

NATION & WORLD

Though not yet the nominee, Gore raises money for general election

BY JONATHAN SALANT
ASSOCIATED PRESS



WASHINGTON — Vice President Al Gore is raising millions of dollars for a general election he's not assured of running in, a practice that federal regulators are trying to stop.

Gore raised \$2 million through June 30 for a special type of legal fund used by presidential nominees. This fund allows him to solicit a second contribution of \$1,000 from supporters limited to giving a maximum of \$1,000 to Gore's Democratic primary campaign. It also allows him to bill half of the fund-raising costs to his general election fund rather than his campaign account for the presidential primaries, which has spending limits.

"It is a legal way of allocating certain expenditures to that account rather than crediting those expenditures against his overall spending limit," said Herbert Alexander, professor emeritus of political science at the University of Southern California.

Previous candidates have used these general election funds to skirt federal limits on spending during the primaries. That was one reason the Federal Election Commission cited last month when it voted to ban fund raising for the general election account until June 1 of a presidential election year.

The change has not taken effect, meaning Gore can continue to seek contribu-

tions for the 2000 general election. Congress also could block the change.

"We believe Al Gore will be the Democratic Party nominee and the participant in the general election," Gore campaign spokeswoman Kiki Moore said. If he doesn't win the nomination, FCC rules require that the money be refunded to the donors.

Gore's opponent for the Democratic nomination, former Sen. Bill Bradley, hasn't set up a general election account. "The Bradley campaign is not raising general election accounting money or looking for other so-called legal loopholes to exploit during this campaign," spokeswoman Anita Dunn said.

Months before receiving the 1996 Republican presidential nomination, Bob Dole reached into his general election fund to pay for campaign events and staff salaries and travel. The move helped keep him on the campaign trail when his primary campaign had spent virtually all it could under federal law.

FEC auditors later said Dole's general election fund improperly spent \$377,186 that should have been paid for by his primary campaign. That was one of the issues raised when the commission voted to require Dole's primary and general election campaigns to repay \$3.7 million.

In 1992, the FEC said Bill Clinton's primary campaign could borrow money from his general election fund while waiting for some reimbursements it was due. The Clinton-Gore campaign also raised general election money early for the 1996 race.

Candidates must agree to spending limits if they accept partial federal funding of their primary campaigns. In the

general election, candidates can receive full federal funding for their campaigns by agreeing not to raise any private money, except to pay the costs of complying with the election rules. For this, they set up the special legal funds. Individual contributions are limited to \$1,000, just as they are for primary and congressional campaigns.

Some have expressed concern that Gore, facing a well-financed primary challenge from Bradley, could push up against the spending limits — expected to be around \$40 million — next spring. That's what happened to Dole.

Meanwhile, Republican front-runner George W. Bush, who isn't accepting federal funds for the primaries, can spend as much money as he can raise, uncumbered by spending limits. Bush had \$30 million in the bank as of June 30. Gore had \$9.4 million, Bradley \$7.5 million.

Gore recently used a single fund-raising letter to make a plea for donations to both of his funds. Seeking money for the general election fund, the letter said that if his primary campaign has to cover legal costs, "we have less to invest in the necessary political work necessary to ensure victory in 2000."

Only three other presidential candidates — Republicans Bush, John McCain and Dan Quayle — have set up these special accounts so far, FEC records show.

Bush raised \$37,410 through June 30 and Quayle collected \$4,117, but both candidates simply accepted excess money from donors who exceeded the \$1,000 contribution limit to their primary campaigns. McCain's fund raised nothing.

EARTHQUAKE

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several destroyed rooms. A woman pulled from the building urged rescuers to keep looking for survivors.

"Hurry, go rescue people. They're in there. They're inside," said the unidentified woman, who was dressed in street clothes and didn't appear to be seriously injured. "I lived on the ninth floor, but now it's the fourth floor."

Meanwhile, 50 people were injured when a 12-story apartment building collapsed in the Taipei suburb of Hsinchuang. An estimated 100 others were trapped

in the building, which collapsed onto a neighboring five-story structure.

But Taipei, with a 2.7 million population, was spared much of the damage. The government called off work and school across the island, leaving the capital's normally congested streets relatively empty.

President Lee Teng-hui flew by helicopter to Taichung to direct rescue work, while Vice President Lien Chan went to Nantou.

Tuesday's quake was Taiwan's worst since a 7.4 magnitude temblor hit the island in 1935, killing 3,276 people. Taiwan is hit by dozens of quakes each year, but most are centered east of the island and rarely cause damage.

1,712 killed in Taiwan quake



The deadly earthquake that struck Taiwan on Tuesday morning left the island nation off the coast of mainland China devastated. The quake wrecked buildings in the nation's capital of Taipei, even though the city is 90 miles from the epicenter.

Brad Walters GRAPHICS EDITOR

FDA approves new antibiotic

BY LAUREN NEERGAARD
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The government Tuesday approved a long-needed new weapon against the growing threat of drug-resistant bacteria: Synercid, the first alternative in 30 years to the antibiotic of last resort.

The new drug comes at a critical time, as doctors are warning that more and more germs are developing resistance to that "silver bullet" antibiotic, vancomycin.

Indeed, the need was so great that the Food and Drug Administration for the past year has allowed hundreds of patients at risk of death from drug-resistant germs to be treated with Synercid under a special emergency program, while the agency decided whether the drug was safe and effective enough for broad sale.

Today, the FDA approved Synercid to treat vancomycin-resistant enterococcal infections, a life-threatening infection that strikes thousands of hospital patients.

One recent study estimated as many

as 52 percent of enterococcal infections are now vancomycin-resistant, making them difficult if not impossible to treat.

But doctors must do the proper laboratory testing before prescribing Synercid to make sure patients' infections are caused by the most deadly type of enterococcus — called *E. faecium*, the FDA stressed. Synercid works well against *E. faecium*, but isn't very effective against a related and more common enterococcal infection that other antibiotics still can cure, the FDA said.

The FDA also approved Synercid to treat certain complicated skin infections caused by *Staphylococcus aureus* bacteria, commonly known as staph infections, or by the germ *Streptococcus pyogenes*.

But it isn't a miracle drug. Synercid doesn't work as well as existing antibiotics for some infections, scientists have stressed, and because bacteria evolve rapidly, Synercid resistance eventually will appear, too.

"The drug should be used judiciously ... because for many patients, it

will be a drug of last resort, and we'd like to protect it for as long as possible," FDA antibiotics chief Dr. Sandra Kweder said.

Synercid was studied in more than 2,000 patients, and its overall effectiveness at fighting off infection was 52 percent, the FDA said.

The most frequently reported side effects were muscle and joint pain, nausea, diarrhea, vomiting, and rash.

Synercid, an intravenous antibiotic, will be available for doctors to prescribe beginning Oct. 1.

Synercid, manufactured by Rhone-Poulenc Rorer, is the first in a new class of antibiotics called streptogramins to be sold in the United States, and it appears to work by dealing bacteria a one-two punch.

It is a combination of two drugs, quinupristin and dalbapristin, that inhibit two different methods of bacterial protein synthesis. That combination effect makes the chemicals 16 times more potent together than either molecule alone, the company says.

Trump, Buchanan eye Reform Party

BY SHANNON MCCAFFREY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — He's got the money. He appeals to women. And with his moniker splashed in gold across sky-high buildings, Donald Trump has the name ID for a presidential run.

In the other corner in this most unlikely of matchups is Pat Buchanan, the family values conservative who has made running for president something of a moral crusade every four years.

It's a slugfest worthy of one of Trump's casinos. "Both of these guys are showmen. They like the attention ... and they're both smart. I wouldn't want to get in their way," political analyst Maurice Carroll said.

While Buchanan flirts with defecting to the Reform Party to run for president, saying he's feeling abandoned by a GOP that's too close to the center, Trump has a top aide in Washington researching the cost and feasibility of getting on the 29 state and District of Columbia ballots that don't have permanent spots for Reform Party candidates.

Trump has the Reform Party's highest-elected official, Minnesota Gov. Jesse Ventura, urging him to run. Buchanan has Republicans praying he won't or he might take conservative votes from the GOP to the benefit of Democrats.

This weekend, Trump challenged Buchanan's provocative comments on Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Third Reich like a can-

didate-in-waiting. Buchanan argues in a new book that Hitler wasn't a direct threat to the United States after 1940.

But is Trump really thinking of running for president? He might have to work at his populist touch. In his biography "Trump: The Art of the Comeback," The Donald describes how he loathes shaking hands, because hands are crawling with germs.

Now picture The Donald working a campaign rope line of your average Americans or kissing babies.

And there's his flamboyant and well-documented personal life. Since divorcing Marla Maples, the woman who ended his first marriage to Ivana, Trump appears in gossip pages with a rotating array of gorgeous models on his arm.

Buchanan's press clippings, in which he rails against abortion, homosexuality and premarital sex, are equally controversial.

'Both of these guys [Trump and Buchanan] are showmen. They like the attention ... and they're both smart.'

Maurice Carroll
political analyst

DOLL

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"I could not believe that anybody with a pulse and a conscience could make a decision to put this in a catalog that's marketed to children," Carpenter told *The Denver Post*.

Drummond said the dolls were selected for the catalog long before the shootings. She said 15 of the action figures were sold before the item was pulled. Customers who now call for the doll will be told it's unavailable.

"I think some people who collect these things or want it will be disappointed," Drummond said. "But we just didn't think it was appropriate this year."

The toy, called The Villain, is made by 21st Century Toys Inc., based in Alameda, Calif.

Scott Allen, vice president of the company, said he anticipated the comparisons after the Columbine shooting but could do nothing to stop production of the Sears catalog.

"The simple premise of the toy line was cops and robbers. It had nothing to do with promoting violence or hatred," Allen said today. "It was just an unfortunate coincidence for us that those idiots at Columbine were wearing trench coats."

Allen said the doll is being redesigned, including removing the trench coat.

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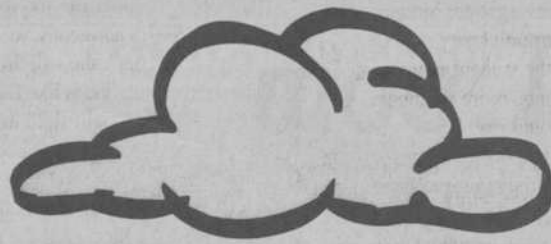
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