

Partisans hit campaign trail in final days

Democratic and Republican surrogates step up attacks and address key constituencies.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUSTIN, Texas — George W. Bush was kicking off a barnstorming tour by fellow Republican governors Sunday while Al Gore campaigned in his rival's home state.

Both sides sent surrogates to the airwaves and highways to rally support in the homestretch.

With just over two weeks until the Nov. 7 election, 28 GOP governors were joining Gov. Bush in Austin to begin a national tour of battleground states.

Gore addressed ministers in Dallas.

Groups of both Republicans and Democrats were hitting the road to appeal to a dwindling — but electorally critical — band of independent voters.

President Clinton also is ready to campaign for his vice president "in some key places," although his role will be largely a supporting one, said White House chief of staff John Podesta.

Gore strategists said they'll cap the campaign with "a relen-

less focus" on the issues in a series of seven speeches on topics ranging from health care to the environment.

"Right up until the last minute of the last day, he'll be talking about the issues," said spokesman Chris Lehane even as aides debated in Nashville whether Gore should intensify his criticisms of Bush.

On Saturday, Gore attacked Bush for advocating a diminished U.S. peacekeeping role in Europe, saying it demonstrated a "lack of judgment and a complete misunderstanding of history."

The vice president held back on Sunday from any personal criticism of his rival.

At Potter's House Ministries in Dallas, Gore shared the stage with Coretta Scott King and delivered a scripture-packed speech focusing on his agenda for families.

"An abundance of prosperity in the spirit cannot be measured in dollars and cents," Gore said, adding that he was underscoring "something more basic than all our budget debates."

But on the airwaves, Democrats intensified efforts on the Sunday talk shows to challenge the Texas governor's com-

petency. Republicans characterized the line of attack as desperation as some national polls show Bush with a lead, while other surveys show a continued close race.

"My white, male friends tell me he is a good old boy just like me. But I want a good president," Sen. Bob Kerrey, D-Neb., told CBS' "Face the Nation."

When Americans look at Bush, they see "a person who's unsure of himself, and therefore a person who is unacceptable to become president of the United States," Sen. John Breaux, D-La., told "Fox News Sunday."

Republicans said Democrats are "floundering around trying to come up with some sort of issue that might be able to move voters back," New York Gov. George Pataki told Fox.

But as they denounced the Democratic attacks on Bush's competency, Republicans pressed their own assault on Gore's credibility.

GOP activist Bill Bennett said he believed Gore to be a "habitual liar. ... It's not easy to say, but the record says it," the former education secretary and author of a best-selling book on ethics told NBC's "Meet the Press."

On the same show, the Rev.

"My white, male friends tell me he is a good old boy just like me. But I want a good president."

Bob Kerrey
D-Neb. Sen.

Jesse Jackson, a one-time Democratic presidential contender, dismissed Bennett as a "Republican hit man" and issued a warning to both parties.

"It does not sit any of us well for us to be calling these men liars, because one of these men will be our next president," Jackson said.

Podesta, asked how much Clinton would campaign for Gore, said the president can "play very much a supporting role" in key places and try to motivate core Democratic voters.

"But it's the vice president and his voice that's going to convince voters to take the course he's laid out. ..." he said on CNN's "Late Edition."

Gore is striving to be seen as his own man, but Clinton has indicated a willingness to campaign — and some top Democrats have suggested he could lend important help at this crucial stage.

Michigan Gov. John Engler said Republicans would welcome a Clinton role.

"I've been certainly enjoying the Democratic angst over what to do with Bill Clinton," Engler said on CNN. "I mean, love him and hate him."

"I think that by the end Al Gore's going to be begging Bill Clinton to come in and help him out," he added. "I think Al Gore will be trying anything in the end. These are desperate folks. They can feel it slipping a little bit more each and every week."

Ed Rendell, general chairman of the Democratic National Committee, told CNN, "In terms of enthusiasm, it's coming. Our voters always get enthusiastic late in the day."

"It's going to roll now as people get serious about the election," said the former Philadelphia mayor, who was embarking on a bus tour with labor and other Democratic leaders.

World/Nation

The Associated Press

Bosnia-Herzegovina Kostunica's first trip to country causes stir among leaders

SARAJEVO — Yugoslavia's new president averted a diplomatic debacle Sunday by meeting Bosnia's political leaders, defusing anger over his decision to use his first trip to the country to attend a ceremony that some said had ethnic overtones.

Vojislav Kostunica's visit was the first by a Yugoslav leader to Bosnia, a former Yugoslav republic, since the 3½-year war ended half a decade ago.

He spent part of the day in the small southern Bosnian town of Trebinje before flying off to Sarajevo, the Bosnian capital, for the meeting.

Kostunica's stop in Trebinje seemed simple enough: He was in town to attend a reburial service for a prominent Serb poet. But in Bosnia — which fought to separate itself from Serb-dominated Yugoslavia in 1991 and was ripped apart by ethnic warfare between Serbs, Croats and Muslims — the visit caused an uproar.

The Croat and Muslim members of Bosnia's three-person presidency considered it an insult that the new Yugoslav leader, who is a Serb, would choose an event with nationalistic Serb overtones for his first visit.

Afterward, Kostunica put a positive spin on the meeting, describing it as a first step toward the establishment of diplomatic relations between the countries.

Washington, D.C. Washington Post editorial endorses candidate Gore

The Washington Post on Sunday endorsed Vice President Al Gore for president, citing his experience and judgment and calling him "a man of good character."

"In a dangerous world, as we have recently been reminded this is, Mr. Gore offers leadership without need of on-the-job training," the newspaper stated in an editorial.

The newspaper approved of Gore's support for gun control, abortion rights, affirmative action, the environment and paying down the national debt.

While the Post credited Gore's rival, Texas Gov. George W. Bush, with trying "to move the Republican Party toward racial inclusiveness and tolerance," it faulted him for his lack of foreign policy experience.

Pakistan Three killed, 30 injured in grenade explosion

KARACHI — An explosion ripped through a rally of Islamic militants in southern Karachi on Sunday, killing three people and injuring 30, some critically, police and hospital officials said.

Several hours after the attack on the Lashkar-e-Tayyaba rally, unidentified gunmen opened fire on another group of militant Muslims, killing one person and injuring 13 others, said police.

In the first attack, a grenade was fired with a launcher from outside the rally site, which was surrounded by tight security, said Yahya Mujahed, a spokesman for Lashkar-e-Tayyaba hardline Islamic group. It hit a stage where the group's leadership was scheduled to sit.

South Dakota Four arrested for alleged party at governor's mansion

PIERRE — Two female prisoners and two men face criminal charges after allegedly throwing a party at the governor's mansion while the governor and his staff were away.

Gov. Bill Janklow said Friday that the two prisoners regularly helped prepare meals at the mansion as part of a work-release program, and the women had invited the men in while the governor was out Sept. 30.

He said the men were in the mansion for about 25 minutes and gave methamphetamine to one of the prisoners.

The two men fled after a security officer surprised them during a routine check, Janklow said.

He said the four would probably be charged with second-degree burglary.

The governor had approved their unsupervised work on Sept. 30 while their supervisor made funeral arrangements for a family member.

Ads: Race leaves out singles

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ORLANDO, Fla. — In their first debate, Al Gore said the word "family" 13 times and "parents" four times. George W. Bush referred to "families" twice and "parents" once.

Neither said "single" or "unmarried," so it's no wonder that many Americans feel left out.

Single, childless people are casualties of the battle between Democrats and Republicans over which party can wave the family values flag higher, said Thomas Coleman, executive director of the American Association for Single People, a Los Angeles-based advocacy group.

Having been cast as opposing family values in past presidential races and tainted by the Monica Lewinsky scandal, Democrats feel they have to "look more family-oriented and say 'families' more," Coleman said.

Almost 80 million people, or about 40 percent of people over age 18, are widowed, divorced or have never married, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

To rectify the situation, the American Association for Single People has launched a \$114,000 advertising campaign drawing attention to unmarried, childless voters. Ads have run in USA Today and the Los Angeles Times.

"Are you one of the 80 million single or unmarried adults ignored by the George W. Bush and Al Gore campaigns?" the ad says. "How many ways are we discriminated against? Let us count them for you."

According to the ad, single people receive fewer job benefits, such as health insurance for spouses and children; they are often lumped into a "high risk" class by insurance companies and are charged a higher rate than married co-workers; and they are denied "family" discounts for roommates or partners.

Albright pursues N. Korean breakthrough

The Clinton Administration is seeking a legacy of stability in Northeast Asia.

WASHINGTON

Embarking on a journey that seemed highly improbable just a few months ago, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright flew to North Korea on Sunday in hopes of advancing her goal of a tension-free Northeast Asia for the first time in decades.

Albright left Washington shortly after midnight on the 17-hour journey, and was to land Sunday in the capital of Pyongyang, a city U.S. forces reduced to rubble during the Korean War. It is now a metropolis with tall buildings and broad boulevards, although with scarcely any traffic.

If Albright's talks with North Korean leader Kim Jong Il go well, President Clinton will follow her to Pyongyang as part of an Asia trip next month, administration officials said.

Albright's main concern is

North Korea's missile development program and its export of missiles to Iran and Syria. She will confer with Kim on those issues but officials said no agreements are expected.

The United States is considering the creation of a national missile defense, partly out of concern that North Korea may some day direct ICBM's at American cities.

North Korea has for years ignored American efforts to stop exporting missiles, and the possibility that the Pyongyang regime may now be listening to these concerns has generated excitement among arms control advocates.

"North Korea may be the most historic and important trip of her (Albright's) tenure," says Joseph Cirincione, of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

In Clinton's quest for a foreign policy legacy worthy of the history books, his initiative with North Korea seems more promising than any other, a turn of events few would have predicted six

years ago when the two counties seemed close to war.

Clinton has shown patience and diligence in seeking an accommodation with North Korea. His initiative has prospered, at least for the time being, because of a surprise willingness of Kim to reciprocate.

Kim, perhaps motivated by economic catastrophe, has scrapped North Korea's policy of reclusiveness and has been reaching out not only to the United States but to other countries, most notably South Korea.

In the process, Kim has shed the stereotypical view of him. Don Oberdorfer, a Korea expert at the John Hopkins School of International Studies, said Kim was depicted in intelligence reports as an awful man who was "introverted and strange."

But he showed himself to be "very confident and very poised" when in June he had his historic encounter with South Korean President Kim Dae-jung.

Joel Wit, a former State Department official who has vis-

"North Korea may be the most historic and important trip of her (Albright's) tenure."

Joseph Cirincione
Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

ited North Korea 14 times, agreed that Kim has not lived up to his reputation as being "a little bit crazy."

Still, conservative groups are concerned that Clinton may be taken in by the newly amiable North Korean leader.

After two days of discussion in Pyongyang, Albright will fly across the Demilitarized Zone to Seoul to report on her talks to senior officials from Japan and South Korea, both of which continue to be nervous about North Korea's military. As a deterrent, the United States maintains 37,000 troops in South Korea.

Arab summit sends mixed messages

The door for peace with Israel is left open as conference concludes in Cairo.

CAIRO, Egypt

— An Arab summit called to confront a frightening and deadly upsurge in Israeli-Palestinian violence ended Sunday with a declaration that Arabs may consider cutting ties with Israel, but did not insist they do so.

Among ordinary Arabs, the outcome was likely to fuel criticism already being heard: that Arab leaders are divided and unwilling to confront Israel. The first Arab summit in four years followed the collapse of a cease-fire Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and President Clinton helped broker last week at Egypt's Sharm el-Sheikh resort.

A carefully worded final

summit declaration addressed what had emerged as the most contentious issue before the leaders meeting in Cairo: Whether ties several have with the Jewish state should be reconsidered.

Libya had walked out Saturday, the first day of the two-day summit, saying it was frustrated that the gathering would not clearly call for an end to ties with Israel.

In Israel, Prime Minister Ehud Barak praised summit host Mubarak for making "considerable effort to maintain a balanced approach, which calls for peace and restraint, instead of an extremist stance." But he also said Israel "rejects the threatening language" used in the final declaration.

That left the door open for Egypt, the first Arab country to sign a peace treaty with Israel, to

continue acting as a regional mediator, a role the United States looks to it to play. Egypt called the Cairo summit and was the main voice of moderation during its proceedings.

Arabs "hold Israel responsible for any steps taken in regard to relations with Israel by Arab countries, including their cancellation," said the final Arab summit declaration, read by Arab League Secretary-General Esmat Abdel-Meguid to a live television audience across the region.

Referring to establishing new ties, the summit declaration said: "Arab leaders assert in the light of the collapse of the peace process their commitment to standing up to Israeli attempts to infiltrate the Arab world under any name and to the halting of establishing any relations with Israel."

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa said Egypt had not yet had time to consider whether they would end or reduce ties with Israel.

Libya had said cutting ties was the least Arabs could do in response to more than three weeks of Israeli-Palestinian violence that have left some 120 dead — the vast majority Palestinian.

Moderates at the summit, though, warned against doing anything that might make future negotiations difficult. Egypt and Jordan, the only Arab countries with peace treaties with Israel, insist negotiations are the only way to bring lasting peace to the region.

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat said Saturday: "Our choice is the choice of permanent, just and comprehensive peace."

Arctic winds slow Kursk salvage

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MURMANSK, Russia — With the seas around them increasingly rough, Russian and Norwegian divers on Sunday pierced the inner hull of the sunken Kursk nuclear submarine in a laborious, precarious bid to

recover the bodies of 118 sailors inside.

Winds above the site mounted throughout the day and were expected to pick up overnight, threatening the operation.

Working nonstop in teams since Friday, the divers carved into the outer hull Saturday, the first step in the planned recovery operation. The divers hope to cut seven holes through both hulls of the submarine to retrieve bodies or body parts from their tomb in the Barents Sea.

After some struggle overnight, the divers sliced through the sturdy rubber layer between the hulls, said Capt. Vladimir Navrotsky, chief spokesman for the Russian Navy's northern fleet.

Later Sunday, they cut a four-inch hole in the steel of the inner hull leading to compartment No. 8, in the rear of the submarine, Navrotsky said. Throughout the day, they gradually enlarged the hole a few millimeters at a time.

Weather

TODAY
Showers
high 65, low 55

TOMORROW
Showers
high 70, low 53

Daily Nebraskan

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Ask for the appropriate section editor at
(402) 472-2588
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