

## Bush plan one of 'class warfare'

■ The president asked Americans to stand behind his tax proposal, which would benefit the wealthy the most.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Flanked by a jumbo refund-check stage prop, President Bush asked Americans to get behind his proposed tax cuts Monday and said the reductions should be retroactive to Jan. 1 to "help get money into the people's pockets quicker."

He warned Congress and an army of lobbyists against add-ons, saying his plan is the right size "and I'm going to defend it mightily."

In the White House diplomatic room, the president began a drive for the upper hand as he and Congress move toward formal debate over the centerpiece of his campaign. He did not shy from the idea, emphasized by Democrats in what Bush decried as "class warfare," that the wealthiest Americans stand to benefit the most.

"All the income tax rates should be cut," Bush said. "Our tax code should not punish success at any stage of life."

He stood beside a jumbo check written out to "U.S. Taxpayer" in the amount of \$1,600 — the average tax cut for a family of four under his plan, according to estimates — and gathered around him three photogenic families who, in the bottom three tax brackets, would realize tax savings.

Asked by a reporter why no one was there representing the top bracket, Bush laughed. "Well, I beg your pardon," he said. "I got a little pay raise coming to Washington from Austin. I'll be in the top bracket."

The former Texas governor makes \$400,000 as president under 1999 legislation that doubled the \$200,000 annual salary.

Bush has proposed lowering and simplifying federal income tax rates by 2006.

Current rates are 15 percent, 28 percent, 31 percent, 36 percent and 39.6 percent.

New rates would be 10 percent, 15 percent, 25 percent and 33 percent.

He also would expand child credits, ease

the so-called marriage penalty and gradually repeal estate taxes.

Presidential appearances planned for Tuesday and Wednesday were to highlight such individual benefits plus the job-creation potential of tax cuts, before Bush submits his plan to Congress on Thursday.

Drawing battle lines, Democrats contended that Bush's proposal would disproportionately help the wealthy and, combined with his spending plans, would bring back federal deficits.

Senate Democratic leader Tom Daschle said earners making about \$300,000 would get enough of a tax break to pay for a Lexus, while people making \$50,000 a year would see only enough tax savings to buy a muffler for a used car.

Sen. Kent Conrad, a top Democrat on the budget committee said rate cuts needed to be aimed more at middle- and low-income earners. "All I hear from the Bush administration about compromise is we're supposed to accept their position. We're not going to do that," said Conrad.

Retroactivity will not be part of Bush's formal submission, aides say, but the president said Monday he would fight for it. "We look forward to working with Congress to expedite money into the pockets of the American people."

Bush played down his argument that tax cuts could stimulate a slowing economy and underscored instead their bread-and-butter appeal.

"This is real and practical help when, at this time, many Americans need it," Bush said, ticking down what \$1,600 could buy: a year's tuition at community college; gasoline for two cars for a year or, with a political eye on California's energy crisis, 24 months of electricity there.

"It's tax relief for everybody who pays taxes. That's what the times and basic fairness demand," Bush said.

At an afternoon swearing-in ceremony, Bush left the economic gloom to his commerce secretary. Don Evans spoke of "dark clouds" in economic indicators, saying Bush's tax plan "is timely and it is necessary."

## Man revolts, kills four at engine plant

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MELROSE PARK, Ill. — A factory worker who got caught stealing from his employer forced his way into the suburban Chicago engine plant Monday and opened fire one day before he was to report to prison.

He killed five people, including himself, and wounded four others.

William D. Baker, 66, showed up at the Navistar International plant with an arsenal of weapons in a golf bag and made his way through the vast building, blasting away with an AK-47 assault rifle, police said.

Employees scattered in terror.

He shot seven people, three of them fatally, in an engineering area, then went into an office, where he killed one person and then shot himself, police said.

Baker had been scheduled to surrender Tuesday to serve a five-month federal sentence for conspiracy to commit theft from an interstate shipment. He pleaded guilty last June, six years after he was fired.

Martin Reutimann, a 24-year-old engineer, was sitting at his desk when he heard gunfire about 10 a.m.

"I heard somebody yell, 'There's a guy in the center aisle with a gun!'" Reutimann said, referring to the long hallway where engines are tested. Reutimann said he didn't believe it at first, then saw people running past him. He grabbed his coat and cellular phone and dialed 911.

Police said Baker showed up at the plant with his weapons in a golf bag. When a security guard tried to stop him, Baker put a .38-caliber revolver to her side and forced his way into the plant. Once inside the plant, Baker fired the assault rifle, police said.

He also carried a shotgun and a .30-caliber hunting rifle in addition to the revolver, police said. They were not sure whether those weapons were used.

Navistar identified three of the dead as Baker; Daniel Dorsch, 52, a supervisor in the engine lab; and Robert Wehrheim, 47, a lab technician. Two were not identified at the request of their families.

Of the wounded, one was in critical condition: Carl Swanson, 45, who was shot in the abdomen.

Baker was a tool room attendant from suburban Carol Stream who had worked at the plant for 39 years before he was fired in 1994.

According to his plea agreement, Baker admitted helping a fellow plant employee steal diesel engines and components worth \$195,400. He used his forklift to hoist the engines onto a truck driven by the other employee. The thefts began in the fall of 1993 and stopped the next spring.

Baker was sentenced Nov. 7. He had faced five months of house arrest after his prison term and had been ordered to repay the \$195,400.



Irv Rubin, the director of the Jewish Defense League, uses a bull horn to ward away visitors from the Holy Land Experience theme park Monday in Orlando, Fla.

## Christian park blasted by critics

■ The Holy Land, a biblical-era theme park, opened despite protests from the Jewish Defense League.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ORLANDO, Fla. — A Christian theme park that re-creates the Holy Land during the biblical era opened Monday amid protests from critics who say the attraction is aimed at converting Jews.

An actor in a white caftan welcomed the first guests to the \$16 million Holy Land Experience with several blasts from a shofar, or ram's horn.

Visitors were greeted by two actors dressed as Roman soldiers in armor, who talked about the history of Herod's Temple. Workers in robes hawked ritual prayer shawls, menorahs and cold drinks from kiosks.

On the steps of a re-creation of Herod's Temple, a half-dozen actors in biblical-period clothes sang songs about Christian persecution by the Romans and how Jesus would come back to save them.

Outside the fences, the leader of the militant Jewish Defense League, Irv Rubin, called park founder Marvin Rosenthal a "soul-snatcher."

"His whole raison d'etre is to recruit Jews, to steal our souls," said Rubin, leading a three-man protest.

Rosenthal, a Baptist minister who was born Jewish, said there was no hidden agenda at the park other than to spread the teachings of the Bible to people of all faiths.

"The idea that we're targeting Jewish people is fallacious," said Rosenthal, who calls himself a Hebrew Christian. "We would be thrilled if Jewish people came to these facilities. They won't be buttonholed. They won't be coerced."

Although Hebrew Christians consider themselves Jewish, mainstream Jews do not recognize them as such because Hebrew Christians believe that Jesus is the Messiah.

Leaders of Orlando's Jewish community, which has about 25,000 people, chose to ignore the park's opening. However, they have gotten the word out to Jewish communities around the world to avoid the park, said Rabbi

Merrill Shapiro of Congregation Beth Am.

"Mr. Rosenthal says you can be Christian and Jewish at the same time, but that's not true," Shapiro said.

"We have a great interest in not attracting a lot of attention to this park."

It was too late for that Monday, as dozens of reporters attended the opening and about 800 people of varying Christian denominations paid \$17 each to roam the 15-acre park.

"I haven't seen anything that trivializes religion," said David Graber, a Mennonite pastor from Sarasota.

"We're different from many denominations, but I feel comfortable here."

The park's gift shop, The Old Scroll Shop, sold shofars — blown during the Jewish High Holidays — and books with Jewish themes, such as "The Chosen" and "The History of the Jews."

Marge McQuiston, a Lutheran visitor from Lakeland, saw the park as an opportunity for Christians and Jews to better understand each other.

"If we can't get along in a theme park, how are we going to get along in a place like Israel?" she said.

Weather	
TODAY	TOMORROW
Partly cloudy high 36, low 21	Snow high 29, low 24

**DailyNebraskan**

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## Businesses go black to save power

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — "Power police" prowling car dealerships to make sure outdoor lights are turned off. Acres of darkened parking lots.

Fines of up to \$1,000 a day. All are possible under Gov. Gray Davis' executive order last week requiring retailers to "substantially reduce" outdoor lighting during nonbusiness hours. The order becomes mandatory on March 15.

The goal is to ease California's power crunch by halving the demand for retail outdoor lighting.

"Everybody has to do their part," Davis spokesman Roger Salazar said.

"We feel that Californians will respond pretty strongly to this ... hopefully, we won't have to issue fines."

The order came amid Stage 3 power alert that entered its 21st consecutive day Sunday and will remain in effect until at least midnight Tuesday.

Such alerts are called when

energy reserves dip below 1.5 percent and set the stage for rolling blackouts. On Sunday, Lorie O'Donley, a spokeswoman for the California Independent System Operator, predicted no immediate rolling blackouts.

Davis' order exempts lighting deemed "necessary for the health and safety of the public, employees and property." But what that means in practical terms hasn't been determined.

"Is it half my lights? Is it a third? I can't answer that," said Kenneth Greene, vice president and general manager of Silver Star Motor Car Co. in Thousand Oaks.

The dealership has five acres of Oldsmobile and Lexus cars, and luxury sport utility vehicles like Land Rovers and Humvees with price tags up to \$100,000.

Vandalism and thefts have occurred, so outdoor lighting is important.

"Car lots have to be big users of energy," said Henry Hansel, president of the dealers association at the Petaluma Auto Mall. "Our wares are outside, unlike a Macy's where they have their products

indoors. ... We have to light it."

Hansel and Greene said they were cutting electricity use. "I do want to do what's right," Greene said. "I know we'll try."

Nobody has precise figures on how much electricity outdoor signs and parking lot lights consume.

But Home Depot, with 140 stores in California, believed that its stores by themselves could save enough electricity each month to power 1,800 houses, spokesman Chuck Sifuentes said.

Law enforcement officials said they hoped businesses voluntarily complied.

"Enforcing it would be the last thing that we do," said Deputy R. Bottomley of the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department.

Darkening auto dealerships and store parking lots could "be a help for the criminal element," said Lt. Jim Peery of the Police Department in Tustin, south of Los Angeles.

Peery said his department's 95 officers might have to do extra policing if businesses darkened their outdoor signs and lights.

## World/Nation

The Associated Press

### ■ Russia Clintons agree to return gifts taken from White House

WASHINGTON — Bill Clinton and Hillary Rodham Clinton said Monday they will give back any gifts they took from the White House if it turns out the items weren't meant for them personally.

The White House curator's office is working with the Clintons to figure out the intentions of the people who donated the gifts, President Bush's spokesman Ari Fleischer said.

Gifts worth a total of more than \$23,000 — including two sofas, rattan chairs, an ottoman, an easy chair and a kitchen table — were in question.

### ■ Illinois Young gay black men believed most at risk for HIV infection

CHICAGO — A stunning one-third of young gay black men in large U.S. cities are infected with HIV, another sign of the growing racial divide in the AIDS epidemic.

The findings, based on a study released Monday, show that HIV infections are disturbingly common among gay men of all races in their 20s, especially considering that they grew up knowing how AIDS spreads.

However, HIV is particularly rampant among young gay blacks, and experts worry that these men have missed the safe-sex message that has been a drumbeat among white homosexual men since the mid-1980s.

The study found that among young gay men, 3 percent of Asians, 7 percent of whites, 15 percent of Hispanics and 30 percent of blacks are infected with the virus.

### ■ New York Trial begins for four accused of bombing U.S. embassies

NEW YORK — Four men went on trial Monday in the 1998 bombings of two U.S. embassies in Africa, with prosecutors portraying the deadly blasts as part of a worldwide plot by terrorist mastermind Osama bin Laden to kill Americans.

"The story that's about to unfold before you is long, complicated and chilling," prosecutor Paul Butler said in his opening statement.

Staring and pointing at each defendant, Butler said the men contributed to bin Laden's decade-long terrorism spree aimed at weakening or overthrowing governments he disliked.

### ■ Massachusetts 11-year-old boy charged in stabbing of other youth

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. — An 11-year-old boy was charged Monday in the stabbing death of another 11-year-old moments after the two argued at a movie theater.

The boy killed, fifth-grader Nestor Herrera, was on his first outing to the movies without a grown-up. He was stabbed in the theater lobby Saturday night, minutes after he called to check in with his mother, and he died later at a hospital.

The defendant, whose name was not released, is charged with juvenile delinquency by reason of murder.

### ■ New York Rapper Big Pun's death to be memorialized with mural

NEW YORK — Family, friends and fans of Christopher Rios, the platinum-selling rapper known as Big Pun, will gather in the South Bronx on Tuesday to commemorate the first anniversary of his death.

The 698-pound Rios, known for his imaginative lyrics and smooth delivery, was 28 when he died of complications from obesity on Feb. 7, 2000.

A mural painted last year at 163rd St. and Westchester Avenue will be whitewashed and a Bronx-based hip-hop graffiti artist will paint a new mural, according to a news release.