

Clinton, Dole campaign schedules full

Candidates continue fighting for votes as they enter their final week.

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton is spending more than \$1 million a day on television ads in the campaign's final week as he tries to block any path to a Bob Dole comeback and put several traditional GOP strongholds in the Democratic column.

With the luxury of a lead, Clinton has a campaign schedule that reaches through the final weekend and includes stops today in Michigan, Colorado and Arizona. Dole is campaigning in Tennessee, Louisiana and Florida today and scrambling to settle on a schedule

beyond that.

The Dole campaign and other Republican sources painted a picture of strategic chaos as the GOP nominee searched for a formula to overcome Clinton's lopsided lead in the Electoral College.

Before leaving Washington for the final time before the election, Dole and his wife, Elizabeth, stopped their motorcade at the Lincoln Memorial this morning. They walked halfway up the steps and gazed at Lincoln's statue.

Nelson Warfield, Dole's campaign spokesman, said it was "a moment of personal reflection. He did it for good luck before the final sprint."

Dole used his first stop in Clarksville, Tenn., to attack Clinton's economic agenda.

"For three years, we've seen the so-called Clinton recovery. Well, if he is re-elected, brace yourself for the Clinton recession," Dole said.

While Dole at every stop predicts a dramatic comeback, aides and associates said Dole was under no illusions about his standing but was determined to make it a competitive race and help Republicans in congressional contests.

One senior aide in Washington said Dole had taken a heavy hand in scheduling, repeatedly asking for more polling information as he looked for states where Clinton's lead was shaky.

"Something is happening across America," Dole said Tuesday evening in Colorado, a battleground state where Clinton holds a narrow lead. "The people are beginning to focus."

Clinton, at a Washington fundraiser Tuesday night that was dubbed a "victory" concert, asked a youthful audience of supporters and contributors to keep pushing hard right until Election Day next Tuesday.

Clinton's script called for him to play it safe and spend much of the final week focusing on education, an issue that Democratic polling shows has powerful appeal to independent voters and on which Clinton and fellow Democrats enjoy an advantage over Republicans.

On Tuesday, Clinton recommended the establishment of 3,000 charter schools, which operate without many of the constraints imposed by local public school districts.

Republican governors have been a

major force behind the charter school movement; Dole supports the idea as part of a broader initiative, opposed by Clinton, to allow parents to choose where their children attend school.

Dole said he had 138 electoral votes locked up, but a look at state-by-state polling suggested he could bank on perhaps half that heading into the final week.

Clinton entered the stretch toward Election Day next Tuesday enjoying more than a lead in the polls: As of Oct. 16, the last filing deadline, Clinton had more than \$34 million to spend, while Dole had \$19.2 million. Both candidates have spent a good deal of those funds in the two weeks since the filing.

Police say woman knew killer's plans

Investigators believe Internet friends planned sexual torture, killing

LENOIR, N.C. (AP) — When Sharon R. Lopatka left her Maryland home, she wrote a note telling her husband she was going to visit friends in Georgia and would not be coming back. She also asked him not to seek vengeance.

Lopatka, though, had planned all along on going to North Carolina, where she expected to be sexually tortured and killed by a man she had met over the Internet, police said Tuesday.

Apparently, she got her wish.

Her body was found in a shallow grave last week behind a mobile home in Collettsville. The home's owner, Robert Glass, was charged with first-degree murder and is being held without bond.

"If my body is never retrieved, don't worry, know that I'm at peace," she wrote her husband. She also asked him not to go after her attacker, police said.

An autopsy showed the cause of death was strangulation, but initial tests were inconclusive on whether she was sexually tortured before being killed.

Glass claimed it was an accident, District Attorney David Flaherty Jr. said Tuesday.

Investigators said computer messages from Glass, recovered from Lopatka's home computer, indicate that she traveled to North Carolina knowing what awaited her.

Messages found among the 870 pages of e-mail on the woman's computer also reveal that she had previously used the Internet to approach someone else about killing her, said Sgt. Barry Leese of the Maryland State Police.

That individual refused to comply with Lopatka's death request, Flaherty said.

Lopatka, 35, of Hampstead, Md., had three Social Security numbers and operated three World Wide Web pages out of her home. One offered to write classified advertisements for \$50 and promised such success that customers would "literally watch the orders pour in."

The other two pages, advertising psychic hot lines, were titled "Psychics Know All," and "Dionne Enterprises." She got a percentage of the revenue from all the 1-900 calls generated by the pages, said the company's owner,

Wendell Craig of Phoenix, Ariz.

Glass, 45, a father of three who separated from his wife earlier this year, has worked as a computer programmer for the county government for nearly 16 years. Neighbors said he seemed to change, taking less interest in his home, after his wife left him.

Glass and Lopatka apparently met in a sexually oriented "talk group" or "chat room" on the Internet, Leese said, and according to e-mail on her computer, she agreed to meet him in North Carolina on Oct. 13.

She left Baltimore by train that day and met Glass in Charlotte, investigators said. Autopsy results indicate she was killed three days later.

Her husband reported her missing Oct. 20. Police investigating her disappearance said they discovered the e-mail messages from Glass despite his attempt to have her erase the files.

Messages from "slowhand" — Glass' apparent Internet nickname — "described in detail how he was going to sexually torture ... and ultimately kill her," according to the search warrant application investigators used to search Glass' property.

"There's no way to know precisely what was in her head when she came here," said Capt. Danny Barlow. "The only thing we can see is the e-mail messages and there they discussed in detail as to what they expected to happen when she got here. ..."

"Whether she expected it to happen or not, if you kill someone you commit murder. You have intent communicated precisely," Barlow said.

Investigators spent Tuesday downloading Glass' computer files. Other items seized from his home include drug paraphernalia and a .357-Magnum pistol.

Glass' appointed lawyer, Neil Beach, called the search warrant affidavit misleading.

"I don't believe he's guilty of what he's charged with," Beach said.

A friend of Lopatka also described her as happily married and sensible.

"Until someone proves it to me, I won't believe that this could be her," Diane Safar said. "She was conservative and careful. This is such a mystery."

Radiation surfaces on Alaskan island, group says

Greenpeace researchers allege that the contaminants came from a 1971 underground nuclear missile test.

NEW YORK (AP) — Radiation from one of the biggest underground nuclear tests ever conducted in the United States has reached the surface of an Alaskan island, the environmental group Greenpeace alleged Tuesday. Energy Department officials met in

Washington with Greenpeace researchers who made the discovery and said they would analyze samples gathered last summer on the Aleutian island of Amchitka, The New York Times reported.

At issue is a 1971 test that was opposed by Alaska natives, environmentalists, members of Congress and the Canadian and Japanese governments. The Nixon administration said the test was needed for research on an antiballistic missile system.

No such system ever was deployed. Federal tests in the years since, most

of them on nearby water, have found no radiation leakage.

Officials said the amounts of radiation found by Greenpeace researchers were small and could be fallout from weapons tests conducted elsewhere, but said they could not be sure.

"The science part of it looks interesting," Undersecretary of Energy Thomas Grumbly said. "We should get into it with them and see if we can verify it."

Greenpeace said the test site and the site of a smaller test on the island in

1965 are leaking plutonium and americium. Both radioactive elements have been absorbed by moss and algae fed by water traveling through the cavities produced by the bombs.

The island is uninhabited and the amount of radiation detected is too small to pose a threat to humans. But Greenpeace said it is concerned about the radiation entering the food chain.

"These things tend to bioaccumulate," Greenpeace biologist Pam Miller said. "The potential is for these long-lived, quite toxic radionuclides moving up the food chain."

Wind chills Midwestern states

Power outages in the Midwest affect nearly 300,000 people.

By The Associated Press

Wind gusting to 85 mph snapped power lines across the Midwest from Minnesota into Ohio early Wednesday, blacking out nearly 300,000 customers and driving temperatures down.

"It's a good time to be indoors," Kathy Golden said Wednesday in Detroit.

Outside Detroit, wind knocked down a wall of a Home Depot store under construction Wednesday in suburban Harper Woods. In downtown Detroit, window washing equipment swinging in the wind smashed windows at the Renaissance Center office complex.

Gusts reached as high as 85 mph during the night near Fort Wayne, Ind. and 80 mph in the

Chicago area. In Minnesota, gusts hit 81 mph at Mankato.

Paul and Jean Paulson and their two daughters were awakened early Wednesday at Elkhart Lake, Wis., as balls of fire shot from a snapping power line outside their home and a policeman shouted a warning over a loudspeaker.

"We woke up a whole lot faster than we planned," Paulson said. "I don't know, I thought I heard ... 'Get out of the house.'"

"It's just crappy, but that's Minnesota," said Sheryl Ball in Austin, Minn., where the wind chill hit 12 below zero Wednesday morning.

Farther west, Garrison, N.D. had a wind chill of 31 below zero.

Power outages affected an estimated 144,000 customers overnight in Michigan, 90,000 in Illinois, 18,000 in Indiana, 14,000 in Wisconsin, 15,000 in Ohio, and 23,000 in Minnesota. Earlier Tuesday, scattered outages also were reported in Iowa and Nebraska, where wind gusts hit 77 mph.

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