

# News Digest

Page 2 Daily Nebraskan Wednesday, January 31, 2001

## Ashcroft advances to Senate

■ Democrats say a filibuster will not be imposed on the attorney general nominee.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Republicans pushed John Ashcroft's attorney general nomination to the Senate floor Tuesday by a narrow 10-8 Judiciary Committee vote. All but one Democrat voted against him.

While the committee vote was close, a leading Democratic opponent, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts, abandoned any idea of trying to stop the nomination with a filibuster. That means Senate approval for the strongly conservative former Missouri senator is all but assured.

As expected, all nine Republicans on the committee enthusiastically endorsed Ashcroft.

Russ Feingold of Wisconsin was the only one of nine Democrats to support him. Senate Republican leader Trent Lott, asserting Ashcroft has the support of all 50 GOP senators, said he would like to see the full Senate vote on confirmation by Thursday, completing President Bush's Cabinet. It was uncertain whether that would happen.

Feingold called his support "an olive branch" to the new GOP White House but "not a white flag." He urged Bush to re-nominate for a U.S. judgeship Ronnie White, a black Missouri Supreme Court judge whose nomination to the bench was quashed by Ashcroft.

White, a witness against Ashcroft during hearings two weeks ago, accused the former senator of grossly distorting his record on the death penalty. Other Ashcroft critics argue he did that for political gain.

Senate Democratic leader Tom Daschle of South Dakota announced his opposition to Ashcroft in a harsh denunciation of the former senator's views on women's and workers' rights, civil rights and separation of church and state.

"Because of his enormous authority and discretion, the attorney general, more than any other Cabinet member, has the power to protect or erode decades of progress on civil rights in America," Daschle said. "John Ashcroft has shown a pattern of insensitivity throughout his career."

Meanwhile, Kennedy indicated he would not object to fixing a time for a final vote, saying he hoped to focus public attention not on a Senate process, but on Ashcroft's positions.

Kennedy said he had already decided against a filibuster when Missouri Sen. Jean Carnahan spoke against it during a Democratic caucus meeting Tuesday.



At a 10-story apartment building in Ahmedabad, India, on Monday, rescue workers continue in full force to search for bodies. Tens of thousands have died in this disaster so far, and an accurate count may never be known.

## Quake draws international efforts

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AHMEDABAD, India — Pakistan put aside its bitter rivalry with India on Tuesday and joined earthquake relief efforts, but heavy equipment and explosives brought in to clear debris signaled that hope of finding survivors had all but vanished.

Experts say few people could survive more than 100 hours buried in rubble left by Friday's tremor, and much of the attention shifted to getting tents, blankets and medical care to the living.

Officials have counted 7,148 bodies, but estimates of how high the death toll could rise varied widely. Defense Minister George Fernandes estimated 100,000 may have died; Home Minister Haren Pandya said he believed the figure to be between 15,000 and 20,000.

Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee said it was impossible

and improper to guess.

Aid from around the world was pouring into western India — a 747 loaded with water purification equipment from the United States, a \$500,000 mobile hospital from Denmark and an air force plane filled with tents and blankets from Pakistan. With nighttime temperatures about 41 degrees in the quake zone, blankets were a high priority.

"I have come on a humanitarian mission," said Ilyas Khan, director of Pakistan's emergency relief agency. "People are suffering."

Pakistan, which has fought three wars with India and is locked in a nuclear Cold War with its rival, said a second relief plane would be sent Wednesday and a third on Thursday.

Friday's 7.9-magnitude quake flattened the towns of Bhuj and Anjar in India's western Gujarat state, which borders Pakistan, leaving damage esti-

mated at up to \$5.5 billion. Despite aftershocks with magnitudes ranging up to 4.5 in the Bhuj area, there were no reports of new damage or casualties.

Rescue workers kept up the dark task of digging into the debris of ruined buildings, but they called the search for survivors increasingly futile. Tuesday afternoon marked the critical 100-hour mark since the quake struck.

"We talk about a limit of 100 hours, when after that the chances of finding someone alive drop dramatically," said Jochen Jakowski, the leader of a German rescue team in Anjar.

A spokesman for a Swiss search and rescue team said his workers were still going at full strength in Ahmedabad, Gujarat's commercial center. However, they withdrew from Bhuj after failing to find any survivors there Tuesday.

"The chances of finding

*"The chances of finding someone are very, very slight, although we haven't given up hope entirely,"*

Joachim Ahrens  
Swiss rescue team spokesman

someone are very, very slight, although we haven't given up hope entirely," Joachim Ahrens, spokesman for the Swiss Department of Development and Cooperation, said from Geneva.

The stench of death was everywhere. Mourners wore face coverings as they watched victims be cremated; soldiers burned incense as they persevered in the grim work of looking for bodies.

## Senate votes in 2 of 3 remaining Cabinet seats

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — New Jersey Gov. Christie Whitman and former Colorado Attorney General Gale Norton won Senate approval Tuesday to direct the nation's environmental and natural resources policies.

The Senate voted unanimously 99-0 to confirm Whitman as administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency after voting 75-24 minutes earlier, along partisan and geographical lines, to accept President Bush's choice of Norton to be secretary of the interior.

Most of those opposing Norton, 46, were Senate Democrats from Eastern states. Her most vocal support came from Senate Republicans in Western states with a large percentage of federal-owned lands. Sen. Byron Dorgan, D-N.D., who backed both women, missed the votes due to weather-

related travel problems.

The votes left all of Bush's Cabinet seats but one — that of attorney general — filled just 10 days after his inauguration.

Whitman, 54, a two-term Republican governor popular with lawmakers, will resign her post one year shy of completing her second and final term.

"It's an honor," Whitman said of her new job at EPA. "There are hard decisions to be made with this agency, and you can't make everybody happy."

Sen. Larry Craig, R-Idaho, chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee's panel on forests and public lands, said the Bush administration is going to make important policy shifts on the environment.

"What you're going to see this administration say is that environmental policy will become a rule of law again and a rule of process and procedure with credibility,"

Craig said in an interview.

At her confirmation hearing, Whitman promised "a strong federal role" on environmental protection but said she will review several regulations issued in the last month of the Clinton presidency, including expensive new diesel standards.

Norton, a past advocate of state and property rights, encountered more opposition in becoming the government's chief steward for half a billion acres of federal land and natural resources as secretary of the interior.

Republicans said they were confident Norton could balance preserving and developing those resources.

"She grew up in Colorado; she understands what wilderness means," said Sen. Bob Smith, R-N.H.

Democrats said they only hope that Norton, a protégé of Reagan-era Interior Secretary James Watt, doesn't live up to their worst fears.

## Georgia legislators quell controversy with new flag design

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATLANTA — Georgia lawmakers agreed to shrink the Confederate emblem on the state flag to a tiny symbol Tuesday, heeding a plea from the governor to apply the "salve of reconciliation" and avoid the turmoil that swept South Carolina.

The 34-22 vote in the Georgia Senate virtually consigns to history a flag that some say symbolizes Southern valor, but others contend represents slavery. The measure won House approval last week, and Gov. Roy Barnes promised to sign it quickly.

"I think the people of Georgia were ready to move on," he said. "They were ready for this matter to be resolved. They did not want a long, drawn-out process like they just had in South Carolina."

The rebel banner, added to the flag in 1956 in what some historians say was a gesture of contempt for school desegregation, occupies two-thirds of the current flag.

On the new flag, it will be reduced to one of five historic flags displayed along the bottom edge, below the state seal.

*"We are one people forever woven together in a tapestry that is Georgia,"*

Gov. Roy Barnes  
D-Ga.

On a standard 3-foot by 5-foot flag, the small flags are little bigger than a dollar bill.

"I'm mad as a hornet," said Bill Cawthon, a member of the Southern Heritage League. "Our flag will always remain our flag. We will never accept the new flag."

It wasn't immediately clear when the new banners would fly at state buildings. The design was unveiled just last week.

In Mississippi, the only state besides Georgia with the Confederate emblem in its flag, voters will decide in April whether to remove the symbol.

As he did before a House vote last week, Barnes appeared before the Senate to urge the new banner's adoption.

"We are one people forever woven together in a tapestry that is Georgia," he said. "We are all one or at least we should be, and it is our job, our duty and our great challenge to fight the voices of division and seek the salve of reconciliation."

The chamber's highest-ranking black, Democratic leader Charles Walker, the son of a sharecropper, said: "This flag issue has divided us. This vote today is about uniting us."

World/Nation

The Associated Press

### ■ California

#### Man arrested after planning Columbine-style attack

CUPERTINO — Police arrested a 19-year-old man who they said had dozens of pipe bombs, Molotov cocktails and other weapons and planned to carry out a "Columbine-style attack" on a community college.

Al DeGuzman was arrested late Monday by San Jose police. Police said DeGuzman lived in San Jose and had attended De Anza College. Police closed the school Tuesday morning, believing DeGuzman planned to blow it up.

The man had 30 pipe bombs, 20 Molotov cocktails, several weapons and a stock of ammunition, said sheriff's spokesman Capt. Cary Colla.

Police in nearby San Jose said they learned of the arsenal Monday from a tip.

### ■ Washington

#### Projected federal surplus grows by a trillion

The Congressional Budget Office has boosted its projection of the federal surplus to \$3.12 trillion over the next decade, giving new momentum to President Bush's calls for a big tax cut.

The huge new figure, which excludes additional surpluses from Social Security, adds to the political muscle Alan Greenspan provided last week to Bush's push for a \$1.6 trillion, 10-year tax cut.

The influential Federal Reserve chairman said he believed surplus projections were now large enough to cut taxes, altering his previous preference for debt reduction.

The latest CBO estimate, contained in budget office documents and described Tuesday by congressional aides on condition of anonymity, is nearly \$1 trillion higher than the \$2.17 trillion the nonpartisan budget office envisioned just last July. The new projection covers fiscal years 2002 through 2011, while last summer's estimate was for 2001 through 2010.

### ■ California

#### Woman killed by dogs trained to guard drugs

SAN FRANCISCO — A woman was attacked and killed outside her apartment door by two dogs authorities said had been bred and trained to guard illegal drug laboratories.

Diane Whipple, a 33-year-old lacrosse coach, died Friday after the five-minute attack steps away from her door.

The dogs' owners, lawyers Robert Noel, 59, and his wife, Marjorie Knoller, 45, were Whipple's next-door neighbors. No immediate charges were filed against the couple.

The dogs had been raised as part of a business run out of Pelican Bay State Prison by white supremacist inmates Paul Schneider, 38, and Dale Bretches, 44, said Corrections Department spokesman Russ Heimerich.

The business bred and trained dogs to guard criminal operations such as methamphetamine labs, Heimerich said.

Noel and his wife recently adopted Schneider as their son, according to court papers.

Noel acquired the dogs three months ago from Janet Coumbs, who was raising them for the inmates, according to the San Francisco Chronicle.

### ■ England

#### Britain keeps morning after pill available to public

LONDON — Britain's House of Lords rejected a bid to stop sales of the "morning after" contraceptive pill, voting their support Monday for a government strategy to cut Europe's highest teen-age pregnancy rate.

Proponents of the ban fear sales of the pregnancy-preventing drug grant youngsters a license to do as they please.

Opponents said it would mean more unwanted pregnancies.

DailyNebraskan

Editor: Sarah Baker  
Managing Editor: Bradley Davis  
Associate News Editor: Kimberly Sweet  
Assignment Editor: Jill Zeman  
Opinion Editor: Jake Glazeski  
Sports Editor: Matthew Hansen  
Assistant Sports Editor: David Diehl  
Arts Editor: Samuel McKewon  
Copy Desk Chief: Danell McCoy  
Copy Desk Chief: Jeff Bloom  
Art Director: Melanie Falk  
Delan Lonowski  
Photo Chief: Scott McClurg  
Bradley Davis  
Design Coordinator: Samuel McKewon  
Web Editor: Gregg Sterns  
Assistant Web Editor: Tanner Graham  
General Manager: Daniel Shaattl  
Publications Board  
Chairman: (402) 436-7226  
Professional Adviser: Don Walton  
(402) 473-7248  
Advertising Manager: Nick Partsch  
(402) 472-2589  
Assistant Ad Manager: Nicole Wolta  
Classified Ad Manager: Nikki Bruner  
Circulation Manager: Imtiaz Khan

Fax number: (402) 472-1761  
World Wide Web: www.dailynebr.com  
The Daily Nebraskan (USPS 144-080) is published by the UNL Publications Board, 20 Nebraska Union, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE 68588-0448, 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, 20 Nebraska Union, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE 68588-0448. Periodical postage paid at Lincoln, NE.  
ALL MATERIAL COPYRIGHT 2001  
THE DAILY NEBRASKAN  
Questions? Comments?  
Ask for the appropriate section editor at  
(402) 472-2589 or e-mail dn@unl.edu.

Weather

TODAY	TOMORROW
Mostly cloudy high 34, low 17	Mostly cloudy high 30, low 14