

## World and Nation Datelines

### Jerusalem

#### Pope speaks of persecution at Holocaust memorial

JERUSALEM (AP) — Standing before the ashes of death camp victims in the candlelit shadows of Israel's Holocaust memorial, a visibly moved Pope John Paul II told the Jewish people on Thursday that his church is "deeply saddened" by Christian persecution of Jews through the centuries.

The tribute in the drafty stone halls of the Yad Vashem Memorial was both historic and personal for a pope who lost boyhood friends in the Nazi genocide. But it did not satisfy those looking for an apology from the leader of the world's 1 billion Roman Catholics for the church's official silence amidst the mass killing of Europe's Jews.

The somber ceremony attended by Israeli officials, Holocaust survivors and Jewish friends from the pope's own hometown in Poland was punctuated by small, touching moments as well as grand gestures.

### Germany

#### Authorities agree on division of Nazi victim fund

BERLIN (AP) — Clearing the last major obstacle to compensating aging victims of Nazi-era forced and slave labor, negotiators agreed Thursday on how to divide a \$5 billion German fund with hopes of starting payments by year's end.

Under the deal, about 240,000 slave laborers — those who were put to work in concentration camps and had been expected to die doing their jobs — would receive up to \$7,500 each. More than 1 million forced laborers, who worked in factories outside camps, would get up to \$2,500 each.

"We have taken a huge step forward today," said Deputy Treasury Secretary Stuart Eizenstat, the U.S. government envoy to the talks.

"This brings this process a substantial step closer to completion." All sides agreed in December on the size of the fund, to be split equally by German government and industry.

But negotiators had been wrangling over how to divide the money among various groups.

### Washington, D.C.

#### First Roman Catholic House chaplain sworn in

WASHINGTON (AP) — Speaker Dennis Hastert appointed a Chicago priest, the Rev. Daniel P. Coughlin, as House chaplain on Thursday and blamed Democrats for "whispered hints in dark places" that anti-Catholic bias infected a four-month controversy over the post.

Coughlin was sworn in within minutes as the first Roman Catholic to hold the position of ministering to lawmakers and their families. He won bipartisan applause in the well of the House, a sharp contrast to the partisan struggle that prompted an earlier choice, the Rev. Charles Wright, to withdraw.

Coughlin, the vicar for priests in the Chicago archdiocese, flew to Washington earlier in the day. He called his appointment "terribly unexpected."

With the appointment, Hastert sought to end a controversy that roiled the House for months and prompted Republicans to worry about the political impact of allegations of anti-Catholic bias.

# Boy holds classmates at gunpoint

■ The 12-year-old told police he wanted to be in jail with his mother.

LISBON, Ohio (AP) — A 12-year-old who told authorities he wanted to be with his mother in jail briefly held his sixth-grade class at gunpoint Thursday before a teacher persuaded him to give up the weapon.

No one was hurt, and no charges were immediately filed against the boy, who was taken into custody.

The boy said "his biological mother was in jail, and he wanted to visit her, be with her," said Anthony Krukowski, superintendent of Lisbon schools.

Police did not confirm immediately whether the mother was in jail.

Police Chief John Higgins said the weapon was a loaded, 9 mm semiautomatic. The boy apparently brought the gun from home and concealed it in his clothes, Krukowski

said.

About 8:45 a.m., the boy stood up in his classroom at McKinley Elementary School, pointed the gun at the floor and told his fellow students and teacher to get down, Higgins and Krukowski said.

A student in the hall overheard the exchange and summoned another teacher, Linda Robb, Krukowski said.

Robb stood in the doorway of the classroom and asked the boy if she could talk to him. The two walked out into the hallway and hugged, and the boy handed the gun over to Robb, police said.

The student, who was not identified, was taken into custody by police in Lisbon, which is about 25 miles south of Youngstown in north-eastern Ohio, near the West Virginia and Pennsylvania state lines.

The Vindicator newspaper of Youngstown reported that the boy was on crossing duty with another sixth-grader, Katie Hartman, on

"... How can we all come together to give our children better values?"

Vice President Al Gore

Thursday morning. The girl said that at the end of their duty the boy told her: "Goodbye, Katie. I won't be back."

She asked what he meant, but he didn't answer.

Sixth-graders were sent home, but the other students were kept in class because the district didn't want younger children going home without making sure their parents knew, Krukowski said.

The school, which has about 650 students from kindergarten through sixth grade, will be closed on Friday but will be open for student counseling.

"Naturally the students were

shook up, any time you have an incident like that," Krukowski said.

Krukowski said he wasn't very familiar with the boy and was unaware of any behavior problems.

Vice President Al Gore, campaigning at a Cincinnati elementary school, said the incident "once again raises the question that has confronted us so often in the past year or two or three.

"That is, how can we all come together to give our children better values?"

Gore said the student's access to a firearm points out the need for gun-control measures, such as child-safety trigger locks.

# Man opens fire in Texas church

■ He killed himself after injuring four others in the church office.

PASADENA, Texas (AP) — A man apparently spurned by an 18-year-old woman walked into a church and opened fire, wounding the young woman, her mother and two others before shooting himself to death.

It was the second church shooting in Texas in the past six months. The assailant — identified by friends as Oscar Castillo, 32 — died in a parking lot after Wednesday night's attack inside the crowded office of the Iglesia Cristiana Esposa del Cordero Pentecostal church in this Houston suburb.

Two of the wounded were in critical condition.

During a meeting after church services, the gunman professed his love for Leslie Contreras, police Sgt. Mike Baird said.

She told him "she liked him like a brother, but just didn't want to be his girlfriend," Baird said.

Baird said the man then told her "something bad was fixing to happen."

He got a gun, opened fire inside the church office, then walked outside and shot himself, police said.

"We are going through and making sure we dot all the i's and cross the t's. But we are confident that the four that were shot were attacked by the guy who killed himself," Baird said Thursday. "We're just trying to pick up the pieces."

Authorities had recovered the semiautomatic pistol used in the attack, Baird said.

Contreras, 18, was in fair condition at Ben Taub Memorial Hospital with a bullet wound in her neck. Her mother, 38-year-old Angela Contreras, and Carlos Matamoros, the 43-year-old pastor, were in critical condition Thursday at Hermann Hospital. The mother was wounded in the abdomen, and Matamoros was shot in the chest, said Lisa Lagrone, a hospital spokeswoman.

A 32-year-old man was grazed by a bullet, Baird said.

Church member Jose Montana, 34, said he saw the man early Wednesday at a nearby Wal-Mart. He said he was making small talk with the man — whom he knew only as "Oscar" — when "he said he was going to kill someone."

"I thought he was kidding," Montana said. "I told myself that if I saw him at the church tonight I would call police."

Castillo had been a landscaper for about seven years and would help out the church regularly by doing landscaping there for free, said Castillo's boss, Camilo Barreda, owner of Flori-Tex.

A friend of Castillo's, Alvaro Espeno, said Castillo "was on drugs a long time ago, but now he talked about Jesus every day."

Last September, a man spewing anti-Baptist rhetoric walked into a Fort Worth church and fatally shot seven people before he killed himself in a pew. Seven others were injured at the Wedgwood Baptist Church by the man, Larry G. Ashbrook.

# White House faces criminal investigation

■ Justice Department looks into computer glitches that prevented searches of e-mail.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Justice Department has launched a criminal inquiry into White House computer breakdowns that made it impossible to search thousands of incoming e-mail in response to congressional subpoenas.

The investigation, to be handled through Justice's campaign finance task force, focuses on whether the subpoenas issued to the White House went unanswered because of the breakdowns.

The e-mail involved campaign fund raising and other matters.

The existence of the criminal probe was revealed in papers filed by the White House counsel with the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia in connection with a civil case there involving the conservative-oriented legal organization Judicial Watch.

White House lawyers asked the court to stay its consideration of the e-mail issues, which also had been under the scrutiny of the Justice Department's civil division, until the criminal inquiry is finished.

The White House has

acknowledged that thousands of incoming e-mail on campaign fund raising and other matters could not be searched in response to House subpoenas.

The task force also plans to investigate whether people were threatened with retaliation to prevent the existence of e-mail from being revealed to the Justice Department, according to the filing.

A former White House contractor has said in court papers that she was warned not to reveal the e-mail problem that concealed the messages from the Justice Department and the House Government Reform Committee headed by Rep. Dan Burton, R-Ind.

The contractor, Betty Lambuth, said a subordinate told her some of the e-mail deals with "Vice President Al Gore's involvement in campaign fund raising controversies" and "the sale of Clinton Commerce Department trade mission seats in exchange for campaign contributions."

In an attached declaration, the chief of the task force, Robert Conrad, said that continuing the civil inquiry "would interfere with and potentially compromise the task force's own investigation of the pending allegations."

The task force will notify the civil division and the court when the criminal inquiry is finished, Conrad said.

## Daily Nebraskan

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The Daily Nebraskan (USPS 144-080) is published by the UNL Publications Board, Nebraska Union 20, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE 68589-0448, Monday through Friday during the academic year; weekly during the summer sessions. The public has access to the Publications Board.

Readers are encouraged to submit story ideas and comments to the Daily Nebraskan by calling (402) 472-2588.

Subscriptions are \$60 for one year.  
Postmaster: Send address changes to the Daily Nebraskan, Nebraska Union 20, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE 68589-0448. Periodical postage paid at Lincoln, NE.

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## WEATHER

### TODAY

Scattered showers  
high 61, low 40

### TOMORROW

Partly cloudy  
high 61, low 41