

News Digest

By The Associated Press

Trip to Mideast

Bush warns potential troublemakers

MANAMA, Bahrain — Vice President George Bush said Tuesday that U.S. warships patrolling the oil-rich Persian Gulf are a signal to potential troublemakers that "they'd better think twice" and blunt Soviet influence in the region.

Bush visited the USS LaSalle, the command ship for a U.S. naval task force in the gulf, to stress American military power in the region. The white-painted flagship, docked at a Bahrainian port, is known as "the Great White Ghost of the Arabian Coast."

Standing under a canopy on the sun-drenched flight-deck, Bush told sailors

the task force helps blunt Soviet influence in the gulf.

"The fact that you're here helps friendly countries resist Soviet attempts to gain influence, gain dominance in this area," Bush said.

"The fact that you're here is a warning to anyone who might even be thinking of fundamentally disrupting this area that they'd better think twice. . . and if that doesn't stop them, then they'd better think again," he said.

Bush, nearing the end of a 38-hour visit to this island country off the coast

of Saudi Arabia, conferred with the emir of Bahrain on the Iran-Iraq war, Middle East peace efforts and oil prices.

At a news conference, Bush also said that Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy, who broke off from Bush's entourage and traveled to Israel, was pursuing "a new initiative" for Middle East peace.

Bush refused to disclose any details of the mission, saying "the diplomatic efforts that he will be engaged in would not be helped by premature discussion about them."

10 killed in Lebanon bomb blast

JOUNIEH, Lebanon — A car bomb exploded in the main square of this Christian port while it was packed with lunch-hour crowds Tuesday, killing at least 10 people and wounding 110.

The blue BMW sedan blew up only 50 yards from offices of President Amin Gemayel's Phalange Party, set 25 cars ablaze and damaged buildings 500 yards away. It was the latest in a series of bombings in Christian areas since mid-January.

In south Lebanon, a suicide bomber drove an explosives-laden car into a checkpoint manned by Israeli-backed militiamen, killing himself and wounding six people, Lebanon's state radio

reported. It was the first suicide bombing reported this year in what Israel calls its security zone.

Radios reported 16 people were killed in the Chouf Mountain village of Bsaba, southeast of Beirut, in a clan feud between Sunni Moslems and Druse warriors from rival villages.

Prime Minister Rashid Karami, a Sunni Moslem opposed to the Maronite Catholic president, called the Jounieh bombing "treacherous" and declared: "It's always the innocent people who are the victims."

Youssef Bitar, the top police explosives expert, said about 165 pounds of explosives were packed inside the

sedan.

Police said 10 charred bodies were pulled from the rubble of two high-rise office buildings that took the brunt of the blast.

Christian radio stations broadcast lists of the casualties. Police say about 1,190 people have been killed and more than 2,500 wounded this year in Lebanon's political and sectarian warfare.

No one claimed responsibility for the Jounieh blast, as usual in bombings in Christian areas. The Phalange has blamed loyalists of Elie Hobeika, Gemayel's main Christian rival, for earlier bomb attacks.

Skin pigments can falsify tests for marijuana use, chemist says

NEW YORK — Pigments in dark-skinned people are chemically similar to marijuana and may lead to wrongful accusations of marijuana-use based on inaccurate urine tests, according to a chemist who testifies frequently in court cases concerning drug abuse.

James Woodford of Atlanta said the pigment, melanin, breaks down into fragments in the urine that are chemically similar to the active ingredients in marijuana.

In very sensitive urine tests, melanin can produce positive results in people who have not used marijuana, Woodford said in a telephone interview Tuesday.

Melanin is present in everyone, but it is present in higher levels in blacks and Hispanics, for example, than in whites, Woodford said. Dark-skinned people are therefore more likely than others to be wrongly accused of marijuana use, he said.

Last month Woodford testified in Cleveland in the case of a group of police cadets who tested positive for marijuana use a month before their graduation from the police academy.

Arthur McBay, a drug-testing expert with the state medical examiners office in North Carolina, said he knew of no evidence to support Woodford's claim, but he acknowledged that the extremely sensitive tests for marijuana use can provide false results.

Company freeze-dries pets for 'everlasting companionship'

NISSWA, Minn. — Fido or Fluffy can lie by the hearth forever thanks to the wonders of freeze-drying, says a man whose company offers pet owners a way to preserve the remains of their four-legged loved ones in lifelike fashion.

"The natural thing for a human being to do is to hang on to that animal, to want to keep it," said Roger Saatzer, president of Preserv-A-Pet. "The next best thing to bringing it back to life is to have it freeze-dried."

Saatzer said that though some people find the idea unattractive, others "are very open-minded, and it has been taken very, very positively."

"We've done everything from rabbits to turtles, dogs, cats, snakes and gerbils," said Saatzer. He has even freeze-dried a lion.

Freeze-drying gives the animal a far more realistic appearance than traditional taxidermy, he said.

"Everything remains intact," Saatzer said. "The color, the size, even the texture of the hair is the same."

Saatzer, who also owns a company that manufactures freeze-drying equipment, said the idea came to him a couple of years ago when a taxidermist said he wasn't sure he could afford a

freeze-drying machine he wanted.

"Just off the top of my head I suggested he advertise doing pets," Saatzer said. "He tried it and it worked."

Pet owners ship their deceased pets to the company frozen. They also send photographs so the company can get an idea of how the owner wants the pet to look, Saatzer said. The animal is then thawed and shaped into position.

Once the animal's body is shaped it is freeze-dried — placed in a vacuum chamber at a temperature of 5 degrees below zero. The process extracts all water from the body without

altering its size or shape, so that decomposition is halted. The animal's remains thus will not shrink and will have no odor.

With animals under 50 pounds, the entire body stays intact, Saatzer said, while with larger animals other techniques are used such as stretching the animal's skin over a plastic foam mannequin.

The cost varies depending on the size and posture desired, Saatzer said. A small house cat in a sitting position would run about \$450, he said, while a large German shepherd in an attack position would cost around \$2,000.

In Brief

Speed limit

LINCOLN — Sen. J. J. Exon, D-Neb., said Tuesday he plans to introduce legislation that would raise the national speed limit on Interstate highways from 55 mph to 70 mph.

The bill, which should be thrown into the hopper within the next two weeks, would give state governments the option of lowering the 70 mph speed limit, the Nebraska Democrat said.

The higher speed limit would apply only to Interstate highways across the country, he said.

Exon said a 70 mph speed limit is "reasonable and proper" and wouldn't trigger an increase in traffic fatalities because of the quality of the Interstate highways.

Pay for play

LINCOLN — A proposal to provide \$1.2 million to pay NU football players didn't get off the ground Tuesday, but it brought more legislative attention than usual to a routine measure to pay claims against the state.

Sen. Ernie Chambers of Omaha, who has long argued that NU football players should be compensated, offered an amendment to pay 100 players \$1,000 monthly. Speaker of the Legislature William Nichol ruled that the amendment wasn't germane to the bill, and Chambers didn't challenge that ruling.

Lawmakers advanced the measure, LB 1255, on a voice vote. It appropriates more than \$109,000 to pay claims against the state that were approved by the State Claims Board.

Tobacco warning

LINCOLN — The Nebraska Dental Association said Tuesday it will launch an educational program about the "clear and imminent danger" of smokeless tobacco.

Dr. Gilbert Lilly, a professor at

the University of Iowa college of Dentistry, said people are 40 times more likely to develop oral cancer after long-term use — 30 to 40 years — of smokeless tobacco. Unless use of smokeless tobacco is curtailed within 40 years, the incident of oral cancer will greatly increase in the United States, he said.

Khadafy threat

CAIRO, Egypt — Libyan leader Moammar Khadafy's top military commander was quoted by a weekly Egyptian newspaper Tuesday as saying U.S. missiles killed 56 people in the Gulf of Sidra fighting.

The report also quoted Khadafy as saying Libya's fight against the United States is "escalating everywhere."

Khadafy and Brig. Abu-Bakr Yunis, commander-in-chief of Libya's armed forces, were quoted by Al-Shaab, an organ of Egypt's opposition Socialist Labor Party. It said the remarks were made to a Labor Party delegation that visited Libya last week.

The report said that when asked whether the confrontation with the United States had ended, Khadafy replied: "Never."

Jet fire

CHICAGO — An engine on a United Airlines 737 burst into flames after the left main landing gear collapsed as the plane landed at O'Hare International Airport Tuesday, officials said.

United spokesman Chuck Novak said the 109 passengers and five crew members aboard Flight 732 were evacuated without serious injury via emergency exit chutes.

One person suffered a possible jammed thumb and another a possible sprained ankle as they left the plane, which was arriving from Omaha, Novak said.

The incident was under investigation by the National Transportation Safety Board.

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n. (1) Faith seeking understanding.
(2) Responsible interpretation of God's word and action in history.
for lunch*

SPECIAL EVENT

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St. Mark's - 13th & R

The Rev. LaVern Grosz
First Lutheran Church, Lincoln
"ECUMENISM IS TO THE 20th CENTURY
WHAT MISSIONS WAS TO THE 19th CENTURY"

St. Mark's-on-the-Campus, 1309 R

11:30 to 1:00 PM
Program begins noon
Room Posted
Brown Bagger

"Theology for Lunch" is co-sponsored by:
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United Ministries in Higher Education, Lincoln
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