, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination and they shall both be put to death; their blood shall be upon them."

David Boland,

Maryborough.

GEORGE Negus's claim that Emiratis want to die on their roads is wrong. My sister lives in Dubai and prefers to drive there rather than Australia because of the better roads. Negus says there are no pedestrian underpasses on Sheikh Zayed Rd but there is an underpass 200m from my sister's apartment.

Andrew Passmore,

Carool, NSW.

Jim's idea

No Headline In Original

works well

JIM Soorley's suggestion (Nov 16) that retirement villages and nursing homes be co-located with schools is a great idea and it works! Peninsula Palms retirement village is co-located with Mueller College. Several retirement village residents enjoy working voluntarily at the school and interact with the students through school concerts, church services and so on.

Darryl Walsh,

Rothwell.

Change good

for our health

FEDERAL, state and local government elections are coming up. Let us put all governments out into the wilderness to teach them that we need health on top of the agenda. Oppositions be warned: this is your opportunity to get it right.

Audrey Hughes,

Buranda.

No honour

in killings

"HONOUR" killings (Nov 16) have absolutely no redeeming features whether in Palestine, India or any other country. How is a family's honour spared by killing, or having killed, the innocent victim of the attack (a woman, of course)? That this was a mother killing her daughter seems even more horrific and misguided.

Claire Joliffe,

Nambour.

IS THE Palestinian mother who kills her daughter after learning her sons have raped her so dominated by family misogynists that she thinks her sons are not guilty of any sin but the daughter is? How can any mother allow the murder of her daughter for her "sins"?

Don Smith,

Upper Kedron.

Home on

the road

LIKE C. Foley-Butler (Talking Point, Nov 16) we live in a small caravan. We put our name on the housing list December 1997 and are still waiting. My husband, 64, is on a disability pension, has had a major spine surgery and is sometimes confined to bed. We have no toilet facilities and no running hot water. And we are not allowed to stay in any caravan park for more than 16 weeks. Something needs to be done urgently for people who cannot afford private rentals.

Name supplied,

Burleigh.

Murder is wrong, no matter who kills

No Headline In Original

C.D.C. Armstrong accuses Gerry Adams of having a selective memory in his latest book (Nov 16). Armstrong himself has a selective memory as he relates murders committed by the **Irish Republican Army** on British colonists and nothing of the many more murders committed by British colonists and the British Army on Irish people in Northern Ireland. All murders should be condemned.

Ray Rogan,

Karalee.

EVERY terror group must look to the IRA as an example of success with persistence, heartless cruelty and with adequate funding and personnel, in the IRA's case largely from the United States. After September 11 President Bush vowed to fight terrorists "and those who harbour terrorists". A few months earlier, with perfect logic, he could have waged war on IRA supporters in his own land.

Ken Hood,

Clifton.

Load-Date: November 22, 2003

No Headline In Original

St. Petersburg Times (Florida)

January 17, 1999, Sunday, 0 South Pinellas Edition

Copyright 1999 Times Publishing Company

Section: NATIONAL; OBITUARIES; Pg. 10A; OBITUARY

Length: 615 words

Body

JERZY GROTOWSKI, 65, a Polish director who was one of the most important and influential theatrical innovators of his time, died Thursday in Pontedera, Italy. He had leukemia, said director Andre Gregory, a friend. Mr. Grotowski had a profound effect on the art of acting and on the experimental theater movement. He was founder and head of the Polish Laboratory Theater, a teacher and the author of a seminal 1970 book, *Towards a Poor Theater*. In the 1980s, he found a home in America, teaching at Columbia University and, for several years, at the University of California at Irvine. Eventually, he was awarded a "genius" grant from the MacArthur Foundation. In recent years he had been working at his theatrical center in Pontedera.

OBITUARIES

RAYMOND PEYNET, 90, the cartoon illustrator whose drawings of young lovers embodied romance for generations of French, died Thursday at the Plein Ciel Clinic in the Riviera town of Mougins, near Cannes, his family said. His daughter, Annie Peynet, said her father died in his sleep of natural causes. He created his starry-eyed lovers during World War II. They hold hands, kiss and simply embrace in an expression of tender devotion that Annie Peynet said reflected his own happy marriage. He began his career drawing humorous cartoons for French newspapers. He also illustrated books and designed sets for the theater. He designed a series of dolls portraying the women of Paris. Britain's Queen Elizabeth purchased a set on a state visit in 1957. His *Les Amoureux* (the Lovers) were widely used in France to symbolize Valentine's Day; they were emblazoned on scarves, greeting cards, posters, jewelry, a postage stamp and even national lottery tickets sold on Feb. 14. Two museums in Japan and two in France are devoted solely to his work. Three statues of the Lovers were erected in Japan, including one in Hiroshima symbolizing love and peace.

ALDO van EYCK, 80, considered the most important Dutch architect of the 20th century, died Thursday at his home of a heart attack, Amsterdam media reported Friday. Reports did not specify where his home was. His most famous creation was the State Orphanage designed in Amsterdam in 1959. It was credited with smashing all architectural conventions of the time. The simple, village-like structure featured small houses for the children linked by covered plains and walkways.

LEO CHERNE, 86, who helped the United States mobilize for World War II and spent 40 years working on behalf of political refugees, died Tuesday in New York City. In 1946, he helped Gen. Douglas MacArthur decide how to aid Japan's recovery from World War II. He served as a member of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board

No Headline In Original

from 1973 to 1991 and was its chairman under President Gerald Ford. From 1951 to 1991, he was chairman of the International Rescue Committee, a private refugee aid group.

LORD LOWRY, 79, once Northern Ireland's senior judge who in the early 1980s survived an assassination attempt by the **Irish Republican Army**, died Friday in a London hospital. The cause of death was not announced. While serving as lord chief justice, he was the target of an IRA attempt on his life during a visit to Queen's University in Belfast. None of the four bullets fired hit him, but one struck and wounded a professor nearby.

MANFRED KARNOVSKY, 80, a Harvard University biochemist who made important discoveries in the way white blood cells fight bacteria, died Jan. 7 in Cambridge, Mass. He also conducted ground-breaking research into the molecular factors that contribute to sleep.

FRAN HENRY HORN, 90, president of the University of Rhode Island from 1958 to 1967, died Monday in South Kingstown, R.I.

Graphic

BLACK AND WHITE PHOTO; Leo Cherne

Load-Date: January 19, 1999

No Headline In Original

Blacktown Advocate (Australia)

February 26, 2003, Wednesday

Copyright 2003 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Length: 591 words

Body

Peace is the

wish of millions*

TENS of thousands of people can't be wrong.

The Australian public don't want a war.

Why then is John Howard so ready to be bull-headed in committing support to a US-led strike on Iraq?

Do we not have self-determination?

We are an independent nation.

We are not at the beck and call of President Bush.

Perhaps Mr Howard feels we are obliged to support the US because of past alliances, but surely there are better ways to support an ally than by playing along like a puppet on a string.

If President Bush decided to jump off a cliff, then it would surely be our obligation as an ally to point him towards a less destructive path.

The issue of Iraq needs to be given time and serious consideration.

How can such a war be in anyone's best interests if it is the idea of only a few who are particularly closed-minded?

We are not interested in a war, but it doesn't mean we are going to turn our backs on the issue.

Sheer numbers of people around the globe want a peaceful resolution, and we are among them.

John Howard is not acting as though he represents Australia he is acting as though he represents his own persona, his personal whims, and tries to be another 18 or 19 million people in himself.

He will not listen to the Australian public he is not interested in what we think.

As far as political representation goes, we may as well all go jump in the lake.

But the support we cannot receive from our own leader will surely come in our unity with millions of others around the world, even in the US, who will never give up their vision of peace.

No Headline In Original

Think of the children.

They will not want to learn about this war, particularly if we are ultimately misled in our actions.

Tara Veloso, Glenwood

*Letter of the week

Muslims aren't

the only terrorists

IN response to Donna O'Brien's letter (Advocate, February 3).

She writes: "All Muslims aren't terrorists but it seems that all terrorists are Muslims".

Has she never heard of the **Irish Republican Army**, the Ulster Unionists, the Basque separatists, the drug lords of Colombia?

What about those who are not officially called terrorists but fall under the same category: George W Bush and associates.

So, Donna, you see it is not only the Muslims who have terrorists in their midst.

Theo Holla,

Prospect

Wars being waged

all over the world

IN response to Ms O'Brien's letter (Advocate February 12).

I am a nine-year-old girl and I feel insulted.

I find it hard to believe that you think all of the terrorists are Muslim.

Look at the Americans!

What about the Israelis killing men, **women** and children every day.

There are also Jewish and Christian terrorists all over the world.

I lived in the Gulf for three years and they did not force any of our British and Australian friends to cover their heads or their bodies.

They were free to do what they wanted and they loved it there.

They didn't want to go back to their own countries.

You have no idea what it's like over there.

You should be more suspicious of journalists because they don't write the whole truth.

When the Muslim do something wrong, they report it, but when the Americans or Israelis attack or bomb a country, they don't see it as terrorism.

Mariam Shadid,

No Headline In Original

Kings Langley

Hard decisions

have to be made

TO Mrs Shadid (Advocate, February 19), how dare you refer to our Prime Minister as "Howard the coward".

As the elected leader of our country, he has to make hard decisions.

Iraq is one of them.

Thank God we've got him.

Ms Shadid comes across as a whingeing Labor supporter.

Like I say to many people: if you don't like it here, leave.

Gail Marsh,

Riverstone

Load-Date: February 25, 2003

End of Document

No Headline In Original

The Advertiser

August 16, 2003 Saturday

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Section: MAGAZINE; Pg. W08

Length: 661 words

Body

1. What is the first line of the British national anthem?
2. What is the singular of dice?
3. Television compere Ray Martin was born in which Australian state?
4. Name the Australian golfer who once said: "I owe a lot to my parents, especially my mother and father."
5. Which Pacific territory of France has about 25 per cent of the world's nickel resources?
6. What is podagra?
7. Unscramble these letters to name an Adelaide suburb - YNUEL.
8. Who is Premier of New South Wales?
9. Who played Grace Sullivan in the Australian television series The Sullivans ?
10. Which is the largest castle in England?
11. Name the first Japanese car to win Wheels Car of the Year.
12. In Judaism, name the ceremony and feast which mark a 13-year-old boy's birthday.
13. What is the political arm of the ***Irish Republican Army***?
14. What was the name of the Cisco Kid's jovial sidekick?
15. Name the Norwegian freighter that picked up boat people heading for Australia in 2001.
16. Proverbially, what can't you tell by its cover?
17. Safar is which month of the Muslim calendar?
18. What is 35 per cent of \$35?
19. What does dicephalous mean?
20. Name the sport invented by James Naismith in Massachusetts in 1891.

No Headline In Original

21. Who wrote the play Dimboola ?
22. What is an ossuary?
23. **Female** singer Bjork comes from which country?
24. How old was US comedian-actor George Burns when he died in 1996?
25. Lake Frome is a salt flat in which Australian state?
26. What does the expression "go the whole hog" mean?
27. Who compered the Australian television game show Video Village in the 1960s?
28. What name is given to the 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter Saturday?
29. Ireland was neutral in World War II - true or false?
30. What is the middle name of US golfer Jack Nicklaus?
31. What is the capital of the European republic of Albania?
32. Name the next Harry Potter film.
33. What is a petroglyph?
34. Money saved as the basis of a fund or for emergencies is what kind of egg?
35. The Jumbo Prince is a nickname of which former Sturt footballer?
36. Which Australian state is "The Place to Be"?
37. Who wrote the autobiography Flaws in the Glass ?
38. Where in Japan
were the Winter Olympic
Games held in 1998?
39. In classical mythology, who was the Muse of comedy?
40. What was US actor John Wayne's last film?
41. Albion Park is a racecourse in which Australian capital city?
42. In 1998, who became the first Italian since 1965 to win the Tour de France cycling race?
43. Green, loggerhead and hawk's bill are all species of what?
44. What does preternatural mean?
45. Name the film in which Mel Gibson plays a man with a supernatural ability to hear what **women** are really thinking.
46. What does the colloquial expression "bib and tucker" mean?
47. Li Kashing is which continent's richest person?

No Headline In Original

48. What does the Italian verb "sedere" mean?

49. How many moons has the planet Mercury?

50. What is the highest mountain in Britain?

Answers on Page 12

Brainwaves

1. God save our gracious Queen. 2. Die. 3. Tasmania. 4. Greg Norman. 5. New Caledonia. 6. Gout in the foot. 7. Unley. 8. Bob Carr. 9. Lorraine Bayly. 10. Windsor Castle. 11. Honda Accord. 12. Bar mitzvah. 13. Sinn Fein. 14. Pancho. 15. Tampa. 16. A book. 17. Second. 18. \$12.25. 19. Having two heads. 20. Basketball. 21. Jack Hibberd. 22. A place or receptacle for the bones of the dead. 23. Iceland. 24. 100. 25. SA. 26. To do something completely and thoroughly; to commit oneself unreservedly to a course of action. 27. Danny Webb. 28. Lent. 29. True. 30. William. 31. Tirana. 32. Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban. 33. A drawing or carving on rock made by prehistoric or primitive people. 34. Nest. 35. Rick Davies. 36. Victoria. 37. Patrick White. 38. Nagano. 39. Thalia. 40. The Shootist. 41. Brisbane. 42. Marco Pantini. 43. Turtle. 44. Out of the ordinary course of nature; abnormal. 45. What Women Want. 46. Clothes, especially one's best. 47. Asia's. 48. To sit. 49. None. 50. Ben Nevis (in Scotland).

Load-Date: August 15, 2003

End of Document

Names in the News

The Associated Press

May 6, 1999, Thursday, PM cycle

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Section: Domestic News

Length: 660 words

Dateline: NEW YORK

Body

Hugh Downs, ABC's longtime host of "20/20," says he's stepping down from the newsmagazine in September.

Downs, 78, who has been with the program since its second week in 1978, said Wednesday he wants to pursue opportunities in new media.

"This fast-moving cybernetic age holds such challenge and opportunity that I now find it irresistible," he said.

The Akron, Ohio, native began working at NBC after serving in the Army during World War II. The Guinness Book of Records certified him in 1985 as having logged the most hours on network commercial television.

"There is a reason for that," said ABC News Chairman Roone Arledge. "His warmth, intelligence and his common sense have endeared him to generations of viewers."

The anchor lineup for next season's "20/20" will be announced later this month.

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP) - A jury awarded Priscilla Presley \$ 1.74 million in damages against film producers and publicists who used her name to promote a proposed film based on an unauthorized biography.

"I have always done everything in my power to protect my name, and I am willing to continue to do so in the future if that's what's necessary," Miss Presley said.

The court entered the judgment Monday after a nine-day trial that ended April 6.

Miss Presley sued Bud Grant, Lee Solters, Robert Burge, Third Coast Entertainment Inc., 3rd Coast Entertainment Inc. and The Lee Solters Co. over a press release and other publicity claiming she had been asked to consult on a film based on the biography.

Stanley Stone, who represents the defendants, wouldn't comment.

Miss Presley, who was married to singer Elvis Presley, also sued Currie Grant, one of the primary sources for the biography, "Child Bride," and obtained a defamation judgment against him last year.

Names in the News

JUPITER, Fla. (AP) - One last performance at the Burt Reynolds Dinner Theater brought out 200 people to bid on Reynolds' memorabilia.

The six-hour auction Tuesday raised "a drawer full of money" for the theater's new owners, Christ's Church of the Palm Beaches, music director D. Cooper Getschal said.

One hotly contested item was a photo of Reynolds and some of the Rat Pack - Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Sammy Davis Jr., and Reynolds sidekick Dom DeLuise.

Michael Galvin of Palm Beach Gardens won the bidding with \$ 2,250.

"It's so unusual to find all these signatures together," Galvin said. "The Dean Martin line is a classic."

But too profane to repeat here.

"We had to get rid of it," said Chelly Templeton, the church's children's program director. "We couldn't put it in the church, not even in the coffee house."

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Radio host Laura Schlessinger is bringing her tough-love to daytime television.

An hour-long show offering Ms. Schlessinger's "unique insights into today's issues and problems" will begin a syndicated run in fall 2000, Paramount Domestic Television announced Wednesday.

She is "thrilled" to be able to explore ethical and moral issues on TV, Ms. Schlessinger said.

"The Dr. Laura Schlessinger Program" airs on more than 450 North American radio stations. Her books include "Ten Stupid Things Women Do to Mess Up Their Lives."

OMAGH, Northern Ireland (AP) - Prince Charles returned to Omagh to support the rebuilding of the town and encourage victims of last summer's bombing, the worst atrocity in the province's long sectarian conflict.

"You set a wonderful example to many other communities, not only in Northern Ireland but in other parts of the world who also have suffered so traumatically," the prince told a crowd Wednesday.

He had visited Omagh three days after the Aug. 15 bombing by Irish Republican Army dissidents, which killed 29 and injured 370.

"I was determined to come back today to see how all of you were faring after all the terrible things you have had to go through," he said.

"I found him a very nice person. He does care and was a sympathetic listener," said Marion Radford, who was injured in the bombing and whose 16-year-old son was killed.

Load-Date: May 6, 1999

No Headline In Original

Associated Press International

November 1, 2001 Thursday

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Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Length: 753 words

Byline: SHAWN POGATCHNIK; Associated Press Writer

Dateline: BELFAST, Northern Ireland

Body

Efforts to sustain Northern Ireland's Catholic-Protestant government went down to the wire Thursday, as a few Protestant lawmakers wielded the power to decide whether the coalition at the heart of the peace process continues or collapses.

David Trimble appealed for all his Ulster Unionist Party lawmakers to back his re-election as government leader in a long-postponed vote expected Friday. Trimble's victory or defeat in the 108-seat legislature could depend on a single vote.

Two Ulster Unionists critical of the peace process warned they could vote against their party leader, denying him the required majority of Protestant support. This would force Britain to suspend or dissolve the leaderless government, throwing wider peacemaking efforts into disarray, just a week after a breakthrough on *Irish Republican Army* disarmament.

"It's just too close to call," said Robin Wilson, who directs Northern Ireland's only political think tank, Democratic Dialogue.

An opinion poll published Thursday indicated majority public support for Trimble's return to power. About 56 percent of Catholics and 52 percent of Protestants polled said they wanted lawmakers to reinstall Trimble as "first minister," the top post in the four-party government. The poll published in the Belfast Telegraph newspaper had an error margin of 3 percent.

Trimble resigned in July in protest at the IRA's refusal to scrap weapons as the 1998 peace accord and subsequent agreements envisioned. Britain had twice used legal maneuvers to postpone the make-or-break vote to fill Trimble's post, knowing that Protestants would reject any candidate unless the IRA moved.

Last week, disarmament officials announced that the IRA had disposed of an unspecified amount of its weaponry in a secret ceremony. Trimble welcomed the move and pledged to resume work in a 12-member Cabinet that includes two members of Sinn Fein, the IRA-linked party.

But Protestant suspicion of the Sinn Fein-IRA movement remains high. To win re-election, Trimble must receive a majority of votes from both the British Protestant and Irish Catholic sides of the 3-year-old legislature, bedrock of the peace accord.

No Headline In Original

While sufficient Catholic support is guaranteed, the arithmetic in the 58-member Protestant bloc appears nail-bitingly close.

Twenty-eight Protestants led by Democratic Unionist Party leader Ian Paisley said they would vote no, while 28 others - 26 Ulster Unionists and two politicians linked to an outlawed Protestant group, the Ulster Volunteer Force - were likely to vote yes.

But crucially, two other Ulster Unionists, Pauline Armitage and Peter Weir, said they could side with the "no" camp against their party leader. Armitage said Thursday she definitely would not vote for Trimble, while Weir declined comment. Trimble would lose if both abstained and the Protestant vote split 28-28.

"Trimble has to win. A tie is a loss," Wilson said. "He needs 30 or possibly only 29 votes as things stand. He doesn't seem to have them."

Britain could postpone the vote by temporarily stripping power from local hands. Twice before this maneuver has allowed the deadline to fill Trimble's post to be delayed by six weeks.

But Britain's secretary of state for Northern Ireland, John Reid, remained a diplomatic silence Thursday as Trimble scrambled for votes.

A tiny feminist party, the Women's Coalition, mounted a last-minute effort to have one of its two lawmakers transferred into the Protestant voting bloc.

The Women's Coalition - currently registered in neither tribal voting bloc, because it seeks votes from both sides of the community - wants to give Trimble the margin of victory he needs. Its Catholic lawmaker would join the Catholic bloc, its Protestant lawmaker the Protestant bloc.

But the Democratic Unionists said the legislature's rules require a 30-day notice for lawmakers to shift allegiances, and vowed to sue if Britain permitted the feminists to reclassify themselves as Protestants.

Both the Democratic Unionists and Sinn Fein want Britain to dissolve the legislature and call a new election if Trimble loses the vote. Both parties are the minority Protestant and Catholic parties, respectively, in the government but expect to outpoll their moderate rivals in the next election.

That could render the formation of any future power-sharing government impossible, because the Democratic Unionists refuse to cooperate with Sinn Fein in any circumstances.

Instead, Britain could opt to resume direct control indefinitely in hopes that Trimble could win a future vote.

Load-Date: November 1, 2001

No Headline In Original

Courier Mail (Queensland, Australia)

July 14, 1999, Wednesday

Copyright 1999 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: NEWS; Pg. 20

Length: 806 words

Body

Ulster races to

meet deadline

BELFAST: Efforts to save Northern Ireland's ailing peace pact move from the streets of the troubled British province to the corridors of power today as politicians race to beat tomorrow's deadline for a final settlement. Northern Ireland's rival factions gave their leaders an example to follow by peacefully marking its most contentious day of the calendar _ Monday's annual mass marches that celebrate centuries-old Protestant military victories over Catholics. Britain's Government will try to rush a Bill through the House of Commons today that seeks to break the deadlock by addressing the issue of guerrilla disarmament and get the province's political institutions up and running by Sunday. The move is a high-stakes gamble by Prime Minister Tony Blair finally to implement the much heralded peace accord and end three decades of struggle by Republican guerrillas against British rule. The Bill allows leaders of Northern Ireland's majority Protestant community to go ahead with a planned all-party regional government without the nationalist Sinn Fein party if its ***Irish Republican Army*** wing fails to hand over its guns. But Unionist leaders said they were still unhappy with the proposal and planned to table amendments today. Sinn Fein, in return, has accused Mr Blair of pandering to the unionists. Today will be another day of intense talks between London, Dublin and Washington. Mr Blair briefed US President Bill Clinton by phone yesterday and also consulted Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern, his close partner in the stalled peace process.

QNPNUkes waste on way

PARIS: A shipment of recycled nuclear waste to fuel Japanese power stations began its journey yesterday after a French court barred Greenpeace from interfering with the load. The uranium and plutonium fuel known as MOX left the reprocessing plant at La Hague, on the tip of the northern Cotentin peninsula, under heavy police escort. It headed for the rail terminal at nearby Armanville, to be loaded on to a train for the port of Cherbourg and eventually transferred to a specially equipped container vessel for Japan.

Boy survives massacre

ATLANTA: Seven people were found shot to death in an Atlanta home yesterday after an 11-year-old boy who was wounded in the attack fled from the closet where he had been hiding for hours. The motive for the fatal shootings of three adults and four children was unclear, but police were investigating whether one person killed the others and himself. Neighbour Georgia Hall said the boy, whom she identified as Antonio Briskey, told her his stepfather had shot everyone in the house. Family members and neighbours said the dead included a woman, her sister and four of their children.

Syria to return spy's body

No Headline In Original

JERUSALEM: Syria had agreed to return the body of an Israeli spy, Eli Cohen, who was executed by hanging more than 30 years ago in a Damascus public square, Cohen's brother said yesterday. Maurice Cohen said on Israeli radio that the official biographer of Syrian President Hafez el-Assad, Patrick Seale, told him of the Syrian leader's willingness to return his brother's remains. Israel has acknowledged that Cohen was a Mossad spy. Peace negotiations between Israel and Syria are expected to resume in coming months after the election in Israel of a dovish government headed by Labor Party leader Ehud Barak. Rebels end offensive

BOGOTA: Colombian rebels appeared to have ended their biggest and bloodiest offensive in years, but continued to harass government soldiers and disrupt life in this South American nation. Hours after the army proclaimed victory, guerrillas of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) were still maintaining roadblocks, reporters said. The guerrilla offensive came just days before peace talks scheduled for July 20 between the Government and the FARC, the nation's biggest guerrilla group which has waged a 40-year-old insurgency.

Flash floods kill two

LOS ANGELES: Flash flood waters swept boulders through homes and cars in this Southern California mountain hamlet of Forest Falls yesterday, killing two people and injuring four. Bulldozers were snaking a path yesterday through the vacation community of 3500 but some residents still could not drive out of the area, which was awash in debris that included giant pine trees, wreckage of vehicles and propane tanks.

Three strikes means death

NEW YORK: A former postal worker yesterday became the first person to be sentenced to death under the "serial killer" provision of New York's death penalty law. Robert Shulman, 45, was convicted in March of bludgeoning three women to death. A judge sentenced him under a provision in the 1995 death penalty law that calls for the execution of someone who kills three or more people within a two-year period as part of a common plan or in a similar fashion.

Load-Date: March 1, 2002

Congo peace hopes

Financial Times (London, England)

August 20, 2001 Monday

London Edition 1

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Section: FT GUIDE TO THE WEEK ; Pg. 38

Length: 1136 words

Byline: By ROGER BEALE - COMPILER

Body

Talks are planned in Gaborone, Botswana, between representatives of the Congolese Liberation Front and the government of the Democratic Republic of Congo. The government and rebel factions will be represented by 14 delegates who will discuss prospects of rebuilding the country after 2 1/2 years of civil war. The initial aim is to set a date for peace talks. Ketumile Masire, former president of Botswana, will act as a mediator.

Caviar is off

A freeze on fishing for sturgeon in the Caspian Sea takes effect and will be maintained until the end of the year. Three of the five countries bordering the sea, Kazakhstan, Russia and Azerbaijan, have agreed the freeze to try to preserve stocks and allow more of the fish to reach maturity. Caviar can sell for Dollars 3,000 a kilo and the Caspian Environmental Programme estimates that 15 tonnes of sturgeon are poached for each tonne legally caught.

Conservative vote

Britain's opposition Conservative party ballots members in the election for party leader. The two contenders are Kenneth Clarke and Iain Duncan Smith. The ballot papers have to be returned by September 11, with the winner likely to be announced the following day.

Bhutan problem

Ministers from Nepal and Bhutan will meet in Thimpu, Bhutan, to discuss the situation of Bhutanese refugees. About 100,000 Bhutanese refugees are believed to be in camps in Nepal, where they have lived since the early 1990s. There are conflicting reports as to whether they were forced from their homes or left of their own free will.

Changing climes

Experts and researchers from around the world meet at Utrecht University in the Netherlands for a conference on climate change. They are expected to focus on new research and new political developments following the agreement of the Kyoto protocol by all signatories except the US. Also in the Netherlands, the executive of the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research holds its annual meeting in Amsterdam (to August 24) in preparation for next week's Antarctic Biology Symposium.

Congo peace hopes

Annan's travels

Kofi Annan, the United Nations secretary-general, starts an official two-day visit to Norway, later travelling to Sweden and Austria before opening the world conference on racism in Durban on August 31.

Holidays

Argentina, Hungary.

TUESDAY 21

Voyage of Discovery

The space shuttle Discovery OV-103 is due to land at Kennedy Space Centre after an 11-day mission to the International Space Centre (ISS). The mission replaced three crew at the centre with new members.

FOMC meets

The US Federal Reserve's open market committee meets. Alan Greenspan, its chairman, is widely expected to order a cut in interest rates.

Test treaty talks

A preparatory commission meeting on the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty is held in Vienna.

WEDNESDAY 22

Colombian decision

The Colombian public prosecutor is due to make a decision on whether or not to try three alleged members of the **Irish Republican Army** thought to have been training with Colombia's Marxist rebel group, the Farc.

Russian rockets

A Russian Soyuz rocket carrying a Progress M-45 space ferry is scheduled for launch from the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. A Proton-K is due to lift off with a Kosmos military satellite some time in August, also from Baikonur.

Vietnamese visitor

Tran Duc Luong, the Vietnamese president, visits South Korea at the invitation of the South Korean president, Kim Dae Jung. While relations are warm between the two countries, the involvement of large numbers of South Korean troops in the Vietnam war in the late 1960s is still a delicate subject.

Women's challenge

"Challenges and Opportunities for Asia-Pacific **Women** in the Process of Economic Globalisation" is the theme of the 2001 Apec **Women** Leaders' Network meeting in Beijing (to August 25). The meeting brings together **women** professionals and entrepreneurs, particularly from small to medium-sized enterprises.

Defending Africa

African defence officials and military contractors gather in Johannesburg for the annual African Defence summit.

Asian meetings

Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, president of the Philippines, is due to visit Brunei and Singapore, two of her country's partners in the Association of SouthEast Asian Nations, for introductory meetings with their leaders, following her

Congo peace hopes

takeover of the presidency from the disgraced Joseph Estrada. Simultaneously, Megawati Sukarnoputri, who replaced Abdurrahman Wahid as president of Indonesia in July, begins a tour of south-east Asia as an introduction to leaders of other nations in Asean. The former vice-president is expected to visit the Philippines, then Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, Myanmar, Brunei and Singapore.

THURSDAY 23

US visit to Beijing

A US delegation is expected to travel to Beijing for meetings with the Chinese government over arms non-proliferation following claims that China had supplied technology and hardware to Pakistan. China is likely to use the opportunity to negotiate reparations for the EP-3E spy aircraft incident earlier in the year. It has asked for Dollars 1m.

Slavery remembered

The United Nations has designated today an international day for the remembrance of the slave trade and its abolition. A world conference against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance begins in Durban on August 31.

EAC revival

Details for the revival of the East African Community's legislative assembly and court, due to be inaugurated on November 30, will be agreed when the council of ministers of the community meets in Arusha, Tanzania. The EAC itself was resurrected last year and formally launched on January 15 after being dissolved owing to policy differences in 1977. It comprises Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.

Holiday

Mauritius.

FRIDAY 24

Schroder's return

Gerhard Schroder, the German chancellor, concludes his summer journey around the former East Germany and border areas in Poland and the Czech Republic.

Making a splash

Britain's Portsmouth naval base hosts the International Festival of the Sea, featuring 30 sailing ships and 50 naval vessels. Organisers promise an armada of sailing ships and hundreds of classic boats and 12 hours of non-stop entertainment every day including thousands of musicians and performers (to August 27).

Holiday

Ukraine.

SUNDAY 26

European reality

Helmut Kohl, the former German chancellor, Wolfgang Schuessel, Austrian chancellor, EU commissioner Franz Fischler, the prime ministers of Hungary and the Czech Republic and the foreign ministers of Austria, Poland, Belgium, Slovenia and Greece are scheduled speakers at a three-day political symposium entitled "Europe - Vision and Reality" that starts in Alpbach.

Congo peace hopes

Schroder's Latin tour

Gerhard Schroder, the German chancellor, departs on an official trip to Mexico, Brazil and Argentina. Compiled by Roger Beale Fax 44 20 7873 3196

Load-Date: August 19, 2001

End of Document

No Headline In Original

Associated Press International

August 1, 2002 Thursday

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Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Length: 1295 words

Body

WORLD at 0100 GMT:

Developing: ISRAEL-PALESTINIANS: Israel tanks, troops enter West Bank city of Nablus.

Developing: UN-IRAQ. Iraq invites chief U.N. weapons inspector to Baghdad for talks

Update: MEXICO-POPE. Pope ends trip by urging more respect of Mexico's Indians.

New: ASEAN-CONTEMPLATING TERRORISM. Terrorism talk dominates Asian meeting.

New: AFGHAN-WATCHING AND TALKING. U.S. troops search for evidence of enemy.

New: GREECE-TERRORISM. Police arrest latest November 17 terror suspect.

New: BURUNDI-FIGHTING. Residents say more than 24 civilians killed in army offensive.

New: URUGUAY-ECONOMY. Looters raid shops as 'bank holiday' continues.

New: US-CONGRESS-TRADE. U.S. legislators pass international trade package.

ISRAEL-PALESTINIANS: Israeli tanks move into Nablus; Israel moves to expel attackers' relatives

JERUSALEM - Scores of Israeli tanks surge into the West Bank city of Nablus early Friday morning after about 150 armored vehicles move into the West Bank city after midnight. One Palestinian is killed after trading gunfire with soldiers, witnesses say. ISRAEL-PALESTINIANS. Developing. By Mark Lavie.

ALSO MOVED:

-ISRAEL-US STUDENTS. JERUSALEM - American university students in Israel say they won't be driven away. By Yoav Appel. AP Photos JRL101,105,115,117; XVG102.

-UN-ISRAEL-PALESTINIANS. UNITED NATIONS - There is no evidence of a massacre at Jenin, a U.N. report says. Recap expected by 0200 GMT. By Edith M. Lederer.

-MIDEAST-AMERICANS KILLED. SAN DIEGO - California family had feared for their daughter's safety. By Michelle Morgante. AP Photos GO101-103.

UN-IRAQ: Iraq invites chief U.N. weapons inspector to Baghdad for technical talks

UNITED NATIONS - In a surprise move, Iraq invites the chief U.N. weapons inspector to Baghdad for technical talks it said could lead to a return of inspectors after nearly four years. UN-IRAQ. Developing. By Edith M. Lederer.

No Headline In Original

ALSO MOVED:

-US-IRAQ. WASHINGTON - A post-Saddam Iraq could fall into chaos if nations aren't prepared to take an active role in rebuilding it, Iraq analysts say. By Ken Guggenheim.

OLYMPICS: Man accused in Olympics fix may have talked to six judges

VENICE, Italy - The reputed Russian mobster charged with fixing two Olympic figure skating contests is on tape saying six judges may be involved, Italian police say, releasing details from their investigation of the worst scandal in Olympics history. ITALY-OLYMPICS-ARREST. Recap expected by 0200 GMT. By Andrew Dampf. AP Photos MES101-102,202.

ALSO MOVED:

-ITALY-OLYMPICS-ACCUSED MOBSTER. ROME - Is the suspect mobster or braggart? By Tom Rachman.

-ITALY-OLYMPICS-ANGRY SKATERS. ROME - Two Italian bronze medalists call the Salt Lake games a "dirty" competition. By Roxana M. Popescu.

-ITALY-OLYMPICS-TRANSCRIPT-BOX. VENICE, Italy - Excerpts from Italian police transcripts of alleged conversations on Olympics fixing.

POPE: Pope ends 11-day trip trying to win Indians back to Catholic Church

MEXICO CITY - Greeting his followers in the Zapotec language, Pope John Paul II wraps up an 11-day pilgrimage by reaching out Mexico's Indians and urging the faithful to treat native Americans with greater respect. MEXICO-POPE. Lead has moved. By Niko Price. AP Photos MJM101-2; MO104.

URUGUAY: Looters raid shops and unions protest as 'bank holiday' continues

MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay - Looters raid supermarkets and small shops in a poor district of Uruguay's capital as unions protest a government decision closing the country's banks for most of the week. URUGUAY-ECONOMY. Lead has moved. By Raul Garces. AP Photo MVD5.

WASHINGTON - Congress gives the president the power to negotiate international trade agreements, passing legislation that also helps workers hurt by the economic fallout from global commerce. US-CONGRESS-TRADE. Lead has moved. By Jim Abrams.

ASEAN: Southeast Asia wants to talk economics, but terrorism keeps coming up

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, Brunei - Despite valiant attempts to discuss money, terrorism was the prevailing topic at the Association of Southeast Asian Nations meeting this week. ASEAN-CONTEMPLATING TERRORISM. Has moved. By Ted Anthony. AP Photos BSB134,135,138.

ALSO:

-INDONESIA-TERROR. JAKARTA, Indonesia - U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell meets with President Megawati Sukarnoputri on Friday. Developing. By Steven Gutkin.

-POWELL-ASIA. JAKARTA, Indonesia - Shunning talks with North Korea could prove a costly mistake, Powell says. Has moved. By George Gedda.

-ASEAN-AIDS-MILITARY. BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, Brunei - AIDS could imperil the security and sovereignty of Asian nations, officials warn. Has moved. By Jim Gomez.

AFGHANISTAN: U.S. troops search for evidence of enemy in Afghan villages

QIQAY, Afghanistan - In the search for al-Qaida, coalition soldiers spend long days gathering information - and trying to build trust. AFGHAN-WATCHING AND TALKING. Expected by 0200 GMT. By Tanalee Smith. AP Photos NY190-192.

ALSO MOVED:

-AFGHAN-VILLAGE ATTACKED. KABUL, Afghanistan - Afghan officials say a U.S. helicopter attacked a village south of the capital, killing a civilian. The U.S. military denies the report.

No Headline In Original

-AFGHAN-TENSE ALLIES. NEW YORK - Al-Qaida operatives had an often tense relationship with their Taliban hosts, The Asian Wall Street Journal reports Friday. Expected by 0200 GMT.

GREECE-TERRORISM: police arrest latest terror suspect accused of diplomat slayings

ATHENS, Greece - Police strike again at Greece's most notorious terrorist group with the arrest of an alleged gunman accused of killing Turkish diplomats and a Greek banker. GREECE-TERRORISM. Lead has moved. By Brian Murphy.

TURKEY-POLITICS: Turkish parliamentary committee approves EU-oriented reforms

ANKARA, Turkey - A parliamentary committee approves a long-awaited package of reforms designed to steer Turkey closer to the European Union. TURKEY-POLITICS. Lead has moved. By Louis Meixler. AP Photos ANK101,104,105.

NORTHERN IRELAND: Construction worker killed by suspected dissident IRA bomb

LONDONDERRY, Northern Ireland - Police and politicians accuse ***Irish Republican Army*** dissidents of killing a Protestant construction worker with a booby-trap bomb, the first fatal attack linked to them in four years. NORTHERN IRELAND. Lead has moved. By Shawn Pogatchnik. AP Photo XBFT101-102.

BURUNDI: Residents say more than 24 civilians killed in Burundian army offensive

BUJUMBURA, Burundi - Two army offensives just outside Burundi's capital leave 24 civilians dead, among them old ***women*** and small children, survivors say. BURUNDI-FIGHTING. Has moved. By Aloys Niyoyita.

NIAMEY, Niger - Disgruntled soldiers in Niger launch a mutiny to protest months of unpaid salaries and demand better working conditions, seizing a radio station and arresting senior officials in the region, the defense minister says. NIGER-MUTINY. Lead has moved. By Dalatou Mamane.

NEW YORK - Two former WorldCom executives are arrested on charges of falsifying the books by dlrs 3.8 billion at the now-bankrupt long-distance company. US-WORLDCOM. Lead has moved. By Tom Hays. AP Photos XNYR201-206, WX106-107. AP Graphic WORLDCOM ARRESTS.

WALL STREET: Disappointing earnings, economic data drive U.S. stocks sharply lower

NEW YORK - A string of reminders that the economy is still struggling as well as disappointing earnings at Exxon Mobil irks investors and pushes stocks sharply lower. US-CLOSING STOCKS. Has moved. By Amy Baldwin.

LOOKING AHEAD: U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell visits the Philippines on Saturday. On Sunday, Boliva's Congress chooses between two candidates for president.

YOUR QUERIES: The World Service editors in charge are Jean H. Lee and Eileen McNamara. Requests to The Associated Press World Service are welcome. Contact your local AP bureau or the AP International Desk in New York, by telephone: (1) 212-621-1650, fax: (1) 212-621-5449, e-mail: worldnews@ap.org.

Load-Date: August 2, 2002

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Associated Press International

July 17, 2002 Wednesday

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Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Length: 1322 words

Body

WORLD at 0100 GMT:

Update: ISRAEL-PALESTINIANS. Double suicide attack in Tel Aviv kills three.

Update: SPAIN-MOROCCO. Spanish soldiers seize island from Moroccan soldiers.

Update: PARAGUAY-PROTESTS. Hundreds of protesters released from detention.

New: MEXICO-FOX. Investigators find evidence foreign funds marked for Fox campaign.

New: VIETNAM-CATFISH CONTROVERSY. Catfish dispute threatens industry in Vietnam.

Update: AFGHANISTAN. Investigators to interview U.S. troops about deadly air strike.

New: DOMINICAN-BALAGUER. Former president Balaguer buried in state funeral.

ISRAEL-PALESTINIANS: Double suicide bombing in Tel Aviv kills three bystanders

TEL AVIV, Israel - Israeli and Palestinian officials denounce a double suicide bombing in a rundown part of Tel Aviv that kills three bystanders, including two foreign workers, but the attack further delays high-level contacts between the two sides. ISRAEL-PALESTINIANS. Recap has moved. By Jason Keyser. AP Photos.

WITH:

-PALESTINIANS-POLITICS. JERUSALEM - Yasser Arafat is considering the appointment of a prime minister to share the running of day-to-day government affairs once elections are held and a Palestinian state is declared, a senior Palestinian official tells the AP. Has moved. By Dan Perry. AP Photo JRL103.

-ISRAEL-AMBUSH VICTIMS. PETACH TIKVA, Israel - Ahuva Kopilovitch delivered the news to her daughter as she lay in serious condition with seven bullet wounds: the child she delivered hours after the attack is dead. By Yoav Appel. AP Photo JRL101.

-ISRAEL-BOMB SCENE. TEL AVIV - Foreign workers who live in a rundown part of Tel Aviv are puzzled and frightened after bombers blow up a sidewalk gathering point. Has moved. AP Photos JRL807-808; EHA112,115,117.

-MIDEAST-ATTACKS-CHRONOLOGY. Has moved.

SPAIN-MOROCCO: Spanish troops seize disputed island from Moroccan soldiers

No Headline In Original

JEBEL LEILA, Morocco - In a surprise military assault, helicopter-borne Spanish troops seize a disputed Mediterranean island claimed last week by Morocco, forcing a unit of Moroccan soldiers to surrender. SPAIN-MOROCCO. Lead has moved. By Ciaran Giles. AP Photos XSL103-104,107-108,111-112; XJD101,102,105-106. AP Graphic MOR SPAIN ISLAND.

WITH:

-SPAIN-MOROCCO-ISLAND. Background on the disputed island. Has moved.

US-INTELLIGENCE: Panel: Widespread blame for pre-Sept. 11 intelligence lapses

WASHINGTON - U.S. intelligence agencies didn't adequately use traditional spying networks or high technology to penetrate Osama bin Laden's terrorist network, a House panel says in a report. US-ATTACKS-INTELLIGENCE. Has moved. By Jeffrey McMurray.

PARAGUAY: President lifts state of emergency after two days of violent protest

ASUNCION, Paraguay - President Luis Gonzalez Macchi lifts a state of emergency and orders his security forces to release 297 people arrested during two days of violent anti-government protests. PARAGUAY-PROTESTS. Lead has moved. By Bill Cormier. AP Photos ASU101-102.

MEXICO: Investigators find evidence foreign funds were headed to Fox's campaign

MEXICO CITY - Banking records show that prohibited foreign funds and other "irregular contributions" were headed to President Vicente Fox during his historic 2000 campaign that ended 71 years of virtual dictatorship, election officials say. MEXICO-FOX. Lead has moved. By Will Weissert. AP Photos NY191-192.

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic - Former President Joaquin Balaguer is buried in a state funeral, ending an era in Dominican politics. DOMINICAN-BALAGUER. Has moved. By Andres Cala. AP Photos.

INDIA: Father of India's missile program expected to be elected president

NEW DELHI, India - The man expected to be named as India's new president Thursday is the architect of its missile program. A.P.J. Kalam believes that fear of nuclear conflict averted war with Pakistan last month. INDIA-NEW PRESIDENT. Developing. By Nirmala George.

ALSO MOVED:

-US-PAKISTAN. WASHINGTON - The Pentagon is planning to sell six cargo planes to Pakistan in the first major military sale since sanctions were lifted. By Pauline Jelinek.

AFGHANISTAN: U.S. investigators to interview troops involved in deadly air strike

BAGRAM, Afghanistan - A U.S. team investigating an air raid that killed Afghan civilians arrives at a U.S. air base arrives in Uzbekistan to talk to U.S. personnel involved in the attack. AFGHANISTAN. Has moved. By Regan Morris.

ALSO MOVED:

-UN-AFGHANISTAN. UNITED NATIONS - U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan advocates expanding the international force now confined to Kabul. By Edith M. Lederer.

VIETNAM-CATFISH: Catfish dispute threatens the industry in Vietnam

LONG XUYEN, Vietnam - Many Vietnamese risked their livelihoods by investing in catfish farms, and the gamble seemed to pay off as their cheaper product exploded onto the U.S. scene. Now angry U.S. catfish farmers are accusing Vietnam of illegally charging prices below fair market value. VIETNAM-CATFISH CONTROVERSY. Has moved. By Tini Tran. AP Photos NY110-117.

ESCRAVOS, Nigeria - Hundreds of unarmed women seize control of at least four more ChevronTexaco facilities in the Niger Delta, even as the 10-day occupation of an oil terminal by other village women ends. NIGERIA-OIL WOMEN. Lead has moved. By D'arcy Doran. AP Photos XSA101-103.

No Headline In Original

ISTANBUL, Turkey - Bulent Ecevit's government may have staved off its imminent collapse by calling early elections, taking the heat out of a campaign to topple the ailing premier that gathered momentum as nearly half his party defected. TURKEY-PERILIOUS POLLS. Has moved. By Ben Holland. AP Photos ANK102,104,105.

ALSO MOVED:

-TURKEY-POLITICS. ANKARA, Turkey - Turkey's stock market soars following Ecevit's call for early elections. By Louis Meixler.

NORTHERN IRELAND: Embittered Northern Ireland split over IRA apology

BELFAST, Northern Ireland - The citizens of Northern Ireland agonize over the ***Irish Republican Army***'s apology for killing several hundred civilians - and its failure to extend the same gesture for the slain soldiers and police officers. NORTHERN IRELAND-IRA. Lead has moved. By Shawn Pogatchnik. AP Photos XBFT101-102.

ALZHEIMER'S: Mounting evidence that lifestyle plays a role in Alzheimer's

LONDON - New studies show what is good for the heart is also good for the brain. Mounting evidence indicates the same risk factors for heart disease - high blood pressure, diabetes, excess weight, high cholesterol and lack of exercise - may also play a role in Alzheimer's disease. MED-ALZHEIMER'S RISK. Has moved; embargoed until 0500 GMT. By Emma Ross.

IRAQ-SADDAM: Saddam says Iraq will emerge victorious against any hostile nations

BAGHDAD, Iraq - Saddam Hussein predicts Iraq will emerge victorious against any hostile outside actions as neighboring nations worry a U.S. military campaign to topple the Iraqi leader will destabilize the region. IRAQ-SADDAM. Lead has moved. By Sameer N. Yacoub. AP Photos BAG102,104,106.

ALSO MOVED:

-TURKEY-US. ANKARA, Turkey - Turkish leaders tell a top U.S. official they would agree to U.S. military action against Iraq as long as it does not lead to an independent Kurdish state or hurt Turkey's frail economy, reports say. By James C. Helicke. AP Photo ANK101.

-US-NEW WEAPONS. WASHINGTON - With an eye to the kinds of threats Iraq may pose, the Pentagon is exploring new ways of attacking underground chemical or biological weapons. By Military Writer Robert Burns.

NEW YORK - Wall Street scratched out its first winning session in nearly two weeks in volatile trading that saw investors vacillate between bargain hunting and profit taking. Analysts were skeptical the gain would last. US-CLOSING STOCKS. By Seth Sutel.

LOOKING AHEAD: On Sunday, Iraq and Iran exchange prisoners from their 1980-88 war.

YOUR QUERIES: The World Service editors in charge are Jean H. Lee and Ranjan Roy. Story requests to The Associated Press World Service are welcome. Contact your local AP bureau or the AP International Desk in New York, telephone: (1) 212-621-1650, fax: (1) 212-621-5449, e-mail: worldnews@ap.org.

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June 15, 2002 Saturday

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Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Length: 1323 words

Body

WORLD at 0100 GMT:

HIGHLIGHTS:

New: G-7. Finance ministers endorse compromise on aid for developing countries.

New: LIBERIA: President urges rebels to lay down their arms, warns them of defeat.

New: MIDEAST. Two Israeli soldiers, one Palestinian killed in northern Gaza Strip.

Update: CZECH REPUBLIC. Social Democrats win Czech election.

Update: US-ANDERSEN TRIAL. Arthur Andersen convicted of obstruction of justice.

U.S. ACCOUNTING TRIAL: Arthur Andersen convicted of obstruction of justice

HOUSTON - A jury convicts Arthur Andersen of obstruction of justice, dealing the battered accounting firm a potentially fatal blow and giving a first victory to prosecutors investigating the sudden collapse of energy-trader Enron. US-ANDERSEN TRIAL. Has moved. By Kristen Hays. AP Photos; AP Graphic ANDERSEN CHRONOLOGY, ANDERSEN HISTORY.

MIDEAST: Two Israeli soldiers, one Palestinian killed in northern Gaza Strip

JERUSALEM - Two Israeli soldiers and a Palestinian gunmen are killed in a firefight in the Gaza Strip Saturday, the Israeli military says, and Israeli troops roll into two West Bank towns. ISRAEL-PALESTINIANS. Has moved. By Susan Severeid. AP Photos XED101,102.

-EGYPT-MIDEAST. CAIRO, Egypt - Egypt's foreign minister reacts coolly to Israel's plans to erect a barrier along parts of its border with the West Bank, saying only peace can guarantee Israel's security. Has moved. By Mariam Fam.

AFGHANISTAN: After five days, Loya Jirga accomplish only one task; confusion remains over others.

KABUL, Afghanistan - With only two more days left in the Afghan grand council, participants have accomplished only one of the tasks they were sent to do - select a president. There has been no discussion of the other main tasks, such as appointing a legislature and naming a new Cabinet. AFGHAN-LOYA JIRGA. Has moved. By Kathy Gannon. AP Photos.

-AFGHAN-WHITHER AL-QAIDA? WASHINGTON - Al-Qaida's loss of its sanctuary in Afghanistan has led to an increase in extremist activity in other countries, a U.S. administration official says. By John J. Lumpkin.

No Headline In Original

-AFGHAN-AID GROUP ATTACKS. KABUL, Afghanistan - International aid workers are threatening to pull out of northern Afghanistan after a **female** worker was gang raped, a clinic was attacked by gunmen, and a vehicle carrying food aid was shot up. Has moved. By Kathy Gannon.

INDIA-PAKISTAN: Heavy artillery fire in Jammu-Kashmir kills 3 people, wounds 24

NEW DELHI, India - A barrage of Pakistani artillery and mortar fire kills three people and shatters village homes in Indian-controlled Kashmir, an Indian official says, as hostilities resume between the South Asian rivals despite international calls for restraint. INDIA-PAKISTAN. Has moved. By Neelesh Misra.

-PAKISTAN-EXPLOSION. KARACHI, Pakistan - Investigators suspect the deadly explosion outside the U.S. Consulate was caused by a remote-controlled bomb hidden in a driver's education car taking three **women** to get their licenses. PAKISTAN-EXPLOSION. Has moved. By Zarar Khan. AP Photos KAR105-110.

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea - Papua New Guinea's general election begins in a whirl of color and drums, as voters dressed in traditional garb line up at polling stations with hopes of stability for their struggling Pacific nation. PAPUA NEW GUINEA-ELECTION. Has moved.

BANGLADESH: Law enforcers out in force for anti-government strike in capital

DHAKA, Bangladesh - Authorities plan to deploy more than 5,000 law enforcers Sunday to guard the streets of the capital against violence during an anti-government strike called by Bangladesh's main opposition party. BANGLADESH-STRIKE. Expected by 0600 GMT. AP Photos planned.

FALUN GONG: Hong Kong's freedoms may face test as Falun Gong members go on trial

HONG KONG - As Hong Kong opens the trial Monday in its first criminal case against followers of the Falun Gong movement, human rights watchdogs are predicting another ominous test of its freedoms and autonomy. HONG KONG-FALUN GONG. Has moved. By Verna Yu. AP Photo NY197.

LIBERIA: President urges rebels to lay down their arms, warns them of defeat

GBARNGA, Liberia - President Charles Taylor warns rebels fighting his government that they will not defeat him, and offers an amnesty to those who surrender their arms. LIBERIA-AMNESTY OFFER. Has moved. By Jonathan Paye-Layleh.

REPUBLIC OF CONGO: Rebels launch surprise attack on capital; dozens killed

BRAZZAVILLE, Republic of Congo - Heavy arms fire echoes through the capital of the Republic of Congo as government troops hunt down rebels after a surprise attack, in which more than 70 people were killed. REPUBLIC OF CONGO-FIGHTING. Has moved. By Louis Okamba.

COLOMBIA: Uribe visits U.S. to seek help in ending illegal narcotics industry, guerrilla war

BOGOTA, Colombia - During a crucial trip to the United States that begins Sunday, Colombia's President-elect Alvaro Uribe expects to find support for his plans to fight drugs and a decades-old guerrilla war. COLOMBIA-URIBE. Has moved. By Michael Easterbrook.

CUBA: Castro kicks off campaign to get popular ratification for socialism

HAVANA - Fidel Castro becomes the first person to sign a petition ratifying the island's four-decade-old socialist system as "untouchable," rejecting demands for deep democratic reforms by Cuban activists here and U.S. President George W. Bush. CUBA-POLITICS. Has moved. By Vivian Sequera. AP Photo HAV102.

VENEZUELA: Opposition marches again to demand Chavez resign, probe into slayings

CARACAS, Venezuela - Tens of thousands of Venezuelans opposed to President Hugo Chavez march to demand his resignation and punishment for those responsible for 17 deaths during a coup in April. VENEZUELA-PROTESTS. Has moved. By Fabiola Sanchez. AP Photos CAR101-102.

FRANCE ELECTIONS: Conservatives expected to take control of parliament in Sunday vote

PARIS - Six weeks after France elected conservative President Jacques Chirac by a landslide, voters are expected to back their choice Sunday by choosing a center-right parliament to support his pro-business, anti-crime reform. FRANCE-ELECTION. Has moved. By Angela Donald. Polls open at 0600 GMT.

No Headline In Original

PRAGUE, Czech Republic - The Czech Republic's ruling Social Democrats defeat 27 other parties in parliamentary elections Saturday, winning the right to form the government that will take the country into the European Union in 2004. CZECH ELECTIONS. Has moved. By Ondrej Hejma. AP Photo CTK107.

NORTHERN IRELAND: Blair agrees to hold crisis talks to save the Good Friday peace process

LONDON - Prime Minister Tony Blair has agreed to hold crisis talks on the Northern Ireland peace process, amid simmering sectarian tensions and fresh accusations of ***Irish Republican Army*** activity, officials say. NORTHERN IRELAND. Has moved. By Ed Johnson. AP Photo XBFT101.

MILOSEVIC'S MONEY: Finance minister details Swiss accounts of Milosevic's clique

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia - Nine of Slobodan Milosevic's closest associates stash away nearly dlr 6 million in secret Swiss bank accounts during the former Yugoslav president's rule, Serbia's finance minister says. YUGOSLAVIA-MILOSEVIC'S MONEY. Has moved. By Katarina Kratovac.

G-7: Finance ministers endorse compromise on aid for developing countries - more grants instead of loans

HALIFAX, Nova Scotia - Expressing confidence in the global economy, the finance ministers of the world's industrial powers say their bosses will discuss a new relationship between developed and developing countries at an upcoming summit. CANADA-G7 FINANCE MINISTERS. Has moved. By Tom Cohen.

LOOKING AHEAD: On Monday, an environment conference meets in Stockholm, Sweden. On Thursday, Turkey assumes command of international peacekeeping force in Kabul, Afghanistan.

YOUR QUERIES: The World Service editors in charge are Tanalee Smith and Eileen McNamara. Story requests to The Associated Press World Service are welcome. Contact your local AP bureau or the AP International Desk in New York, telephone: (1) 212-621-1650, fax: (1) 212-621-5449, e-mail: worldnews@ap.org.

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Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

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Body

WORLD at 0100 GMT

HIGHLIGHTS:

Update: ISRAEL-PALESTINIANS. Israel attacks Palestinian police post.

New: JAPAN-FUJITSU-RESTRUCTURING. 15,000 jobs to be cut, reports say.

Focus: THE IRA'S ARSENAL: Old weapons threaten Nireland peace.

New: FRANCE-KILLER TREES: End of the road for France's tree-lined drives?

ISRAEL-PALESTINIANS: Israel attacks Palestinian police post after mortar fire

JERUSALEM - Israel fires two surface-to-surface missiles at a Palestinian police post in the Gaza Strip in response to Palestinian mortar fire. A 7-month-old Palestinian boy and a 6-year-old Israeli girl are wounded in separate shootings. ISRAEL-PALESTINIANS. Has moved. By Karin Laub. AP Photos GAZ101-102;PDJ101-102.

WITH:

-ISRAEL-COPING WITH BOMBS. JERUSALEM - A Palestinian suicide bombing has forced a change in lifestyle here. Has moved. By Yoav Appel. AP Photos NY190-192.

-EMIRATES-PALESTINIANS. DUBAI, United Arab Emirates - Arab states slow in paying funds to support Palestinians. Has moved. By Ward Pincus.

QUEZON CITY, Philippines - Investigators look at a possible short-circuit as the cause of a fire in a budget hotel that killed at least 70 people and injured 54 others Saturday, trapping them between deadly smoke in the corridors and barred windows in their rooms. PHILIPPINES-HOTEL FIRE. Has moved. By Oliver Teves. AP Photos MLA127,132,134,137.

MACEDONIA: NATO soldiers enter Skopje in first stage of British-led mission

SKOPJE, Macedonia - NATO soldiers stream into Macedonia ahead of a key visit by a senior alliance general who will help determine whether the country is stable enough to start an effort to collect rebel weapons. MACEDONIA. Recap moved. By Elena Becatoros. AP Photos XBG104;LRL103;XSI108,111.

No Headline In Original

KABUL, Afghanistan - It's a nervous international aid community operating in Afghanistan these days, following the Taliban's move to shut down one aid group and imprison its workers. Taliban religious police have sifted through files and issued warnings to others, raising fears that a widening investigation could implicate more aid groups. AFGHANISTAN-AID WORKERS. Has moved. By Kathy Gannon. AP Photo KAB101.

ALSO MOVED:

-AFGHANISTAN-DIPLOMATS. Taliban say visas of Western diplomats will not be extended beyond Tuesday.

THE IRA'S ARSENAL: Weapons acquired decades ago threatens Nireland peace

BELFAST, Northern Ireland - British and Irish security forces long fought to stem the flood of weapons to the IRA during the 1970s and 1980s. The formidable arsenal the IRA amassed in those years - buried in secret underground bunkers across the Irish countryside - is at the heart of a bitter dispute threatening Northern Ireland's fragile peace accord. THE IRA'S ARSENAL. Has moved. By Laura King. AP Photo LON15.

WITH:

-IRA'S ARSENAL-GLANCE. A look at weaponry the Irish Republican Army is believed to possess. Has moved.

VATICAN CITY - Efforts to resolve the case of a married archbishop and his hunger-striking wife move into high diplomatic gear with a meeting between the woman and South Korea's ambassador to the Holy See. VATICAN-MARRIED ARCHBISHOP. Has moved. By Nicole Winfield.

SPAIN: Car bomb explodes in tourist area after warning by Basque group ETA

MADRID, Spain - A powerful car bomb explodes outside a hotel in the popular northeastern seaside resort town of Salou on Saturday an hour after police received a warning call on behalf of the Basque separatist group ETA. No one is killed, but 13 are treated for minor cuts. SPAIN-CAR BOMB. Has moved. By Ciaran Giles. AP Photos MAD103-107.

AFTER THE USSR: Russians mark 10-year anniversary of beginning of Soviet end

MOSCOW - Ten years after the abortive coup that dealt a mortal blow to the Soviet Union, Russians are gathering Sunday to reflect on the past decade that brought them the freedoms many longed for and suffering most weren't prepared for. RUSSIA-COUP-ANNIVERSARY. Has moved. By Jim Heintz.

MUSIC HALL FIRE: Blaze destroys hall where Strauss once staged concerts.

VIENNA, Austria - Austrians mourn the fiery destruction of a famed festival hall where composer Johann Strauss once staged concerts and the Viennese - including a young Adolf Hitler - gathered to waltz and mingle at masked balls. AUSTRIA-MUSIC HALL FIRE. Has moved. By William J. Kole. AP Photos VIE101-102.

FRANCE-KILLER TREES: Is it the end of the road for France's tree-lined drives?

PARIS - Rural France has long been known for the towering, arching trees that line country roads. But in recent months the trees have become the center of a controversy pitting road safety advocates, who want them chopped down, against conservationists, who say they are national treasures. FRANCE-KILLER TREES. Has moved. By Jocelyn Gecker. AP Photo PAR101.

TEHRAN, Iran - Police forbid restaurants from serving women who wear makeup, stores from selling T-shirts emblazoned with movie stars, and men from going to work in neckties - a symbol of Western decadence. IRAN-SOCIAL CODE. Has moved. By Ali Akbar Dareini.

ORTEGA RETURNS: Decade after Contra war, Daniel Ortega tries for office

PUERTO CABEZAS, Nicaragua - A decade after the U.S.-backed Contra war helped force him to end his socialist rule, Daniel Ortega proclaims himself a changed man and begins his campaign to retake the presidency. NICARAGUA-REVOLUTIONARY'S RETURN. Has moved. By Niko Price. AP Photos WPM101-103;NY93.

No Headline In Original

TOKYO - Fujitsu Ltd. will cut approximately 15,000 jobs by next March in a move to boost profitability in its sagging computer chip business, Japanese newspapers report Sunday. JAPAN-FUJITSU-RESTRUCTURING. Has moved.

MEXICO: Volkswagen workers launch strike, still hope for resolution

MEXICO CITY - More than 12,000 Volkswagen of Mexico workers - nearly 80 percent of the plant's labor force - go on strike Saturday to demand salary increases, but union leaders said they still hoped for a resolution this weekend. MEXICO-VOLKSWAGEN STRIKE. Has moved.

CADIZ, Spain - Every night, dozens - often hundreds - of Africans cross the Strait of Gibraltar to Europe's southernmost tip in search of a better life in Madrid, Paris, Berlin and other points north. For all those who make it, untold numbers perish in the turbulent waters of the channel. FEA-SPAIN-DIRE STRAIT. By Jerome Socolovsky. AP Photos NY364-367.

TAIPEI, Taiwan - Stored at Taiwan's National Palace Museum is the world's largest collection of Chinese art. It is strong cultural link to China - a reminder to the people here that they are ethnic Chinese who should forget about independence and reunify with the motherland. FEA-TAIWAN-EMPERORS' TREASURES. By Marcos Calo Medina. AP Photos NY376-380.

GBADOLITE, Congo - Like its former master, this city of jungle palaces has died. The dinner parties are no more. The fake Louis XIV furniture has been looted. The dictator, who transformed his ancestral village into a monument to kleptocratic kitsch, lies buried in Morocco. FEA-CONGO-PALACES IN THE JUNGLE. By Tim Sullivan. AP Graphic GBADOLITE CONGO AP Photos NY320-323.

YOUR QUERIES: The World Service editors in charge are Tom Rachman and Harmonie Toros. Story requests to The Associated Press World Service are welcome. Contact your local AP bureau or the AP International Desk in New York, telephone: (1) 212-621-1650, fax: (1) 212-621-5449, e-mail: worldnews@ap.org

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Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

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Body

WORLD at 0200 GMT:

New: EGYPT-AL-QAIDA-KENYA. Terror group claims responsibility for Kenya attacks.

New: US-IRAQ. Bush warns Saddam against 'delay, deception or defiance.'

Update: IRAQ-WEAPONS INSPECTORS. Inspectors examine former missile-design plant.

New: KENYA-BIN LADEN. Muslims debate bin Laden's role in international terrorism.

New: ISRAEL-FEARING SCUDS. Israel takes steps to counter possible Scud threat.

New: BURUNDI-CEASE-FIRE. Main Burundi rebel faction agrees to cease-fire.

Update: GERMANY-AFGHAN CONFERENCE. Afghan leaders unveil plans for army, elections.

New: ARGENTINA-BANKING FREEZE. Argentines gain unfettered access to bank cash.

New: TURKMENISTAN-ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT. Businessman accused in plot to kill president.

KENYA ATTACKS: Statement attributed to al-Qaida claims responsibility for Kenya attacks

CAIRO, Egypt - A statement attributed to al-Qaida claims responsibility for last week's car-bombing of an Israeli-owned hotel in Kenya and the attempt to shoot down an Israeli airliner the same day. The statement calls the attacks a Ramadan greeting. BC-ME-GEN--EGYPT-AL-QAIDA-KENYA. Lead has moved. By Maggie Michael.

ALSO:

-BC-ME-GEN--ISRAEL-AIRLINE DEFENSE. HERZLIYA, Israel - If the attempt to bring down the civilian airliner had succeeded, Israel would have hit back so hard that it would have changed accepted norms, top Israeli officials say. By Laurie Copans.

KENYA'S MUSLIMS: Muslims in Kenya debate bin Laden's role in international terrorism

MOMBASA, Kenya - As dusk falls and Muslims break their daily fast in the final week of Ramadan, Kenya's Muslims debate Osama bin Laden and his role in international terrorism. BC-AF-FEA-GEN--KENYA-BIN LADEN. Has moved. By Matthew Rosenberg. AP Photos XKP106,108.

WITH:

-BC-NA-GEN--US-KENYA. WASHINGTON - U.S. counterterrorism officials say evidence that al-Qaida network was behind the attacks is mounting. By John J. Lumpkin.

No Headline In Original

IRAQ INSPECTIONS: Weapons inspectors comb through former missile-design plant

BAGHDAD, Iraq - It was combed over by U.N. inspectors in the 1990s. It was then pounded for days by 18 U.S. cruise missiles. Still, Iraq's Karama missile-design plant remains a focus of world concern. It is a place where new U.N. teams conduct their longest inspection to date, searching for Scud missiles. BC-ME-GEN--IRAQ-WEAPONS INSPECTORS. Lead has moved. By Charles J. Hanley. AP Photos XJD101-04, NN101.

ALSO MOVED:

-BC-NA-GEN--US-IRAQ. WASHINGTON - President George W. Bush says "the signs are not encouraging" that Saddam will cooperate with weapons inspectors and avoid a war threatened by the United States. By Ron Fournier. AP Photos JWE101, WX114-115, PMM107.

-BC-UN-GEN--UN-IRAQ. UNITED NATIONS - A U.S.-Russian rift is brewing in the Security Council over what Saddam Hussein should be allowed to import under the terms of the U.N.'s humanitarian program, diplomats say. By Dafna Linzer.

-BC-FEA-GEN--ISRAEL-FEARING SCUDS. TEL AVIV, Israel - Israel is taking steps to prepare for another possible Iraqi Scud barrage. By Jason Keyser. AP Photos JRL106-109.

-BC-ME-GEN--IRAQ-OPPOSING SADDAM. CAIRO, Egypt - Signs that Iraqis may be considering an uprising are few and difficult to read. By Donna Bryson.

ISRAEL-PALESTINIANS: Four Palestinians killed in West Bank, Gaza violence

JERUSALEM - Four Palestinians die in violence in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, including a teenager shot dead when rock-throwing Palestinians clashed with Israeli troops in the West Bank town of Jenin. BC-ME-GEN--ISRAEL-PALESTINIANS. Lead has moved. By Mark Lavie. AP Photos AN101; JRL103,111-112.

VENEZUELA-STRIKE: Venezuela's opposition extends general strike to oust Chavez

CARACAS, Venezuela - Venezuela's opposition launches a general strike and threatens street protests to oust President Hugo Chavez. But many businesses remain open and key oil experts aren't affected. BC-LA-GEN--VENEZUELA-STRIKE. Lead has moved. By Niko Price. AP Photos CAR110,117; XMAR105.

ALSO MOVED:

-BC-LA-GEN--VENEZUELA-NIGHTCLUB FIRE. CARACAS, Venezuela - Three more bodies are recovered from a fire-destroyed nightclub, bringing the toll to 50. By Jorge Rueda.

COLOMBIA-TRIAL. Testimony begins in trial of three suspected IRA members

BOGOTA, Colombia - Colombian rebels have technology they could only have obtained from abroad, an army major testifies in the trial of three suspected **Irish Republican Army** members accused of training the rebels. BC-LA-GEN--COLOMBIA-IRA TRIAL. Lead has moved. By Vanessa Arrington. AP Photos BOG101-103,105.

IVORY COAST: Army claims it ousted rebels from western city; residents flee

BOGOUINE, Ivory Coast - Ivory Coast's army claims it captured a rebel-held western town, but insurgents say they are still in control and residents report bursts of gunfire and sporadic explosions. BC-AF-GEN--IVORY COAST. Recap has moved. By Christine Nesbitt. AP Photos XCN102-106.

BURUNDI: Main rebel faction fighting 9-year civil war agrees to a cease-fire

ARUSHA, Tanzania - The main rebel faction fighting in the nine-year civil war in Burundi agrees to a cease-fire. BC-AF-GEN--BURUNDI-CEASE-FIRE. Has moved. By Sukhdev Chaatbar.

BEIJING - The presidents of Russia and China vow to strengthen their "strategic partnership" and declare common positions on key foreign policy fronts, including Iraq and North Korea. BC-AS-GEN--CHINA-RUSSIA. Lead has moved. By Steve Gutterman. AP Photos.

SRI LANKA PEACE TALKS: Progress cited as third round of peace talks commence

No Headline In Original

OSLO, Norway - Sri Lankan government and Tamil Tiger rebel negotiators cite progress at the start of a third round of peace talks, despite fears of a political conflict at home. BC-EU-GEN--NORWAY-SRI LANKA PEACE TALKS. Lead has moved. By Shimali Senanyake. AP Photo OSL802.

TURKMENISTAN: Businessman charged in attempted assassination of president

ASHGABAT, Turkmenistan - A prominent Turkmen businessman is charged in connection with an assassination attempt against President Saparmurat Niyazov. BC-AS-GEN--TURKMENISTAN-ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT. Lead has moved. By Alexander Vershinin.

AFGHAN CONFERENCE: Plans for army, election a year after Taliban's ouster

KOENIGSWINTER, Germany - Afghanistan's main international backers pledge to press on with rebuilding the country and create a new national army. BC-EU-GEN--GERMANY-AFGHAN CONFERENCE. Has moved. By Tony Czuczka. AP Photos.

MONACO KILLING: "Trial of the Century" ends with 10-year sentence for nurse

MONTE CARLO, Monaco - A nurse is sentenced to 10 years in prison for setting a fire in his billionaire employer's penthouse that killed the ailing banker and another nurse. BC-EU-GEN--MONACO-BANKER DEATH. Lead has moved. By John Leicester. AP Photos MON101-104,114,116.

WORLD POVERTY. U.N. Report: Reducing fertility key to tackling poverty

LONDON - Educating girls and improving women's access to family planning and other sexual health services are crucial to combatting poverty, a U.N. report says. BC-EU-MED--WORLD POVERTY. Has moved. By Emma Ross.

ARGENTINA: Argentines gain access to bank cash as government eases financial freeze

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina - President Eduardo Duhalde eases a one-year-old partial banking freeze, allowing Argentines unfettered access to their bank accounts. BC-LA-GEN--ARGENTINA-BANKING FREEZE. Has moved. By Craig Fagan. AP Photos BAI113-115.

ALSO MOVED:

-BC-LA-POL--ARGENTINA-BRAZIL. BUENOS AIRES, Argentina - Brazil's president-elect Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva calls for deeper trade ties among members of South America's largest trade bloc. By Kevin Gray. AP Photos BAI101-112.

NEW YORK - A strong start to the holiday shopping season sends stocks soaring briefly, only to be brought down by another disappointing economic report. BC-NA-FIN-MKT--US-CLOSING STOCKS. Has moved. By Amy Baldwin.

ALSO MOVED:

-BC-NA-FIN-ECO--US-ECONOMY. WASHINGTON - Construction spending edged up in October but manufacturing shrank for a third straight month. By Martin Crutsinger.

LOOKING AHEAD: Russian President Vladimir Putin visits Kyrgyzstan on Thursday.

YOUR QUERIES: The World Service editors in charge are Jean H. Lee and Eileen McNamara. Requests to The Associated Press World Service are welcome. Contact your local AP bureau or the AP International Desk in New York, by telephone: (1) 212-621-1650, fax: (1) 212-621-5449, e-mail: worldnews@ap.org.

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Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

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Body

WORLD at 0200 GMT:

Update: ISRAEL-PALESTINIANS. Troops kill Palestinian toddler as Israel weighs reprisals for kibbutz shootings.

New: UN-CYPRUS. U.N. Secretary-General presents plan for independent Cyprus with two equal states.

New: US-SEVERE STORMS. Tornadoes and thunderstorms kill at least 35 in five states.

Update: CHINA-POLITICS. As communists talk prosperity, officials emphasize fight against corruption, unemployment.

New: BC-US-WHITHER AL-QAIDA. U.S. intelligence believes many al-Qaida leaders are hiding in Pakistan.

IRAQ: Iraqi parliament condemns U.N. resolution on weapons inspectors

BAGHDAD, Iraq - Iraqi lawmakers have soundly condemned a U.N. resolution strengthening the mandate of international arms inspectors, but are giving the matter further consideration before voting Tuesday on recommendations for Saddam Hussein on how Iraq should respond to the U.N. directive. BC-IRAQ. Recap expected by 0300 GMT. By Sameer N. Yacoub. AP Photos BAG101-110.

-BC-US-IRAQ. WASHINGTON - In somber tribute to soldiers of wars past, President George W. Bush says he will commit "the full force and might of the United States military" against Iraq if Saddam Hussein refuses to disarm swiftly. Has moved. By Ron Fournier. AP Photos.

- BC-UN-IRAQ. UNITED NATIONS - With just a few days left before Iraq must decide whether to cooperate with the United Nations, the chief nuclear inspector tells Iraq it's time to cooperate. Has moved. By Edith M. Lederer. AP Photos XUN201,203,206.

CHINA: As communists talk prosperity, officials emphasize fight against corruption, unemployment

BEIJING - The Chinese government is using the Communist Party Congress to spotlight its battle against two key impediments to economic development - corruption within its ranks and swelling unemployment problems that are angering workers across the land. BC-CHINA-POLITICS. Has moved. By Ted Anthony. AP Photos XHG101-103,105.

ALSO:

-CHINA-THE OPENNESS ILLUSION: BEIJING - The surface openness at the Communist Party congress this week in Beijing has, in many ways, proven to be an illusion. Has moved. By Martin Fackler. AP Photos BEJ112-113.

AFGHAN: President, patients despair woeful condition of Kabul's only children's hospital

No Headline In Original

KABUL, Afghanistan - One year since the fall of Kabul, the Children's Hospital is desperate for supplies and funds. There is no sign of help - or at least, not enough. BC-AFGHAN-HOSPITAL MISERY. Has moved. By Kathy Gannon. AP Photos VT103-107.

U.S. STORMS: Tornados and thunderstorms kill at least 35 in five states

MOSSY GROVE, Tennessee - Searchers and dazed survivors go from one shattered home to another, picking through splintered lumber and torn sheet metal for any sign of the missing, after twisters and thunderstorms kill at least 35 people in five states. BC-US-SEVERE STORMS. Has moved. By Duncan Mansfield. AP Photos. AP Graphic SEVERE STORMS 2.

AL-QAIDA: U.S. intelligence believes many al-Qaida leaders are hiding in Pakistan

WASHINGTON - U.S. intelligence believes most of al-Qaida's surviving leaders have relocated to Pakistan, although a few have slipped away to countries in Asia and North Africa, defense and counterterrorism officials say. BC-US-WHITHER AL-QAIDA. Has moved. By John J. Lumpkin. AP Graphic AL QAIDA LEADERS.

HACKER CASE: U.S. cracks case of British hacker who broke into military networks

WASHINGTON - U.S. federal authorities crack the case of an international hacker who broke into roughly 100 unclassified U.S. military networks over the past year. BC-US-HACKER INVESTIGATION. Has moved. By Ted Bridis.

CUBA: Cuba and U.S. group collaborate on preserving newly uncovered Hemingway manuscripts

HAVANA - Ernest Hemingway's rejected epilogue of "For Whom the Bell Tolls," a 1941 letter from Ingrid Bergman and more than 20 letters from the 19-year-old Italian Contessa he was in love with are among thousands of the author's documents Cuba is making available to outside scholars. BC-CUBA-ERNEST HEMINGWAY. Has moved. By Alexandra Olson. AP Photos HAV101-106.

ISRAEL-PALESTINIANS: Troops kill Palestinian toddler as Israel weighs reprisals for kibbutz shootings

JERUSALEM - Israeli soldiers shoot dead a Palestinian toddler in Gaza, hospital officials and witnesses say. The incident comes as Israeli leaders weigh a military response to a Palestinian shooting rampage that killed five people, including a mother and her two young sons. BC-ISRAEL-PALESTINIANS. Has moved. By Dan Perry. AP Photos ABL101-109. EHA805,JRL801. AP Graphic ISR ATTACKS

ALSO:

-ISRAEL-SHAKEN FRIENDSHIP: KIBBUTZ METZER, Israel - This dovish Israeli farming community and nearby Arab villages enjoyed something rare in this troubled land - neighborly ties. Such friendship has been put to the test by a Palestinian shooting rampage in the kibbutz. Has moved. By Laurie Copans. AP Photos ABL101-109.

ISRAEL: Archaeologists find hundreds of Iron Age religious vessels near Tel Aviv

JERUSALEM - An excavation of a pit near Tel Aviv has yielded hundreds of Iron Age objects used by the Philistines in religious rituals, a senior archaeologist says Monday, calling the find rare and significant. BC-ISRAEL ARCHAEOLOGY. Has moved. By Ramit Plushnick-Masti. AP Photos JRL103.

CYPRUS: U.N. Secretary-General presents plan for independent Cyprus with two equal states

UNITED NATIONS - Secretary-General Kofi Annan presents Greek and Turkish Cypriots with a plan to unite their divided island into a single country modeled on Switzerland, with two equal states. BC-UN-CYPRUS. Has moved. By Edith M. Lederer. AP Photos XUN202,205; NIC102,107.

EU-RUSSIA: Putin says Russia fights international terrorism in Chechnya

BRUSSELS, Belgium - Waving aside European Union appeals for moderation in the war in Chechnya, Russian President Vladimir Putin defends the campaign in the breakaway Caucasus province as a battle against international terrorists who threaten the entire world. BC-EU-RUSSIA. Has moved. By Vladimir Isachenkov. AP Photos.

NORTHERN IRELAND: Police have 'broken up' IRA spying unit, says deputy police chief

BELFAST, Northern Ireland - Northern Ireland police say they have dismantled the *Irish Republican Army's* intelligence-gathering unit in Belfast. BC-NORTHERN IRELAND. Has moved.

No Headline In Original

U.N. TRIBUNAL: Milosevic trial proceeds, despite demands he be appointed a defense lawyer

THE HAGUE, Netherlands - Former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic rejects prosecutors' demands that the U.N. Yugoslav tribunal appoint a lawyer for him, saying he would keep defending himself despite his failing health. BC-WAR CRIMES-MILOSEVIC. Has moved. By Daniela Valenta.

MISS WORLD: Beauty queens arrive for pageant in Nigeria despite call for boycott

ABUJA, Nigeria - Beauty queens from more than 80 nations jet into Nigeria to compete in the Miss World pageant, defying calls for a boycott in protest against death-by-stoning sentences imposed on Nigerian Muslim women for having sex outside marriage. BC-NIGERIA-BEAUTY-BOYCOTT. Has moved. By Glenn McKenzie. AP Photos.

ZIMBABWE: Economy in sharp decline as currency plunges, food shortages worsen

HARARE, Zimbabwe - The value of the Zimbabwe dollar plunges on the black market almost by the hour, inflation soars, food shortages worsen and acute gasoline shortages disrupt commuter transport. BC-ZIMBABWE-ECONOMIC COLLAPSE. Has moved. By Angus Shaw.

IVORY COAST: Ivory Coast's rebels call on president to end 'reign of terror'

LOME, Togo - Ivory Coast's rebels yanks more than half of their negotiating team from the site of the broken-down peace talks, saying they would return only when Ivory Coast's government ends a "reign of terror." BC-IVORY COAST. Has moved. By Ebow Godwin.

NEW YORK - Escalating concerns about a war with Iraq dominate Wall Street, sending stocks sliding in light Veterans Day trading. US-CLOSING STOCKS. Has moved. By Hope Yen.

IMF: Argentine economy minister to meet with IMF officials in bid to jump-start aid talks

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina - Argentina's top economic chief will meet with International Monetary Fund officials this week, hoping to break a deadlock in aid talks and head off another disastrous debt default, officials say. ARGENTINA-IMF. Has moved. By Craig Fagan.

LOOKING AHEAD: On Tuesday, representatives of Palestinian Authority and Hamas movement meet in Cairo to discuss their differences and ways to unite Palestinians.

YOUR QUERIES: The World Service editors in charge are Eileen McNamara and Elena Becatoros. Requests to The Associated Press World Service are welcome. Contact your local AP bureau or the AP International Desk in New York, by telephone: (1) 212-621-1650, fax: (1) 212-621-5449, e-mail: worldnews@ap.org.

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Body

WORLD at 0100 GMT:

Update: ISRAEL-PALESTINIANS. Militant group claims responsibility for deadly attack.

New: US-ATTACKS-AL-QAIDA. U.S. officials say al-Qaida reaching out to Hezbollah.

Update: INDIA-US-PAKISTAN. Colin Powell heads to South Asia.

Update: NEW ZEALAND-ELECTIONS. Polls open in New Zealand.

New: UN-AFGHANISTAN-**WOMEN**. Afghan **women**'s affairs minister focusing on basics.

New: AFGHAN-LAST RESORT. Aid workers prepare for flood of refugees.

New: BRAZIL-ELECTION. Center-left candidate upsets Brazil election predictions.

New: ITALY-SMOKE IN EYES. Italian official calls for end to glamorous smoking on TV.

New: PERU-DIAPER PROTEST. Protesters demand president recognize girl as daughter.

New: INDOMITABLE LANCE ARMSTRONG. From undisciplined young rider to superstar.

MIDEAST: Gunmen fire on cars in near West Bank town of Hebron; four dead

JERUSALEM - Palestinian gunmen open fire on two Israeli cars traveling near a Jewish settlement in the southern West Bank, killing four people and injuring two children before fleeing the scene, the army says. ISRAEL-PALESTINIANS. Developing. By Nicole Winfield. AP Photos JRL101,104,107; XHM101; XVG101; NN102. AP Graphics ISR INCURSION, ISR SHOOTING.

ALSO MOVED :

-PALESTINIANS-CHILD MALNUTRITION. JERUSALEM - More Palestinian children have become malnourished during the past two years of fighting, a study says. By Jason Keyser.

-UN-MIDEAST. UNITED NATIONS - The United States tells the Security Council it will only consider Mideast resolutions that condemn Palestinian terrorism. By Dafna Linzer.

SUHARTO'S SON. Tommy Suharto sentenced to 15 years in prison for murder

No Headline In Original

JAKARTA, Indonesia - The playboy son of former dictator Suharto is convicted of ordering the murder of a Supreme Court justice and sentenced to 15 years in prison. INDONESIA-SUHARTO'S SON. Lead has moved. By Steven Gutkin. AP Photos JAK101-113.

ALSO MOVED:

-INDONESIA-SUHARTO'S SON-REAX, INDONESIA-SUHARTO'S SON-CHRONOLOGY.

NEW ZEALAND: Clark poised to win historic second term in New Zealand elections

WELLINGTON, New Zealand - Polling booths open in New Zealand, where Prime Minister Helen Clark is expected to breeze into another term. NEW ZEALAND-ELECTION. Developing; polls close at 0700 GMT; early results expected around 1100 GMT. By Mike Corder. AP Photos SYD101-102.

SOUTH ASIA: Powell travels to India, expected to urge India-Pakistan talks on Kashmir

NEW DELHI, India - U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell arrives in India, seeking Saturday to further ease tensions between nuclear-armed India and Pakistan and persuade the hostile neighbors to hold talks to resolve their five-decade dispute over Kashmir. INDIA-US-PAKISTAN. Expected by 1230 GMT. By Beth Duff-Brown. AP Photos.

ALSO MOVED:

-INDIA-EU. NEW DELHI, India - EU official Javier Solana urges de-escalation and resumption of dialogue. By Nirmala George. AP Photo DEL102.

ZHARE DASHT, Afghanistan - Dust swirls as the U.N. envoy for children in conflict surveys the barren expanse where thousands who fled their homes could be living as soon as next week. The site will house refugees shunned by Pakistan and unwelcome in many Afghan villages. AFGHAN-LAST RESORT. Has moved. By Paisley Dodds. AP Photos KND101-104.

ALSO:

-UN-AFGHANISTAN-WOMEN. UNITED NATIONS - Rewriting the constitution and teaching women to read will happen in time. For now, Afghanistan's new minister for women's affairs needs buildings. Has moved. By Nick Wadhams. AP Photo NY195.

WORLD YOUTH DAY: Young Catholics adore pope but are divided on key issues

TORONTO - The young Catholics who have flocked here from 170 nations are seamlessly united in adoration of their aging, ailing pope but divided about other matters, including the vitality of their church and the role of women in it. POPE-WORLD YOUTH DAY. Recap has moved. By David Crary. AP Photos CAK101,STH101,RFB101.

ALSO MOVED:

-POPE-SPECIAL LUNCH. ORILLIA, Ontario - Fourteen young Catholic pilgrims join Pope John Paul II for lunch on Strawberry Island. By Michael Kovrig.

AL-QAIDA: U.S. officials observe al-Qaida members reaching out to Hezbollah

WASHINGTON - U.S. intelligence agencies have detected low-level al-Qaida members building relationships with members of Hezbollah, sparking worries that the world's two most sophisticated Islamic terror networks will start cooperating, U.S. counterterrorism officials say. US-ATTACKS-AL-QAIDA. Has moved. By Christopher Newton and John J. Lumpkin.

US-MINE ACCIDENT. Drilling stops at site of desperate effort to save trapped miners

SOMERSET, Pennsylvania - Rescuers desperately trying to save nine coal miners trapped for a day and a half in a flooded mine start drilling a second rescue shaft after a broken drill bit halts their first attempt. US-MINE ACCIDENT. Lead has moved. By Judy Lin. AP Photos, AP Graphic PA MINE ACCIDENT.

PERU: Diaper-washing protesters demands Peru president recognize girl

LIMA, Peru - Hundreds of chanting Peruvians fill a colonial plaza in downtown Lima for an unusual protest activity - washing diapers to demand that President Alejandro Toledo recognize a 14-year-old girl as his daughter. PERU-DIAPER PROTEST. Lead has moved. By Craig Mauro. AP Photos LIM101-104.

No Headline In Original

BRAZIL: Center-left candidate Gomes upsets Brazil election predictions

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil - Brazil's currency is plunging, investors are skittish and there's growing talk of a possible Argentina-style debt default. For some analysts, the cause of the alarm is "Ciro risk" - the sudden rise of center-left candidate Ciro Gomes as a top presidential contender. Has moved. By Peter Muello. AP Photos SAO101-102.

ALSO:

-SOUTH AMERICAN SUMMIT. GUAYAQUIL, Ecuador - South American leaders open their second regional summit. Has moved. By Monte Hayes. AP Photos.

TERROR LAWSUIT. Bombing victims sue five suspected senior IRA dissidents

BELFAST, Northern Ireland - Families seeking justice for 29 people slain in Northern Ireland's deadliest atrocity sue five suspected senior **Irish Republican Army** dissidents in a landmark civil case. NIRELAND-TERROR LAWSUIT. Lead has moved. By Shawn Pogatchnik. AP Photo XBFT102.

KURSK: Leaky torpedo sank Kursk nuclear submarine, final report confirms

MOSCOW- Leaky torpedo propellant destroyed the Kursk nuclear submarine, killing its 118-man crew in what Russia's top prosecutor called a technical malfunction for which no one was to blame. RUSSIA-KURSK. Lead has moved. By Vladimir Isachenkov.

MILOSEVIC. Former security chief defends Milosevic as protector of Albanian civilians

THE HAGUE, Netherlands - Yugoslavia's former chief of security defends Slobodan Milosevic, claiming the former leader gave orders to protect Albanian civilians. WAR CRIMES-MILOSEVIC. Has moved. By Aleksandar Vasovic.

ITALY-SMOKING: Ban Bogie! Italian official calls for end to glamorous smoking on TV

ROME - Italy's health minister wants to end television images that glorify smoking - a tough sell in a country where puffs of gray smoke often sail freely past no-smoking signs. ITALY-SMOKE IN EYES. Has moved. By Tom Rachman.

TOUR DE FRANCE: From undisciplined young rider to Tour de France superstar

PARIS - Cancer nearly killed cyclist Lance Armstrong, then it made him stronger. Illness and chemotherapy transformed his body - then it taught the cocky, undisciplined young rider how to race beyond pain. INDOMITABLE LANCE ARMSTRONG. Has moved. By Angela Doland. AP Photos TDF126,132; PAR104.

CONGO: Rebels to hold fresh round of peace talks with Congolese government

KIGALI, Rwanda - Rwandan-backed Congolese rebels say they'll hold a fresh round of peace talks with Congo's government. CONGO-PEACE DEAL. Has moved. By Rodrique Ngowi.

NEW YORK - Wall Street finishes a tumultuous week on an upbeat note, with stocks posting a solid advance and raising hopes that the worst of the market's decline might be over. US-CLOSING STOCKS. Has moved. By Amy Baldwin.

LUMBER: Canada, U.S. both claim victory in initial WTO ruling on softwood lumber tariffs

WASHINGTON - The World Trade Organization says in a preliminary ruling that the United States erred in approving stiff tariffs last year on imports of Canadian softwood lumber. US-CANADA-SOFTWOOD LUMBER. Recap has moved. By Matthew Daly.

LOOKING AHEAD: On Sunday, local elections are held in Bujanovac, the tense region in Yugoslavia bordering Kosovo. On Monday, EU foreign policy envoy Javier Solana visits Iran.

YOUR QUERIES: The World Service editors in charge are Jean H. Lee and Malcolm Foster. Story requests to The Associated Press World Service are welcome. Contact your local AP bureau or the AP International Desk in New York, by telephone: (1) 212-621-1650, fax: (1) 212-621-5449, e-mail: worldnews@ap.org

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WORLD at 0100 GMT

HIGHLIGHTS:

Update: US-SACRAMENTO SLAYINGS. Officials say missing son of fugitive found dead.

New: JAPAN-STORM. Tokyo braces for powerful storm.

New: MEXICO-CHINA-TRADE. Mexico becomes main obstacle to China's WTO entry.

New: COLOMBIA-IRA. Colombia opens criminal investigation of alleged IRA members.

MACEDONIA: NATO poised to launch full 3,500-member force into Macedonia

BRUSSELS, Belgium - NATO's ruling council, hoping to nudge Macedonians and ethnic Albanian rebels along the road to reconciliation, decides Wednesday whether the time is ripe to dispatch 3,500 allied troops on a mission to collect and destroy rebel arms. NATO-MACEDONIA. Recap has moved; decision deadline is set for noon, though it may take longer to confirm there have been no objections. By Jeffrey Ulbrich.

ISRAEL-PALESTINIANS: Arafat calls for Mideast truce talks in Germany

JERUSALEM - Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Tuesday they intend to meet soon for talks to seek a gradual cease-fire to end 11 months of violence. ISRAEL-PALESTINIANS. Lead has moved. By Greg Myre.

JAPAN: Tokyo braces for powerful storm; tens of thousands more prepare for evacuation

TOKYO - Almost 50,000 residents in central Japan prepare to evacuate their homes as a powerful tropical rainstorm sweeps across the region on a direct course for the capital. JAPAN-STORM. Developing. By Kozo Mizoguchi. AP Photo TOK101.

SRINAGAR, India - At least 11 people, including eight Islamic militants and an army soldier, are killed in five different shootouts over a 24-hour period in the northern Indian state of Jammu Kashmir, police and army sources said Tuesday. INDIA-KASHMIR. Has moved.

AFGHANISTAN-AID WORKERS: Diplomats leave Afghanistan without seeing jailed foreigners

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan - Three western diplomats call for the early release of eight of their nationals jailed in Afghanistan on charges of propagating Christianity after being denied meetings with them. AFGHANISTAN-AID WORKERS. Lead has moved. By Kathy Gannon. AP Photos KAB101-102.

No Headline In Original

MEXICO-CHINA: Unlikely opponent Mexico becomes main obstacle to China's WTO entry

MEXICO CITY - Mexico manufactures T-shirts for dlr\$ 1. China can make them for 20 cents. Mexican manufacturers feel they can't win against China's bargain basement prices. Now, as China nears the end of a 15-year fight to join the World Trade Organization, Mexico has emerged as one of China's biggest and most unlikely obstacles to joining the WTO. MEXICO-CHINA-TRADE. Has moved. By Traci Carl.

COLOMBIA-IRA: Colombia opens criminal investigation of alleged IRA members

BOGOTA, Colombia - Prosecutors say they are opening a criminal investigation against three suspected **Irish Republican Army** members captured on suspicion they were conducting terrorist training for Colombian guerrillas. COLOMBIA-IRA. Has moved.

SACRAMENTO SLAYINGS: Officials say missing son of fugitive found dead

SACRAMENTO - The 3-year-old son of a missing Ukrainian man suspected of murdering his wife and four relatives in two Sacramento suburbs is found dead. US-SACRAMENTO SLAYINGS. Lead has moved. By Don Thompson. AP Photos.

RUSSIA-KGB'S CHILDREN: After breakup of KGB, secret police successors gaining power

MOSCOW - The statue of feared Soviet secret police founder Felix Dzerzhinsky was hauled away in one of the most dramatic scenes of the Soviet collapse. But it's not gone and stands in an out-of-the-way Moscow park. Even though his KGB was broken up, its successors are still powerful and, critics fear, are reviving the old oppressive ways. RUSSIA-KGB'S CHILDREN. Has moved. By Jim Heintz. AP Photos NY192-194.

WITH:

-RUSSIA-COUP ANNIVERSARY. MOSCOW - Mikhail Gorbachev, visiting the graves of three men who died 10 years ago protesting the coup attempt that tried to bring him down, says Russia is now making progress toward stability and prosperity. Has moved. By Kim Gamel. AP Photos MOSB103-105.

SPAIN-IMMIGRANTS: Tough law on illegal immigration triggers crackdown - but also solidarity

CUENCA, Spain - Time was when Spaniards went abroad by the millions to work and escape economic hardship. But now, the tables have turned on a more prosperous Spain. As the tide of illegal immigrants swamps its shores like never before, a tough new law is triggering police crackdowns, anti-immigrant sentiment - but also shows of solidarity. SPAIN-IMMIGRANT EXPLOSION. Has moved. By Jerome Socolovsky.

SPAIN-BASQUES: Minister blames radicals for toy blast while Basque party accuses state of terrorism

SAN SEBASTIAN, Spain - Spain's interior minister accused pro-Basque independence radicals of booby-trapping a toy car that blew up while a toddler was playing with it, killing his grandmother. Separatists blamed the government. SPAIN-BASQUES. Lead has moved.

SOUTH AFRICA-AIDS: Activists, doctors sue government to demand AIDS drug

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa - Frustrated by the hundreds of South African babies born with HIV every day, AIDS activists and doctors sue the government demanding it distribute a key AIDS drug that could slash that number in half. SOUTH AFRICA-AIDS-CHILDREN. Has moved. By Ravi Nessman. AP Photos JOH103-104.

IRAN-PARLIAMENT: Jail sentence for **female** legislator sparks parliamentary unrest

TEHRAN, Iran - Ten **female** legislators threaten to walk out of parliament, but are called back by the woman they were trying to defend, who had been sentenced to 22-months in jail for attacking Iran's Islamic establishment. IRAN-PARLIAMENT. Lead has moved. By Afshin Valinejad. AP Photos staffing.

NEW YORK - The Dow Jones industrials tumbles 145 points and the Nasdaq composite and Standard & Poor's 500 indexes hit four-month lows after the Federal Reserve made its seventh interest rate cut of 2001 but failed to predict

No Headline In Original

a business recovery will occur soon. US-CLOSING STOCKS. Has moved. By Lisa Singhania. AP Graphic DOW INTEREST RATE

INTEREST RATES: Federal Reserve cuts short-term interest rates another one-quarter point

WASHINGTON - The Federal Reserve, still trying to keep the U.S. economy out of a recession, cuts a key interest rate for the seventh time this year, lowering the federal funds rate by a quarter-point to 3.50 percent. US-FED-INTEREST RATES. Has moved. By Martin Crutsinger. AP Graphic INTEREST RATE

TRADE DISPUTE: Canada to challenge U.S. softwood lumber duty before WTO

YELLOWKNIFE, Canada - If Americans want Canadian oil and gas, they must also open their doors to Canadian lumber, Prime Minister Jean Chretien has told President George W. Bush. Stepping up moves against a U.S. tariff on Canada's dlr\$ 10 billion-a-year softwood lumber exports, Chretien's government announced Tuesday it will challenge the duty before the World Trade Organization. CANADA-US-LUMBER. Has moved.

-

LOOKING AHEAD: On Saturday, Fiji holds its first general election since a nationalist coup toppled the democratically elected government in May 2000.

-

FIRE ISLAND PINES, New York - Since the first AIDS cases in the United States were diagnosed 20 years ago, much has changed here - yet much is the same. Unprotected sex is commonly practiced in this small town that's a summer refuge for New York City's gay crowd. FEA-US-DANCING WITH AIDS. Has moved. By Verena Dobnik. AP Photos NY368-375, Graphics FIRE ISLAND

MIAMI - In 1967, a Mexican girl stood silent as a middle school principal glared at her. The principal "told me I was too stupid and would never amount to anything," recalls Juanita de la Cruz. Today, she has a doctorate in education and heads a program to get homeless children in schools. FEA-US-LOOKING FOR JUANITA. Has moved. By Tom Wells. AP Photos NY361-NY363

SHARON, Massachusetts - Patrick and Sharon Terry gave their two children a faulty gene that could make them go blind. In February, Mrs. Terry applied for a patent jointly with researchers on the gene. It could give her control over who does research and ultimately provides care. FEA-US-GENE PATENTS. Has moved. By Jeff Donn. AP Photos NY387-389, Graphic GENE PATENTS

YOUR QUERIES: The World Service editors in charge are Ian Mader and Priscilla Cheung. Story requests to The Associated Press World Service are welcome. Contact your local AP bureau or the AP International Desk in New York, telephone: (1) 212-621-1650, fax: (1) 212-621-5449, e-mail: worldnews@ap.org

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WORLD at 0700 GMT

HIGHLIGHTS:

Update: AUSTRALIA-ASYLUM SEEKERS. Symbol of Australia's unwelcoming immigration policy.

New: INDIA-MISSILE TEST: India tests advanced version of intermediate range missile.

New: INDIA-EARTHQUAKE. Safe housing one year after India's devastating Gujarat earthquake.

Update: AFGHANISTAN. Annan arrives in Kabul.

New: AFGHAN-NEW ARMY. Afghanistan trains raw recruits to defend reborn nation.

New: PAKISTAN-LINDH'S LETTERS. Letters from Lindh's mother show anguished search for lost son.

ISRAEL-PALESTINIANS: Hamas leader dies in Israeli helicopter strike, five other Palestinians killed

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip - Israeli helicopters fires rockets at a car in a Palestinian refugee camp, killing a leader of the militant Hamas, on a day when five other Palestinians were killed. Meantime, U.S. officials express understanding for Israel's holding Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat under virtual house arrest in his West Bank headquarters, while Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon accepts an invitation to fly to visit Washington next month. ISRAEL-PALESTINIANS. Has moved. By Ibrahim Barzak. AP Photos.

WITH:

-US-MIDEAST. WASHINGTON - Bush sends Arab leaders evidence of Palestinian Authority involvement in arms smuggling. Has moved.

-ARABS-ARAFAT. CAIRO, Egypt - Arab leaders keeping their distance from Arafat as Palestinian chief faces his worst crisis. Has moved.

-PALESTINIAN-HAMAS ROCKET. JERUSALEM - Hamas developing rocket that could hit Israeli cities, militant leader says. Has moved.

-PALESTINIAN-RADIO STATION. RAMALLAH, West Bank - Official Palestinian radio broadcasts from apartment after Israel destroyed its building. Expected by 0900. By Hadeel Wahdan.

AMERICAN TALIBAN: Lindh's lawyers will have uphill battle discrediting his statements to FBI, legal experts say

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ALEXANDRIA, Virginia - John Walker Lindh's battle has moved from Afghanistan to a U.S. courtroom, where his lawyers will challenge the government's use of the Taliban soldier's statements to the FBI. US-AMERICAN TALIBAN. Lede upcoming. By Larry Margasak. AP Photos WX112-WX116, WX120-WX121.

WITH:

-PAKISTAN-LINDH'S LETTERS. HASSANI KALAN SURANI, Pakistan -Letters from Lindh's mother show anguished search for lost son. Has moved. By Hamza Hendawi. AP Photos NY111-115; AP Graphic LINDH TIMELINE.

-AFGHANISTAN. KANDAHAR, Afghanistan - The U.S. military is holding 27 prisoners captured during a firefight, while U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan pays a visit to Afghanistan to bolster the post-Taliban government. Has moved. By Kimberly Hefling. AP Photo XEM105.

- AFGHAN-NEW ARMY. KANDAHAR, Afghanistan - The defense of a reconstructed Afghanistan will depend, in part, on young men in women's clothing who can't seem to get the hang of marching. Upcoming. By Ellen Knickmeyer. AP Photos ADL101,103.

-US-AFGHANISTAN. WASHINGTON - Newly installed Afghan leader to get VIP treatment in capital. Has moved. By George Gedda.

AUSTRALIA-ASYLUM SEEKERS: Detention center a symbol of Australia's unwelcoming immigration policy

WOOMERA, Australia - A huddle of huts surrounded by razor wire-topped fences on a barren Outback plain, Woomera's illegal immigrant detention center is a potent symbol of Australia's unwelcoming attitude to asylum seekers. AUSTRALIA-ASYLUM SEEKERS. Has moved. By Mike Corder. AP Photos.

INDIA-MISSILE TEST: India tests advanced version of intermediate range missile

NEW DELHI, India - India successfully tested a new version of its nuclear-capable, intermediate range Agni missile - the most powerful weapon in its arsenal - from an island off the eastern coast on Friday, officials said. INDIA-MISSILE TEST. Has moved. By Neelesh Misra.

INDIA-EARTHQUAKE: One year after India's devastating Gujarat earthquake, state and voluntary groups struggle to provide safe housing

KUMBHARIYA, India - A year after a massive earthquake flattened the western Indian state of Gujarat, the landscape of one tiny village is changing irrevocably. Rising from the mounds of rubble that mark the hundreds of houses destroyed by the temblor are iron rods and concrete pillars. The villagers of Kumbhariya are rebuilding their homes, this time with quake-resistant structures, each with its own toilet and water tank. INDIA-EARTHQUAKE-HOUSES. Has moved. By Nirmala George. AP photos.

INDONESIA: Ramos-Horta says Indonesia will crack down on terrorists in archipelago

SINGAPORE - Nobel Peace Prize winner Jose Ramos-Horta says in an interview that he is confident Indonesia will crack down on terrorists operating within the sprawling archipelago. ATTACKS-SINGAPORE-INDONESIA. Expected by 1000 GMT. By Regan Morris.

TAIPEI, Taiwan - Taiwan cautiously welcomes a rare goodwill gesture from China, saying it was a sign that Beijing was beginning to understand political developments on the island. TAIWAN-CHINA. Has moved. By Annie Huang. AP Photo TPE101.

US-DOMESTIC TERRORISM: Bush pledges doubling money for homeland security

WASHINGTON - President George W. Bush asks Congress for \$38 billion to strengthen U.S. defenses against terrorism, a doubling of spending for intelligence, border security and other measures to thwart enemies who "still want to come after us." US-BUSH-DOMESTIC TERRORISM. Has moved. By Ron Fournier.

ENRON: Andersen officials testify auditor was responsible for shredding

No Headline In Original

WASHINGTON - The first hard look by Congress at what's behind the Enron Corp. collapse left lawmakers certain of only one thing: Thousands of documents were destroyed by the energy company's blue-ribbon accounting firm. US-ENRON-INVESTIGATION. Lead expected by 0900. By H. Josef Hebert.

PEACE DAY: Daylong prayer for peace ends with commitment to end violence in religion's name

ASSISI, Italy - Religious leaders from around the globe return to their homelands after committing to work for peace and end violence in religion's name, at a remarkable daylong retreat led by Pope John Paul II in this historic, hillside town. ITALY-POPE-PEACE DAY. Has moved. By Nicole Winfield. AP Photos.

EURO-SHOPPING AROUND: With euro cash, Europe's price gaps become easier for consumers to see

FRANKFURT, Germany - The dawn of the euro currency has removed the last vestiges of fog obscuring the vastly different prices for goods across Europe. And consumers might be shocked by what they see. EURO-SHOPPING AROUND. Has moved. By David McHugh. AP Graphic EURO SHOPPING.

ALSO:

-EURO-GROWING PAINS. BERLIN - With euro in place, Europeans grapple with vending machine hitches, finicky small coins. Has moved.

NORTHERN IRELAND: Northern Ireland police chief rejects criticism of Omagh investigation

OMAGH, Northern Ireland - Northern Ireland's embattled police commander offers a detailed rebuttal to accusations that his force mishandled warnings of the province's bloodiest bomb attack, and insists detectives have identified the **Irish Republican Army** dissidents responsible. NIRELAND-OMAGH BOMB. Has moved. By Shawn Pogatchnik.

NORWAY-RACISM: Slaying of black teen-ager raises awareness of extremist violence in Norway

OSLO, Norway - On a chilly January night a year ago, 15-year-old Benjamin Hermansen left his mother's apartment to meet with his best friend. If Benjamin had been white, he would have made it home. With his Jan. 26, 2001, murder, the extremist violence Norwegians thought only happened elsewhere had touched home. FEA-NORWAY-RACISM. Has moved. By Doug Mellgren. AP Photos NY193-195.

HEALTHY ALCOHOL: A few drinks a day could combat dementia, new research reiterates

LONDON - A few drinks a day could almost halve the risk of developing Alzheimer's disease or other types of dementia, new research indicates. MED-HEALTHY ALCOHOL. Has moved. By Emma Ross.

TOKYO - The U.S. dollar strengthens against the yen Friday morning, boosted by upbeat comments about the U.S. economy the previous day by Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan. Tokyo stocks slip. JAPAN-MARKETS. Has moved.

WITH:

- JAPAN-ECONOMY. TOKYO - IMF official expresses support for Japan's reform efforts. Has moved. By Yuri Kageyama.

SAN DIEGO - Gateway Inc., the fourth-largest U.S. computer maker, announces that it will eliminate 2,250 jobs around the country in an effort to cut costs amid reduced sales and a shrinking share of the market. US-EARNS-GATEWAY. Has moved. By Ben Fox.

LOOKING AHEAD: On Saturday, agriculture ministers from Japan, United States, Canada, Australia and European Union discuss farm trade.

NEW YORK - This year, there is a surprising amount of anticipation for a spring Broadway season. Among the expected offerings: a new Edward Albee play, revivals of two works by Arthur Miller, a musical version of "Sweet Smell of Success" and a major reworking of "Oklahoma!" ARTS-US-BROADWAY PREVIEW. By Michael Kuchwara. AP Photos NY327-329.

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WITH:

-ARTS-BROADWAY PREVIEW-LIST.

MILWAUKEE - There wasn't much J.R.R. Tolkien threw away in the 14 years he spent writing "The Lord of the Rings" series. Little did he know that all those revisions and illustrations about the mystical world of Middle-earth would be worth millions and put Marquette University on the literary map. ARTS-US-TOLKIEN'S TEXT. By Carrie Antfinger. AP Photo NY301.

WITH:

-ARTS-TOLKIEN'S TEXT-BOX.

PARK CITY, Utah - Writer-director Todd Solondz subjects audiences to often harrowing mirrors of reality. With his latest, "Storytelling," he spins two disturbing tales that confront difficult notions of race, infirmity, sex and American indifference to foreign hirelings. ARTS-US-TODD SOLONDZ. By David Germain. AP Photo NY356

ALSO:

-ARTS-BRITAIN-TOLKIEN-CHRISTIANS. AP Photo NY359

-ARTS-BRITAIN-BLUE PLANET. AP Photos NY389-390

-ARTS-US-HOLOCAUST EXHIBIT. AP Photo NY373

-ARTS-US-HENRY DARGER. AP Photos NY345-346

-ARTS-US-HANK WILLIAMS JR. AP Photo NY337

-ARTS-US-CHRISTMAS TRUCE. AP Photo NY305

-ARTS-US-APOCALYPSE THEN. AP Photo NY302

-ARTS-US-LUDACRIS. AP Photos NY342-344

-ARTS-US-MOTHMAN LEGEND. AP Photos NY352-353

-ARTS-US-TANTRIC. AP Photos NY309-310

-ARTS-US-SEX AND THE CITY TOUR. AP Photos NY347-351

-ARTS-US-ROSE RED. AP Photos NY374-375

-ARTS-ENTERTAINMENT FLASHBACKS.

-ARTS-CELEBRITY BIRTHDAYS.

-ARTS-AUDIO REVIEWS. AP Photo NY354

-ARTS-FILM REVIEWS. AP Photos NY671-2

-ARTS-US TOP TEN.

YOUR QUERIES: The World Service editors in charge are Cheryl Wittenauer and Priscilla Cheung. Story requests to The Associated Press World Service are welcome. Contact your local AP bureau or the AP International Desk in New York, telephone: (1) 212-621-1650, fax: (1) 212-621-5449, e-mail: worldnews@ap.org

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The Toronto Star

July 17, 1999, Saturday, Edition 1

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Section: NEWS

Length: 969 words

Byline: Olivia Ward

Body

BELFAST, Northern Ireland - While the majority in this battered province is angry and disappointed that the peace process has hit a wall, one small but deadly constituency is celebrating a chilling victory.

"The peace deal is stone-dead," said a source close to hardline loyalist paramilitary groups. "We've worked for that for months. We couldn't be happier."

Pro-British terrorists and their opposite numbers in the republican paramilitary movement have everything to gain from the breakdown of the deal Thursday, when an attempt to name a new government collapsed over the unresolved issue of disarming the guerrillas.

Britain's Northern Ireland Secretary Mo Mowlam manoeuvred yesterday to rescue the faltering peace process, insisting, "We must go forward."

But emergency talks by the eight main parties to last year's Good Friday agreement failed to reach any workable conclusion, and Ulster Unionist leader David Trimble warned they couldn't go on asking Britain and Ireland to solve their problems "like nursemaids."

They pinned their hopes on a meeting planned for Tuesday involving British Prime Minister Tony Blair, Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern and, perhaps most significantly, former U.S. senator George Mitchell, who helped bring about the Good Friday deal.

The current confusion plays into the hands of terrorists who want to go on using force to achieve their aims.

For the Protestants it means keeping their hammerlock on power in the British-ruled province, where they have a 60 per cent majority - which is declining - rather than sharing power with Catholics in the Good Friday agreement's Northern Ireland assembly.

For the republicans, struggling for a united Catholic Ireland, it means no self-rule for the north, so the struggle for union can continue. Nor will they have to give up their guns along with their political dreams.

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Many guerrillas believe political concessions can only come from a show of naked force. Both sides say they have learned impressive lessons from the **Irish Republican Army**'s bombing campaign that helped persuade the British government to loosen its grip on Northern Ireland.

Moderates might return to violence The crumbling of the peace process has given even mainstream paramilitaries - officially abiding by a ceasefire - an opening to return to violence.

The first worrying signal came from the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF), a large Protestant group, represented in the Northern Ireland assembly by the Progressive Unionist Party (PUP).

"After all the UVF has done, we've been completely left out of the loop," complained the PUP's Billy Hutchinson, chosen as a liaison official to work out disarmament details with the international decommissioning body headed by retired Canadian Gen. John de Chastelain.

"Nobody has consulted us," Hutchinson warned. "We will have to reassess our relationship with the commission."

The UVF recently helped to keep the lid on the Protestant parades that annually ignite clashes with police and nationalists. But the group has come under pressure from dissident members who believe its leadership has sold out to nationalists.

Security analysts, however, are most closely watching the republican splinter groups who may see their chance to force an end to the IRA ceasefire declared two years ago.

"The IRA itself has too much to lose by doing anything rash," said one. "It would lose any credibility it has with the public, on the eve of Sinn Fein gaining a legitimate place in government."

But at least two dissident groups, the Continuity IRA and the Real IRA, have never reconciled to Sinn Fein's change in course to accepting a political role in Northern Ireland, which they see as endorsing the partition they are fighting to bring down.

Members of both groups had been seen recently in the most contentious parade areas, and Continuity is said to be operating in the South Armagh border region.

There are also fears that extremist Protestant terror groups who are pleased with the halt in the peace process might push the IRA back to violence for their own ends.

"There are some who want to copper-fasten the outcome," says the loyalist source. "When you remember that there have been more than 100 attacks on republicans since the peace deal, you have a strong hint that they want to make sure the ceasefire doesn't stick."

Police said they arrested three people and seized arms and bomb components at a house in Belfast yesterday.

The Royal Ulster Constabulary said it recovered a sub-machinegun, three handguns, a pipe bomb and components and a detonator at a house in south Belfast.

Trimble still hopes to join government

Politicians struggled yesterday to avert a crisis that could bring violence back.

Trimble emphasized that he still hoped to form a government that included two members of Sinn Fein.

Meanwhile, the main representative of Northern Ireland's substantial Catholic minority, the pacifist Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP), blamed the Ulster Unionists and Sinn Fein for the impasse.

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"The republican movement could have taken a step to avoid this. They could have made crystal clear their intentions on (weapons) decommissioning. They didn't," said the SDLP's deputy leader, Seamus Mallon, using the umbrella term for Sinn Fein and the IRA.

Mallon, who resigned in disgust Thursday from his post as the administration's Catholic deputy leader, also accused Trimble and his party of being "hell-bent on outright confrontation" with Sinn Fein over the IRA's refusal to disarm.

But, he predicted, "Out of the present ashes, I am confident this process can rise again.

"When this agreement is saved, as I'm sure it will be," he said, "I will be able to look back on this week with the sadness gone, the anger gone, the sense of bitter disappointment but a memory."

Graphic

<CREDIT> STAR FILE PHOTO </CREDIT> <SUBJECT> CONTORTED VIEW: </SUBJECT> The late Soviet defector Rudolf Nureyev, shown with Toronto's Veronica Tennant in a 1972 photo, was suspected of being a Soviet spy, U.S. documents reveal. A cryptic note in a California hotel triggered the bizarre probe. <HEADLINE> Was Nureyev in step with KGB? </HEADLINE> <DECK> FBI investigated dancer who lived in fear of U.S.S.R. </DECK> <BYLINE> Michael Dobbs </BYLINE> <CREDIT> SPECIAL TO THE STAR </CREDIT> WASHINGTON - Rudolf Nureyev a Soviet spy? Such a notion seems incredible to friends and admirers of the legendary ballet dancer, known for his rebellious nature, who was denounced by the Kremlin as a traitor after his 1961 defection. But the FBI took it seriously enough in 1964 to open an espionage investigation into Nureyev, according to recently declassified documents. Nureyev biographer Diane Solway describes the investigation as a "Keystone Kops affair" that says more about the FBI of J. Edgar Hoover than about the man who captivated audiences in America and Europe with his gravity-defying leaps and turns. She points out that Nureyev lived in terror of the Soviet KGB at the very time he was being investigated by the FBI, and that both organizations took a similarly disapproving view of his openly homosexual life. The FBI investigation was triggered by the discovery, in a hotel room, of a cryptic note addressed to Nureyev that could variously be interpreted as an espionage assignment, a lovers' tryst or a KGB disinformation effort. The investigation petered out after a few months as inquiries in four cities produced no concrete information against the dancer. In 1972, Nureyev again attracted FBI attention in an apparently unrelated espionage investigation, the details of which remain secret. Earlier this month, the FBI released 160 pages of heavily edited files on Nureyev, posting them on its Web site (www.fbi.gov) in response to a Freedom of Information Act request filed by Solway in 1993, when Nureyev died of AIDS. The release of the files came too late for inclusion in her 1998 biography of Nureyev, which draws extensively on declassified Soviet Communist Party documents. "It took me less than a year to get the (Russian) file on Nureyev. When I got it, in 1994, it was completely uncensored and acknowledged mistakes at the highest level," says Solway. But it took the FBI six years to produce details of its own "lame-duck investigation," she says, and much material was blacked out. Among the more startling signs of FBI sloppiness in the Nureyev investigation is an assertion by the bureau's San Francisco office that he defected on June 6, 1963, in Paris while touring with Leningrad's Kirov Ballet. In fact, Nureyev's celebrated "leap to freedom" took place at Paris' Le Bourget airport on June 16, 1961, when he appealed to French police for political asylum after wrestling with two KGB agents who had been assigned to keep a close eye on him. The incident was reported with banner headlines worldwide. The FBI files show the bureau first became interested in Nureyev in March, 1964, with the discovery of a note hidden behind a wall plaque in Room 110 of the Hyatt House hotel in Salinas, Calif., which read: "Nureyev - I made contact with the agent at M.L.S. and he agreed that we should wait before we attempt to 3689001427. I hope you find the note as you requested. I put it here on 7-19. I really don't approve of your hiding place, it is rather conspicuous." Assuming "M.L.S." stood for Monterey Language School, a U.S. Army facility and possible espionage target, the FBI investigated anyone who could have had access to the hotel room. While Nureyev had performed with the British Royal Ballet in Los Angeles, there was no evidence he had ever visited Salinas. Attention then switched to possible homosexual contacts. FBI agents who interviewed one former

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occupant of Room 110 reported "a strong odour of cheap toilet water" in his apartment. "His manner appeared effeminate," the report continued. "When given the opportunity to indicate that he was or was not a homosexual, (name deleted) evaded the issue. It was also noted that there was only one bed in the apartment shared by two males." The FBI files note that Nureyev seemed "extremely tense" in August, 1964, when interviewed about the espionage allegations, but details of have not been released. Biographer Solway believes Nureyev was "terrified" of being sent back to the Soviet Union. "The irony is that he was paranoid about being shadowed by the KGB and was terrified when people got too close to him. It now turns out that it was probably the FBI that followed him. In the end, he trusted nobody. "It is ludicrous to think that he could have been a spy," Solway adds. "He was completely self-obsessed - and only interested in dancing." <CREDIT> WASHINGTON POST </CREDIT> </BODY> </STORY> <STORY> <HEAD> <ID> 199907171147506 </ID> <MOD> ADD </MOD> <PUB> The Toronto Star </PUB> <DATE> 19990717 </DATE> <SECTION> NEWS </SECTION> <EDITION> 1 </EDITION> <COPY> Copyright (c) 1999 Toronto Star, All Rights Reserved. </COPY> </HEAD> <BODY> <HEADLINE> Death penalty deal denied </HEADLINE> <DECK> Texas police say no promise made </DECK> HOUSTON (AP) - The sister of railway killer suspect Angel Maturino Resendez knew he could get the death penalty in Texas when she brokered his surrender, officials said yesterday. "We only negotiated with the sister," said Tom Vinger, a spokesperson for the Texas Department of Public Safety. "Whatever anybody else understood is not something we have control over. With the sister, the death penalty was discussed. She understood it was a possibility. And there were no promises made." The question of what she knew came up when Maturino Resendez's brother complained this week that the family was duped by Texas Rangers into believing he would not face the death penalty. Maturino Resendez, 39, surrendered Tuesday after a six-week manhunt, crossing from Mexico into El Paso with brother Florentino Maturino at his side. His sister, Manuela, negotiated the surrender with a Texas Ranger. Maturino Resendez is suspected in nine slayings and is charged in Texas with capital murder in the bludgeoning of an 87-year-old woman. Maturino Resendez is also a suspect in the unsolved torture-murders of 188 women in the border city of Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, The Star's Linda Diebel reported earlier this month. Police suspect that a serial killer is involved in the killing spree, which began in 1993. Florentino Maturino said his family was told that his brother would not face a death sentence for any Texas murders. "That wasn't the intention, to give him the death penalty," Florentino Maturino said. Vinger said Manuela Maturino had no lawyer present during her meetings with Rangers but that she was well-informed about the possibility that he could face execution in Texas. </BODY> </STORY> <STORY> <HEAD> <ID> 199907171163705 </ID> <MOD> ADD </MOD> <PUB> The Toronto Star </PUB> <DATE> 19990717 </DATE> <SECTION> NEWS </SECTION> <EDITION> 1 </EDITION> <COPY> Copyright (c) 1999 Toronto Star, All Rights Reserved. </COPY> </HEAD> <BODY> <HEADLINE> N. Ireland impasse delights extremists </HEADLINE> <DECK> Paramilitaries set to exploit deal's breakdown </DECK> <CAPTION> <SUBJECT> NOT GIVING UP: </SUBJECT> British Prime Minister Tony Blair, left, and Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern, right, pin hopes on Tuesday meeting with George Mitchell.

Load-Date: July 18, 1999

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October 24, 2001, Wednesday, BC cycle

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Section: Commentary

Length: 3121 words

Body

By the Associated Press

Here are excerpts from editorials from the United States and abroad:

Oct. 13

The Paducah (Ky.) Sun, on the bipartisan mood and congressional leaders:

The mood of bipartisan good feeling in Washington may change soon if congressional leaders can't show some restraint in putting together an economic stimulus package. ...

The nation's democratic institutions and traditions are strong enough to withstand the assaults of those who hate freedom.

Still, there's a danger that members of Congress will try to use the events of Sept. 11 to advance pet ideas and programs that could not withstand scrutiny under ordinary circumstances.

A bad proposal is still a bad proposal; bipartisan goodwill cannot erase the consequences of flawed programs. ...

The president and Democratic and Republican leaders in Congress agree that some combination of tax cuts and new spending is needed to keep the economy from falling into a prolonged recession. Already the president has listened to the appeals of Democrats and substantially increased spending packages to aid New York City and the struggling airline industry.

These measures were defensible, but the president should adamantly resist, even to the point of using his veto authority, the developing drive by Senate Democrats for massive additional spending.

Bush has offered a stimulus plan that appropriately emphasizes short-term tax relief, in the form of rebates for lower-income taxpayers, and other tax cuts that would give the economy a needed boost.

House Republicans have come up with proposals aimed at spurring job-creating business investment. In terms of tax policy, it makes sense to balance business investment incentives with consumer confidence measures.

But it does not make sense to launch a major program of so-called infrastructure spending. ...

Oct. 17

The Herald, Rock Hill, S.C., on Mayor Giuliani returning a Saudi Prince's donation check:

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Rep. Cynthia McKinney, D-Ga., has written a letter to Saudi Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal apologizing for New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani's refusal to accept the prince's \$ 10 million check for victims of the Sept. 11 attacks. We think she should have let the matter lie and put the letter in a drawer.

Giuliani gave the prince his check back after he learned Alwaleed had suggested U.S. policies toward the Middle East were partly to blame for the attacks. ...

Giuliani, we think, made the right call. Under the circumstances, even \$ 10 million doesn't buy Alwaleed the right to suggest, even mildly, that the United States brought this attack on itself. If nothing else, it was poor timing.

Rep. McKinney wrote the prince that she thought Giuliani should have "recognized your right to speak and make observations about a part of the world which you know so well." But that wasn't really the issue. Alwaleed has a perfect right to speak his mind - unlike the citizens of Saudi Arabia who are subjugated by his family.

But he chose the wrong forum to make such politically charged remarks. Giuliani's return of the prince's check sent an appropriate message: "Take a hike, and don't come back until you learn some manners."

Oct. 19

St. Paul (Minn.) Pioneer Press, on anti-abortion terrorists:

Taking on terror at home should start with anti-abortion criminals. ...

Violence and threats of violence against Americans engaged in the delivery of health care to women, including abortions as allowed under law, have been tolerated for years. ...

Among the thousands of recipients of anthrax threats were at least 170 clinics that provide reproductive health care for women, including abortions. This was not a random incident by a new manifestation of kook. The mass mailings of letters containing threats and white powder were professionally addressed and many were in envelopes bearing return addresses of the U.S. Marshal's Service and the Secret Service. The senders were obviously old hands, taking advantage of the moment to reinforce their terrorism. ...

For decades, women's health care providers have experienced as a fact of life what other segments of society are experiencing with horror. The National Abortion Rights Action League, an advocacy organization with a self-evident mission, is among groups that track violence perpetrated by religiously motivated militant anti-abortion criminals. Since 1993, NARAL says, three doctors, two clinic employees, an escort worker and a security guard have been killed. There have been 16 attempted murders. ...

Many of the criminals have been prosecuted. But certainly more would have been and this whole cult of violence would have been contained much more effectively if the whole anti-abortion community had taken ownership of the violence at its fringes and helped bring the law down on the criminals. And certainly, had law enforcement had as much political will behind it before as it does now to investigate and prosecute those who make terroristic threats, the long, sustained crime wave against women's clinics would have been less severe. ...

Oct. 23

San Jose (Calif.) Mercury News, on the failure of security agencies to predict Sept. 11 attacks:

Congress is dithering over whether and how to investigate the failure of U.S. intelligence to predict and prevent the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

How to conduct an inquiry is worthy of debate. But whether to do it - why is this even a question?

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There were hints of what was coming before Sept. 11. We know, for example, that one of those teach-me-to-steer-but-not-to-land aviators was behind bars on immigration charges last summer. How different things would be today if somebody had picked up on his bizarre story and checked flight schools for others like him.

What else was overlooked, and by whom?

Congress has passed new laws giving the government far more investigative power and reducing individuals' civil liberties. What assurance do we have that government agencies given these new powers will use them appropriately? Before Sept. 11, neither the FBI nor the CIA was considered an exemplary agency. They were known not to share information sufficiently. The FBI was particularly discredited, fresh from the Wen Ho Lee debacle and the failure to detect master spy Robert Hanssen in its midst. ...

Sept. 11 changed so much - but it did not magically empower dysfunctional organizations to suddenly become brilliant. Americans need to understand what failed before they can be confident that new tactics will work.

Oct. 23

Times Union, Albany, N.Y., on proposals for additional legal gambling in the state:

The calls at the state Capitol are tiresomely familiar, only more urgently so. Gambling. Casinos. Powerball. Quick Draw. A way out.

The Legislature is in session again this week, and the sharp decline in state revenues has its leaders, along with the governor, ever more eager to strike a deal that greatly expands legal gambling opportunities in New York.

"We need the revenues," says Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno, R-Rensselaer. "We desperately need the revenues."

Intentional or not, Mr. Bruno's choice of words is very telling. And it's consistent with the shortsighted thinking that's so often behind the push for more gambling. A state where the post-Sept. 11 prognosis is that revenues are likely to be down by about \$ 9 billion over the next 18 months is said to need to allow more casinos, join the multistate lottery game known as Powerball, and let many of its racetracks install video lottery terminals that work the way slot machines do. ...

Mr. Bruno estimates that a gambling deal could mean, within a few years, about \$ 1 billion annually in revenue otherwise unavailable to New York. Such estimates are inevitably open to question, of course. But what really needs to be asked of Mr. Bruno and other gambling advocates is at what cost that \$ 1 billion might come. ...

Gambling in flush times might drain disposable income. But in harder times, it's more likely to drain essential income. With unemployment rising, the market for casinos and Powerball is most likely going to include more people without jobs. Among the casino sites under consideration are Buffalo and Niagara Falls - just as the job market in that region is said to be worse than it's been in decades.

No doubt a massive gambling bill is quite tempting to a legislature and a governor so loath to make tough choices that New York still is without an adequate budget almost seven months after one was due. The challenge during the next day or so is to convince them that what they think is a sure bet isn't at all a safe bet.

Oct. 17

The Times-Picayune, New Orleans, on South Africa's need to tell the truth about AIDS:

Concealing the prevalence of AIDS in South Africa will not make the disease any less deadly.

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Nevertheless, that nation's government is delaying the release of a report on the prevalence of AIDS within its borders. A new report by the autonomous but government-funded Medical Research Council predicts that, without major changes in public policy and personal behavior among South Africans, the disease could kill up to 7 million people there by 2010 and reduce the average life expectancy from 54 to 41.

When South African officials got wind of those findings, they sought a delay in the report's release until December, when a government statistical agency is expected to finish a rosier evaluation of the problem. Fortunately, Medical Research Council scientists leaked key parts of the report to the media.

In the past, government officials have questioned whether HIV really causes AIDS. Even after winning a legal battle over access to life-saving drugs, the government has shown little interest in distributing them to infected citizens.

And now this. As the world's attention has turned to terrorism, governments that endanger the health of their own people won't necessarily get the international condemnation they deserve. But regardless of the other dangers that exist in the world, AIDS is a grave threat to South Africa's future. The government must not pretend otherwise.

Oct. 23

The Clarion-Ledger, Jackson, Miss., on the Afghan dilemma:

News of intensified U.S. bombing north of the Afghanistan capital of Kabul poses the question: What if Kabul falls to the Northern Alliance's anti-Taliban forces?

Since the U.S. attacks began Oct. 7, neither the alliance nor America has acknowledged any pact.

The alliance doesn't claim U.S. allegiance because it doesn't want to be seen as being propped up by an outside force; America hasn't because in some respects the alliance is as questionable as the Taliban (including allegations of civil rights violations, terrorism and drug sales).

Both the alliance (composed of independent war lords with no governing authority) and America, though, find themselves together on one issue: both target the Taliban.

Some have wondered if the alliance takes Kabul if there would be any difference for the people of Afghanistan.

Here is where the United Nations could play a key role. ...

If the alliance takes Kabul, there could be an opportunity for the United Nations to step in with a peace-keeping force to usher in a more representative, stable government.

Although President Bush has rejected "nation building," as he calls it, last week the State Department's Richard Haass met in Rome with Mohammad Zahir Shah, 86, the king deposed in 1974, reportedly to discuss returning.

The war in Afghanistan is a long way from being resolved, particularly the focus of the campaign: eradicating those responsible for the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

But it is possible that in addition to removing terrorist mastermind Osama bin Laden, a better situation for the people of Afghanistan will result.

Oct. 22

News-Press, Fort Myers, Fla., on DNA testing for convicts:

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The Florida Supreme Court has missed an opportunity to improve justice in the state by expanding the use of DNA testing. Now, it's up to the state legislators to get the job done, but they probably won't do it unless they hear from concerned citizens.

The court has ruled 4-3 that only those convicted at a trial can ask for DNA testing to clear their names, not those who have pleaded guilty or no contest to charges against them.

The Florida Bar's board of governors had unanimously endorsed expanded DNA testing, realizing that sometimes people who plead guilty or no contest do so because they realize ... that a conviction is likely anyway. ...

People don't always plead guilty because they are guilty.

The state argued against expanded testing, saying it would violate the separation of powers if the court ordered testing the Legislature has refused to approve.

The justices didn't rule on whether they have constitutional authority to expand testing beyond what lawmakers have authorized. ...

The credibility of criminal justice is harmed by this decision. ...

But the court has ducked the responsibility, which means it will come up again in the Legislature, probably next year.

We realize that money is extremely tight in state government. ...

... But the state cannot in good conscience continue to imprison people whose innocence might be proven by this test. ...

Oct.21

Jornal do Brasil, on assassination of Rehavan Zeevi:

The assassination of the Israeli Tourism minister Rehavan Zeevi brings back the terrorist tactics spanning across the whole Middle East's recent history. Every time a possible understanding between Israeli and Palestinians looms in the horizon, terrorists move into action to postpone peace. The profession of terrorists is to conduct terrorist acts without which groups such as Al Fatah or Islamic Jihad would lose their reason to exist. A formula repeats itself: Israel negotiates only when the Palestine Authority controls terrorists, and terrorists strike every time they feel cornered by the peace process.

Many Israelis understand that the creation of a Palestine state is inevitable and that Israel will have to withdraw from almost all the territory conquered in the 1967 war. But under the current violence, the Israeli public opinion is traumatized by insecurity. Equally, the Palestine public opinion is traumatized by the the casualties resulting from the Intifada. ...

The Middle East continues being a region where everything can happen, including a war that could trigger a Third World War.

Oct. 22

The Star, Johannesburg, South Africa, on censorship:

The attacks in the U.S. (have) showed us that the democracies of the West, which we often seek to emulate, may not be the safe havens of media freedom we assume.

No Headline In Original

Nothing exposed this as much as the reaction to an Arab satellite channel broadcasting from the tiny Gulf emirate of Qatar.

As the only channel with a bureau in Kabul, Al-Jazeera has been broadcasting tapes of the U.S. bombardments, and televised statement by Osama bin Laden. U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell urged the Emir of Qatar to instruct the station to tone down its coverage of Afghanistan. And Tony Blair told British broadcasters to stop running unedited "propaganda" from bin Laden.

Already the only news on the U.S. war on Afghanistan available to the greater part of the world comes via the Pentagon. We have to take their word that the pictures they spoon-feed us are indeed of bin Laden training camps. It's not for us to question anything. To do so is to be labeled anti-American.

While we support a war on terrorism, media restrictions smack of a cover-up. That's why Al-Jazeera's contribution is so necessary.

Oct. 23

Egyptian Gazette, Cairo, on Bush-Sharon:

Osama bin Laden is not the only one giving U.S. President George W. Bush a hard ride. Israeli Premier Ariel Sharon has thrown down the gauntlet to the embattled Bush. In the aftermath of Sept. 11 attacks, Bush has been keen to rally world support to his avowed campaign against terrorism.

But Sharon is unwilling to toe the line. In past weeks, Palestinians have been the target of a brutal Israeli clampdown which leaves no room for Bush to feel optimistic.

When the Sept. 11 attacks took place, Sharon deemed them a windfall. With the whole world, including the U.S., preoccupied with the aftermath, he would have a full rein in bringing defiant Palestinians to their knees. His calculations soon proved mistaken.

Washington said it was interested in seeing Palestinians and Israelis back at the negotiating table. Sharon's disappointment deepened when Bush declared his backing for the creation of a Palestinian state.

A rash and ruthless politician, Sharon is unhesitatingly spoiling Bush's relentless bids to focus the world attention, efforts and resources on his "sweeping and prolonged" war against terrorism.

Oct. 24

El Mundo, Madrid, Spain, on the IRA's disarmament:

With the IRA's decision to give up its weapons, the European Union is left with only one terrorist organization, which has always considered itself the ***Irish Republican Army***'s blood brother: ETA, (Spain's outlawed Basque separatist group). We have always rejected comparisons between the conflict - which Northern Ireland's Catholic population has with the Protestant community and the British government - and the so-called Basque problem.

It has been the terrorist gang (ETA), its political branch (the Batasuna political party) and the PNV (the Basque region's ruling Basque Nationalist Party) which have compared the two situations. Following their logic and keeping in mind that the Basque region possesses more autonomy than Ulster, ETA should follow the IRA's example and Batasuna that of Sinn Fein.

However, but one can't be too optimistic because in the radical Basque sector developments have always been the reverse of those in Ireland - the hard-liners, advocates of a shot in the back of the neck, have always overruled those who, albeit timidly, have inclined toward a political solution.

Oct. 24

La Repubblica, Rome, on Kabul becoming an 'open city':

One solution gaining popularity in diplomatic circles is that of declaring Kabul a neutral zone to be occupied by United Nations troops. This solution could be approved by both Pakistan and the Northern Alliance. However, the top UN envoy for Afghanistan, Lakdhar Brahimi, one of the few mediators trusted by both the West and the Islamic world, doesn't fully agree with the proposal. Afghans, he maintains, would be reluctant to accept any foreign military presence on their soil.

Brahimi has also made several appeals to UN Secretary general Kofi Annan to pressure the United States to stop the bombing campaign so that aid can be brought to the civilian population.

It seems that Washington is unlikely to back down, and will continue the attacks into the winter, including over the Islamic holy month of Ramadan, arguing that the Taliban should not be given time to reorganize. Yet as the conflict continues the messages coming from the Arab world are sounding less reassuring for the Americans.

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Body

Clearwater

GAWTHROP, PAUL "PETE," 69, of Clearwater, died Monday (Jan. 17, 2000) at home. He was born in Charleston, W.Va., and came here in 1964 from Marietta, Ga. He worked as a pharmaceutical sales representative for 35 years and was an Air Force veteran of the Korean War. Survivors include his wife, Lucille H.; a daughter, Sheri Mills, Margate; a son, David P., Suwanee, Ga.; a sister, Barbara Hinkle, Clearwater; and three grandchildren. Sylvan Abbey Funeral Home, Clearwater.

GRUTMAN, DAVID J., 77, of Merritt Island, formerly of Clearwater, died Monday (Jan. 17, 2000) at Wuesthoff Hospital, Rockledge. He came to Clearwater in 1978 from his native Brooklyn, N.Y., and in 1998 he moved to Merritt Island. He was an accountant and retired as president and CEO of a national tax preparation service. He was an Army veteran of World War II. He was a member of Temple B'Nai Israel, Clearwater. Survivors include his wife of 50 years, Betty; a daughter, Rebecca Kirkpatrick, Merritt Island; two sons, Lewis, St. Petersburg, and Bennet of New Jersey; two sisters, Anne Lowenthal and Minnie Schechtman, both of Brooklyn; and eight grandchildren. Wylie-Baxley Funeral Home, Rockledge.

NPOBITS19

HUBER, GABRIELE, 43, of Clearwater, died Saturday (Jan. 15, 2000) in Tampa. She was born in Germany and came here five years ago from Los Angeles. She worked as a religious administrator. Survivors include her husband of five years, Ulrich; a daughter, Alena Huber, Clearwater; her mother, Maria Bednarek, two brothers, Klaus and Michael Belle, and a sister, Beate Belle, all of Germany. Clearwater Funeral Home.

KLUDING, ARTHUR F., 78, of Clearwater, died Monday (Jan. 17, 2000) at Morton Plant Hospital, Clearwater. He was born in Norwalk, Ohio, and came here in 1972 from Littleton, Colo. He was a senior accountant for Norwalk Truck Line and worked for the city of Clearwater and for Clearwater Central Catholic High School. He was a member of St. Paul's Catholic Church and the Knights of Columbus, Norwalk; the Northern Ohio Referees Association (football and basketball); and, locally, he was a member of the Top of the World Golf League. Survivors include his wife of 57 years, Ruth; a son, Matthew, Sarasota; two daughters, Carolyn Kluding, Largo, and Barbara Romig, Kailua, Hawaii; a sister, Rosemary Nardecchi, Norwalk; and a granddaughter. Moss-Feaster Funeral Homes & Cremation Services, Belcher Road Chapel, Clearwater.

LOWRANCE, MARK L., 91, of Clearwater, died Sunday (Jan. 16, 2000) at Integrated Health Services of Clearwater. He was born in Valle Crucis, N.C., and came here in 1970 from Maryville, Mo., where he owned and operated Maryville Shoe Co. Locally, he was the locker room manager at Countryside Country Club. He was an Army veteran of World War II. He was Baptist and a life member of Nodoway Masons 470, Maryville, and the

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Shrine, St. Joseph, Mo. Survivors include his wife of five years, Ruth; and a cousin, Ruth Makries, Clearwater. Moss-Feaster Funeral Homes & Cremation Services, Belcher Road Chapel, Clearwater.

MANNING, PAMELA KAY, 44, of Clearwater, died Sunday (Jan. 16, 2000) at home. She was born in Barstow, Calif., and came here in 1995 from Fullerton, Calif. Survivors include her husband, James R.; three daughters, Molly May and Katie Jean Manning, both of Clearwater, and Kimberly Ann Rousseve, Rancho Santa Margarita, Calif.; her mother, Theresa Taylor, San Jacinto, Calif.; a brother, Martin Taylor, Bakersfield, Calif.; and two sisters, Cynthia Futch, San Jacinto, Calif., and Janice Kint, Randolph, Neb. Clearwater Funeral Home.

MOORHEAD, CHARLES F., 94, of Clearwater, died Sunday (Jan. 16, 2000) at Largo Medical Center. He was born in Rutherford, N.J., and came here in 1971 from North Cape May, N.J., where he retired as directory supervisor in the marketing department after 30 years with Bell Telephone Co. He was an Army Air Forces veteran of World War II. He was Episcopalian. Survivors include several nieces and nephews. Sylvan Abbey Funeral Home, Clearwater.

O'NEAL, FLORENCE RASKINS, 83, of Clearwater, died Saturday (Jan. 15, 2000) at Morton Plant Hospital, Clearwater. She came here in 1984 from her native Shorter, Ala. She was a member of True Vine Missionary Baptist Church, Clearwater. Survivors include five sons, Albert and Willie O'Neal, both of Clearwater, Frank O'Neal, Detroit, Atward O'Neal, Shorter, and Tommy Lee DeVaugh, Wrens, Ga.; four daughters, Elizabeth Floyd and Linda Garner, both of Clearwater, Ruth Byrd, Ypsilanti, Mich., and Hazel Johnson, Inkster, Mich.; a brother, Thomas Edgar Hayden, Shorter; 27 grandchildren; 45 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren. Woody's Funeral Home, Clearwater.

RIVERA, PRIMO R., 68, of Clearwater, died Monday (Jan. 10, 2000) at Bayfront Medical Center, St. Petersburg. He was born in Detroit and came here in 1990 from Georgia. He was a salesman for machinery and computers and manufactured marble tables. Survivors include a son, Todd, C.; two sisters, Norina Wendt, Clearwater, and Carmen Rivera, Peachtree, Ga.; and two brothers, Rick and Ray. International Mortuary Services, Pinellas Park.

Largo

DUERST, DWIGHT H., "WHITEY," 67, of Largo, died Sunday (Jan. 16, 2000) at home. He was born in Monroe, Wis., and came here in 1986 from Madison, Wis. He was a propane gas salesman and an Air Force veteran of the Korean War. He was Lutheran. Survivors include his wife, Sheila; three daughters, Debbie Duerst, St. Petersburg, Diane Ackerman, Oldsmar, and Dawn Taylor, Clearwater; a son, Tony Duerst, Madison; a brother, David, Monroe; a sister, Marlea Duerst, Monticello, Wis.; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. E. James Reese Funeral Home & Crematory, Seminole.

GILSENAN, PHILIP J., 75, of Largo, died Monday (Jan. 17, 2000) at Largo Medical Center. He was born in Newton, Mass., and came here in 1970 from Grand Forks, N.D. He retired from the Air Force after 27 years with the rank of senior master sergeant, and during his service he had air attache duty in Warsaw, Poland, and Sofia, Bulgaria. He was Catholic and a member of the Moose, the USAF Sergeants Association and the AARP. Survivors include his wife of 51 years, Audrey, and a sister, Mary C. Gilsenan, Seminole. Lewis W. Mohn Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Seminole.

HALSTEAD, GEORGE W., 83, of Largo, died Sunday (Jan. 16, 2000) at home. He was born in Charlottesville, Va., and came here in 1971 from Hyattsville, Md. He was an administrator at the Glenn Dale (Md.) Hospital for 11 years and an Army veteran of World War II. He was a member of the Largo Golf Club. Survivors include his wife, Joan; three sons, Bill, Manatee County, Jim, Pasadena, Calif., and Jack, Tucson, Ariz.; a daughter, Adria Halstead-Johnson, Barre, Vt.; two stepdaughters, Donna Niwinski, Southington, Conn., and Lisa Lavender, Northridge, Calif.; eight grandchildren; and a great-grandchild. National Cremation Society, Largo.

IVEY, HELEN J., 69, of Largo, died Tuesday (Jan. 18, 2000) at home. She was born in Urbana, Ill., and came here in 1988 from Champaign, Ill, where she owned and operated Joni's Craft Shop for 10 years. Survivors include her husband, Ralph L. National Cremation Society, Largo.

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KAHN, BETTY, 72, of Newburgh, N.Y., a winter resident of Largo, died Sunday (Jan. 16, 2000) at home in Newburgh. She was born in Cobleskill, N.Y. Survivors include her husband, Leonard; two sons, Everett and Paul, and a daughter, Beth; six sisters; two brothers; and two grandchildren. Doulin Newburgh Funeral Home, Newburgh, N.Y.

MOLL, SHIRLEY A., 77, of Largo, died Monday (Jan. 17, 2000) at Largo Medical Center. She was born in Chicago and came here in 1988 from Lombard, Ill. She was a homemaker. She was a volunteer for Hospice of the Florida Suncoast and a member of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Largo. Survivors include a daughter, Peggy Moll, Clearwater; a son, Matthew, Lombard; a sister, Beverly Kunz, St. Petersburg and Livonia, Mich.; and two grandsons. Moss-Feaster Funeral Homes & Cremation Services, Serenity Gardens Chapel, Largo.

SHEILS, SEAN PATRICK, 53, of Largo, died Thursday (Jan. 13, 2000) as the result of an automobile accident at Fifth Avenue N and 53rd Street in St. Petersburg. He was born in Derry, Northern Ireland, and came here in 1998 from Wayne, Mich. He was an Army veteran of the Vietnam War and a member of Cross Bayou American Legion Post 252, Largo. He was also a supporter of the **Irish Republican Army** and a member of King of Peace MCC in St. Petersburg. Survivors include a son, Sean Emmett, and a brother, Eamon, both of Derry; four sisters, Brigid Makowski, Teresea Moore and Eileen Collins, all of Derry, and Mary Baggerly, Upper Marlboro, Md.; and a companion, Brian R. Kahn, Largo. E. Dale Gunter Funeral Home and Cremation Services, St. Petersburg.

Pinellas Park

PIRRI, VICTORIA L., 52, of Pinellas Park, died Sunday (Jan. 16, 2000) at home. Born in Queens, N.Y., she came here in 1986 from Oklahoma. Survivors include three sons, Michael and Christopher, both of Arkansas, and John, St. Petersburg; her mother, Sadie Smith, and a brother, Edward Fullam, both of St. Petersburg; a sister, Wendy Pagones, New York; several nieces and nephews; and five grandchildren. National Cremation Society, St. Petersburg.

SHUEY, RAYMOND MONROE, 75, of Grand Rapids, Minn., a seasonal resident of Pinellas Park, died Monday (Jan. 17, 2000) at his son's home in Pinellas Park. Born in Pine City, Minn., he was a winter visitor here for several years. He retired in 1979 as a production superintendent after 42 years with the Blandin Paper Co., earning the title of papermaker and being chosen superintendent of the year by the PIMA Association. He was a member of the Pine City High School Marching Band and the Golden Gloves Boxing Association. A member of Church of the Nazarene, he served as an usher, song leader, Sunday school teacher, trustee, treasurer and lay preacher. He also served on the Minnesota District Advisory Board, Nazarene World Missionary Council and camp board and was the recipient of a distinguished service award from the church. He was a treasurer of Itasca County Independent Republicans and a life member of the North American Hunting Club, National Rifle Association, and Grand Rapids Kiwanis Club. Survivors include his wife of 53 years, Jeannette; two daughters, Carol Nelson, Bemidji, Minn., and Paula Johnson, Duluth, Minn.; four sons, Wendyll, Chisolm, Minn., Mark, Pinellas Park, Bruce, , Idaho, and Lyle, Pendleton, Ind.; four sisters, Diane Strom, Osseo, Minn., Alice DeWeese, Grand Haven, Mich., Mary Lou Nylen, Paynesville, Minn., and Patricia Stenmo, Rush City, Minn.; a brother, Robert, Pine City; his stepmother, Louise Shuey, Pine City; 12 grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren. Osgood-Cloud Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Pinellas Park.

St. Petersburg

BENJAMIN, EDWARD W., 79, of St. Petersburg, died Tuesday (Jan. 18, 2000) at Swanholm Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, St. Petersburg. Born in Medford, Mass., he came here in 1970 from Marblehead, Mass. He was a Navy veteran of World War II. Survivors include four sons, Edward A., St. Petersburg, Bruce R., Pinellas Park, Lee, Macon, Ga., and Stephen, Beverly, Mass.; two brothers, Dick, California, and Roger, Massachusetts; seven grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. Neptune Society, Palm Harbor.

BENNETT, THELMA R. BACK "BILLIE," 67, of St. Petersburg, died Sunday (Jan. 16, 2000) at home under hospice care. Born in Cincinnati, she came here in 1971 from Norfolk, Va. She worked for Kmart for 15 years and for Florida Federal Savings and Loan for 10 years, both in St. Petersburg. She was a member of Ringgold Assembly of God, Ringgold, La., and was a 32-year member of Beta Sigma Phi sorority, in which she was Chapter Delta master.

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Survivors include two sons, Steve, Norfolk, and Randy, Chesterfield, Va.; a daughter, Debra Ann Bennett-Browlett, St. Petersburg; a brother, the Rev. William C. Back, Ringgold; and two grandsons, Herb E. Bennett, Lakeland, and Warren Edward Browett, Largo. Blount, Curry & Roel Funeral Homes & Cemeteries, Memorial Park Chapel, St. Petersburg.

BERNSTEIN, DR. NATHANIAL, 88, of Point Brittany, St. Petersburg, died Saturday (Jan. 15, 2000) at home. Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., he came here in 1974 from Malverne, N.Y. He received a bachelor's degree from Long Island University and attended Laval Medical School, Quebec. He received psychiatric training at Letchworth Developmental Center, Thiells, N.Y., Brooklyn State Hospital, and the Institute of Juvenile Research, Chicago, where he became a staff psychiatrist. In 1945 he joined the city of New York Board of Education's Bureau of Child Guidance, where he served as a school psychiatrist, chief psychiatrist and supervising psychiatrist. He also worked part time with the Veterans Administration and in private practice in Malverne, where he worked with children and adults. In 1959, Long Island University honored him with its Tristram Walker Metcalfe Alumni Award for outstanding achievement and service to society. He was a member of the American Medical Association, the American Orthopsychiatric Association, the Pinellas County Medical Society and the Florida Psychiatric Society. Survivors include his wife of 49 years, Mildred R.; and nieces and nephews. National Cremation Society, St. Petersburg.

CANNIDA, RONALD EDWARD, 47, of Palm Bay, formerly of St. Petersburg, died Sunday (Jan. 16, 2000) at Countryside Health Care Center, Palm Harbor. Born in Vidalia, Ga., he came here in 1960 from Miami. He was a 1970 graduate of Lakewood High School and served four years with the Army as an air traffic controller. He lived in St. Louis before recently moving to Palm Bay. Survivors include his wife, Sandra; a son, Ronald Jr., St. Louis; his father, Marshall Lee Cannida, Vidalia; two brothers, Tony, St. Petersburg, and Randy, Salem, N.C.; four sisters, Carolyn Archer-Taylor, Leslie Cannida, both of Palm Bay, Bernestine Cannida, St. Petersburg, and Priscilla Gibbs, Tampa; and his maternal grandfather, Chester Neal, Vidalia. Creal Funeral Home, St. Petersburg.

CLARKSON, DANIEL RALPH, 71, of St. Petersburg, died Sunday (Jan. 16, 2000) at Greenbrook Nursing Center. He came here in 1958 from his native Valdosta, Ga. He retired in 1992 as head cook after 22 years with Sixteenth Street Middle School and was a self-employed tailor. He was Baptist. Survivors include his wife, Eliza; a daughter, Janice Clarkson, and two brothers, Johnnie and Leroy Clarkson, all of St. Petersburg; two sisters, Essie Mae Spinks, Perry, and Marianna Adams, Valdosta; and many nieces and nephews. Creal Funeral Home, St. Petersburg.

COOMBS, DEREK JAMES HOWARD, 17, of St. Petersburg, died Sunday (Jan. 16, 2000) in Charlottesville, Va., as the result of a snow-skiing accident. A St. Petersburg native, he was a member of Feather Sound Community Church and Lake Vista Little League. Survivors include his parents, Derek V.R. and Anastasia M. Coombs, and three sisters, Janette M.A.M. Coombs, Michealina M.K. Coombs and Anastasia M.Q. Coombs Kronz, all of St. Petersburg; three brothers, James W.R., St. Petersburg, Sean M.R., Toronto, and Robin S.D., Aurora, Ontario; his maternal grandmother, Michealina Sexton, St. Petersburg; several aunts, uncles, cousins and nephews. Brett Funeral Home and Cremation Services, St. Petersburg.

DEHART, WILTON, 84, of St. Petersburg, died Saturday (Jan. 15, 2000) at Northside Hospital and Heart Institute. There are no known survivors. Abbey Parklawn Funeral Home, Palm Harbor.

FLETCHER, CHARLIE C., 71, of St. Petersburg, died Monday (Jan. 17, 2000) at the VA Medical Center at Bay Pines. Born in Jacksonville, he came here in 1953. He was a cement finisher and an Army veteran of World War II. Survivors include three sons, Charles, Octavies and Jeffrey, and a daughter, Sheryle Blake, all of Gainesville; three sisters, Fannie Smith, Cleveland, Louisa Brook, Flint, Mich., and Mary L. Robinson, St. Petersburg; a brother, John L., Cleveland; nine grandchildren; and a great-grandchild. Creal Funeral Home, St. Petersburg.

HARRINGTON, DOROTHY C., 73, of Valrico, formerly of Inverness and St. Petersburg, died Friday (Jan. 14, 2000). Born in Jacobstown, N.J., she moved to Inverness 30 years ago from St. Petersburg and recently moved to Valrico. She retired as a quality control inspector for TRW Electronics and was Baptist. She was a life member of VFW Auxiliary Post 7122, Inverness. Survivors include two sons, Kenneth, Valrico, and Gregory, Alvarado, Texas;

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a brother, William Crammer, St. Petersburg; and six grandchildren. Hooper Funeral Homes and Crematory, Inverness.

JOHNSON, JOYCE E., 70, of St. Petersburg, died Sunday (Jan. 16, 2000) at her daughter's home in Pinellas Park. Born in Willard, N.Y., she came here in 1932 from Binghamton, N.Y. She was a cook for Sperry-Rand, Clearwater, for 15 years. Survivors include five sons, Fred and Larry C., both of St. Petersburg, W.C., Dade City, and Richard and Lowell, both of Franklin, Texas; a daughter, Phyllis Simmons, Pinellas Park; two brothers, Jim Mapes, St. Petersburg, and Bob Comstock, Largo; a sister, Sharon Burson, Atlanta; 22 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren. Blount, Curry & Roel Funeral Homes & Cemeteries, Memorial Park Chapel, St. Petersburg.

JONES, JANET MARIE SAWYER "JAN," of St. Petersburg, died Sunday (Jan. 16, 2000). Born in Belmont, Mass., she came here in 1969 from Arlington, Mass. She retired as a bookkeeper after 15 years with the State Street Bank and Trust, Boston, and worked as a school crossing guard for 10 years with the city of St. Petersburg. She also worked as an assembler with Leeds & Northrop for seven years. She was a member of the American Business Women's Association and Wesley United Methodist Church. Survivors include her husband of 43 years, Albert W. "Al"; two sons, Albert "Al," Inverness, and David W., Homosassa; four sisters, Carol Drake, Lincoln, Mass., and Naomi Davies, Polly Pierpont and Nancy Goodroe, all of St. Petersburg; and three grandchildren. Anderson-McQueen Funeral Homes & Cremation Tribute Center-Ninth Street Chapel, St. Petersburg.

LESTER, HENRY W. JR., 93, of Winter Haven, formerly of St. Petersburg, died Saturday (Jan. 15, 2000) at Emory L. Bennett Veterans Nursing Home, Daytona Beach. Born in Thomasville, Ga., he moved to Winter Haven in 1991 from St. Petersburg. He was a sales clerk for Lester Brothers Furniture Store, St. Petersburg, and a member of Fifth Avenue Baptist Church. He was an Army veteran of World War II. Survivors include a niece, Louise Henry, Winter Haven; and two nephews, John Lester Dillard, Dawsonville, Ga., and Frank R. Sharon, Blairsville, Ga.; and several great-nieces. Laughlin Funeral Home, Winter Haven.

LONG, WILLIAM G. "BILL," 81, of Parrish, formerly of St. Petersburg, Madeira Beach and Treasure Island, died Friday (Jan. 14, 2000) at All Children's Hospital, St. Petersburg. He was born in Augusta, Ga., and moved with his family to St. Petersburg in 1924. He graduated from St. Petersburg High School in 1936. A St. Petersburg Junior College graduate, he also attended the University of Florida and the Wharton Business School at the University of Pennsylvania. He left Pinellas County to serve in World War II and worked after the war in New Jersey and Detroit, resettling in St. Petersburg in 1956. He was a former stock broker with Bache & Co., and a retired real estate executive. In 1991 he moved to Manatee County to own and operate Gamble Creek Citrus Groves. During World War II, he led the team that loaded the first atomic bombs aboard B-29s for the historic attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan. Survivors include three sons, Dr. William G. Jr., Madeira Beach, Thomas W., Raleigh, N.C., and Walter P., Tampa; two daughters, Louisa L. Cullem, Sarasota, and Margaret L. Lattimore, Columbia, S.C.; a brother, Henry C., Crestview; a sister, Martha B. Dann, St. Petersburg, seven grandchildren; and nine nieces and nephews. E. James Reese Funeral Home & Crematory, Seminole.

LYNN, MARY McELROY, 80, of St. Petersburg, died Monday (Jan. 17, 2000) at North Rehabilitation Center. Born in Philadelphia, she came here in 1951 from Framingham, Mass. She worked for the St. Petersburg Police Department as a Parkette and was a registered nurse for local hospitals. She was a graduate of St. Agnes Nursing School, Philadelphia, and served as a nurse at Admiral Farragut Academy, Eckerd College and for Dr. Joseph Prawer. She was a Navy veteran of World War II, serving in the Nurse Corps and was a disabled veteran. She was involved with the Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Little League and Parent Teacher associations. She was a member of Cathedral of St. Jude the Apostle and the Southwest Philadelphia Girls High School Alumni. Survivors include two sons, Michael W. and Peter Lynn, both of St. Petersburg; five grandchildren, Richard D. Watkins Jr., Kimberly Watkins Upton, Matthew O., Kelly M. and Shelby R. Lynn, all of St. Petersburg; and a great-granddaughter. Anderson-McQueen Funeral Homes & Cremation Tribute Center-Bobbitt Chapel, St. Petersburg.

MARCHAND, JACOB A. SR. "JAKE," 24, of St. Petersburg, died Friday (Jan. 14, 2000) at St. Petersburg General Hospital. Born in Slidell, La., he came here in 1981 from Clarksville, Tenn. He was a homemaker and an active boater and angler. He was Roman Catholic. Survivors include his wife of two years, Kerri A.; a son, Jacob A. Jr., St. Petersburg; his father, Joseph A., Slidell; his mother, Sandra F. Bennett, Redington Shores; his brother, Joshua A.,

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Slidell; his paternal grandparents, Renelda and Joseph A. Marchand Sr., Carriere, Miss.; and his maternal grandfather, William Bennett, Slidell. Anderson-McQueen Funeral Homes & Cremation Tribute Center-Bobbitt Chapel, St. Petersburg.

MILLARD, FRANK E., 79, of St. Petersburg, died Monday (Jan. 17, 2000) at home. Born in Denver, he came here in 1966 from Sedalia, Mo., where he retired as a chief master sergeant after 26 years with the Air Force. Survivors include his wife of 52 years, Bernice; two daughters, Irene Frazier, St. Petersburg, and Alice Marcott, Clearwater; a son, David, Altamonte Springs; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. R. Lee Williams & Son Funeral Home & Crematory, 49th Street N Chapel, St. Petersburg.

OSMOLA, WALTER, 85, of St. Petersburg, died Monday (Jan. 17, 2000) at St. Joseph's Hospital, Tampa. He came here in 1990 from his native New York City, where he worked as a public relations liason for Arco Oil Co. He was Catholic. There are no known survivors. David C. Gross Funeral Homes and Crematory, Central Avenue Chapel, St. Petersburg.

RANKIN, ELEANOR, 71, of St. Petersburg, died Tuesday (Jan. 18, 2000) at Vencor Hospital - St. Petersburg. There are no known survivors. Abbey Parklawn Funeral Home, Palm Harbor.

ROKTA, JULIUS L., 89, of Brooksville, formerly of St. Petersburg, died Sunday (Jan. 16, 2000) at Brooksville Regional Hospital. Born in Linden, N.J., he came here 21 years ago from St. Petersburg. He was a retired brick mason and a Navy veteran of World War II. He was Catholic. Survivors include his wife, Sara Jane; a son, Stephen, Brooksville; two sisters, Elizabeth Hurst, Elbrone, N.J., and Margaret Hoefling, Ocoee; and a grandchild. Turner Cremation and Memorial Chapel, Spring Hill.

SHERIDAN, THOMAS J. "TOM," 85, of St. Petersburg, died Monday (Jan. 17, 2000) at Bayfront Medical Center. He came here in 1950 from his native Pittsburgh. He was a carpenter in the construction industry in Pittsburgh and St. Petersburg and was Catholic. Survivors include two daughters, Madeline A. Hasty, St. Petersburg, and Evelyn Jean Clark, Largo; a son, Tom J. Sheridan, Englewood; two sisters, Mary Greist, Collegeville, Pa., and Katherine Ludlow, Floral City; a brother, Joseph, Collegeville; 10 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren. Anderson-McQueen Funeral Homes & Cremation Tribute Center-Ninth Street Chapel, St. Petersburg.

SQUIER, ELIZABETH L., 61, of St. Petersburg, died Friday (Jan. 14, 2000) in Goshen, N.Y. Born in Baldwin, N.Y., she came here in 1975 from San Antonio, Texas. She was a 1989 graduate of Eckerd College and a member of the Salvation Army and the Salvation Army League. She was a mezzo soprano, performing with choirs and as a soloist. She painted landscapes and was the recipient of several amateur awards. Survivors include her husband, Jack E.; two daughters, Heather E. Daniels, Kissimmee, and Dr. Dawn E. Riegner, Monroe, N.Y.; her mother, Otilie Kremer, St. Petersburg; a sister, Carole Harper, New York; and three grandchildren. R. Lee Williams & Son Funeral Home & Crematory, 49th Street N Chapel, St. Petersburg.

TREGURTHA, LUANA M. "LULU," 20, of St. Petersburg, died Monday (Jan. 17, 2000) at Bayfront Medical Center after a long illness. A St. Petersburg native, she was a 1997 graduate of Northeast High School. She was an artist and music lover. Survivors include her parents, Maizie and Graham Tregurtha, and a sister, Leilani Tregurtha, all of St. Petersburg; a brother, Dennis Tregurtha, Clearwater; her maternal grandparents, Kukue and Harry Tomokiyo, Honolulu, Hawaii; and her paternal grandmother, Audrey Tregurtha, Marathon. Anderson-McQueen Funeral Homes & Cremation Tribute Center-McLeod Chapel, St. Petersburg.

VOTAW, STEWART E., 95, of St. Petersburg, died Sunday (Jan. 16, 2000) at St. Anthony's Hospital. Born in Neoga, Ill., he came here in 1976 from Dayton, Ohio, where he was a management supervisor and sales representative for Bi-Rite Discount Stores. He was a member of First United Methodist Church, St. Petersburg, and a graduate of University of Illinois, Urbana. He was a volunteer with the American Red Cross, the Retired Senior Volunteer Program, Free Clinic, Food Bank, Meadowlawn Middle School, Meals on Wheels and the St. Petersburg Main Library and was a volunteer and member of the board of directors of the Pinellas Tape Library for the Blind. Survivors include a son, Paul, Jacksonville; a sister, Eleanor McNair, Lena, Ill.; and a niece, Mary Sheehan, Kenosha, Wis. Garden Sanctuary Funeral Home & Cemetery, Seminole.

No Headline In Original

WAGNER, AUDREY J., 72, of St. Petersburg, died Monday (Jan. 17, 2000) at Edward White Hospital. Born in Homestead, Pa., she came here in 1977 from Pittsburgh. She was a homemaker and was Catholic. Survivors include two sons, Daniel J., St. Petersburg, and Frank C., Pittsburgh; two brothers, Larry K. Umpf, Pittsburgh, and Howard K. Umpf, St. Petersburg; three sisters, Betty Grobelski and Donna K. Umpf, both of Pittsburgh, and Dolly Celender, St. Petersburg; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. National Cremation Society, St. Petersburg.

WALPOLE, ARTHUR J., 63, of St. Petersburg, died Wednesday (Jan. 12, 2000). There are no known survivors. Abbey Parklawn Funeral Home, Palm Harbor.

ZELIKOWSKY, HEDWIG, 88, of St. Petersburg, died Monday (Jan. 17, 2000) at Edward White Hospital. There are no known survivors. Abbey Parklawn Funeral Home, Palm Harbor.

Seminole

HALL, EMMA, 80, of Seminole, died Friday (Jan. 14, 2000) at a private care residence. She came here in 1964 from her native Baltimore. She was a homemaker and a member of Northwest Presbyterian Church. Survivors include two daughters, Marlene M. Thomas, Seminole, and Diane L. Ryder, St. Petersburg; three grandchildren; and four great-grandsons. Garden Sanctuary Funeral Home & Cemetery, Seminole.

Graphic

BLACK AND WHITE PHOTO, (17); Mark L. Lowrance (LA, SE, CT, NT); Philip J. Gilsenan (LA, SE, CT, NT); Shirley A. Moll (LA, SE, CT, NT); Thelma R. Back "Billie" Bennett (LA, SE, CITY & STATE); Ronald Edward Cannida (LA, SE, CITY); Daniel Ralph Clarkson (LA, SE, CITY); Charlie C. Fletcher (LA, SE, CITY); Janet Marie Sawyer "Jan" Jones (LA, SE, CITY); Derek James Howard Coombs (LA, SE, CITY); Frank E. Millard (LA, SE, CITY); Mary McElroy Lynn (LA, SE, CITY); Jacob A "Jake" Marchand Sr. (LA, SE, CITY); William G. "Bill" Long (LA, SE, CITY); Thomas J. "Tom" Sheridan (LA, SE, CITY); Luana M. "Lulu" Tregurtha (LA, SE, CITY); Stewart E. Votaw (LA, SE, CITY); Emma Hall (LA, SE, CT, NT)

Load-Date: January 19, 2000

Northern Ireland: Six arrested in arms plot

Ottawa Citizen

November 27, 2002 Wednesday

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Section: News; Pg. A11; News; Crime

Length: 54 words

Body

Northern Ireland police arrested six people yesterday suspected of involvement in a three-year-old plot to smuggle firearms from Florida to the outlawed ***Irish Republican Army***. The four men and two ***women*** were being interrogated on suspicion of involvement in the "illegal importation of firearms by republican terrorists."The Ottawa Citizen

Load-Date: November 27, 2002

End of Document

Gun-plot charges

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

November 29, 2002 Friday Final Edition

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Section: News; In Brief; Pg. A20; Column; Brief

Length: 59 words

Dateline: NORTHERN IRELAND

Body

Two women and two men were charged with providing cash to **Irish Republican Army** guerrillas to buy guns and ammunition smuggled from the United States in 1999. Four people have been convicted in Florida and four others jailed in the Irish Republic in the gun-running operation. The four charged yesterday were ordered held until a hearing on Dec. 20. New York Times; AP

Load-Date: November 29, 2002