

AP Top News at 1 a.m. EST Tuesday, Dec. 7, 1999

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Byline: PAULINE M. MILLARD

Body

Republican Rivals Promise Better Schools

PHOENIX (AP)

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Panel OKs Wrist Glucose Monitor

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Seattle Faces Aftermath of WTO Protests

SEATTLE (AP)

City residents and officials on Monday demanded accountability for the mayhem last week from the World Trade Organization protests that cost merchants nearly \$20 million and left many furious at police. "If you don't have a police force that can handle an emergency situation rationally, then you have a serious problem," said City Councilwoman-elect Judy Nicastro. No serious injuries were reported, but protesters have alleged mistreatment at the hands of police officers and jailers. Police Chief Norm Stamper has said his officers used appropriate force to clear streets and maintain order.

Hope Fades for Mars Polar Lander

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)

Hope is fading fast for the Mars Polar Lander, and NASA investigators may never really know what went wrong with the spacecraft. The space agency has only scant information on the final moments of the \$165 million spacecraft's attempt to land on Mars, and no hope of recovering any wreckage. For NASA, the loss would mean back-to-back

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Mars expeditions ended in failure. Mission controllers planned another attempt early Tuesday to detect a signal from the spacecraft, which has not been heard from since Friday.

Body Remains Found on Mexico Border

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico (AP)

Investigators uncovered the remains of two more people Monday near the border with Texas and New Mexico, bringing to eight the total number of bodies found in a search for the alleged victims of a powerful drug cartel. Mexican authorities and FBI agents have been digging on four ranches near the border city of Ciudad Juarez after receiving a tip from a former Mexican federal police officer that as many as 100 bodies — apparent victims of the Juarez cocaine cartel could be buried there.

Russia Urged Against Grozny Attack

UNITED NATIONS (AP)

The head of Europe's 54-nation security organization urged Moscow on Monday not to carry out the massive attack on the Chechen capital of Grozny that it has threatened. Russian planes dropped leaflets on Grozny Monday, warning residents and rebels to flee or "be considered terrorists and bandits" and "be destroyed by artillery and aviation." Russia began its military assault against Chechnya in September with the stated aim of wiping out Islamic rebels blamed for incursions into neighboring Dagestan and apartment bombings that killed 300 people in Russia.

Tokyo Share Prices Rise

TOKYO (AP)

Tokyo share prices rose moderately Tuesday morning, boosted by gains in communications and high technology issues. The Nikkei gained 119.95 points to 18,627.15 at the end of the morning session.

Bucs 24, Vikings 17

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)

As he promised, Tampa Bay's rookie quarterback Shaun King was cool, calm and collected in his first NFL start, leading the Buccaneers to a 24-17 victory over the Minnesota Vikings. The streaking Bucs won for the fifth straight time and regained a share of first place in the NFC Central with the Detroit Lions, who travel to Tampa Bay next Sunday.

Predators Edge Thrashers 4-3, OT

ATLANTA (AP)

Randy Robitaille, who never got a chance to play in Atlanta, scored at 2:26 of overtime to give the Nashville Predators a 4-3 victory over the Thrashers on Monday night. Ville Peltonen stole the puck from David Harlock in the Thrashers' zone and fed a cross-ice pass to Robitaille, who easily scored his fourth goal of the season, slipping the shot past goaltender Norm Maracle.

Lawmakers Target Medical Mistakes

WASHINGTON (AP)

President Clinton and some members of Congress are putting together plans they hope will reduce the medical mistakes that a recent report said kills tens of thousands of Americans each year. Clinton is directing federal agencies that administer health plans to find ways to identify and tighten parts of the medical system that leave room for error. On Capitol Hill, Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., is working on legislation with a similar goal. Both

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efforts track suggestions last week from the Institute of Medicine, which advises Congress on scientific matters, on ways to reduce the room for error.

Putin's Bandwagon Growing in Russia

MOSCOW (AP)

Just a few months ago, the race to succeed President Boris Yeltsin seemed wide open. Now, many Russians say it is starting to look like just a steppingstone in Vladimir Putin's ascension to Moscow's political heights. Weary of government incompetence and corruption, Russians have embraced the laconic, unsmiling ex-KGB official. If opinion polls are to be trusted, Russians see their current prime minister as a leader who can do no wrong, giving him a big lead in the race for the presidency. Of course, the elections are not until June and plenty of presidential front-runners have fallen by the wayside before.

Republican Rivals Participate in Debate

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Banker's Nurse Admits Setting Blaze

MONTE CARLO, Monaco (AP)

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Tokyo Share Prices Close Higher

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Rockets 102, Grizzlies 99

HOUSTON (AP)

Charles Barkley scored 25 points and Walt Williams hit a critical 3-pointer in the final minute as the Houston Rockets handed Vancouver its 30th straight road loss, 102-99 Monday night. The Rockets extended their winning streak to a season-best three games. Shareef Abdur-Rahim led the Grizzlies with 24 points. Harrington added 18 and Michael Dickerson had 17. Reserve Carlos Rogers scored 18 points for the Rockets.

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Reformation Named Top Religious Event

NEW YORK (AP)

The nation's religion newswriters have selected the Protestant Reformation and the invention of the movable type printing press as the leading religious events of the second millennium. The newswriters also picked the Nazi Holocaust and resulting establishment of Israel as the top event of the last century. The Second Vatican Council and the Russian Revolution rounded out the century's top three. Survey responses came from 30 members of the Religion Newswriters Association, made up of specialists covering the field for the general media.

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Indonesian Generals Escape Prosecution

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Indonesia's top generals will escape prosecution for murders, torture, rapes and other atrocities committed by their troops during more than three decades of authoritarian rule, the defense minister said today. Juwono Sudarsono, Indonesia's first civilian defense minister in nearly half a century, also warned that the military could seize control of the world's fourth most populous nation, perhaps within months, if newfound democracy does not take hold across the sprawling archipelago.

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Russia Opens Corridor for Civilians

KATYR-YURT, Russia (AP)

Russia claimed to have opened a safe corridor for civilians to flee Grozny, but few people seemed willing to risk the trip today as bombs continued to fall on the Chechen capital. Moscow announced the corridor was set up after Russian planes dropped leaflets on Grozny yesterday warning anyone remaining in the city to flee by Dec. 11 or be killed in a massive air and artillery attack. Despite the announcement of a corridor, Russian planes continued bombing Grozny today, according to Russian military officials, who claimed that several rebel targets were hit. The bombing made it impossible to confirm if a corridor out of Grozny existed.

Philippine Plane Reported Missing

MANILA, Philippines (AP)

An airplane carrying 15 passengers and two crew members was reported missing today on a flight from Manila to the northern Philippines, officials said. The Asian Spirit plane took off from Manila early today and was bound for Cauayan in Isabela province, 175 miles to the north, air transportation officials said. The airline said one foreigner, a resident of Japan, was on board. During its last radio contact, the plane, a small twin-engine, Czechoslovakian-made Let L-410, was 60 miles outside of Manila, said Florante Morales of Manila's Air Transportation Office.

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The last realistic opportunity to contact the silent Mars Polar Lander ended today with no sign of life from the missing spacecraft, all but ending hope that the \$165 million mission can be saved. Engineers have now eliminated all simple explanations for why they have not heard from the probe since its descent into the Martian atmosphere Friday. Two microprobes that were to have landed separately also were lost. The Mars Polar Lander is the second spacecraft to be lost over the Red Planet in less than three months.

Flood Relief Choppers Grounded in Vietnam

TAM KY, Vietnam (AP)

Bad weather hampered air drops of food today to thousands of people stranded by flooding in central Vietnam, where the latest deluge has claimed at least 110 lives and left 22 people missing. Le Tri Tap, governor of Quang Nam, said 150,000 people in his province still needed emergency food but that the reopening early today of Highway 1, the country's main artery, would ease delivery of supplies. Vietnamese rescue forces were making a rapid response to the disaster, learning lessons from the worst floods in a century, which struck the central region last month, causing 592 deaths.

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Classes To Resume at Okla. School

FORT GIBSON, Okla. (AP)

Classes are expected to resume today at the middle school where a 13-year-old boy went on a shooting spree yesterday, wounding four classmates. The unidentified teen fired as many as 14 shots, police estimated, outside Fort Gibson middle school just prior to the start of the school day yesterday. Fellow students said the smart and popular boy just went under a tree, pulled out a handgun and began firing. None of the injuries appeared to be life-threatening. Authorities said they were not aware of any previous trouble involving the teen. Counselors and state troopers were asked to be on hand today when classes resume.

China Criticizes US Over Falun Gong

BEIJING (AP)

China criticized the United States today for "interfering" in the crackdown against a banned spiritual movement, saying U.S. officials have ignored abuses by the Falun Gong. Chinese leaders have banned the Falun Gong as a menacing cult. President Clinton yesterday criticized the imprisonment and detention of Falun Gong members as a "troubling example" of the government acting against those "who test the limits of freedom." China says Clinton's statements are hurting U.S.-China relations. Falun Gong blends slow-motion meditation exercises and ideas from Taoism and Buddhism. Practitioners say Falun Gong promotes health and good citizenship.

Few Chechens Choosing To Flee

KATYR-YURT, Russia (AP)

Few Chechens appear to be heeding the advice today from Russian officials to flee the capital of the breakaway republic or risk being killed in a massive air and artillery attack. Russian officials claim to have opened a safe corridor for civilians to flee Grozny, but there is little evidence that the estimated 15,000-40,000 civilians in Grozny most of whom are believed to be too old, too scared or physically unable to flee are preparing to get out. Despite the announcement of a safeway, Russian planes continued bombing Grozny today, according to Russian military officials, who claimed that several rebel targets were hit. The bombing made it impossible to confirm if a corridor out of Grozny existed.

Seattle Police Head Quits After WTO

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The city's police chief announced his resignation in the wake of violent, fiery protests that marred the World Trade Organization's conference here last week. Chief Norm Stamper, 54, revealed the decision in a letter given to Mayor Paul Schell over the weekend. The chief said he decided last month that he would retire in January, but moved up the announcement because of the WTO protests. His resignation will take effect in March. Thousands of people took to the streets last week to rally for human rights, labor, the environment, and other concerns. There was widespread vandalism and police were forced to use tear gas to quell riots.

Philippine Plane Reported Missing

AP Top News at 1 a.m. EST Tuesday, Dec. 7, 1999

MANILA, Philippines (AP)

An airplane carrying 15 passengers and two crew members was reported missing today on a flight from Manila to the northern Philippines, officials said. The Asian Spirit plane took off from Manila early today and was bound for Cauayan in Isabela province, 175 miles to the north, air transportation officials said. During its last radio contact, the plane, a small twin-engine, Czechoslovakian-made Let L-410, was 60 miles outside of Manila, a transportation official said.

Tokyo Share Prices Close Higher

TOKYO (AP)

Share prices in Japan increased moderately today, as communications and high technology issues rose on the back of gains on Wall Street. The Nikkei gained 86.76 points to close at 18,593.96.

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Hopes for Mars Lander All but Gone

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)

NASA has all but given up hope that they will be able to contact the Mars Polar Lander as the last realistic opportunity for the \$165 million probe to phone home passed silently early this morning. Engineers have now eliminated all simple explanations for why they have not heard from the craft since its descent into the Martian atmosphere Friday. Two microprobes that were to have landed separately also were lost. The Mars Polar Lander is the second spacecraft to be lost over the Red Planet in less than three months.

Classes To Resume at Okla. School

FORT GIBSON, Okla. (AP)

Classes are expected to resume today at the middle school where a 13-year-old boy went on a shooting spree yesterday, wounding four classmates. The unidentified teen fired as many as 14 shots, police estimated, outside Fort Gibson middle school just prior to the start of the school day yesterday. Fellow students said the smart and popular boy just went under a tree, pulled out a handgun and began firing. None of the injuries appeared to be life-threatening. Authorities said they were not aware of any previous trouble involving the teen. Counselors and state troopers were asked to be on hand today when classes resume.

China Criticizes US Over Falun Gong

BEIJING (AP)

China criticized the United States today for "interfering" in the crackdown against a banned spiritual movement, saying U.S. officials have ignored abuses by the Falun Gong. Chinese leaders have banned the Falun Gong as a menacing cult. President Clinton yesterday criticized the imprisonment and detention of Falun Gong members as a "troubling example" of the government acting against those "who test the limits of freedom." China says Clinton's statements are hurting U.S.-China relations. Falun Gong blends slow-motion meditation exercises and ideas from Taoism and Buddhism. Practitioners say Falun Gong promotes health and good citizenship.

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Productivity Jumps in Third Quarter

WASHINGTON (AP)

American workers' productivity grew in the third quarter of 1999 at the fastest rate in seven years, while labor costs declined a recipe for low inflation. Productivity rose at a 4.9 percent annual rate from July through September, the Labor Department said today. Unit labor costs, considered a key measure of wage pressures that can lead to

inflation, declined at a 0.2 percent annual rate the biggest drop since the spring of 1997. The report was good news for investors wary of signs of inflation that could trigger further interest rate increases from the Federal Reserve.

Dow Down 25

NEW YORK (AP)

Just before 10 a.m. EST, the Dow industrials were down 25.77 to 11,199.24. Declining issues on the New York Stock Exchange led advancers 858-731. The Nasdaq was up 27.32 to 3,573.33.

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Student Wounds 4 in Netherlands

VEGHEL, Netherlands (AP)

A student opened fire at a regional high school in the southern Dutch town of Veghel today, wounding a teacher and three other people, Dutch television reported. The student turned himself in to police in Veghel, about 60 miles south of Amsterdam near the city of Eindhoven. The extent of the victims' injuries was not immediately known. The shooting comes a day after a 13-year-old boy opened fire at a middle school in Oklahoma, wounding four people.

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A teen-age student opened fire at a regional high school in the southern Dutch town of Veghel today, wounding a teacher and three other students, authorities said. The 17-year-old student turned himself in to police in Veghel, about 60 miles south of Amsterdam. The student's name was not immediately released. The extent of the victims' injuries was not immediately known. There was no obvious motive for the attack. School shootings are virtually unheard-of in the Netherlands, where gun control is strict and weapons are available only on the black market.

Classes To Resume at Okla. School

FORT GIBSON, Okla. (AP)

Grief counselors and extra security were on hand today when students returned to class at a middle school shot up by a student yesterday. Many of the children were brought by their parents instead of riding school buses. Officers blocked off the Fort Gibson Middle School, and all students were directed to the back doors of the high school. Four teens were injured when the unidentified 13-year-old boy fired a 9 mm semiautomatic handgun as many as 14 times, police said. None of the injuries are said to be life-threatening. Authorities said they were not aware of any previous trouble involving the teen.

Mars Lander Probably Lost

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)

It appears NASA has lost another spacecraft over Mars as the space agency again failed today to hear any word from the \$165 million Polar Lander. It is the second probe in less than three months to fail in a mission to reach the Red Planet. The Mars Climate Orbiter burned up in the Martian atmosphere in September. Over four days and six contact opportunities, engineers eliminated possibilities that would explain the Polar Lander's silence, including a mispointed antenna. Two microprobes that were to have landed separately also were lost. Efforts to reach it will continue for about two weeks, but no answer is expected.

U.S. Planes Attack S. Iraq Targets

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP)

Iraqi anti-aircraft gunners fired at U.S. and British warplanes as they attacked targets in southern Iraq, state-run newspapers reported today. The United States along with Britain polices two no-fly zones over Iraq. U.S. officials said the attacks were in retaliation for anti-aircraft fire from a military radar site in southern Iraq. The Iraqi papers accused the U.S. planes of attacking "our civil and service installations."

Flood Relief Choppers Grounded

TAM KY, Vietnam (AP)

Bad weather hampered air drops of food today to thousands of people stranded by flooding in central Vietnam, where the latest deluge has claimed at least 110 lives and left 22 people missing. Vietnamese rescue forces were making a rapid response to the disaster, learning lessons from the worst floods in a century, which struck the central region last month, causing 592 deaths. Officials said four military helicopters loaded with food and life buoys were ready to fly when the weather improves.

Airline Head Warns of Crowded Skies

CHICAGO (AP)

The head of United Airlines is warning that global skies are so crowded with airplanes, it is nearing a crisis situation. James Goodwin told an international aviation conference that unless something is done soon severe delays will soon become routine, creating backlogs with serious or even catastrophic implications. He said there is a lack of

runway space and terminals to accommodate the recent surge of passengers. By 2012, takeoffs and landings will increase 30 percent to 35 million annually and the number of passengers, now 680 million, will top 1 billion.

Dow Down 29

NEW YORK (AP)

Just before 11 a.m. EST, the Dow industrials were down 29.05 to 11,195.96. Declining issues on the New York Stock Exchange led advancers 1,574-1,002. The Nasdaq was up 17.64 to 3,563.65.

North Korea Eyed for World Cup 2002

TOKYO (AP)

World Cup matches in 2002 could be allowed to be played in North Korea even though the nation will not be participating in the tournament. South Korea has offered to give North Korea two of the 32 games it was allocated in a co-hosting arrangement with Japan for the 2002 World Cup, FIFA president Sepp Blatter said today. Soccer's international governing body also announced the next women's World Cup, previously scheduled for 2003, has been moved to 2002. North Korean officials say a team will not compete because they do not have a team of high enough standards.

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A teacher and three students were injured today at a regional high school when a 17-year-old student opened fire. The teen turned himself in to police in Veghel, a southern Dutch town about 60 miles south of Amsterdam. The student's name wasn't released and the extent of the victims' injuries was not immediately known. Dutch television said there were indications the shooter may have been despondent over a failed love affair, but police refused to comment.

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Clinton To Attend Firemen Memorial

WASHINGTON (AP)

AP Top News at 1 a.m. EST Tuesday, Dec. 7, 1999

President Clinton will travel to Worcester, Mass., on Thursday to take part in a memorial service for six firemen who perished there last week. The six deaths are believed to be the nation's highest death toll involving firefighters since 1994, when 14 died in a forest fire in Colorado.

Libyan Suspects Want Charge Dropped

CAMP ZEIST, Netherlands (AP)

Lawyers for two Libyans charged with planting the bomb that downed Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, asked a Scottish court today to reduce the charges against the suspects. Defense attorneys pressed the court to drop conspiracy-to-murder charges against suspects Abdel Basset Ali al-Megrahi and Lamien Khalifa Fhimah, who are in custody here in connection with the Dec. 21, 1988, bombing that killed 270 people. The men are charged with murder, conspiracy to murder and other violations in the deaths of the airliner's 259 occupants and 11 people on the ground in Lockerbie.

Japan Seeks Death for Cult Members

TOKYO (AP)

Prosecutors sought the death penalty today for two doomsday cult leaders accused of spraying nerve gas in a deadly attack on Tokyo's subways, an official said. Toru Toyoda, 31, and Kenichi Hirose, 35, are on trial along with Aum Shinri Kyo guru Shoko Asahara and other cult members in the 1995 rush-hour assault on a subway station in Tokyo's government district. The sarin attack killed 12 people and sickened thousands.

Exxon Mobil Ends Gay Benefits

DALLAS (AP)

The newly formed Exxon Mobil will not extend benefits to the partners of new gay employees, discontinuing a policy that had been in place at Mobil. The oil giant said yesterday it would continue to follow Exxon's long-standing policy of extending spousal benefits only to couples in legally recognized marriages. It will also continue to extend benefits to same-sex partners of Mobil employees who were receiving benefits before the merger, spokesman Ed Burwell said.

Dow Down 93

NEW YORK (AP)

Just before noon EST, the Dow industrials were down 93.20 to 11,131.81. Declining issues on the New York Stock Exchange led advancers 1,693-1,090. The Nasdaq was up 4.87 to 3,550.88.

England, Germany in Soccer Bracket

TOKYO (AP)

Bitter rivals Germany and England were put into the same qualifying bracket in the draw today for soccer's 2002 World Cup. Germany, a three-time champion, and England, which beat Germany for its only title when it hosted the 1966 World Cup, have a long history of showdowns at major championships. The 2002 Cup will be shared by two hosts, Japan and South Korea. The United States goes straight into the semifinal round from the group representing North and Central America and the Caribbean.

Student Wounds 4 in Netherlands

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A teen-age student opened fire at a high school in the southern Dutch town of Veghel today, wounding a teacher and three other students. The 17-year-old turned himself in to police in Veghel, about 60 miles south of Amsterdam.

AP Top News at 1 a.m. EST Tuesday, Dec. 7, 1999

The victims were taken to a nearby hospital, where they were treated for injuries described as not life-threatening. Dutch television said there were indications the shooter may have been despondent over a failed romance, but police refused to comment. School officials ended classes early and sent students home.

Classes Resuming at Okla. School

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Children were accompanied by their parents and passed through metal detectors when they returned to class today at a middle school that was the scene of a shooting spree yesterday. Grief counselors and extra security were on hand at the Fort Gibson middle school, where a 13-year-old boy shot four classmates. Police say the boy may have fired as many as 14 shots from a 9 mm semiautomatic handgun. None of the injuries are said to be life-threatening. Authorities said they were not aware of any previous trouble involving the teen.

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Study Finds Drug-Sex Link in Teens

WASHINGTON (AP)

A new study indicates that teen-agers who drink or take drugs are much more likely to have sex, at a younger age and with several partners than are teens who don't use alcohol or drugs. Teens who are 14 and younger and drink are twice as likely to have sex than those who don't in the same age group. The risk is doubled for 14-year-olds using drugs, said the report from the Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University. In all, 63 percent on teen-agers who use alcohol have had sex, compared with 26 percent of teens who don't drink.

Court Allows Police Record Privacy

WASHINGTON (AP)

The Supreme Court today reinstated a California law limiting the release of police records names and addresses of arrested suspects and crime victims. The justices reversed rulings that had struck down the privacy law as an undue infringement on free-speech rights. The 1996 law allows release of such information only to people with "a scholarly, journalistic, political or governmental purpose or ... a licensed private investigator." Anyone seeking access to the records had to pledge they would not be sold as a "product or service."

Ex-Treasury Head Rubin Backs Gore

WASHINGTON (AP)

Former Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin today endorsed Al Gore for the Democratic presidential nomination. Rubin, who served in the Clinton cabinet from 1995 until resigning in July, recently accepted a position as a member of the Office of the Chairman of Citigroup. In the campaign against Bill Bradley, Gore has argued that he is best suited to continue the economic prosperity the country has enjoyed under the administration. He hoped an endorsement by Rubin, a prominent economic figure, would underscore that message.

Dow Down 85

AP Top News at 1 a.m. EST Tuesday, Dec. 7, 1999

NEW YORK (AP)

Just before 1 p.m. EST, the Dow industrials were down 85.71 to 11,139.30. Declining issues on the New York Stock Exchange led advancers 1,886-1,027. The Nasdaq was down 0.09 to 3,545.92.

Reds Offer Arbitration to Guzman

CINCINNATI (AP)

The Cincinnati Reds offered salary arbitration today to right-hander Juan Guzman, who pitched well after they acquired him midway through last season. Guzman was 6-3 with a 3.03 earned run average in 12 starts for Cincinnati. Guzman has until Dec. 19 to decide whether to accept arbitration. If he accepts it, he is considered signed and an arbitrator will set his salary. The Reds did not offer arbitration to Greg Vaughn, who hit 45 home runs this season to help spur Cincinnati's unlikely playoff bid.

Student Wounds 4 in Netherlands

VEGHEL, Netherlands (AP)

One day after a teen-ager shot four classmates at a middle school in Oklahoma, a 17-year-old student at a regional high school in this southern Dutch town shot and wounded a teacher and three other students. The teen turned himself in to police in Veghel, about 60 miles south of Amsterdam. Officials said the victims were treated for injuries described as not life-threatening. Meanwhile, in Oklahoma today, children returned to class a day after a 13-year-old boy went on a shooting spree. His four victims had only minor injuries. There were counselors and extra security on hand today at the Fort Gibson Middle School.

Cohen Condemns Russia's Conduct

WASHINGTON (AP)

Defense Secretary William Cohen today condemned Russia's escalating military campaign in Chechnya, saying "this activity is not acceptable." Moscow dropped leaflets on Grozny, the Chechen capital, yesterday warning anyone remaining in the city to flee by Saturday or be killed in a massive air and artillery attack. President Clinton yesterday predicted Russia "will pay a heavy price" in losing world respect if it doesn't reverse course in the breakaway Muslim territory along Russia's southern rim.

Mars Lander Probably Lost

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The last realistic opportunity to contact the silent Mars Polar Lander ended today with no sign of life from the missing spacecraft, all but ending hopes that the \$165 million mission can be saved. Over four days and six contact opportunities, engineers eliminated possibilities that would explain the lander's silence, including a mispointed antenna. Two microprobes that were to have landed separately also were lost. Efforts to reach it will continue for about two weeks, but no answer is expected.

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LSAT Exam Called Unfair for Disabled

AP Top News at 1 a.m. EST Tuesday, Dec. 7, 1999

WASHINGTON (AP)

The Justice Department says the Law School Admission Test, required by 196 law schools, is unfair to the physically disabled because they are denied extra time to take it. The government alleges that the Law School Admission Council violated the Americans with Disabilities Act when it denied four people with physical disabilities extra time on the multiple-choice portion of the test. The disabilities law requires private firms and organizations that give admission tests for postsecondary schooling to offer those exams in a place and manner that will accurately reflect the applicant's ability and aptitude for the training or career they seek rather than reflecting the person's disability.

New Colorectal Cancer Test Created

PHILADELPHIA (AP)

Scientists have devised a new blood test that may help doctors better diagnose how colorectal cancer will spread, according to a new study. Because up to 40 percent of colorectal cancers return within three years from when they were thought to be cured by surgery, the test promises a more accurate picture of the extent of the disease, according to the study published in the Annals of Internal Medicine. To better detect the spread of colorectal cancer to the lymph nodes, the test developed at Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia detects the presence of a certain protein found in colorectal cancer cells.

Dow Down 88

NEW YORK (AP)

Just before 2 p.m. EST, the Dow industrials were down 88.69 to 11,136.32. Declining issues on the New York Stock Exchange led advancers 1,940-1,022. The Nasdaq was up 15.38 to 3,561.39.

Offer To Buy Oakland A's Withdrawn

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)

Investors who wanted to buy the Oakland Athletics have withdrawn their \$12 million deposit, three months after major league baseball refused to approve the deal. The cancellation of the offer means developers Steve Schott and Ken Hofmann will keep the A's. Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig said he was postponing ownership changes in "small market" teams Kansas City, Minnesota, Montreal and Oakland until after a task force reports back on baseball's economic problems at the end of the year.

Student Wounds 5 in Netherlands

VEGHEL, Netherlands (AP)

A 17-year-old student opened fire today at a high school in this southern Dutch town, wounding a teacher and four students before turning himself in. Officials said the victims were treated for injuries described as not life-threatening. Authorities said it was the first such rampage in this country, where gun control is strict. Officials said the teen fired more than 10 shots. One of the students was said to be in critical condition. Police said the suspect was upset over a romance and appeared to be hunting for someone in particular who was not there.

Police Say Okla. Boy Used Dad's Gun

FORT GIBSON, Okla. (AP)

Authorities say a 13-year-old boy who opened fire on his middle school classmates used his father's 9mm semiautomatic handgun, which was purchased at a Wal-Mart. Police said the boy fired the gun at least 15 times yesterday outside Fort Gibson Middle School before being subdued by a teacher, and had more ammunition available. The attack wounded four students; a fifth suffered bumps and bruises. Witnesses said the young suspect

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offered no warning before the attack. Meanwhile, students returned to classes today, many brought by their parents instead of riding school buses. Officers blocked off the middle school, and all students were directed to the adjoining high school.

Clinton Targets Medical Mistakes

WASHINGTON (AP)

President Clinton wants new safeguards to avoid medical mistakes that a recent report says are killing tens of thousands of Americans every year. Clinton says his new campaign is not about pointing fingers, but "fixing problems in an increasingly complex system." Clinton cited a study from the Institute of Medicine that found as many as 98,000 Americans lose their lives each year as a result of preventable medical errors. And, he says the cost of the mistakes add as much as \$29 billion to medical bills.

Mars Lander Probably Lost

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)

The last realistic opportunity to contact the silent Mars Polar Lander ended today with no sign of life from the missing spacecraft, all but ending hopes that the \$165 million mission can be saved. Over four days and six contact opportunities, engineers eliminated possibilities that would explain the lander's silence, including a mispointed antenna. Two microprobes that were to have landed separately also were lost. Efforts to reach it will continue for about two weeks, but no answer is expected.

China Backs Russia Move on Chechnya

GROZNY, Chechnya (AP)

The United States, the European Community and many other nations are urging Russia to abandon its plan to intensely bombard Chechnya's capital, but there is no talk of sanctions or other measures if Moscow ignores their appeals. China was one of the few countries to express support for Russia, which is bombarding the capital and has demanded that citizens leave by this weekend or be killed. But none of the nations urging restraint have threatened to reduce trade or other ties with Russia.

Study Finds Drug-Sex Link in Teens

WASHINGTON (AP)

A new study says teen-agers who drink are much more likely than nondrinkers to have sexual intercourse and with multiple partners. Teens who are 14 and younger and drink are twice as likely to have sex than those who don't in the same age group. The risk is doubled for 14-year-olds using drugs, said the report from the Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University. In all, 63 percent of teen-agers who use alcohol have had sex, compared with 26 percent of teens who don't drink.

Rock Hall To Add Clapton, Raitt

CLEVELAND (AP)

Eric Clapton, Bonnie Raitt and James Taylor will be in the class of 2000 at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. They will be inducted Clapton for the third time on March 6 in New York, joined by Earth Wind & Fire, the Lovin' Spoonful and the Moonglows, the rock hall foundation said today. Clapton, a rock and blues guitarist, was honored once as a member of the Yardbirds and once as a member of Cream. This time, he's going in as a solo act. He's the first to be inducted three times.

Dow Down 90

NEW YORK (AP)

AP Top News at 1 a.m. EST Tuesday, Dec. 7, 1999

Just before 3 p.m. EST, the Dow industrials were down 90.22 to 11,134.78. The Nasdaq was up 16.33 to 3,562.34.

Cone, Watson Sign With Yankees

NEW YORK (AP)

The New York Yankees, who yesterday retained starter David Cone, today re-signed lefty reliever Allan Watson to a two-year, \$3 million deal. Watson, 29, went 4-1 with a 2.89 ERA in 24 games this year for the Yankees, who signed him after the Mets released him. His new deal calls for a \$200,000 signing bonus, \$1.2 million next year and \$1.6 million in 2001.

Albright Meets With Syrian Leader

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP)

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said she was more optimistic about the prospect of renewed Israeli-Syrian peace talks after meeting today with Syria's president, Hafez Assad. Albright said Assad is serious about peace with Israel, and she telephoned President Clinton with a report on her talks. But Albright would not discuss details of the session before traveling to Israel, the third stop of a four-day Middle East trip. She gave no indication Assad had moderated his territorial demands but said: "I just believe, without going into any detail, that I am more optimistic."

Productivity Jumps in Third Quarter

WASHINGTON (AP)

Workers' productivity, a key to national economic vitality, grew at the fastest rate in seven years in the third quarter. At the same time, companies' labor costs actually declined. Today's report was good news for investors wary of signs of inflation that could trigger another interest rate increase from the Federal Reserve. Productivity, defined as the amount of output for each hour of work, rose at a 4.9 percent annual rate from July through September, the Labor Department said.

Police: Okla. Teen Shooter Used Dad's Gun

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Hopes End for Finding Mars Polar Lander

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Sanctions Against Russia Unlikely

GROZNY, Chechnya (AP)

The United States, the European Community and many other nations are urging Russia to abandon its plan to intensely bombard Chechnya's capital, but there is no talk of sanctions or other measures if Moscow ignores their appeals. China was one of the few countries to express support for Russia, which is bombarding the capital and

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has demanded that citizens leave by this weekend or be killed. But none of the nations urging restraint have threatened to reduce trade or other ties with Russia.

Couple Charged in Mass. Fatal Fire

WORCESTER, Mass. (AP)

A homeless couple were charged with involuntary manslaughter today in connection with a warehouse fire that killed six firefighters. Thomas S. Levesque, 37, and Julie S. Barnes, 19, had been living together on the second floor of the abandoned warehouse for several months, District Attorney John J. Conte said. The blaze allegedly started Friday night when they knocked over a candle during an argument. It was believed to be the nation's deadliest blaze for firefighters since 1994, when 14 firefighters perished in a forest fire in Colorado.

Sistine Chapel Restoration Complete

VATICAN CITY (AP)

Pope John Paul II will preside over a service Saturday celebrating the completion of the two-decade restoration of the Sistine Chapel. Newly bright frescoes created by Botticelli and his peers more than five centuries ago are expected to be dedicated. The scenes from the lives of Jesus and Moses line the chapel walls beneath the better-known frescoes by Michelangelo overhead. Botticelli painted the frescoes between 1481-83 alongside fellow artists who were then equally famous, including Pietro Perugino and Cosimo Roselli.

Dow Down 107.65

NEW YORK (AP)

Just before 4 p.m. EST, the Dow industrials were down 107.65 to 11,117.36. The Nasdaq was up 28.23 at 3,574.24. On the New York Stock Exchange, decliners led advancers 2,028 to 1,034.

Mariners Sign Mets' John Olerud

SEATTLE (AP)

The Seattle Mariners signed free agent first baseman John Olerud to a three-year contract today. Terms of the deal were not disclosed, though the Mariners were believed to have offered a \$21 million, three-year deal last month. Olerud, 30, played in 162 of 163 games for the New York Mets this year and batted .298 with 19 home runs and 96 RBIs. He finished fourth in the NL with 125 walks and fifth with .427 on base percentage. Olerud was an AL All-Star in 1993 and won World Series championships with the Blue Jays in 1992 and 1993.

Albright Meets With Syrian Leader

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Albright Optimistic on Israeli-Syrian Talks

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP)

After meeting today with Syria's president, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said she was much more hopeful about the prospect of renewed Israeli-Syrian peace talks. Albright said Syrian president Hafez Assad is serious about peace with Israel. She planned to meet Wednesday in Jerusalem with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak. Other issues Albright had been expected to question Assad about included the "character" of peace with Israel, the timing of it and security arrangements along the two countries' border.

Clinton Targets Medical Mistakes

WASHINGTON (AP)

Doctors and the government have a moral obligation to report and correct medical mistakes that kill or injure thousands each year, President Clinton said today. He announced new steps to confront the problem and promised more money to improve accountability. Clinton said he doubts that better reporting of medical errors will leave doctors and hospitals vulnerable to more lawsuits. His remarks follow last week's release of an independent report that estimated medical mistakes kill between 44,000 and 98,000 Americans each year. The Institute of Medicine said it found flaws in the way hospitals, clinics and pharmacies operate.

Seattle Police Head Quits After WTO

SEATTLE (AP)

Seattle's police chief announced his resignation today, becoming the first political casualty of the violent protests that disrupted the World Trade Organization conference. Police Chief Norm Stamper had been harshly criticized by civic leaders, police officers and others for his handling of the demonstrations last week that cost downtown merchants nearly \$20 million in lost sales and property damage. The protests got so out of hand that the National Guard was called in and a curfew was imposed. Stamper, 54, said he had planned to announce his retirement in January but did so now in hopes of removing politics from the examination of what went wrong.

Productivity Up in Third Quarter

WASHINGTON (AP)

Workers' productivity grew at the fastest rate in seven years in the third quarter while companies' labor costs actually declined key for keeping inflation at bay. The report is good news for investors wary of signs of inflation that could trigger another interest rate increase from the Federal Reserve. Productivity, defined as the amount of output for each hour of work, rose at a 4.9 percent annual rate from July through September, the Labor Department said.

Court Allows Police-Record Privacy

AP Top News at 1 a.m. EST Tuesday, Dec. 7, 1999

WASHINGTON (AP)

By a 7-2 vote, The Supreme Court today reinstated a California law that limits who gets access to police records that list the names and addresses of arrested suspects. The 1996 law allows release of such information only to people with "a scholarly, journalistic, political or governmental purpose or ... a licensed private investigator." Anyone seeking access to the records has to pledge they will not be sold as a "product or service." The decision was a victory for the Los Angeles Police Department and a setback for the United Reporting Publishing Corp., which had sold lists of arrested people's names and addresses to lawyers, insurance companies and others.

High-Tech CEOs Plan To Work on New Years

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP)

Top executives at Intel, AT&T and other high-tech companies will be ringing in the year 2000 this New Year's Eve at their offices. High-tech companies have spent the past few years and billions of dollars working to prevent Y2K crashes when computer systems roll over from 1999 to 2000. Corporate executives say they are fairly confident these measure will prevent major problems, but they are taking no chances.

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Medical Mistakes Targeted by Clinton

WASHINGTON (AP)

President Clinton said today that doctors and the government have a moral obligation to report and correct medical mistakes that kill or injure thousands each year. He announced new steps to confront the problem as well as promised more money to improve accountability. His remarks follow last week's release of an independent report that estimated medical mistakes kill between 44,000 and 98,000 Americans each year. While lauding American medicine as the finest in the world, Clinton said the report startled a lot of people, including him.

Albright Meets With Syrian President

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP)

Secretary of State Madeline Albright met with Syria's president today and says she is much more hopeful about the development of peace between Israel and Syria. Albright said Syrian President Hafez Assad is serious about peace with Israel. She planned to meet Wednesday in Jerusalem with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak. Talks between Syria and Israel broke down 31/2 years ago.

Seattle Police Chief Quits

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Seattle Police Chief Norm Stamper announced his resignation today, becoming the first political casualty of the violent protests that disrupted the World Trade Organization conference. Stamper had been harshly criticized by civic leaders, police officers and others for his handling of the demonstrations last week that cost downtown merchants nearly \$20 million in lost sales and property damage. The protests got so out of hand that the National Guard was called in and a curfew was imposed. Stamper's resignation, which takes effect in March, also follows nearly nine months of turmoil over the integrity of the police internal investigations section.

Nazi Laborers Plan To Reject Deal

BERLIN (AP)

Lawyers representing victims forced by Nazis to work during World War II have rejected a \$4.2 billion compensation offer from German industry and government, stalling negotiations once again. Today's rejection letter was sent to the U.S. and German envoys mediating the talks, Washington attorney Michael Hausfeld said by telephone. The rejection came on the eve of a Wednesday deadline on the offer set by Germany's chief negotiator. The German government has already spent about \$60 billion in payments, pensions and other programs for Holocaust-related crimes. But most of the former slave workers weren't covered by these programs, and industry has never paid any compensation.

Puerto Rican Guerrilla Warns U.S.

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)

A fugitive Puerto Rican guerrilla leader warned today that his group would take action if the U.S. Navy renews its military training exercises on Vieques island. Filiberto Ojeda Rios, head of the Macheteros, or **Cane Cutters**, refused to say what the group might do. But it has been blamed for a series of attacks on civilian and U.S. military targets in Puerto Rico, including a 1979 shooting at a Navy bus that killed two people and wounded nine others. On Friday, President Clinton announced that limited exercises would resume next spring but that the range will close in five years. Puerto Rican officials want an immediate closure.

Gene Therapy Yields Bigger Pigs

WASHINGTON (AP)

Medical researchers using gene therapy have figured out a way to make young hogs grow 40 percent larger and faster. Scientists say the technique, which stimulates production of the pigs' growth hormones, would be a boon for livestock farmers and eventually could even be used to treat children with growth problems and to prevent muscle deterioration in AIDS and cancer patients. The key to the new technology is a synthetic chemical that's inserted into a biodegradable piece of DNA, then injected into the leg of a 2-week-old pig. The chemical in turn causes the pig's pituitary gland to secrete higher than normal levels of growth hormone.

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Dayne Wins AP College Player Award

NEW YORK (AP)

AP Top News at 1 a.m. EST Tuesday, Dec. 7, 1999

Wisconsin running back Ron Dayne today won The Associated Press' College Player of the Year Award in balloting by AP member newspapers, TV and radio stations. Dayne, a senior, received 43 of the 82 votes in the AP balloting. He beat Virginia Tech redshirt freshman quarterback Michael Vick, who had 14 votes. Purdue quarterback Drew Brees was third with six votes. The Badgers' 5-foot-10, 254-pound tailback is the favorite to win the Heisman Trophy on Saturday night. This season he ranked second nationally in rushing at 166.7 yards a game.

Pearl Harbor Anniversary Marked

HONOLULU (AP)

With survivors turning out in smaller numbers each year, young faces filled the crowds at ceremonies today marking the 58th anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. A dozen survivors of the Dec. 7, 1941, attack stood, some with assistance, to be recognized at an invitation-only ceremony aboard the USS Arizona Memorial. The ashes of a USS Nevada veteran are to be spread in the harbor today as well. The surprise attack by 350 Japanese war planes began at 7:55 a.m. and lasted about two hours. When it was over, 2,436 Americans were killed and the United States was involved in World War II.

Clinton Announces Medical Mistakes Plan

WASHINGTON (AP)

President Clinton announced plans today to take new steps to confront the problem of medical mistakes that kill thousands each year. He said he plans to propose the most money to date for medical accountability programs in his upcoming budget package. He did not give specifics, but a White House statement said Clinton plans a multimillion-dollar investment in research programs to improve health care quality. His remarks follow last week's release of an independent report that estimated medical mistakes kill between 44,000 and 98,000 Americans each year.

Pakistan Suspect Commits Suicide

LAHORE, Pakistan (AP)

A man being interrogated in connection with the serial killing of 100 children died Tuesday in police custody. Police said he leapt from a second story window, but government officials quickly arrested four officers in the case. Before plunging to his death, Mohammed Ishaq had reportedly confessed to supplying the confessed killer, Javed Iqbal, with the chemicals he allegedly used to dispose of the bodies of the children. Iqbal himself remains at large. Last week Iqbal, 40, wrote a letter to police in Lahore saying he had sexually assaulted and killed 100 children between the ages of 7 and 16.

McCain Calls for Military Pay Raise

CONCORD, N.H. (AP)

On the anniversary of Pearl Harbor, Republican presidential hopeful John McCain called today for deployment of a missile defense system, cancellation of unneeded weapons and military pay raises to maintain America as "the greatest force for good on earth." A 22-year Navy veteran and former Vietnam prisoner of war, McCain outlined a policy of "rogue state rollback" to contain threats from nations such as Iraq and North Korea. He said his goal as president would be "not simply to contain rogue regimes, but to drive them from power." The Arizona senator has risen sharply in the polls in recent months in New Hampshire.

Nazi Laborers Reject Deal

BERLIN (AP)

Lawyers representing Nazi labor victims during World War II have rejected a \$4.2 billion compensation offer from German industry and government, stalling negotiations once again. Tuesday's rejection letter was sent to the U.S.

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and German envoys mediating the talks, Washington attorney Michael Hausfeld said by telephone. The rejection came on the eve of a Wednesday deadline on the offer set by Germany's chief negotiator. Anywhere from 1.5 million to 2.3 million people would be covered by the fund, including concentration camp inmates who were in "work-to-death programs" and Eastern Europeans forced to work for Hitler's war machine.

Pair Claim Cracking Cellular Code

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)

Two Israeli researchers claim to have cracked a wireless encryption method that protects the privacy of phone calls made with the most widely used cellular technology outside the United States. A consortium of digital cellular providers dismissed the claim, saying it was an "academic exercise" based on an outdated encryption formula. The cracking technique involves a formula known as A5/1 that is used to encrypt wireless calls made with GSM technology, the cellular standard used by some 100 million customers in Europe and more than 200 million worldwide, but fewer than 10 million in this country.

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Ceremonies Mark Pearl Harbor

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Clinton Denounces Medical Mistakes

WASHINGTON (AP)

After being startled by an independent report about medical mistakes, President Clinton announced plans today to make doctors and the government more accountable for mistakes that kill or injure thousands every year. For starters, each of the more than 300 private health plans that sell insurance to federal employees will be required to institute quality improvement and patient safety initiatives. He also directed federal agencies that administer health plans to evaluate and begin using the latest techniques to reduce mistakes.

McCain Received \$10K From AT&T

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WASHINGTON (AP)

Sen. John McCain, whose presidential campaign rails against special-interest influence, raised \$10,000 from AT&T executives shortly after introducing legislation that would make it easier for the phone giant to expand further into the cable television business. As chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee, McCain, R-Ariz., oversees the communications industry and has other connections to AT&T. McCain campaign spokeswoman Nancy Ives said it was coincidental that the contributions closely followed the bill introduction.

Mattel Criticized Over Donations

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)

The state attorney general is criticizing Mattel for donating poor quality toys to disadvantaged children as part of a national antitrust settlement. A shipment to the Toys for Tots warehouse at Fort Snelling included hundreds of "collector's cases" for Hot Wheels toy cars, but no cars that fit them. Many other toys that arrived Monday also appeared to be at least two years old. Mattel spokesman Glenn Bozarth said many of the toys were set aside in October 1998, when the four firms originally agreed to the settlement. He added that the company has offered to ship more toys to replace those deemed unacceptable.

Self-Updating Virus Spreads on Web

NEW YORK (AP)

Computer security experts warned today of a new virus that can update itself with potentially malicious instructions from a Web site. The first of its kind, this virus primarily affects home computers and spreads through Microsoft software used for chat rooms. The W95.Babylonia virus comes disguised as a Y2K fix, making it the sixth known virus preying on the Year 2000 glitch. When an infected user logs on to a chat room using MIRC chat software, the virus gets sent as a Y2K bug fix to anyone else in that chat room. If the user accepts the software, the virus will install itself and later obtain files from Japan. Those files, in turn, carry instructions affecting the user's computer.

Yahoo Shares Soar 23 Percent

NEW YORK (AP)

Shares of Yahoo! Inc. soared 23 percent today, with index funds scrambling to pick up shares of the Internet company as it prepared to enter the S&P 500. Shares of the Internet powerhouse jumped \$67.183/4 to \$348 in trading on the Nasdaq Stock Market. Since financial services provider Standard & Poor's announced on Nov. 30 that Yahoo would join the index, shares have risen nearly 66 percent. Yahoo is one of the few Internet companies that makes a profit. For the three months ended Sept. 30, Yahoo reported operating income of \$40.41 million on sales of \$155.1 million.

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Ewing, Rodman Said Strip Club VIPs

NEW YORK (AP)

An Atlanta strip club linked to organized crime provided thousands of dollars' worth of strippers and alcohol to NBA stars Patrick Ewing, Dennis Rodman and Charles Oakley, a newspaper reported today. The Daily News of New York quoted unidentified federal sources and investigative records as saying that during five nights at the Gold Club

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in April 1998, "Patrick Ewing and friends" ran up a bill of \$2,233, including a \$991 tab in a single night. Rodman's agent, Steve Chasman, said the league office had not contacted him or his client regarding the strip club. Calls to agents for Ewing and Oakley were not returned.

White House Joins Suit vs. Gun Makers

WASHINGTON (AP)

The White House is helping prepare a class-action lawsuit against gun makers, alleging that guns and how they are marketed have contributed to violence in public housing projects, administration officials said today. The new legal effort was made known today and was described by some officials as more of a threat aimed at bringing gun manufacturers to the negotiating table than an effort to take them to court. Administration officials said the White House and the Department of Housing and Urban Development are helping prepare the suit even though the actual plaintiff would be independent local authorities that run federal housing programs.

Many Chechens Unaware of Ultimatum

ACHKOI-MARTAN, Russia (AP)

Hiding in basements, terrified residents of Grozny on Tuesday remained mostly unaware of Russia's ultimatum to flee or risk being killed by a massive attack on the Chechen capital this weekend. Many civilians in Grozny have been too scared to venture outside amid the current relentless Russian bombing, so many have not seen the leaflets dropped by Russian planes Monday carrying the threat of the air and artillery assault set to begin Saturday. Moscow announced Monday that it would open a safe corridor for civilians to flee Grozny, but jets bombed the city Tuesday, making it dangerous to move. There was no confirmation whether a safe corridor existed.

U.S. To Contact Cuban Boy's Dad

WASHINGTON (AP)

Hoping to defuse a conflict with Cuba, the Clinton administration said today it recognizes a father's right to assert his claim to bring his 6-year-old son back home to Cuba. The statement followed increasingly strident demands by Cuba for the return of the boy, who arrived unaccompanied in South Florida late last month after a boat sank as it made its way from the island to the United States. Elian's mother and stepfather died in the attempt to flee to the United States. His father, who lives in Cuba, has insisted on the boy's return.

Gates Defends Microsoft

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP)

As Microsoft Corp. battles assertions that it stifles innovation, chairman Bill Gates stressed today that his company increasingly is working with others to help make consumers' lives easier. Gates, speaking at a conference of providers of video and audio over the Internet, said the software giant plays just a small part in sweeping technological changes now taking place. Following a judge's Nov. 5 **ruling** that Microsoft is a monopoly, Gates has been emphasizing that his company encourages innovation in the high-tech industry.

Former POWs Sue Japanese Companies

LOS ANGELES (AP)

Eleven survivors of Japanese prison camps marked Pearl Harbor Day today by filing two lawsuits accusing corporations of forcing them into slave labor during World War II. The suits, which seek unspecified damages, are the latest of about a half-dozen filed in California accusing Japanese companies of forcing captured Americans to work under brutal conditions in mines and factories. The suits were filed under a recently passed California law that allows victims of slave labor to sue multinational corporations in state court.

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Ex-S.Carolina Lawmakers Want Flag Lowered

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP)

Twenty-two former lawmakers who served when the Confederate flag was hoisted above South Carolina's Statehouse in 1962 returned Tuesday to urge current legislators to bring it down. The flag was raised to commemorate the Civil War centennial, not in defiance of the federal government over desegregation, said former state Rep. George E. Campsen Jr. It should have come down in 1966 after the celebration was over, but the Legislature failed to provide for the removal, he said. Opponents see the flag as a symbol of racism and slavery. Supporters say it honors South Carolina's Confederate past.

Tokyo Stocks Down Early

TOKYO (AP)

The Nikkei Stock Average shed 106.87 points to 18,487.09 in early trading. On Tuesday, the average closed up 86.76 points. In New York, the Dow Jones industrial average fell 118.36 points to 11,106.65 at Tuesday's close. The decline was the Dow's steepest since Oct. 25.

Umps' Union: Owners Breaking Law

NEW YORK (AP)

Umpires still aligned with ousted leader Richie Phillips filed objections today to last week's union election, accusing baseball owners of illegally helping the new labor group gain power. The Major League Umpires Association, headed by Phillips for the past 21 years, said owners and the new union had secretly agreed to a new labor contract. Until the new union is certified by the NLRB, it can't negotiate with owners for a labor contract to replace the one that expires Dec. 31.

White House Joins Suit vs. Gun Makers

WASHINGTON (AP)

The White House is helping prepare a class-action lawsuit against gun makers, alleging that guns and how they are marketed have contributed to violence in public housing projects, administration officials said today. The new legal effort was made known today and was described by some officials as more of a threat aimed at bringing gun manufacturers to the negotiating table than an effort to take them to court. Administration officials said the White House and the Department of Housing and Urban Development are helping prepare the suit even though the actual plaintiff would be independent local authorities that run federal housing programs.

Many Chechens Unaware of Ultimatum

ACHKOI-MARTAN, Russia (AP)

Hiding in basements, terrified residents of Grozny on Tuesday remained mostly unaware of Russia's ultimatum to flee or risk being killed by a massive attack on the Chechen capital this weekend. Many civilians in Grozny have been too scared to venture outside amid the current relentless Russian bombing, so many have not seen the leaflets dropped by Russian planes Monday carrying the threat of the air and artillery assault set to begin Saturday. Moscow announced Monday that it would open a safe corridor for civilians to flee Grozny, but jets bombed the city Tuesday, making it dangerous to move. There was no confirmation whether a safe corridor existed.

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Probe: NYC Teachers Help Cheating

NEW YORK (AP)

Teachers and administrators at 32 New York City schools helped students cheat on standardized tests by providing them with questions in advance and even marking test forms for them, a special investigator for city schools charged. His report, released today, describes crude cheating schemes designed to improve elementary and middle schools' performance on city and state tests. Schools Chancellor Rudy Crew said he was taking Stancik's report seriously and would perform his own review of the allegations.

Past Losses Yield NASA Frugality

NEW YORK (AP)

NASA's policy of exploring the solar system with less expensive, more frequent missions stems from the loss of the \$1 billion Mars Observer in 1993 and budget cuts imposed by Congress. When Mars Observer disappeared, so did a decade's worth of instruments and planning. Then-newly appointed NASA Administrator Dan Goldin implemented a policy that has become known as "faster, better, cheaper." But with the failure of Mars Climate Orbiter and Mars Polar Lander, some critics say NASA has reduced costs so drastically that the space agency's probes are now less reliable and prone to failure.

Bauer Brings Campaign to Louisiana

NEW ORLEANS (AP)

Presidential hopeful Gary Bauer campaigned in Louisiana today at the start of a three-day swing through a state he hopes will give his campaign an early boost in the election process. Bauer said after a guest appearance on a local

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radio station that if he does well it will be because of his conservative message. On the radio show, he said he hoped average Americans will look at his qualifications and that of leading conservative opponents.

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No. 4 Mich. St. Beats No. 5 Kansas 66-54

CHICAGO (AP)

Michigan State beat fifth-ranked Kansas 66-54 today in the Great Eight behind the play of Charlie Bell and Morris Peterson. The Spartans struggled handling the ball against second-half pressure as Kansas used a 19-2 run to cut a 23-point deficit to six. Then the rally fell short as State (7-1) regrouped behind Peterson. Kansas' first loss this season after six straight wins also marked the first time this season the Jayhawks had played a ranked opponent.

Atrocities Reported in Sierra Leone

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone (AP)

Human rights observers on Tuesday reported mounting rebel atrocities against civilians in Sierra Leone as battle-tested U.N. peacekeepers from India arrived in the West African nation. The Indian contingent came eight days after 130 Kenyan soldiers flew in to begin what is the largest U.N. peacekeeping mission in Africa in two years. A shaky July 7 peace deal signed by the government and the rebel Revolutionary United Front is threatened by continued fighting.

Nations Complicate Fate of Cuban Boy

NEW YORK (AP)

If Elian Gonzalez had come from any other country but Cuba, he might be back with his father by now. Instead, the 6-year-old boy in Miami is the focus of a Cold War-style dispute in which the standard child-welfare practices have become entangled in politics. Under anti-Castro laws in force for three decades, even a 6-year-old, brought to shore by the Coast Guard after his mother and other would-be refugees drowned, is eligible for permanent residency. State Department spokesman James Foley said the INS will contact the boy's father, Juan Miguel Gonzalez "to explain the process by which it will evaluate his rights in the case" of his son.

Patent for DNA Analysis Invalid

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)

An important patent for DNA analysis owned by biotechnology giant Hoffman-La Roche was obtained by deliberately misleading the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and is invalid, a federal judge ruled today. U.S. District Judge Vaughn Walker upheld a challenge by Promega Corp., which argued that scientists got the patent in 1990 by misrepresenting their experiments. The patented substance is called Taq DNA Polymerase. Developed from bacteria, it allows molecular biologists to use the replication process known as polymerase chain reaction, or PCR, much more quickly and cheaply than previous methods developed in the 1980s. The ruling will be appealed, said Melinda Griffith, general counsel of Hoffman-LaRoche subsidiary Roche Molecular Systems in Pleasanton.

NYC Teachers Probed for Cheating

NEW YORK (AP)

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Teachers and administrators at 32 New York City schools helped students cheat on standardized tests by providing them with questions in advance and even marking test forms for them, a special investigator for city schools charged. His report, released today, describes crude cheating schemes designed to improve elementary and middle schools' performance on city and state tests. Schools Chancellor Rudy Crew said he was taking Stancik's report seriously and would perform his own review of the allegations.

Forbes Would Fight Rising Oil Price

COTTONWOOD, Ariz. (AP)

Republican presidential candidate Steve Forbes says he would open the country's strategic oil reserves to fight a recent climb in crude oil prices. Additionally, Forbes said he would open oil fields in Alaska for additional production. Forbes said he is prepared to take action regarding the Arab oil-producing countries' price increases unlike GOP front-runner George W. Bush. America's strategic oil reserve totals about 565 million barrels of oil stored in salt caverns in Texas and Louisiana. Then-President George Bush's father _ tapped the reserve to protect the domestic gasoline supply during the Persian Gulf War when oil from Iraq and Kuwait was unavailable.

Sale of Versace's Art Brings \$66M

LONDON (AP)

In a Sotheby's auction today, 25 Pablo Picasso works owned by murdered fashion designer Gianni Versace were sold off to a standing-room-only crowd. But it was an impressionist painting by Paul Cezanne, "Bouilloire et fruits," that brought in the highest sum \$30 million. The piece shows an arrangement of apples, oranges and a lemon placed next to a pewter pitcher. It is said to demonstrate Cezanne's role as a precursor to the Cubist movement. It had been expected to bring in between \$15 million and \$19.5 million.

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The Nikkei Stock Average shed 88.13 points to 18,505.83 in early trading. On Tuesday, the average closed up 86.76 points. In New York, the Dow Jones industrial average fell 118.36 points to 11,106.65 at Tuesday's close. The decline was the Dow's steepest since Oct. 25.

Knicks Beat Warriors 89-83

NEW YORK (AP)

Latrell Sprewell abused John Starks when they were matched head-to-head and scored all 21 of his points in the first half today as the New York Knicks defeated Golden State 89-83 to send the Warriors to their 10th straight loss. Sprewell drove baseline on Starks for a three-point play that gave him 10 points just 6 1/2 minutes into the game. He finished the first quarter 7-for-8 from the field with 16 points after making a jumper over Starks on an isolation play with 2.2 seconds left. Allan Houston and Larry Johnson finished with 15 points apiece, Kurt Thomas had 14 and Marcus Camby 13.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Subject: US REPUBLICAN PARTY (92%); POLITICAL PARTIES (90%); DIABETES TESTING (90%); SPACE & AERONAUTICS AGENCIES (89%); SPACECRAFT (89%); INVESTIGATIONS (88%); SPACE EXPLORATION (88%); POLICE FORCES (87%); CITY GOVERNMENT (87%); US DEMOCRATIC PARTY (78%); POLITICAL DEBATES (78%); CAMPAIGNS & ELECTIONS (78%); SCHOOL SAFETY & SECURITY (78%); LEGISLATIVE

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BODIES (78%); GOVERNMENT ADVISORS & MINISTERS (77%); VOTERS & VOTING (77%); US FEDERAL GOVERNMENT (77%); MEDICAL DEVICES (74%); APPROVALS (74%); DIABETES (74%); WOUNDS & INJURIES (73%); AGRICULTURAL TRADE (73%); DRUG & MEDICAL DEVICES APPROVAL (73%); US PRESIDENTS (73%); CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES CRIME (71%); SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE FORCES (69%); PLANETS & ASTEROIDS (66%); FEDERAL INVESTIGATIONS (66%); CITY LIFE (65%); CITIES (65%); INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORGANIZATIONS (64%); CORRECTIONS WORKERS (62%); INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (56%); ASSOCIATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS (50%); CARTELS (50%)

Company: WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION (73%); ARIZONA REPUBLICAN PARTY (58%); ARIZONA REPUBLICAN PARTY (58%); FOOD & DRUG ADMINISTRATION (55%); FOOD & DRUG ADMINISTRATION (55%); WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION (54%)

Organization: WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION (73%); WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION (73%); ARIZONA REPUBLICAN PARTY (58%); ARIZONA REPUBLICAN PARTY (58%); FOOD & DRUG ADMINISTRATION (55%); FOOD & DRUG ADMINISTRATION (55%)

Industry: SPACE & AERONAUTICS AGENCIES (89%); SPACECRAFT (89%); SPACE EXPLORATION (88%); MEDICAL DEVICES (74%); DRUG & MEDICAL DEVICES APPROVAL (73%); AGRICULTURAL TRADE (73%); SPACE INDUSTRY (60%)

Person: GEORGE W BUSH (79%); ORRIN HATCH (73%)

Geographic: TEXAS, USA (92%); MARS (90%); ARIZONA, USA (79%); CALIFORNIA, USA (79%); MARYLAND, USA (79%); NEW MEXICO, USA (79%); MEXICO (94%); UNITED STATES (92%)

Load-Date: December 7, 1999