

News Digest

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Bush to give funds to religious charities

Two executive orders have gained criticism for blurring the line between church and state.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — President Bush said Monday he will tap religious institutions for more charitable work, confronting critics who say using public money for such programs could violate the wall between church and state.

"Compassion is the work of a nation, not just a government," he said.

Bush established a White House office that would distribute billions of dollars to religious groups and charities over the next 10 years. The president said such groups grapple daily with "deep needs and real suf-

fering" in communities and deserve a chance to compete for taxpayer money for after-school programs, prison ministries and drug treatment, among other things.

"Government will never be replaced by charities and community groups," Bush said. "Yet when we see social needs in America, my administration will look first to faith-based programs. ... We will not discriminate against them."

The president signed two executive orders, one to establish a White House office of religion-based community initiatives, and the other instructing five Cabinet-level agencies to create entities to work with religious groups. Bush said he issued the second order to clear barriers "that make private groups hesitant to work with government."

To build support, Bush will meet

throughout the week with leaders of spiritual and charitable groups, and he plans to attend the National Prayer Breakfast on Thursday.

Bush chose University of Pennsylvania political science professor John J. Dilulio Jr. to head the office. He tapped former Indianapolis Mayor Stephen Goldsmith to serve on the board of the Corporation for National Service, which will work with the new White House office. Bush said both men will report directly to him.

Skeptics say shifting government money to churches, synagogues and mosques so they can expand assistance programs raises church-state separation questions. Even some churches are wary of government money that might come with strings attached.

Dilulio, Goldsmith and other support-

ers brushed aside such questions when they spoke with reporters after Bush's announcement.

"It's proven that when there's a faith component to social services, it brings about a greater opportunity and a greater percentage (chance) that that person's going to be changed from the inside out, as opposed to from outside in," said the Rev. Herbert Lusk, who attended Monday's meeting. Lusk endorsed Bush at the Republican National Convention.

Striking pre-emptively at critics, Bush said religious groups must be part of the solution to cure society's ills.

"A compassionate society is one which recognizes the great power of faith," Bush said last week. "We in government must not fear faith-based programs — we must welcome faith-based programs."

World/Nation

The Associated Press

New York 'Puffy' trial opens with allegations of gun-firing

NEW YORK — Rap mogul Sean "Puffy" Combs' weapons and bribery trial began Monday with prosecutors for the first time alleging he fired a gun inside a Times Square nightclub as one of his protégés allegedly shot and wounded three people.

"Mr. Combs fired a shot" into the club's ceiling, Assistant District Attorney Matthew Bogdanos said in opening statements. "Witnesses will say they saw the muzzle flash."

Combs, 31, is not accused of shooting anyone in Club New York on Dec. 27, 1999. He was arrested after he fled the club with his girlfriend, actress-singer Jennifer Lopez, who has not been charged.

Defense attorney Benjamin Brafman said in his opening statement that prosecutors targeted Combs because he is famous. Combs has denied having a gun at the club.

"This was a star-struck selective prosecution of a superstar," Brafman said.

"This prosecution is about fame and celebrity, not about a search for truth and justice."

New York 'Survivor' member already dining adventurously

NEW YORK — Figs anyone? An estimated 42 million people watched that unappetizing meal — laced with insects — tried by a member of the second "Survivor" crew.

A hungry contestant on the first episode bit into the fig, then quickly spit it out after discovering the fruit had hundreds of crawling bugs. On the first "Survivor," adventurous diners ate rat.

CBS said the preliminary Nielsen Media Research ratings for "Survivor: The Australian Outback" on Sunday night might have been even higher if the Super Bowl's second half had been more competitive and the game show had started earlier than 10:17 p.m. on the East Coast.

Chile Judge decides Pinochet should be prosecuted

SANTIAGO — A federal judge ordered Gen. Augusto Pinochet placed under house arrest Monday to stand trial for dozens of political killings during his 17-year rule.

Judge Juan Guzman, whose earlier indictment of the former dictator was cast aside by the Supreme Court, decided the general should be prosecuted for killings committed soon after he led a 1973 coup, according to a prosecuting lawyer, Hugo Gutierrez.

Pinochet's defense promised a swift appeal as allowed by law and said the general hadn't been immediately informed of the decision for fears of health repercussions.

New Hampshire Authorities: 'No reason to panic' after professors deaths

HANOVER — A key investigator in the slayings of two Dartmouth College professors said Monday the community should not panic, although authorities had made no arrests.

Kelly Ayotte, head of the attorney general's homicide division, said at a news conference that 30 investigators were working the case. Ayotte refused to give further details of the investigation except to say authorities were trying to learn if someone had been living in the home of the victims.

"There is no reason for there to be a panic in the public right now," Ayotte said.

"There are no resources being spared to solve these homicides."

Susanne and Half Zantop, both longtime professors at the Ivy League school, were found slain in their secluded house about three miles from campus Saturday, leaving students and colleagues baffled by the crime.

Rare rescues offer India some hope

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BHUJ, India — Rescue workers digging through the rubble of a collapsed building Monday uncovered a dead woman and, in her lap, an eight-month-old child, covered in her blood but kept alive by the shelter of her body through three cold nights.

It was one of the increasingly rare dramatic rescues in this devastated town, where funeral pyres have been burning around the clock in the wake of Friday's earthquake. So far, 6,287 people are known dead, and officials said Monday that damages reached \$5.5 billion.

"It was just miraculous," said R.K. Thakur, a Border Security Forces assistant commandant, who was among the rescue workers who found the baby, Murtza Ali, under a collapsed building in Bhuj's Kansara Market.

His team was trying to recover the body of a woman from the rubble when they realized the blood-covered baby in her lap was alive.

"We saw the baby in the mother's lap. We saw some movement from the baby. I took the baby in my hand, and I found it was alive," Thakur said.

The boy was rushed to a medical center, where doctors later said he was conscious and smiling. Doctors said it was the warmth of the mother's body and the protection it offered that helped the baby survive during nights when temperatures dropped to 44 degrees.

In Bhachau, a town east of Bhuj, a seven-month-old girl was rescued from the rubble of her home and hours later was being passed around the arms of her joyous mother and relatives.

By official count, Friday's 7.9-magnitude quake had killed 6,287 people in the state of Gujarat in western India, and the state's chief minister, Keshubhai Patel, said the toll could go as high as 20,000.

Tremors lasting up to 30 seconds continued to shake India on Monday, panicking residents but causing no new damage beyond minor cracks in buildings. A magnitude-4.3 quake struck in the morning near Bangalore, a city 850 miles southeast of Friday's epicenter.

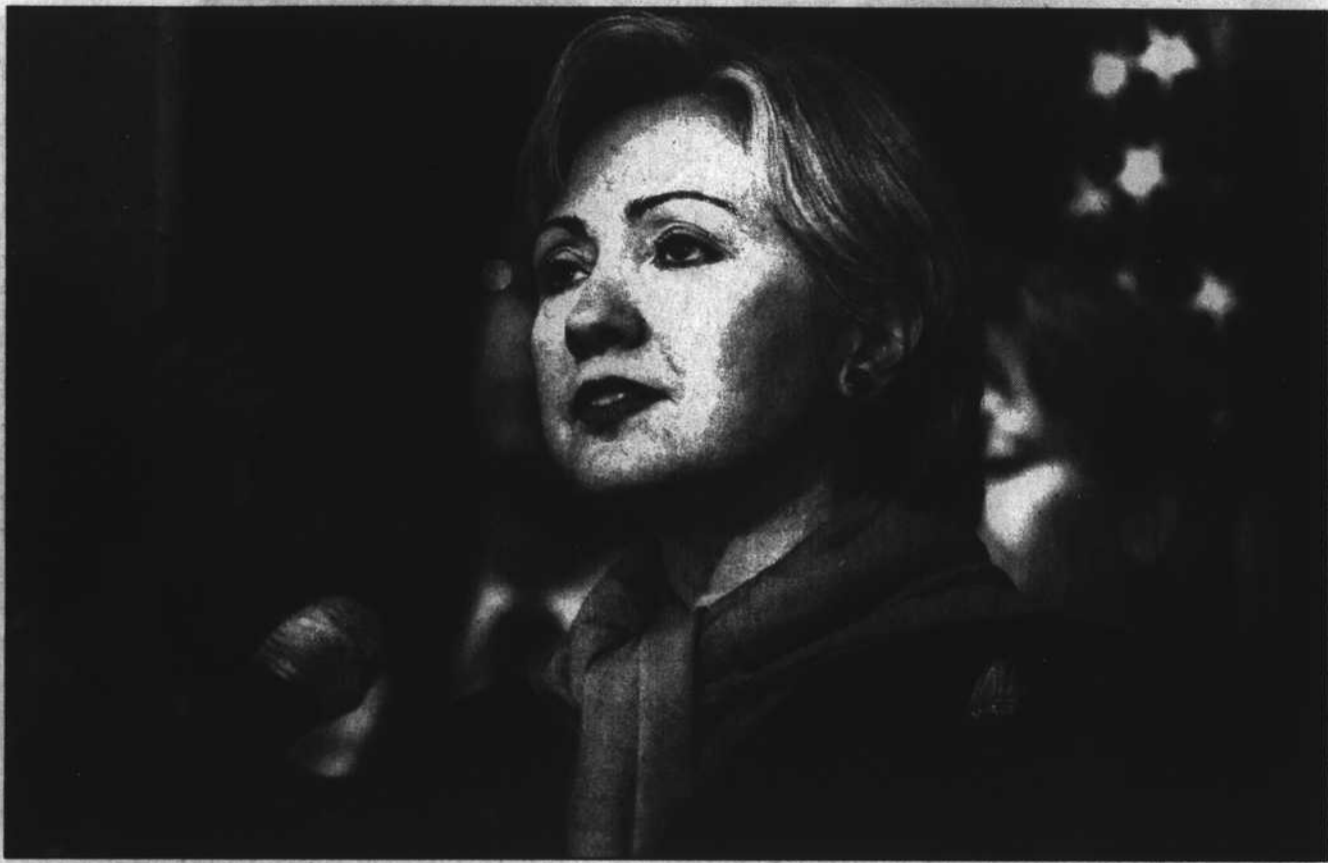
Weather

TODAY

Snow
high 34 low 24

TOMORROW

Snow showers
high 37, low 23



U.S. Sen. Hillary Clinton (D-NY) speaks out against the nomination of President Bush's Attorney General-designate John Ashcroft at a press conference Monday in New York City.

Hillary among Ashcroft foes

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The senior Democrat on the Senate Judiciary Committee and former first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton became the latest senators Monday to say they will vote against John Ashcroft's nomination to be attorney general.

Sen. Patrick Leahy of Vermont, who chaired four days of hearings on President Bush's nomination of Ashcroft, cited the Republican former Missouri senator's views on civil rights, homosexuals, abortion, guns and the role of judges.

"John Ashcroft's unyielding and intemperate positions on many issues raise grave doubts both about how he will interpret the oath he would take as attorney general to enforce the laws ... and about how he will exercise the enormous power of that office," Leahy told the Senate.

But Leahy also said he would not support a filibuster against Ashcroft, as once suggested by Edward M. Kennedy,

D-Mass. Senate Democratic leader Thomas Daschle of South Dakota, also has said he would not support a filibuster but had not disclosed how he would vote on the nomination itself.

Kennedy floated the idea of a filibuster during Ashcroft's confirmation hearings two weeks ago but Democrats concede they lack the 41 votes to succeed and little has been heard about the effort since.

Clinton, D-N.Y., said at a news conference that Ashcroft's "record and his views placed him on the distant shores of American jurisprudence."

The Judiciary Committee is expected to vote as early as Tuesday, and Senate Republican leader Trent Lott has said the full Senate might vote Thursday.

Meanwhile, the liberal People for the American Way planned full-page advertisements Tuesday in USA Today, The New York Times and nine other newspapers aimed at senators in Connecticut, the Dakotas, Maine, Louisiana and Wisconsin.

"The bitter left is still trying to

"The bitter left is still trying to squeeze the Democrats as much as they can."

Trent Lott

Senate Republican leader

squeeze the Democrats as much as they can," said Lott. He estimated that Ashcroft has the support of all 50 Senate Republicans and 10 to 20 of the chamber's Democrats.

Some senators targeted by the new \$260,000 ad campaign have already said they intend to vote for Ashcroft, including Republican Susan Collins of Maine and Democrats Byron Dorgan and Kent Conrad of North Dakota.

Some undecideds are being heavily lobbied, including Wisconsin's Russ Feingold and Herb Kohl, both Democratic members of the Judiciary Committee.

Merger fails to help automaker

After suffering steady losses, DaimlerChrysler lays off numerous U.S. and Canadian employees.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. — DaimlerChrysler A's slashing of 26,000 jobs at its ailing Chrysler division stands as the most dramatic sign yet that the 1998 merger of German and American automakers has not lived up to its promise.

"Instead of making the billions of dollars in cost savings and synergies at the time of the merger, they're making desperate cuts to get Chrysler back in the black," said analyst David Healy of Burnham Securities.

Now, he said, "surgery is necessary to save the patient."

On Monday, the man tapped in November to stem Chrysler's financial hemorrhaging said the U.S. unit would slash about one-fifth of its work force over three years, as well as idle six plants over the next two years.

"No one wants this to happen. I personally wish it didn't have to happen," Dieter Zetsche, Chrysler's president and chief executive, said Monday. He called the moves painful but necessary in the face of "brutal" competition, advances by imports and slackened U.S. sales.

Zetsche expected a large part of the job-cutting to be done through retire-

ment programs; others would be phased out through layoffs, attrition and other programs. About three-quarters of the job cuts should come this year, he said.

In addition, production will be curbed at factories in four states and Canada by slowing assembly lines and trimming the number of shifts, ultimately paring production by 15 percent.

DaimlerChrysler chairman Juergen Schrempp has said Chrysler would lose money this year, and that rehabbing the troubled division that pioneered the minivan could take two to four years.

Zetsche already has asked for 5 percent price cuts from Chrysler suppliers. Chrysler also plans to slash hundreds of millions of dollars in advertising and showroom subsidies to its 4,400 dealers. Zetsche said Chrysler will unveil its complete turnaround plan Feb. 26.

The overhaul comes about 23 years after Lee Iacocca engineered a rescue of Chrysler, including layoffs and a \$1.5 billion government bailout, as the company teetered on the edge of bankruptcy.

Chrysler was restored to health, even becoming the industry leader in per-vehicle profits. That impressive record was what appealed to the German automaker as it sought to further expand in the United States.

The vaunted 1998 trans-Atlantic combination of Daimler-Benz and

Chrysler Corp. was touted as a merger of equals, but last year Schrempp said the company never intended to be an equal partner with Chrysler and that he only said that to gain shareholder approval.

The comments prompted a lawsuit by billionaire Kirk Kerkorian, one of DaimlerChrysler's largest shareholders, seeking to have the deal reversed on grounds that executives misled investors.

DaimlerChrysler's stock price, now at about \$47, has fallen steadily since reaching a high of \$108 in January 1999.

Chrysler's performance hasn't met Stuttgart-based DaimlerChrysler's expectations, either. Sales incentives have erased profits and production of the hot-selling PT Cruiser has fallen short of demand. Daimler and Chrysler also have been reluctant to share parts to cut costs, which might change with a new emphasis on saving money.

Still, DaimlerChrysler has insisted it has no plans to spin off or sell Chrysler.

The job cuts involve 19,000 hourly workers and 6,800 salaried ones.

UAW spokesman Paul Krell declined comment Monday.

About 22 percent of Chrysler's Canadian workers would lose their jobs, compared with 18 percent of U.S. Chrysler workers, Canadian Auto Workers President Buzz Hargrove said.

"For stockholders, it is a blip, but for the workers it is a tragedy," he said.

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