NEWS IN BRIEF

A QUICK GLANCE AT EVENTS AROUND THE GLOBE



Ridge focuses on convention, second term

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — GOP Gov. Tom Ridge downplayed the impact of the Philadelphia-bound Republican National Convention on his own political future.

Ridge, offering a preview of his second term, said he is focused on the next four years: pressing for school vouchers, seeking funding for college scholarships to science students, perhaps modest campaign reform and small changes to a new tax-reform law.

While Ridge deflected questions on his own political future in an interview with The Philadelphia Inquirer, he said party leaders were wise to choose Philadelphia as host of the 2000 Republican National

"You've got so many governors doing some good things in the Midwestern and Northeastern states right now," Ridge said. "By and large, they were overwhelmingly reelected. Pretty conservative folks, but they have a very practical conservatism."

Some pundits said the convention will give Ridge a big boost.

David Kozak, a professor at Gannon University in Ridge's hometown of Erie, has taught a course on Ridge's first term. He said it's a major accomplishment for someone who's widely mentioned as a possible vice-presidential candidate in 2000.



Livingston: Public's view part of inquiry

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) - In his first remarks on President Clinton's troubles since the Republican upheaval, the leading contender to succeed Newt Gingrich as House speaker said Congress must take into account the public's view that the presidential affair and cover-up do not warrant impeachment.

"I don't know if he's home free or not," Rep. Bob Livingston, R-La., said on television yesterday, the eve of a House Judiciary subcommittee hearing on what constitutes an impeachable offense. "The charges are that he ... lied under oath. And I think that is very serious."

Livingston said he would vote for impeachment "if the evidence is

"We cannot simply disregard the fact that there are other people in our society, in the military and in various other walks of life, CEOs or principals of schools, who have been likewise charged and have lost their jobs," he said.

He added, however: "I think that the American people have certainly indicated in the polls that they don't see it as an impeachable or dismissible offense, and that would have to be considered in the political arena.'

Glenn almost back to normal after shaky return

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) - After a shaky reintroduction to gravity, John Glenn was "95 or 98 percent back to normal" yesterday, walking briskly, telling jokes and urging old folks to follow their

"I feel very elated that things went well. We got a lot of the data we were looking to get and worked very hard up there," NASA's 77-yearold geriatric test subject said his first morning back on Earth.

Obviously, we'd like to ... go right back up again, but that's not to be. And so a sense of accomplishment I guess I feel and a little bit of letdown that the whole thing is over, maybe, but nothing serious.'

In his first post-flight news conference, Glenn admitted he "didn't feel too hot" when he stood and walked out of space shuttle Discovery on Saturday.

He was determined, though, to join his six crewmates for the traditional walk around the shuttle.

"If I would have been on my hands and knees I was going to do it," said Glenn, who beat the oldest-spaceman record by 16 years. "I wasn't quite to that point, but obviously I was not doing my best gait out there. I was not disoriented, that would be too strong a word for it. But you're walking very spraddle-legged so you can keep your balance."

Case shows split in Microsoft-Intel partnership

NEW YORK (AP) — They once were high tech's bosom buddies. Microsoft Corp.'s software and Intel Corp.'s microprocessors, it seemed, would set the pace of technology forever by shaping the innards of almost all desktop computers.

Forget that warm and fuzzy image.

When an Intel vice president takes the stand in Washington this week as a government witness in the Microsoft antitrust case, his testimony will mark just the latest rift in a different sort of Microsoft-Intel relationship: At times acrimonious and sometimes, prosecutors contend, marked by Microsoft bullying that is at odds with antitrust law.

In one of the most intriguing aspects of its unfolding case, the government is expected to argue that Microsoft used its market heft to force even Intel to scrap new technology efforts that clashed with Microsoft's goals.

Federal prosecutors also accuse Microsoft of trying to stop Netscape Communications Corp. and Apple Computer Inc. from competing. But the Intel aspect is particularly notable because it illuminates a widening breach in what's arguably the world's most powerful business



New accord dispute centers on radical groups

JERUSALEM (AP) - With Israeli soldiers fanning out yesterday in search of a militant Islamic leader, Israel demanded that Palestinian authorities outlaw the military wings of two radical groups.

Implementation of the new Mideast land-for-security accord, signed Oct. 23 in Washington, was supposed to have begun last week, but has hit various snags. Most recently, Israel's Cabinet put off a vote to ratify the accord after a suicide bombing Friday in Jerusalem that killed the two assailants and injured 21 Israelis. The radical group Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility.

Yesterday, the Israeli army set up roadblocks, forbade residents from leaving their homes for several hours and carried out searches in the West Bank village of Kabatiya for a leader of the militant group.

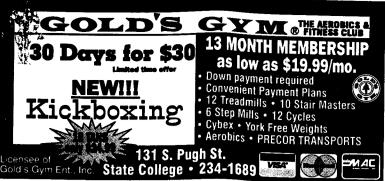
The Israeli army said troops had fired at a fleeing terrorist suspect there and soldiers found a pistol and fake Israeli identification cards in the suspect's abandoned car. David Bar-Illan, a top aide to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, said yesterday that Israel expects Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to formally outlaw the military wings of Islamic Jihad and the larger militant group Hamas.

Communists protested over anti-Semitic remarks

MOSCOW (AP) — A political backlash gained strength yesterday against Russia's Communist Party, which incited old animosities last week when it failed to condemn a member for anti-Semitic comments.

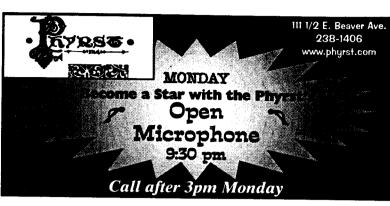
A powerful business tycoon and a former prime minister were among those who called for banning the party for supporting Albert Makashov, a Communist lawmaker who recently blamed the country's problems on "zhidy," or "yids" — a derogatory term for Jews.

Former Prime Minister Yegor Gaidar, raising the specter of Nazi Germany, said the incident proved that the Communists were now embracing fascist ideas. The other prominent Russian urging a ban s Berezovsky, one of the country's richest and most powerful men, whose own Jewish origins have frequently served as a lightning rod for Russian anti-Semites.







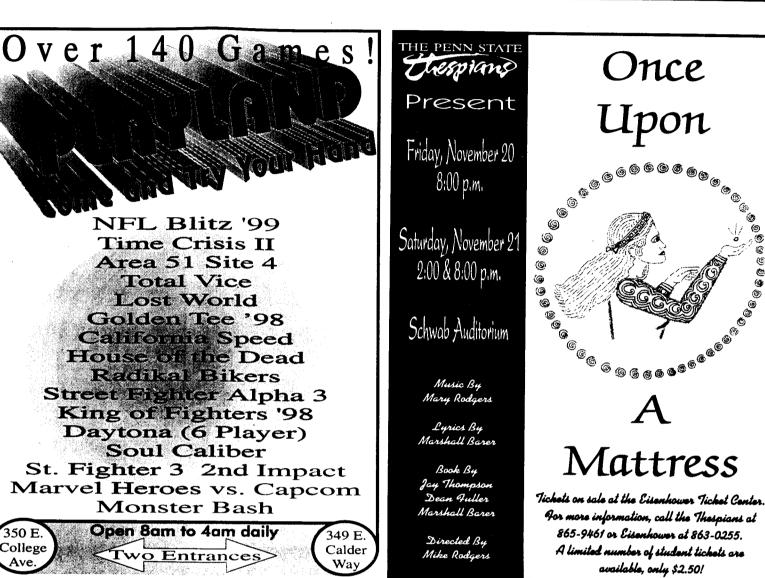


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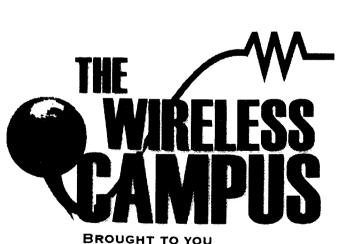
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