

At a glance

A brief look at our world

State

Pitt. officials propose changes in busing

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Pittsburgh Public Schools officials have proposed changes that could end forced busing by reassigning students to neighborhood schools.

Officials acknowledged that the changes would create more segregated schools in the district. But they insisted that parents would have more choices about where to send their children to school.

After a series of public forums on the proposal that begin next week, city school directors expect to vote on a final plan in April. Most of the changes would be made by this fall, with the plan's implementation completed within two years.

The plan, announced Wednesday, divides the city into nine clusters centered around local high schools.

Eleven new schools would open, and some special education programs would be moved to keep kids in their own neighborhoods.

Nation

Killer of Jordan's dad convicted by jury

LUMBERTON, N.C. (AP) — An ex-convict was convicted yesterday of murdering basketball star Michael Jordan's father, who was shot during a holdup as he awoke from a nap along a dark highway in his \$40,000 luxury car.

Daniel Green, 21, could get the death penalty for shooting 57-year-old James R. Jordan in the chest in 1993.

Demery himself was the prosecution's star witness. He pleaded guilty to murder before testifying against Green and also could get the death penalty.

The jury deliberated 4½ hours over two days before returning guilty verdicts on all charges, including robbery and conspiracy. The jury is expected to return today to consider whether Green should get life in prison or the death penalty.

Lawyer ordered jailed for holding drug cash

OCALA, Fla. (AP) — F. Lee Bailey was ordered jailed yesterday for failing to turn over millions in cash and stock from a drug-dealer client. Prosecutors say the money belongs to the government.

The 62-year-old defense attorney must report to prison today for a six-month contempt of court sentence unless he can produce the money and stock, Paul ruled.

Bailey says his former client gave him the assets, now worth \$3 million cash and \$18.7 million in stock, for legal fees and expenses in a drug-trafficking case.

Prosecutors claim most of it belongs to the government, as part of the forfeiture the drug dealer agreed to in a plea bargain, and that Bailey was supposed to take only fees and expenses and then turn over the rest.

World

AIDS activists protest lottery for new drug

SAINT-REMY-SUR-AVRE, France (AP) — Forty AIDS activists blocked entrances and production lines at a U.S. pharmaceutical company lab yesterday to protest a French proposal to set up a lottery for a new drug.

The protesters, all members of the AIDS activist group ACT UP, occupied an Abbott Laboratories plant in this town about 60 miles west of Paris.

The protesters said they were fighting a plan for a lottery to ensure that powerful new U.S.-developed AIDS drugs would be equitably distributed. French officials are expecting a shortage.

The drugs, called protease inhibitors, attack the AIDS virus in a different way than medicines that have been on the market for several years.

Clinton warns Cuba to avoid conflict

By TERENCE HUNT
AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON, D.C. — President Clinton sternly warned Fidel Castro not to interfere with a memorial service this weekend near Cuban waters where two unarmed planes were shot down. Coast Guard planes and ships were ordered to be on hand to ensure the ceremony is peaceful.

"In plain English, the United States of America will not tolerate unacceptable behavior by the Cuban government," White House press secretary Mike McCurry said yesterday. "We'll make sure that there will not be loss of innocent lives such as occurred last weekend."

At the same time, the government took new steps to prevent American ships and

"In plain English, the United States of America will not tolerate unacceptable behavior by the Cuban government."

— Mike McCurry
White House press secretary

planes from entering Cuban waters and airspace without permission. Violators will face "firm legal action," McCurry said. Such incursions already are illegal.

Using boats and planes, exile groups plan to converge at the site in the Straits of Flori-

da where Cuban MiGs destroyed two Cessna planes. The aircraft belonged to Brothers to the Rescue, a Miami-based group that has rescued refugees from the waters around Cuba and has dropped anti-Castro leaflets over Havana.

Giving the administration's blessing to the ceremony, McCurry said Clinton "believes this is a very appropriate way to commemorate the lives of four victims of this barbarous act by the Cuban regime."

Cuba complains that aircraft flown by Americans have violated Cuban airspace 25 times over the past 20 months. Havana said that it will keep a hands-off approach on Saturday as long as participants stay in international waters, according to Cuba's press agency.

U.S. military forces will not oversee the

memorial service, McCurry said, but he indicated they will be on call. A Navy carrier battle group led by the USS Enterprise already is nearby, conducting exercises off the coast of Puerto Rico.

The Pentagon is "very much a part of the planning that's going into Saturday's event," McCurry said.

Separately, Republican Rep. Dan Burton of Indiana asserted that Air Force jets at Homestead Air Force Base in Florida were denied permission to scramble last weekend after learning that Cuban MiGs were in the air. The Pentagon denied it.

For the future, McCurry said Clinton was undertaking a series of steps to protect the safety of American citizens and ensure they abide by the law banning unauthorized entry to Cuban territory.

Candidates battle in SC debate

By JOHN KING
AP Political Writer

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Debating on decidedly conservative turf, Republican presidential hopefuls defended all-male schools and displaying the Confederate flag yesterday and talked tough about cutting government and confronting Cuba. Three ganged up to label Bob Dole a chronic tax-raiser.

"Don't malign my integrity here," Dole retorted at one point, recalling his Senate role in pushing through Ronald Reagan's tax cuts and fighting President Clinton's 1993 tax increase.

The combative lunch-hour debate brought the four leading Republicans hopefuls together just two days before South Carolina's primary — a must-win event in Dole's comeback strategy and the scene-setter for voting in nine states on Tuesday.

There was no doubt that the candidates recognized the stakes, often interrupting to rebut rivals. Nor was there any doubt that the campaign had shifted to the solidly conservative South.

At one point, publisher Steve Forbes and Lamar Alexander had a contentious shouting match over Alexander's personal finances and the tax increases he adopted as Tennessee governor.

Dole, defending his lead here, repeatedly interrupted rivals to counter their criticisms and twice noted that he alone among the candidates has served in the active military.

Polls show Buchanan running a solid second in South Carolina, with Forbes and Alexander battling for



Republican presidential hopefuls Pat Buchanan, left, and Lamar Alexander talk during a break in the debate. The candidates debated in Columbia, South Carolina yesterday, primarily discussing social issues and taxes.

third. Even third could prove lethal to Alexander's struggling candidacy, and his tone made clear he knew the price of placing fourth.

"He talks like a conservative and acts like a liberal," Forbes said of Alexander. As they glared and pointed fingers, Forbes suggested

Alexander participated in several sweetheart investment deals while governor.

"You should be ashamed of yourself," Alexander said, taking Forbes to task for spending millions of dollars "smearing Bob Dole, smearing me."

More often than not, however, Forbes and Alexander were partners against Dole. And they received eager assistance from Buchanan, only an occasional target this time after coming under consistent attack at a forum last week in Arizona.

TV industry works on rating system

By JEANNINE AVERSA
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Under pressure from parents and politicians, the television industry promised yesterday to devise a ratings system to warn of violence and sex.

"They're handing the TV remote control back to America's parents," President Clinton said.

The promise to rate thousands of hours of programs by the end of the year came during a White House meeting between Clinton and about 30 television and entertainment industry executives.

Clinton also pressed his interest in requiring stations to air at least three hours a week of educational programs for children.

Though the broadcasting industry opposes such quotas, TV executives told reporters they are interested in improving the quality of programming.

"It is not enough for parents to be able to tune out what they don't want their children to watch," Clinton said. "They want to be able to tune in good programs that their children will watch."

"I think (there will be) more Brady Bunch type of programming than cutting edge," said Ted Turner, chief of Turner Broadcasting System Inc.

TV executives envision a system like the one used for movies, but they are a long way from agreement on whether cartoons and news magazine shows should be rated and how to rate soap operas.

A task force of TV executives will begin work today to devise ratings criteria and symbols and decide what will and won't be rated.

"I think it's going to be ardu-

"They're handing the TV remote control back to America's parents."

— Bill Clinton
president

ous, be tormenting," said Motion Picture Association of America President Jack Valenti, who is overseeing the ratings effort.

Industry executives privately insist news and sports programs won't be rated, but Valenti said no decision had been made.

The system would cover programs on commercial and public television and on cable. Program distributors would apply the rating.

A new law urges — but doesn't force — the TV industry to rate programs. The ratings, however, are critical to another requirement of the law: that new TV sets be equipped with the v-chip. With a remote-control-like device, a person can block such programs from appearing on the TV screen. Without the ratings, the v-chip is useless.

Vice President Al Gore predicted the system eventually would reduce the amount of violence and sex on television.

NBC President Bob Wright said his network is preparing for "some fallout" of advertising revenue from a ratings plan. The theory is that programs that carry a tougher sex and violence rating won't be as attractive to most advertisers as programming with benign ratings.

Major advertising groups say they support the plan.

Agency deems Pa. disaster relief funding too meager

By HEIDI RUSSELL
Associated Press Writer

HARRISBURG — With \$750 million in damages from this winter's blizzards and floods, Pennsylvania residents are not seeing enough funding support from the federal government, the director of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency said yesterday.

It is unknown how much Pennsylvania stands to lose, Charles Wynne told the Senate Appropriations Committee. But, he said, PEMA plans to appeal some federal funding decisions that could hurt relief efforts.

"The cost for fire, EMS (emergency management services), police — things like that are not reimbursable. We intend to appeal for maximum recovery for the commonwealth," Wynne said.

Road damages totaled \$500 million; costs to local

governments, residents, businesses and fire companies totaled \$250 million, he said.

Morrie Goodman, director of emergency information at the Federal Emergency Management Agency in Washington, D.C., said \$58 million has been given so far to individuals and small businesses in Pennsylvania.

"There has been not one bit of criticism voiced by any other state in the blizzards or floods of 1996 than Pennsylvania," Goodman said.

Tallies of losses to individual Pennsylvanians change by the day, but so far, 43 people have exceeded the federal assistance available to them. They have \$500,000 in unmet needs, Wynne said. Another 145 businesses have qualified for \$6.2 million in federal disaster loans.

And 1,600 municipalities and private nonprofit organizations have applied for flood relief, as well as 573 more for blizzard damages.

Gorbachev running in election

By DAVE CARPENTER
Associated Press Writer

MOSCOW — Mikhail Gorbachev has decided to join the race for the Russian presidency, undaunted by his abysmal public rating and overwhelming evidence that says he can't possibly win.

The former Soviet president, coy for months about his political plans, stopped just short of formally declaring his candidacy, however.

That could come as soon as today, the eve of his 65th birthday. Gorbachev has scheduled a news conference to make what spokesmen called an "important announcement" concerning the June 16 presidential election.

"I can confirm that I am internally ready" to run, he said at the Gorbachev Foundation think tank in Moscow. "It's just a question of the time and the place that I will declare."

Gorbachev remains popular in the West as the man who brought down the Soviet police state. But he lost the support of pro-reform Rus-

sians before leaving office in 1991, by waffling on reforms and resorting to authoritarian tactics as his government was collapsing. Hard-liners revile him for tearing the system apart and leaving the nation adrift.

Few Russians are likely to take Gorbachev's candidacy seriously — he is barely an afterthought on the current political scene. Only Western reporters showed up at Gorbachev's office to quiz him about his plans.

Recent public opinion polls show only about 1 percent of Russians would vote for him for president.

A longtime bitter rival of President Boris Yeltsin, Gorbachev said his platform would be "an alternative to the current regime and an alternative to Communist fundamentalism."

The current front-runner in the presidential race is Communist leader Gennady Zyuganov, a favorite with those who link the unraveling of the social safety net, sky-high inflation and the explosion in crime and corruption with Yeltsin's economic reforms.

Keyes left out, goes on hunger protest

By The Associated Press

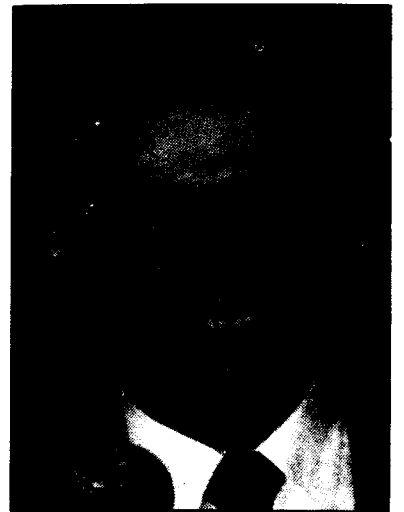
COLUMBIA, S.C. — Republican Alan Keyes said he was starting a hunger strike to protest his exclusion from the presidential debate yesterday.

Keyes, who has finished near the bottom in primary contests to date, was not invited to participate in this debate.

A South Carolina business council sponsored the hour-long debate that featured the four leading GOP candidates — Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, commentator Pat Buchanan, publisher Steve Forbes and former Tennessee Gov. Lamar Alexander.

"Is our crisis today a money crisis or a moral crisis?" Keyes said. "Unless I am on that stage, that question will not be raised."

Keyes said that he was encouraging his supporters to join in his fast, which he said would not end until "I get assurances of fair and equitable treatment . . . to make sure the message I represent is heard by the American people."



Mikhail Gorbachev running for president of Russia

Asked to rate his chances, Gorbachev said: "If I make the decision to run, then I don't just intend to be a wedding general" — a Russian expression meaning ceremonial bystander.