Election 2000

Money matters take the helm in final debate

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ST. LOUIS - Vice President Al Gore attacked George W. Bush as an ally of the rich and powerful Tuesday night, but the Texas governor rebutted in fast-paced debate that his rival was a "big spender" in the mold of Democratic liberals who once sought the White House and lost.

"If this were a spending contest I'd come in second," Bush said proudly as he and Gore argued domestic and foreign policy issues for 90 minutes in a town hall-style format. It was their third encounter in two weeks, and the last before Election Day on Nov. 7.

Gore bore in on Bush as a defender of the privieged, saying the Texas governor was allied with insurance companies rather than patients, for example, and that his tax cut was tilted toward the wealthy.

The two men are separated by only a point or two in many polls, with Bush given the edge, and the debate at the field house at Washington University represented the last, best chance for one man or the other to gain the support of a large critical bloc of

The debate began with a moment of reflection in memory of Missouri Gov. Mel Carnahan, killed along with his son and a campaign aide Monday night when a small plane went down in bad weather.

When the debate's first question was asked about legislation pending in Congress to strengthen the hand of patients dealing with their HMOs, Gore said: "I support it and the governor does not."

Moments later, Bush rebutted: "Actually, Mr. Vice president, it's not true. I do support a national patients bill of rights." He added that as governor of Texas, he had worked with Republicans and Democrats to win passage of a law that grants women greater access to gynecological care; gives patients greater choice over their doctor; and permits lawsuits ainst insurance companies after an external review.

The two men clashed at length over economics. Bush said Gore is proposing the "largest increase in federal spending in years, and there's just not going to be enough money" to pay for it.

Gore said Bush was wrong, adding his rival's \$1.3 billion tax plan would lavish relief on the wealthy while shortchanging critical domestic programs.

ppropriate section editor at (402) 472-2588

Sarah Baker

Samuel McKewon

Danell McCoy Heather Glenboski

Matthew Hansen

Lindsay Young

Melanie Falk **Andrew Broer**

Gregg Stearns

Dan Shattil

Tanner Graham

Russell Willbanks

(402) 436-7226

Don Walton, (402) 473-7248

Nick Partsch. (402) 472-2589

Nicole Woita

Photo Chief: Art Director: Design Chief:

ssistant Ad Manager: assified Ad Manager: Circulation Manager:

Nikki Bruner Imtiyaz Khan Fax Number: (402) 472-1761 Vorld Wide Web: www.dailyneb.com The Daily Nebraskan (USPS 144-080)

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Governor's crash site examined

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

OLDMAN, Mo. - Gov. Mel Carnahan's death in the crash of a small plane piloted by his son plunged Missouri into mourning for the beloved politician Tuesday and cut short one of the hardestfought Senate races in the nation.

The twin-engine plane went down Monday night in rainy, foggy weather south of St. Louis on the way to a campaign rally, killing the 66year-old Carnahan, his 44year-old son, Roger, and an aide, Chris Sifford, 37. No one else was aboard.

The cause of the crash was not immediately known, and National Transportation Safety Board members combed the crash site throughout the day Tuesday. The bodies remained in the

The Omaha World-

Herald reported today that Nebraska Sen. Bob Kerrey could have been aboard the doomed plane Monday.

He had agreed to accompany Carnahan on the campaign trail but then postponed to be in Omaha on Monday for the visit of Hadassah Lieberman, wife of Democratic vice presidential candidate Joseph Lieberman.

Mourners gathered at the governor's mansion in Jefferson City shortly after daybreak as the news of the governor's death spread. The two-term Democrat

was locked in a tight and sometimes bitter Senate race with Republican Sen. John Ashcroft, who suspended campaign advertising and other operations after the

"Obviously this is not a time for politics. This is a time for the state to come togeth-

"Obviously this is not a time for politics. This is a time for the state to come together."

> John Ashcroft Republican senator

er," Ashcroft said. "Gov. Carnahan served the people of Missouri with dignity and honor for more than four decades. I will remember him and all of Missouri will remember him for that exemplary public service and for his dedication to his family, as a husband, as a father and as a grandfather."

There was talk of postponing the third presidential debate between Vice President Al Gore and Texas Gov. George W. Bush in St. Louis on Tuesday night. But Carnahan's wife, Jean, insisted it go on. She said her husband would have wanted it that way. In a statement, Bush praised Carnahan as "a thoughtful, distinguished man who was dedicated to

lence in public service." Gore said he was "deeply saddened" and hailed Carnahan's work on education and other issues.

quality education and excel-

The Cessna 335 took off from an airport in Cahokia, Ill., across the river from St. Louis, for a 145-mile flight to New Madrid, where the governor was to attend a Monday night rally.

World/Nation

The Associated Press

Yemen Bomb equipment found in apartment pear port

ADEN -Investigators found bomb-making equipment in an apartment near the port of Aden and believe two former occupants may have carried out the suicide bombing that killed 17 sailors aboard the USS Cole, security officials said Tuesday.

The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, identified the missing men only as non-Yemeni Arabs. Other Yemeni officials said they were from neighboring Saudi Arabia.

Moments before the huge blast Thursday, two men were seen standing on the deck of a small vessel alongside the destroyer, U.S. authorities said. A 40-by-40-foot hole was blown into the Cole's hull and the attack ship disintegrated into "confetti size" pieces.

Divers and other crew members, using metal-slicing torches and crowbars, pulled six more bodies from the tangled bowels of the Cole on Tuesday. Officials initially said seven bodies were recovered Tuesday, but later corrected the figure. Six victims remained missing.

Washington, D.C. Congress agrees to settle lawsuit over tribe's land

Congress has approved giving a New Mexico Indian tribe \$23 million and about 4,600 acres to settle lawsuits over land the tribe claimed under a grant from the king of Spain more than 300 years ago. The Santo Domingo Pueblo

had argued it was the rightful owner of 52,000 acres of federal, state and private land near its reservation between Albuquerque and Santa Fe in northern New Mexico. The area includes shrines and other religious sites considered sacred by

The House approved the settlement on a voice vote Tuesday, sending it to the White House for President Clinton's signature. The Senate approved the deal earlier this month.

the 4,600-member tribe.

"I hope we have finally come to an end on this long, long, long discussion of the land deal," said Benny Atencio, the tribe's secretary and spokesman.

Uganda Officials dose schools as Ebola death toll reaches 37

GULU - Ugandan officials closed schools and banned funerals as 10 more Ebola cases turned up Tuesday and the death toll from the deadly virus reached 37.

Doctors are diagnosing about 10 new cases a day, said Dr. Nestor Ndayimirije, a World Health Organization epidemiologist in Gulu, 225 miles north of Kampala, the capital.

"It is still spreading until we can get people into field and identify all of those infected," Ndayimirije said.

Health workers and Red Cross volunteers took crash courses on containing the epidemic before heading out to warn residents about the extremely infectious disease.



An Israeli boy stands in front of a line of Israeli police in Jerusalem after residents were evacuated from their homes, and the area was sealed off after Palestinian gunmen opened fire on the Gilo neighborhood from a Palestinian town opposite the valley, critically wounding one Israeli border policeman.

Meetings yield 'understandings'

New violence eruptsTuesday, bringing the death toll to 100 and making Mideast peace seem unlikely.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SHARM EL-SHEIK, Egypt - Ending an emergency summit fraught with anger and mistrust, Israeli and Palestinian leaders agreed Tuesday to publicly urge an end to a burst of bloody conflict and to consult within two weeks on restarting the ravaged Mideast peace

Weather

TODAY

Partly cloudy high 76, low 52

TOMORROW

Partly cloudy high 77, low 47

In the West Bank and Gaza Strip, new violence flared even as marathon negotiations in this Red Sea resort reached a

The violence cast doubt on whether a concerted effort by Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat could halt chaotic street clashes between Israeli troops and Palestinian stone-throwers and gunmen that raged for a 20th day.

Israeli security forces "will be meticulous in their efforts to end the violence and prevent further loss of life," Barak said in Jerusalem, responding to a provision in the agreement requiring each of the leaders to make a public statement denouncing the violence. In a statement issued late Tuesday,

the Palestinian leadership said: "Our people will not initiate violence, but our people were the victims of this violence."

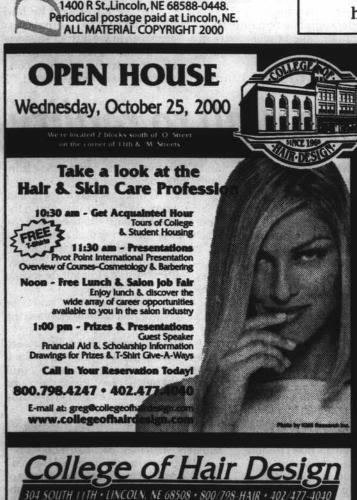
Earlier Tuesday, as he returned to Gaza, Arafat told reporters: "We expect that the implementation will be exactly as we agreed upon."

Underscoring the depths of the bitterness lingering between the parties, the agreements that emerged from the summit were described as "understandings," with no formal signing taking

The "understandings" included taking some practical steps to cool tensions, such as lifting Israel's blockade of the West Bank and Gaza, reopening the Gaza airport and instituting measures to separate the two sides at points of friction. No specific deadlines were disclosed, how-

Additionally, within two weeks the two sides were to meet with American mediators to explore the possibility of resuming talks, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said. Barak said the agreement contained "clear understandings" on ways to calm tensions. "If the Palestinian side sticks to it, and we do our part, and there really is a calming down, then this is a significant change.'

Soon after the deal was announced, the militant Islamic group Hamas said it was not bound by it. And in the latest wave of violence, two Palestinians were killed Tuesday in fierce gunbattles, pushing the death toll above 100, nearly all of them Palestinians.







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