

MISH MASH
Rain, sleet and snow ending early this afternoon; turning colder tonight.
Forecast, F10

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China successful with initial test of space weapon

The White House says it had "expressed our concern" to the Chinese, who join the United States and Russia in being able to destroy orbiting satellites.

BY WILLIAM J. BROAD AND DAVID E. SANGER
The New York Times

China successfully carried out its first test of an antisatellite weapon last week, signaling its resolve to play a major role in military space activities and bringing expressions of concern from Washington and other capitals, the Bush administration said yesterday.

Only two nations — the Soviet Union and the United States — have previously destroyed spacecraft in antisatellite tests, most recently the United States in the mid-1980s.

Arms-control experts called the test, in which the weapon destroyed an aging Chinese weather satellite, a troubling development that could foreshadow an antisatellite arms race. Alternatively, however, some experts speculated that it could precede a diplomatic push by China to prod the Bush ad-

2 CVS officials charged with conspiracy, bribery



U.S. Attorney Robert Clark Corrente, left, announces yesterday the indictments against CVS executives John R. Kramer and Carlos Ortiz. At right are Rhode Island State Police Capt. Steven Lynch and Assistant U.S. Attorney Luis Matos.

Their indictment stems from the hiring of former state Sen. John A. Celona as a CVS consultant in 2000.

BY MIKE STANTON
Journal Staff Writer

After John Celona voted for legislation opposed by CVS in 1998, an executive from the drugstore chain sent the senator a campaign contribution, and a note.

"I look forward to working with you in the future on other issues of mutual importance," wrote the executive, Carlos Ortiz.

That was the beginning of a profitable friendship, federal prosecutors charged yesterday — and a corrupt one.

Ortiz and another prominent CVS executive, John R. "Jack" Kramer, were accused in a 23-count indictment of conspiracy, fraud and bribery for allegedly hiring Celona as a \$1,000-a-month consultant from early 2000 to the fall of 2003, paying him a total of about \$45,000 and also lavishing him with golf outings, trips to Florida and California and tickets to professional sporting events.

Although Celona was ostensibly paid to improve CVS' image among consumers, U.S. Attorney Robert Clark Corrente charged that Kramer and Ortiz put Celona on the payroll "to advance the company's legislative agenda...through illicit payments to Senator Celona."

In return, the indictment said, Celona used his political clout to kill controversial "pharmacy choice" legislation that would have expanded the Rhode Island network of pharmacies that accepted Blue Cross reimbursements. CVS, which dominated the restricted network, opposed the bill so strongly that the company tied Kramer's and Ortiz's performance reviews to defeating the legislation.

Killing the legislation, Ortiz wrote

The indictments are not expected to affect the company financially.
Story, F1

SEE **CVS, A7**

Senate approves bill imposing limits on gifts from lobbyists

The measure comes in response to voters' outrage over past scandals.

BY JIM ABRAMS
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Senate, responding to voter frustration with corruption and special interest influence in Washington, yesterday overwhelmingly approved far-reaching ethics and lobbying reform legislation.

Under the bill, passed 96 to 2, senators will give up gifts and free travel from lobbyists, pay more for travel on corporate jets, and make themselves more accountable for the pet projects they insert into bills.

Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., who made the bill his first initiative as head of the Senate, called it the "most significant legislation in ethics and lobbying

SURF'S UP IN ENGLAND



A winter storm pounds the coast at Blackpool on the west coast of England yesterday, with high seas and winds gusting to 80 mph. At least 27 deaths have been blamed on the storm, which is also affecting Northern Europe.

Article faulting infant car seat safety retracted

Consumer Reports takes the action after the federal government finds flaws in the magazine's crash tests.

BY JIM FITZGERALD
Associated Press

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. — Consumer Reports was forced yesterday to retract a damning report on infant car seats after the federal government said side-impact crash tests on the seats were conducted at drastically higher speeds than the magazine had claimed.

The revelation amounts to an embarrassment for the trusted consumer guide, and a relief to parents who were frightened about their babies' safety after the original report came out.

That report said most of the seats tested "failed disastrously" in crashes at speeds as low as 35 mph. In one test, it said, a dummy child was hurled 30 feet.

The crash tests were supposed to simulate an impact at 38 miles an hour, but actually simulated more than 70 mph, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, which was so startled by the article that it tried to duplicate the magazine's results at a government lab.

Pedestrian killed en route to shelter

Jacob Tella, 28, is at least the sixth pedestrian to be killed in the region since October.

BY MARK ARSENAULT AND TOM MOONEY
Journal Staff Writers

PROVIDENCE — Jacob Tella lived to just 28. He had green eyes, a 9-year-old son he loved, and troubles that contributed to his homelessness.

"He was trying to fight certain things," his mother, Cynthia Tiodor, said yesterday from her Fruit

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CMYK

A TALE OF 2 OFFENSES
A look at how the Patriots and the Colts match up offensively in advance of Sunday's AFC Championship Game. **C1**

RUNNING IN PLACE
Rhode Island's labor market ended 2006 at roughly the same place it began, with no real growth and the unemployment rate just over 5 percent, a government report released today shows. **F1**

PASSAGES
ART BUCHWALD
Art Buchwald, one of the most widely read columnists of his time, who made a career out of skewering Washington's elite, dies in Washington. He was 81. **A2**

