

Bush

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fewer in the Nov. 5 balloting, might secure GOP control of the House and retake the Senate for his party.

Additionally, the president will busy himself laying a public-relations foundation for war with Iraq.

Bush promised a West Coast audience two weeks ago that they would "understand clearly, as time goes on" why he feels so strongly about unseating Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. Bush speaks to the U.N. General Assembly on Sept. 12 and will use the speech primarily to try to hold international support behind the war on terrorism. White House advisers were debating this week how much the address should respond to allies' objections to any military campaign in Iraq and how Bush will make his case against Saddam to the American people.

First up is the Senate debate, beginning Tuesday, on the president's proposal to create a new Department of Homeland Security.

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Bush, who wants the department up and running by the new year, plans to bring senators to the White House for arm-twisting while Vice President Dick Cheney and Homeland Security Adviser Tom Ridge work the corridors of Capitol Hill to beat back Senate Democrats' interest in folding intelligence agencies into the new bureaucracy. Another sticking point for Democrats who control the Senate is the president's insistence that he have enhanced powers of hiring, firing and spending at the new department.

The president goes toe-to-toe with the Senate on Pentagon spending as well. The full Senate is working on more than \$355 billion for the military - \$35 billion higher than this year's level, but \$11.4 billion less than what Bush wants, much of it for the war against terror.

"As soon as the Congress gets back, they need to get the defense bill to my desk and not play poli-

tics with the defense of the United States of America," Bush said.

Other items that White House press secretary Ari Fleischer identified on the president's wish list for the remainder of this Congress: an energy bill that would increase domestic production of oil and gas; guarantees that businesses will have access to terrorism insurance; new pension protections; a ban on human cloning; welfare reform, including stiffer work requirements for benefit recipients; legislation making government social services grants available to religious groups.

The president's economic team is deliberating whether to seek another round of tax cuts in an effort to stimulate the economy, but some advisers said fervor for a new package may have been dampened last week by the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office. It said the federal budget will remain in deficit until Bush's last round of tax cuts expires in 2010.

STATE

Strip club fire was set, authorities say

COLUMBIA (AP) — A fire that did \$10,000 damage to a strip club Sunday morning was intentionally set, authorities say.

No one was injured in the fire at the Lenox VIP club. Investigators think the fire might have started two hours before firefighters arrived around 9 a.m., Fire Department Battalion Chief Frank Cruz said.

George Rice, spokesman for the Richland County Fire Marshal's office, said investigators ruled the fire arson after they found an accelerant at the scene.

The club was closed at the time of the fire.

The fire started in the rear of the building and had burned through part of the floor, Cruz said.

It took firefighters about 15 minutes to get the fire under control, Cruz said.

NATION

Charter students lag in basic skills

WASHINGTON (AP) — Students in charter schools, which are often seen as an alternative to failing neighborhood schools, are scoring significantly below public school pupils in basic reading and math skills, a new study shows.

Charter school students were anywhere from a half year to a full year behind their public school peers, researchers at the Brookings Institution concluded after reviewing 1999-2000 reading and math achievement test scores of 376 charter schools in 10 states.

The study, the first independent snapshot of charter school performance across the nation, found that 59 percent of students at traditional public schools scored better than charter school students during the period surveyed.

WORLD

Study: Heart pumps can aid recovery

BERLIN (AP) — Ten patients with end-stage heart failure were successfully treated with implants of mechanical pumps to rest their hearts while drugs helped repair the damaged organs, a renowned heart surgeon said Monday.

It took an average of six months on the pump for the hearts to recover, and the patients since have returned to work, Sir Magdi Yacoub said at the annual meeting of the European Society of Cardiology.

Their hearts have been functioning normally for an average of a year, with one patient reaching four years, Yacoub said.

Colleagues, while impressed, have said it is too early to tell whether the patients have been cured.

"It is a potential solution to a major problem," said Dr. Sidney Smith, medical director of the American Heart Association.

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MANDATORY Renewal & TREASURER'S WORKSHOPS

All Registered student organizations must be represented by an officer.

If you receive or plan to receive funds, the Treasurer must attend the Treasurer's Workshop.

Thursday, August 29, 2002	3:30-5:00pm	RHUU 322/326
Tuesday, September 3, 2002	3:30-5:00pm	RHUU 322/326
Thursday, September 5, 2002	3:30-5:00pm	RHUU 322/326
Tuesday, September 10, 2002*	3:30-5:00pm	RHUU 322/326
Tuesday, September 10, 2002	7:00-8:30pm	RHUU 322/326
Thursday, September 12, 2002	3:30-5:00pm	RHUU 322/326

Workshop dates, times, and places are subject to change due to the renovation of the RHUU. FOR UPDATES AND CHANGES PLEASE GO TO