

## Three Israeli soldiers killed in clash

Most of the 160 people killed in Mideast combat have been Palestinians.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JERUSALEM - Three Israeli soldiers were killed Wednesday in two clashes with Palestinians in the West Bank, the military said, the first soldiers to die in combat since a battle in Nablus Oct. 1.

At least 160 people, most of them Palestinians, have died in clashes over the past five weeks. The only other Israeli combat death was a soldier who died during a Palestinian siege of a Jewish holy site in Nablus on Oct. 1. There, a wounded paramilitary border policeman bled to death before he could be removed. Israel later evacuated the site.

Two Israeli reserve soldiers were brutally killed by an enraged Palestinian mob Oct. 12 after the soldiers took a wrong turn and entered the West Bank city of Ramallah.

The military has predicted the fighting could go on for months and could escalate, and a senior military official said Israel was calling up its army reserves.

About 1,000 reservists have been activated already, and by the beginning of December, all the reserve forces will be called up to serve stints in the West Bank and Gaza, said the official, who insisted on anonymity.

The fighting in Al Khader began when Palestinian gunmen opened fire on Israeli troops posted nearby, the Israeli army

said. Palestinian fire prevented Israeli medics from reaching the troops, prompting the army to bring in two helicopter gunships that raked the village with machine gunfire. The soldiers were evacuated after nearly an hour and taken to a Jerusalem hospital.

Scores of Al Khader residents, trapped on the main road during the shooting, huddled close to a cement wall, and one man sought cover under a car. A Palestinian boy, about 12 or 13 years old, screamed in panic when he heard a helicopter gunship approach.

Bullets also sprayed the entrance to the Yamamah Hospital on the outskirts of Al Khader. An injured Palestinian brought to the clinic's door in a private car crawled out of the vehicle as those accompanying him ran for cover. The injured man collapsed from the effort, and eventually was carried to safety indoors.

Palestinian gunmen also attacked the Gilo neighborhood on the southern edge of Jerusalem from positions in the adjacent West Bank town of Beit Jalla. The gunmen hit several homes and a kindergarten, with one youngster and several adults still inside. There were no reports of injuries.

Israel responded with machine gunfire from the ground and from helicopters. Troops also fired several anti-tank missiles at Beit Jalla. The fighting lasted for more than



Bullets fired by Israeli troops strike Palestinian positions in Beit Jala in the West Bank on Tuesday after Palestinian gunmen opened fire on the Jewish Jerusalem suburb of Gilo.

three hours.

In the Gaza Strip, more than 20,000 Palestinians joined a funeral for five of seven Palestinians killed in the past two days at the Karni crossing. "Goodbye, martyrs, we will meet in paradise," the crowd chanted. "We will take revenge against the Israelis, and this will happen soon."

Palestinian envoy Saeb Erekat was to meet with U.N.

Secretary-General Kofi Annan and U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright on Friday. Israeli Foreign Minister Shlomo Ben-Ami was meeting Albright Wednesday.

Erekat said he was carrying letters from Arafat to Annan and Clinton with a request that the United Nations send a force to protect Palestinian civilians, and for the establishment of an international inquiry into the causes

of the violence.

The U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Richard Holbrooke, has criticized the Palestinian demand for U.N. protection, saying it was "written as an attack on one side," meaning Israel.

Israel has rejected calls for an international inquiry, fearing bias. Instead, Israel suggested that the United States conduct an investigation.

## Yugoslavia welcomed into U.N.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

UNITED NATIONS - Yugoslavia's new democratic government joined the United Nations on Wednesday, opening a new chapter in Belgrade's relations with the international community after eight years of U.N. ostracism under former strongman Slobodan Milosevic.

By acclamation and with a loud round of applause, the 189-member General Assembly overwhelmingly approved Yugoslavia's application for U.N. membership and hailed Belgrade's democratic transition and the newly elected president, Vojislav Kostunica.

After General Assembly President Harri Holkeri proclaimed the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia a U.N. member, the Yugoslav delegation was led to its seats in the General Assembly hall.

"With legitimate pride, the Yugoslav people are going to take their rightful place in the concert of nations," French Ambassador Jean-David Levitte told the assembly, speaking on behalf of the European Union.

Under Milosevic, Yugoslavia had refused to comply with the General Assembly's 1992 demand that it apply for U.N. admission as a new country following the breakup of the Yugoslav socialist republic in the early 1990s.

A month after ousting Milosevic in elections, Kostunica requested the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia be admitted. His application moved quickly through the U.N. bureaucracy.

## Osborne weaves politics with life

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"I don't think he knows anything about farming or living in the 3<sup>rd</sup> District. He lives in Lincoln, for crying out loud. You can't learn to milk a cow by reading a book."

"I know he's a behemoth, but it's because of football. I'm trying to get agriculture moving. It's time to stop talking about football."

Osborne concedes his football success is a major reason for his success at the polls.

"I feel I've been given a little bit of a platform. It may not be right," he said in an interview on the way to Greeley. "But if you have an opportunity to make a difference and don't use it, it's a wasted opportunity."

For Osborne, who holds a Ph.D. in educational psychology, the campaign also offers a platform to discuss issues about which he is most passionate - what he calls the "steady, progressive unraveling of the culture."

Specifically, Osborne:  
■ Deplores the notion, supported by opinion polls since President Clinton's Monica Lewinsky scandal, that private behavior has no bearing on a person's job performance.

■ Laments the breakdown of the family structure, which he says has caused more young people to grow up without role models and a core set of values.

■ Maintains these same young people are thrust into a culture that values materialism and feeds them a steady diet of sex, drugs, alcohol and violence.

■ Believes religion has been pushed out of public life by court decisions and public attitudes.

■ Opposes gay marriage and has criticized attempts to punish the Boy Scouts for banning gay scout leaders.

■ Is against further gun control, saying violence in the media and the entertainment industry are mostly to blame for escalating violence.

"If I survived in coaching for 25 years," he said, "I can probably survive in politics, as well. It takes someone to step forward and stick his neck out."

### The culture wars

At St. Pauls Lutheran Church in Grand Island, Ed and Jackie Schlund have come to hear Osborne discuss the fraying of American culture and the need for "spiritual reorientation."

"We support him because of the person he is," said Ed Schlund, a retired postal worker. "We also believe in his philosophy, especially the things we need to do with our young people."

Jackie Schlund said she did not mind that Osborne had never held elected office. "He might straighten the rest of them up," she said.

For critics who believe Osborne tolerated violent behavior by some of his players, his emphasis on morality is hypocritical.

But in his speech to about 175 people at St. Pauls, Osborne does not mince words about the problems he sees in society today.

"I think it's a real cultural war," he said. "It's not imagined. It's out there."

He said the most fundamental problem was the breakdown of the traditional family structure. Many Nebraska players grew up without a father, he said, including Phillips.

"When your father doesn't stay around to see what you look like, it leaves a hole in you," Osborne said. "What this has done is, it has given our young people less of a sense of rootedness and grounding. They don't come from moorings like some of us have come from."

Osborne objects to a society that he said teaches children material objects will make them happy and sexual promiscuity is common, acceptable and harmful to no one.

Most shocking, he said during the speech, was a poll conducted in the wake of the Lewinsky scandal. It showed 70 percent of Americans believed there was no important connection between a person's private behavior and job performance.

That's backwards, Osborne said. People reveal their true character not when they are in the spotlight, he said, but when no one is watching, and they can get away with things.

If people "cheat on their wife, cheat on their taxes or cheat on their golf scores," they are likely to do the same in their careers, he said.

"What most alarmed me is that this is the norm. Essentially, what we're saying as a nation is that character doesn't count."

Although Social Security, Medicare and prescription drug coverage all are important, he said, "all those things don't really make a difference if the next generation can't pull it off."

Osborne said violence and graphic sexual material in movies, TV and video games have contributed to destructive behavior.

"I think maybe we have to set some standards," he said. "People of their own accord will not set the same standards that were axiomatic 30 or 35 years ago."

"People get all fired up about gun control. But guns have been an integral part of our culture for well over 200 years. It's only been in the last 15 to 20 years that people have been taking guns to school and shooting other kids. That would indicate it's coming from people's hearts and minds, not from guns."

An avid hunter and outdoorsman, Osborne opposes further gun control measures, saying gun laws should be better enforced.

He criticized efforts to ostracize the Boy Scouts for banning gay scout leaders.

"Now people are attacking the Boy Scouts - the Boy Scouts," he said. "A private organization can't be a private organization anymore."

Society also has suffered because of efforts to push religion out of American life, he said.

A recent Supreme Court ruling that students could not lead prayers before public high school football games was "ludicrous." Even though religion has helped many people turn their lives around, including many of his players, speaking about religion has become anathema in many corners of society, he said.

"If we want to be a great nation, we truly need to be one nation under God. We don't need to apologize for it," he said.

Tim Butz, executive director of ACLU

"We support him because of the person he is."

Ed Schlund

Grand Island resident

Nebraska, said he was not familiar with Osborne's exact statements about religious and cultural issues, and the ACLU does not take positions on individual political candidates.

But he criticized many of the views held by social conservatives. No solid evidence shows a connection between the entertainment industry and rising rates of crime, drug abuse and illegitimacy, Butz said.

"You could tie an alarm clock going off to the sun rising," he said. "That doesn't mean the alarm clock causes the sun to rise. Until there is good solid evidence, you're going to be experiencing more election-year politics of making Hollywood the whipping boy for cultural conservatives."

"They want to roll us back to the 1950s, but that's not possible."

Butz defended the Supreme Court's decision on prayer at football games, saying it was part of an effort to stop the government from imposing religion on those who don't wish to participate.

"We haven't pushed religion out of the center of American life," he said. "We've pushed government out of the business of promoting religion. There's nothing wrong with religion being a force in American life, as long as it's not being promoted by the government."

But Osborne said religion had long been part of the fabric of American life.

"As a culture, we've pushed religion aside," he said. "If we ignore that, we're ignoring our very nature."

### Turbulent years

Born in 1937, Osborne grew up in the shadow of World War II. His father, serving in the Army, fought in Europe, leaving Osborne's uncle to raise him near St. Paul.

From his uncle, Osborne learned to love the outdoors. He also learned the importance of mentoring, which he now passes on through his TeamMates youth mentoring program.

The family moorings and religious faith that he says are absent for so many young people today were strong for Osborne. He said he grew up around good people, especially his parents and grandparents. From them and others, he said, he learned the value of hard work and a strong sense of right and wrong.

Osborne's father loved sports. When his father returned from the war, Osborne said, he wanted to please him, so he played several sports, and athletics became an integral part of his life.

At Hastings High School, he starred in football, basketball and baseball. He played football at Hastings College, then spent a short stint in the NFL. When he returned to Nebraska, he knew he had to be around football.

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World/Nation

The Associated Press

### Wisconsin

#### Publishers Clearing House on trial for first time

PORTAGE - Publishers Clearing House went on trial over its sweepstakes promotions for the first time Wednesday, with state lawyers accusing it of preying on the elderly with misleading advertising.

State lawyer Cynthia Hirsch said the sweepstakes' mailings dupe people into buying magazines and other merchandise in hopes of improving their chances of winning the jackpots, which can run into the millions.

In the civil case, the state is seeking an unspecified amount of money to reimburse residents it says were defrauded. It also wants the sweepstakes to change its marketing practices and pay a penalty.

Publishers Clearing House attorney Jon Axelrod said the state's own witnesses would say they knew they had little chance of winning and didn't have to buy anything to enter the drawing.

### Washington, D.C.

#### Nation of Islam leader undergoes surgery

Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan underwent surgery Wednesday for complications from radiation therapy he received for prostate cancer.

Farrakhan, 67, was listed in stable condition following the surgery at Howard University Hospital, the hospital said in a brief statement, which described the operation as successful.

Hospital officials said the surgery had been planned for after the "Million Family March" in Washington on Oct. 16. Farrakhan helped organize the march and delivered a nearly three-hour speech at the event.

He disclosed in Chicago last month that he would have the surgery but did not say where or when. "With the help of God I'll come through all right," he said then.

### Wyoming

#### Snow closes highways, strands travelers

MOORCROFT - Up to 13 inches of blowing snow closed major highways Wednesday in eastern Wyoming and western South Dakota, stranding travelers and shutting down schools.

About 40 people, mostly truckers, were stalled at Moorcroft, which got about 5 inches of snow, said Toni Kornemann, an employee at the 24-hour Coffee Cup Fuel Stop along Interstate 90.

"I've had such a mess here this morning," she said.

Power was out for a couple of hours, disrupting food service and knocking out fuel pumps, Kornemann said.

A 60-mile section of I-90 was closed from Moorcroft to just inside South Dakota near Spearfish, along with U.S. 85 from Newcastle, Wyo., to near Lead, S.D., where 10 to 12 inches of snow accumulated.

### Florida

#### Families of murdered nuns, missionary ask for \$100,000

WEST PALM BEACH - Lawyers for the families of four American church women killed in El Salvador asked Wednesday for \$100 million in compensatory damages from two former generals they say are responsible.

Lawyer Robert Montgomery Jr. called the amount small compared with the suffering three nuns and a missionary endured when five Salvadoran National Guard soldiers raped and executed them on Dec. 2, 1980.

### Weather

#### TODAY

Partly cloudy  
high 56, low 38

#### TOMORROW

Partly cloudy  
high 49, low 32

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