# Gonzalez impatient to reclaim son

BY GEORGE GEDDA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON - On U.S. soil, Juan Miguel Gonzalez said Thursday he was "truly impatient" to reclaim his son Elian, but his hopes for an orderly transfer of custody were dimmed when government negotiations with the 6-year-old Cuban boy's Miami relatives broke down.

The father declared his love for son Elian and chastised those who are trying "to obtain political advantage" from the custody battle over the shipwreck survivor.

He received immediate assurances that the U.S. government is eager to reunite him with his son. "It is simply the right thing to do," said Deputy Attorney General Eric Holder. "The father and his son

need to be together."

But Jose Garcia-Pedrosa, the attorney for the relatives with whom Elian has been staying since November, said the negotiations with the government were over, primarily because the government refused to promise that they wouldn't "take Elian away in the middle of the night." He also said immigration officials refused to agree to a psychological evaluation determining whether Elian should be handed over to his father.

"He has not had his day in court," Garcia-Pedrosa said. "This is a very, very sad day."

A Justice Department official stopped short of saying the talks were over.

"We are disappointed that the attorneys for the Miami relatives insisted on relitigating the issue of whether Elian should be returned to his father as op-

ry that transfer out in the most appropriate manner," said one official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The official said Justice lawyers were

drafting a letter to lawyers for the Miami relatives "providing additional guidance explaining what future steps could be taken."

Gonzalez planned to meet Friday morning at the Justice Department with Attorney General Janet Reno, Immigration and Naturalization Service Commissioner Doris Meissner and other officials.

In Miami, Elian seemed unaware of the new

posed to how to car- 'He [Elian] has not had his day in court. This is a very, very sad.'

Jose Garcia-Pedrosa

Attorney for Elian's Miami relatives

phase in the struggle over his future. He played on a slide outside his great-uncle's home and fired a toy gun as the usual horde of reporters and photographers took note.

Relatives said he learned of his father's trip only hours before it took place.

It was an unsmiling Juan Miguel Gonzalez who

ELIAN SEE PAGE 5

# Company decodes human being's DNA

BY PAUL REICER THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — A private company mapping the human genetic blueprint said Thursday it has completed a major step - decoding all of the DNA pieces that make up the genetic pattern of a single human being.

The milestone puts the company, Celera Genomics of Rockville, Md., far ahead of an international government effort to map the human genome using a different method.

"We've now completed the gene sequence plan of one human being,' said Craig Venter, chief scientist for the company. He said that human being was an unidentified male, adding, "By the end of next week, we will have finished the gene sequence for a female."

Investors were pleased by the Celera announcement, pushing its stock nearly 22 percent higher. Shares of PE Corp., Celera's parent company, rose \$25 to \$140 in trading at 4:30 p.m. on the New York Stock Exchange.

There are about 3 billion DNA subunits in virtually every human cell. This DNA contains about 100,000 genes. The gene sequencing done thus far lines up small segments of the DNA, Assembly of the entire genome will involve putting these segments in proper order.

This process, said Venter, will take several weeks. But he said the Celera work is far ahead of a similar effort by the government-funded Human Genome

"We don't want to declare absolute victory yet, but call me in three or four

weeks when it is all assembled," said

Dr. Francis Collins, the Human Genome Project's chief, said, "I'm happy to hear that Celera has completed this part of their business plan. We look forward to hearing how the assembly process goes and ultimately seeing the sequence made available" to the pub-

Venter said the ordered sequence of the human genes will not be released to the public until it has been completely

'I don't believe a genome is done until there is an attempt to identify the genes and the linear sequence along all of the chromosomes," he said. "We will not have that completed until later

President Clinton's press secretary, Joe Lockhart, said the Celera announcement "marks a ... significant point in what the president has talked about extensively as ... one of the most important scientific developments of our

The Human Genome Project is expected to complete a "rough draft" of the human gene sequence this spring. but this will not be assembled into a finished order for several more years.

The federal project is using a different method than that used by Celera, which is using a technique developed

But, in contrast to Celera, the federal project is releasing to the public the genetic sequences as they are identified. The federal project thus far as put on the Internet the codes for about 2,3 bil-

Clinton recently announced that the United States and Britain have agreed to share data from their efforts to decode the human genetic pattern. A U.S.-British statement urged private companies to follow the lead of government laboratories in sharing data. Some companies have shared data, while others

In testimony before Congress, Venter said Thursday that his company will make the entire genome available on the Internet, but will provide special services for analyzing the massive amount of data to drug companies and to universities for a subscription price. Subscriptions for drug companies, he said, will cost millions, while the rate for universities will be in the thousands of dollars and not much more than what is now paid for some advanced software.

To decode the genetic sequence, Venter said his company drew specimens from 30 different people. One specimen was then used to draw up the completed sequence. A male was chosen because only males have at least one copy of all the chromosomes, including the X and Y sex chromosomes. Females have two Xs and no Ys.

"That one individual probably doesn't know who was selected for sequencing, but probably knows about being a donor in the pool," said Venter. "All 6 billion of us on this planet differ enough from each other so that no one individual is significant. It is significant only as a reference source and because it is the first one.'

## One teen arrested, another sought in church burnings

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SUMTER - One man and one teen, both white, have been charged in connection with separate incidents of vandalism at two black churches in Sumter County and with breaking out windows at the local NAACP office.

Sheriff Tommy Mims said Wednesday that Bryan Alan Carraway, 18, of Sumter, was arrested Tuesday night and charged with attempted arson and burning of personal property. A 15-yearold, whose name was not released, also has been charged.

The two also are charged with breaking out windows at the Sumter office of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Mims said.

Mims said Carraway gave a written confession stating that he threw a fire bomb through the window of St. Paul AME Church Monday and set fire to two Easter crosses outside Goodwill Presbyterian Saturday. Mims said the teens made statements indicating the crimes were racially motivated, but would not elaborate. He said more arrests were expected, but gave no details.

"It's a sad commentary on today's society that we find ourselves here discussing this," Mims said. "I would hope because of what has been done, it will create a sense of healing and coming to-

The fire bomb, thrown through a rear window, did not ignite St. Paul AME Church, which is off U.S. Highway 378, about five miles east of Sumter. It was unclear why the device failed, sheriff's Maj. Anthony Dennis said.

Everyone is stunned. Nothing like this has ever happened to us.'

Alvin Webb

Minister at St. Paul AME

"Everyone is stunned. Nothing like this has ever happened to us," said Alvin Webb, a minister at St. Paul. "I view this as an act of God the church did not

The crosses burned at Goodwill Presbyterian, just a few miles from St. Paul's, had been put in front of the church to celebrate Lent, the 40-day period of penance between Ash Wednesday and

"For something like this to happen, it really hurts the black and white folks in Sumter," said the Rev. Richard Baxter, pastor of Goodwill Presbyterian, the county's oldest black church. "It's a sacrilegious crime because most Christians and other believers hold a place of worship with high esteem."

The charred remains of the crosses and the fire bomb were being sent to the State Law Enforcement Division laboratory for analysis. The Goodwill congregation planned to replace the cross-

Baxter said there have never been any racial incidents at the one-story, red brick building in the heart of Sumter County's farmland.

## Accused general had been tapped for deputy inspector general's slot

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The two-star general

accused of sexual harassment by the Army's highest-ranking female had been chosen for the No. 2 job in the Army office responsible for investigating wrongdoing, officials said Thursday.

Since the accusation was leveled last fall, Maj. Gen. Larry G. Smith's move into the job of deputy inspector general has been on hold, even though the Army publicly refuses to say that he is the subject of investigation.

He has been working at Army Material Command in Alexandria, Va., since last November.

The accusation of sexual harassment was made by Lt. Gen. Claudia Kennedy, the Army's only female three-star general and its top intelligence officer.

Neither she nor Smith has discussed the matter publicly, but other defense officials said Thursday that Smith could not assume the post of deputy inspector general - which the Army announced last August - until the Kennedy accusation has been resolved.

The matter is being investigated by

the Army inspector general. The identity of Smith as the officer accused by Kennedy was first made pub-

Army spokesman Col. Edwin Veiga and Defense Department spokesman Rear Adm. Craig Quigley both refused to comment on the newspaper reports.

"I'm not advancing this any bit fur-

ther," Quigley said. Other defense officials, speaking on

condition of anonymity, confirmed that Smith is the accused general.

Veiga said Smith was not responding to requests for interviews. Kennedy also has declined to discuss the matter.

The New York Times reported that Kennedy told her superiors about the alleged sexual harassment - said to have taken place in her Pentagon office in 1996 - immediately after the incident but chose not to file a formal complaint.

She did file a complaint last fall, however, after the Army announced last Aug. 27 that Smith had been selected for the deputy inspector general's post, the Times

As deputy inspector general, Smith would be responsible for investigating wrongdoing in the service, including allegations of sexual harassment similar to those of which he has been accused.

This case is the latest in a string of embarrassing sexual misconduct cases in the Army.

#### ■ Sharif escapes death penalty

KARACHI, PAKISTAN (AP) - Former Premier Nawaz Sharif escaped the death penalty but was sentenced to life in prison today, almost six months after he tried to fight off a coup by refusing to let a passenger plane carrying the army chief land Sharif was convicted of hijacking and

**NEWS BRIEFS** 

Dutch peacekeeper

THE HAGUE, NETHERLANDS (AP) -A Dutch peacekeeper whose battalion

was overrun as Serb forces stormed the Bosnian Muslim enclave of Srebrenica in 1995 told a U.N. court on Thursday of the horrors that followed: mass executions, a truck filled with corpses, and roads

The grim testimony came in the tri-

al of Serb Gen. Radislav Krstic, the high-

est-ranking Bosnian Serb commander be-

fore the U.N. war crimes tribunal for the

U.N. peacekeeper, Pvt. Andre Stoelinga,

describing a vehicle filled with victims.

"The container of the truck was proba-

bly full of bodies ... I think they were get-

brenica, a U.N.-declared "safe haven,"

as Serb forces closed in on the enclave in

northeast Bosnia during the 1992-95 Bosn-

at least 7,500 Muslim men and boys, prosecutors say. The remaining refugees escaped or were deported to Muslim-

In July 1995, Serbs broke through the weak U.N. defense posts and slaughtered

Around 40,000 Muslims fled to Sre-

"It's a smell I won't forget," said the

littered with victims' clothing.

former Yugoslavia.

ting rid of them."

held territory.

testifies before war

crimes tribunal

terrorism but found innocent of attempted murder and kidnapping. Six other men, including Sharif's brother, were acquitted of all charges.

The former leader was given a life sentence on each count, but the judge ordered the sentences to run concurrently. In Pakistan, a life sentence is 25 years, but there is a chance for earlier parole.

The judge also ordered all of Sharif's property confiscated. The ousted leader was to pay \$37,000 in compensation to the passengers and crew aboard the Pakistan International Airlines aircraft and an additional \$18,500 in fines.

#### ■ Gingrich's divorce from second wife final

MARIETTA, GA. (AP) - Newt Gingrich's divorce from his wife of 18 years was finalized Thursday when a judge approved a settlement agreement reached by the couple in December.

Marianne Gingrich appeared in court to answer routine questions, but the former House speaker wasn't present. Superior Court Judge Dorothy Robinson sealed the agreement, keeping its terms closed to the public.

"This is a very sad day for Marianne," said her attorney, John Mayoue. "She intends to continue with her charity work, including the Red Cross, and she's going to take the next few weeks to examine various opportunities that are now available to her."

Gingrich's lawyer, Randolph Evans. did not immediately return calls.

Gingrich, 56, separated from his wife last May and filed for divorce in July. His attorneys have acknowledged his relationship with Callista Bisek, a 33-yearold former congressional aide, that began

The divorce is Gingrich's second. He married his former high school geometry teacher, Jackie Battley, when he was 18. They were divorced 19 years later, in 1981, after having two daughters. Within months, Gingrich married Ma anne Ginther, 48, a county planner and business consultant from Ohio.

#### Comedian's wife pregnant

NEW YORK (AP) - Imagine Jerry Seinfeld inside his Long Island mansion, baby bottle in one hand, burp cloth in the other, musing: Whyyyyy do they call it a burp cloth?

That's right. First came love (1998), then came marriage (last December)and now Seinfeld and bride, Jessica Sklar, will soon be pushing a baby carriage.

The big announcement was made Thursday by Seinfeld pal Regis Philbin on TV's "Live With Regis and Kath

"Yes. It's true. There will be a new little Seinfeld sometime this fall," said

Seinfeld's spokeswoman, Elizabeth Clarke.

### Christopher leads Gore's running mate search

BY GLEN JOHNSON THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**WASHINGTON** — Former Secretary of State Warren Christopher will lead Al Gore's effort to select a running mate, Gore announced Thursday, launching a vice presidential sweepstakes that until now had been more of a political parlor

The job is a familiar one for Christopher, who did the same chore in 1992 for Bill Clinton in a process that ended with the Arkansas governor picking Gore to join him on the Democratic ticket.

Christopher later helped Clinton choose his first Cabinet, which included his own name as top diplomat. He was secretary of state for four years to mixed reviews, with some criticizing a lack of progress in Middle East negotiations and his handling of Bosnia while others praised him for steady good judgment.

Now 74, Christopher is a lawyer in Los Angeles.

"I welcome his experience and judgment in this important effort," the vice president said in a statement.

His selection brings concreteness to a process that was the subject of speculation even before Gore and his Republican rival, Texas Gov. George W. Bush,

wrapped up their parties' nominations on

Bush has other priorities — integrating his own campaign structure with the national Republican Party apparatus, for example - before he turns to establishing a vice presidential selection process, of-

Presidential candidates usually try to pick someone who can help win electoral votes in a big state, or help in a certain region, or make up for some weakness in their own candidacy - or all of

The selection is also considered a candidate's first presidential-level decision, with all the wisdom or ineptitude it might

For Gore:

 Among the nation's governors, Gray Davis of California gets mentioned because his state has the country's most electoral votes, 54. Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire could help with women. James B. Hunt Jr. of North Carolina could help swing a Republican state to the Democratic Party.

· Among U.S. senators, Evan Bayh of Indiana is mentioned frequently. A firstterm senator, he and his young family project well on TV, although his traditionally Republican state would likely have to be within the Democrats' reach to prompt his selection.

Other senators: John Kerry of Massachusetts, a Vietnam-era contemporary of Gore's, Bob Graham of Florida, whose state has the fourth most electoral votes with 25, and Richard Durbin of Illinois, whose state has the sixth most votes with

22, and Dianne Feinstein of California. Other Democrats mentioned include former New Jersey Sen. Bill Bradley, who challenged Gore for the nomination, Energy Secretary Bill Richardson, Housing Secretary Andrew Cuomo, Fannie Mae Chairman Franklin D. Raines and former Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin.

Defense Secretary William Cohen, a Republican, is cited as someone who could help bring bipartisanship to relations with

For Bush:

· Among governors, Tom Ridge of Pennsylvania, Christie Whitman of New Jersey and George Pataki of New York are mentioned frequently. All three come from states with large blocs of electoral

Ridge, Whitman and Pataki support abortion rights, and their consideration brings a warning from James Dobson, a conservative broadcaster. "If Bush follows the advice that he's

getting to move to the mushy middle and select a pro-choice running mate, the result will be the same as it was for Republicans in 1996" when Bob Dole lost, Dobson said in an interview. Other gubernatorial possibilities in-

clude Tommy Thompson of Wisconsin, John Engler of Michigan, Marc Racicot of Montana and Frank Keating of Okla-· Among senators, John McCain of Arizona gets mentioned because he

mounted the closest challenge to Bush. Others include Fred Thompson of Tennessee, George Voinovich of Ohio, Connie Mack of Florida and John Ashcroft lic Thursday by The New York Times, The Washington Post and The Wash-