

# News Digest

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PAGE 2

## Milosevic agrees to U.N. demands

WASHINGTON (AP) — Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic, bowing to NATO military threats, has agreed to comply with U.N. demands to end his seven-month repression of Kosovo Albanians, Clinton administration officials said Monday night.

The officials said Milosevic also agreed to the deployment of 2,000 monitors to ensure that he abides by his promises.

As an added incentive, NATO envoys meeting in Brussels gave the green light for airstrikes against Serb forces stationed in Kosovo if Milosevic fails to comply, the officials said.

The disclosure came as U.S. envoy Richard Holbrooke conferred with the NATO envoys after flying to Brussels following another round of talks with Milosevic in Brussels.

A U.S. official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Milosevic agreed to aerial monitoring of Yugoslav compliance in addition to the monitors on the ground.

He made clear that mistrust of Milosevic was a critical factor behind the U.S. insistence on thorough monitoring of the agreement.

The agreement was hammered out by Holbrooke

during a week of marathon negotiations that often seemed on the verge of collapse.

There had been repeated warnings by U.S. officials that NATO military strikes were planned if Milosevic refused to go along with the U.N. demands, which were spelled out on Sept. 23.

"Our patience is running out," Defense Secretary William Cohen said Monday in Kuwait, alluding to the possibility of NATO airstrikes, which were authorized by the alliance early today.

The Security Council demands include withdrawal of more Serb troops from Kosovo, allowing humanitarian aid to refugees and opening up serious talks with the secessionists on the restoration of self-rule for the province.

Holbrooke had alluded to the compliance issue Sunday, saying he "will continue an intense effort to find a peaceful, acceptable, fully verifiable compliance system as an alternative to the other choice" — meaning the use of force.

The Belgrade daily Nasa Borba reported Monday that Milosevic was reluctantly considering the demand, but there was no confirmation.

As Holbrooke arrived in Brussels, NATO forces

were awaiting a decision by the alliance's policy-making North Atlantic Council in Brussels, Belgium, on an "activation order" for airstrikes. U.S. military officials familiar with the strike planning described a phased air campaign that would evolve from limited to heavy strikes interspersed with pauses to give Milosevic a chance to reconsider.

B-52 bombers armed with cruise missiles, B-2 and F-117 stealth aircraft carrying 2,000-pound bombs and F-16 fighters with radar-seeking missiles were among the weapons ready to be called into action. The carrier USS Eisenhower with some 70 combat aircraft and other ships armed with Tomahawk cruise missiles were poised in the Mediterranean Sea.

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., warned against a repetition of the experience the United States has had with Iraq.

"Obviously, we support any agreement that avoids conflict," McCain said. "But we also don't want to get into the situation as we are in with Saddam Hussein and that is (Milosevic) makes significant gains, floats back for awhile while we stand down, and then resumes his activities again."



### Netanyahu's Cabinet balks at withdrawal plan

JERUSALEM (AP) — Only days before a peace summit in Washington, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Cabinet is reportedly balking at a U.S.-authored plan for an Israeli pull-back in the West Bank.

The ministers are poised to oppose an American initiative for Israeli troops to withdraw from 13 percent of the West Bank, an Israeli newspaper reported Sunday.

Such a declaration just before talks in Washington between Netanyahu, President Clinton and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat could dampen hopes for breaking an Israeli-Palestinian deadlock.

Netanyahu's Cabinet, dominated by hard-liners who oppose land-for-peace deals with the Palestinians, is scheduled to meet today to discuss the deal, a day before the prime minister leaves for Washington.

The Yediot Ahronot newspaper reported that the Cabinet will oppose a withdrawal now from 13 percent of the West Bank and a proposed withdrawal from an additional 1 percent.

### Student dies from beating

LARAMIE, Wyo. (AP) — A gay college student who was lured from a campus hangout, beaten and lashed to a split-rail fence died Monday, and the two young men arrested in the attack now face murder charges that could bring the death penalty.

Matthew Shepard, 21, died at Poudre Valley Hospital in Fort Collins, Colo., while on life support. His skull was so badly smashed that doctors could not perform surgery, hospital president Rulon Stacey said.

The University of Wyoming student had been in a coma since bicyclists found him in near-freezing temperatures Wednesday evening. They at first mistook him for a scarecrow.

The attack has spurred calls nationwide for hate-crimes legislation protecting gays. President Clinton pressed Congress to expand the federal hate-crimes law to cover offenses based on disability or sexual orientation.

### House passes copyright bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — Legislation to bolster copyright protection in cyberspace is heading for the White House following House approval of the measure Monday.

The legislation, which the Senate passed last week, implements two treaties adopted in 1996 by the U.N. World Intellectual Property Organization.

The measure seeks to strengthen protections for copyrighted works transmitted online while ensuring the public still has access to information on the Internet, said Rep. Thomas Bliley, R-Va., chairman of the House Commerce Committee, which wrote the legislation.

The measure prohibits users from circumventing technological devices that are placed around works on the Internet. Such safeguards are needed to prevent the loss of billions of dollars each year when film, music and software are stolen, business leaders say.

## Budget deal expected as Congress debates

WASHINGTON (AP) — White House and congressional budget bargainers intensified their talks on school spending and other issues Monday as Congress voted to keep the government open for two more days amid indications that a deal was near.

After more than five hours of negotiating between White House Chief of Staff Erskine Bowles and GOP leaders, House Speaker Newt Gingrich said a deal could be completed by that night and a package could be on the House floor by Wednesday.

"We've reached many tentative possible agreements, none of which count until we've finished up the whole thing," Gingrich said.

Twelve days into fiscal year 1999, spending bills controlling about \$500 billion worth of spending — nearly one-third of the federal budget — still were in play.

The Clinton administration has demanded about \$3 billion more, including \$1.1 billion for hiring elementary school teachers plus money for dealing with climate change, aid to Russia and other proposals.

Republicans had been offering nearly \$2.5 billion, but with some different priorities. The GOP proposed \$1.1 billion that states could use to hire teachers or take any steps they want to

reduce class size.

President Clinton tried anew to keep his education demands in the spotlight. Before leaving for a political fund-raising trip to New York, he prodded Republicans on an issue that polls show scores well for Democrats.

"I know there's an election coming, but members of Congress can return home to campaign knowing that they put progress ahead of partisanship on the important issue of education," Clinton said. "We need 21st century schools where teachers can teach and students can learn."

"This president thinks that if he says something in the State of the Union it will be done," House Majority Whip Tom DeLay, R-Texas, fired back. "He hasn't lifted a finger."

Bowles met with Gingrich, Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss., and other top Republicans.

While the bargaining proceeded, the House and Senate both agreed to keep agencies operating through Wednesday night. A prior stopgap measure was expiring Monday night, and both sides hoped the latest short-term bill would be the last.

"We are almost there, I hope," House Appropriations Committee Chairman Bob Livingston, R-La., said.

## Fight of their lives Women struggle for re-elections

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Female outrage at the all-male Senate Judiciary Committee's handling of the Clarence Thomas sexual harassment controversy helped propel three women to the Senate.

But now Barbara Boxer, Carol Moseley-Braun and Patty Murray are struggling for second terms.

All three were elected to the U.S. Senate in 1992, the Year of the Woman. All are liberal Democrats. And all are in the political fights of their lives. The so-called Year of the Woman has been replaced in 1998 by the Year of One Woman — Monica Lewinsky.

And yet, there's no common thread to tie the three together. The impact of the scandal surrounding Clinton and Lewinsky is imponderable. But there is no question that Democratic bread-and-butter issues such as health care, education, and abortion rights have been overshadowed by the scandal.

"This campaign in many ways is a very surreal campaign. Nobody, or almost nobody, is focusing on the issues ... so I've got to do it myself," Boxer said recently.

Boxer, Moseley-Braun and Murray all are vulnerable. This likely is due in part to the possibility the Democratic vote may be depressed because of the sex and coverup scandal. But it may be because of the upset nature of the women's victories.

■ In the state of Washington, Murray, who campaigned as a "mom in tennis shoes," has had lackluster job ratings since her election.

She faces a conservative Republican, Rep. Linda Smith, who has never lost an election and has a 35,000-strong volunteer army. The latest poll shows Murray leading narrowly, but one-fifth of the vote remains undecided.

Like Boxer, Murray has been derided for her relative silence on Clinton's affair with Lewinsky.

■ In Illinois, Moseley-Braun, down 10 points in the latest polls, has been hammered with ethics problems including allegations of misusing campaign funds to criticism of a trip to Nigeria to visit the dictator Gen. Sani Abacha, who died this year. She was never convicted of any wrongdoing. On Sunday, the Chicago Tribune endorsed her Republican opponent, State Sen. Peter Fitzgerald.

■ In California, Boxer is in a neck-and-neck race with Matt Fong, a Republican perhaps best known for his legendary mother, Democrat March Fong Eu, who was California's top elec-

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BARBARA BOXER  
California senator

tions officer for two decades.

To win, Boxer, Murray and Moseley-Braun must galvanize their core supporters, the loyal Democrats and Republican women who helped put them over the top in 1992.

The three benefited from the support of voters infuriated by hearings the male-dominated Judiciary Committee conducted in 1991 into allegations that Thomas repeatedly used suggestive language toward Anita Hill when she worked for him.

The enduring image of Boxer's political rise was captured by television cameras when she pounded on the doors of the Senate demanding that Thomas' accuser be heard. Thomas subsequently was narrowly confirmed for a seat on the Supreme Court.

Later, she took a lead role in denouncing then-Sen. Bob Packwood, R-Ore., who was forced to resign over allegations of sexual misconduct.

Boxer, who is related by marriage to Clinton, was slow to criticize Clinton over the Lewinsky matter, finally speaking out after the president acknowledged the affair in a nationally televised address in August.

Even then, her comments paled in comparison with that of fellow Democratic California Sen. Dianne Feinstein, who said her faith in Clinton was "shattered" by his admission.

Like Boxer, Feinstein was elected to the Senate in the fabled Year of the Woman, though she is not up for re-election this year. She was running to fill the unexpired term of a Republican appointee, then ran again two years later for a full six-year term.

A record number of women were elected to Congress and state legislatures that year, many inspired to run by the allegations that Hill, an Oklahoma law professor, leveled against Thomas.

In 1998, that momentum is gone. "There is no wind at her back this time," UCLA political science professor John Petrosick said of Boxer. "The wind is in her face, given what is going on in Washington."

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