



# The Columbus Dispatch

SATURDAY, MAY 22, 2004



DORAL CHENOWETH III | DISPATCH

**Gently down the stream** | When yesterday's late-afternoon storm overwhelmed the sewers at 13th Avenue and N. High Street, Mitchell French was able to navigate the flood with his rubber raft and propulsion help by, from left, Thom Kreuzberg, Tony Brindisi and Jake Barga. Severe weather battered central Ohio with winds approaching 50 mph, 2-inch hail and up to 4 inches of rain. See story, Page B1

## Stop the fighting, clerics demand

Dozens of Iraqis killed as U.S. forces leave central Karbala

By Edward Wong  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

KARBALA, Iraq — Hundreds of worshippers poured into two Shiite shrines here yesterday to hear clerics demand an end to continuing clashes between U.S. forces and insurgents loyal to the rebel cleric Muqtada al-Sadr.

The clerics called for the withdrawal of fighters from both sides but carefully avoided singling out either the Americans or al-Sadr's militia, the Mahdi Army.

The Americans already had retreated from the city center earlier yesterday. U.S. commanders said that the military was leaving downtown Karbala to allow local leaders to reach an "Iraqi solution" to the standoff with al-Sadr's forces.

As they pulled back, starting just after midnight, fierce battles began, leaving at least 21 insurgents dead, many near this city's holiest shrines, said Col. Peter R. Mansoor, commander of the 1st Brigade of the 1st Armored Division.

Yesterday afternoon, he added, the police chief of Karbala said scores of Mahdi fighters had been killed.

Also yesterday, officials said U.S.-led coalition forces captured four people suspected of involvement in the gruesome killing of Nicholas Berg, the American communication specialist whose death was captured on videotape and broadcast on the Internet. Two of the suspects were released after questioning and the other two remain in custody, Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmitt, U.S. military spokesman, said at a news conference in Baghdad.

"We have some intelligence that would suggest they had knowledge, perhaps some culpability, but we're not going to know until we've

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### FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION

## Threat to girl earns mother refugee status, court rules

By Sherri Williams  
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

A federal court has given a second chance at asylum to an East Side woman who fears her daughter could be forced to undergo circumcision if they are deported to their Ethiopian homeland.

The ruling this week by the U.S. 6th Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati could have an effect nationwide because it recognizes Yayesh Abay as a refugee, even though the threat is to her 16-year-old daughter, said David Leopold of the American Immigration Lawyers Association. "The decision has national importance in the sense that it provides a guidepost for other courts who may be faced with mothers trying to protect their children in absence of law that helps them," Leopold said.

Karen Musalo, of the Center for Gender and Refugee Studies at Hastings Law School in San Francisco, said the ruling is the first at the federal level to extend protection to parents trying to shield their daughters from a procedure sometimes performed with unsanitary razors or broken glass. Critics call it female genital mutilation.

"It's been well recognized the problems that it has caused in childbirth and menstruation," she said. "It's an extremely painful procedure that will affect a woman for the rest of her life."

Amnesty International reports that during the procedure the girls can face shock, hemorrhage and damage to surrounding organs. It also can

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### FINANCIAL MANEUVERING

## Kerry considers pushing back his acceptance of nomination

By Dan Balz and Thomas B. Edsall  
THE WASHINGTON POST

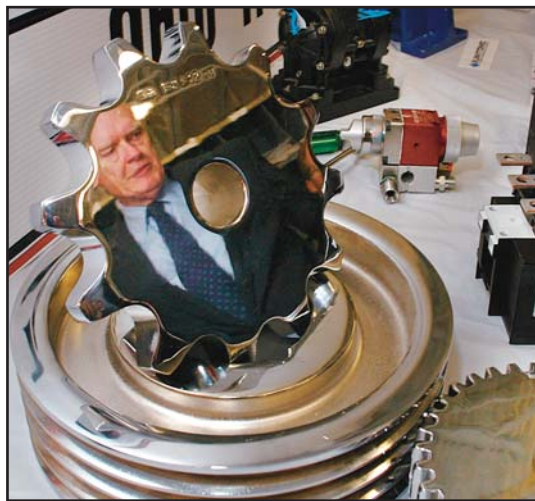
BOSTON — In an unprecedented step, Sen. John Kerry might delay accepting the Democratic Party's presidential nomination to reduce President Bush's financial advantage, Kerry advisers said yesterday.

Campaign officials confirmed that they're considering a plan under which Kerry wouldn't formally be nominated at the Democratic National Convention in late July but would be designated weeks later, near the Republican convention in late August.

The timing is important because candidates can spend the campaign money they've raised until their nomination. After that, they are limited to about \$75 million to finance their general-election campaign.

The plan, one of several ideas that campaign and party officials said are being discussed to level the financial playing field with Republicans, contains political complications — such as maintaining excitement at the convention and countering Republican criticism — and legal questions. But it underscores the extent to which financial considerations are driving campaign strategy in this election cycle.

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NEAL C. LAURON | DISPATCH

Treasury Secretary John W. Snow, reflected in the products on a tour of Ohio Transmission Corp., says the job news in Ohio is good.



ERIC ALBRECHT | DISPATCH

Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina, stumping for fellow Democrat John Kerry, gets an earful from Shirley Linser at the UAW Local 969 hall.

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### INTERPRETING EMPLOYMENT REPORT

## Bush, Kerry surrogates put the economy in spin cycle

By Mark Niquette and Jon Craig  
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

The economy either is well on its way to recovery or hopelessly derailed, depending on what side of Columbus you were on yesterday.

With Ohio at the epicenter of this year's presidential election, the release of April unemployment data prompted visits from high-profile politicians to put the best — or worst — face on the numbers: Ohio's jobless rate increased to 5.8 percent in April, up from 5.7 percent in March.

On the East Side, Treasury Secretary John W. Snow noted that despite the higher jobless rate, Ohio added 4,300 jobs last month. The economy is at "a pivot point" for recovering from the recession, he said.

"Ohio is open and ready for business," Snow said.

On the West Side, Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina — stumping for presumptive Democratic nominee Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts — said suggestions the economy is improving are "ridiculous."

"This is a continuation of the Bush administration's fantasy," said Edwards, Kerry's former rival.

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### INSIDE

#### Dim forecast

Pollutants are making Earth grayer and cloudier, a study found | **World A3**

#### North Side thefts

Eleven students were charged with burglarizing homes within a mile of Northland High School | **Metro & State B1**

#### No pain, no gain

An intense yoga workout brings OSU football players to their knees | **Sports E1**

#### Coming next week | A2

Classified ..... **B,D,F** Puzzles..... **C6**  
Comics ..... **C6,7** Sports ..... **E**  
Editorials ..... **A10** Stocks ..... **F3-8**  
Horoscope ..... **C2** Television ..... **C9**  
House Mkt... **C8-10** Theaters..... **C5**  
Lottery ..... **B2** Vitals ..... **B6**  
Obituaries..... **B5** Wheels..... **D**

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## Police chief wants cruisers filled; other squads may have to take a hit

By John Futtu  
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

The next time a Columbus homicide detective retires or resigns, the position won't be filled. The same goes for those who investigate burglaries, robberies or rapes.

Police Chief James G. Jackson has instructed his deputy chiefs that, until further notice, no openings will be filled in any units except the patrol bureau.

"If they are outside of patrol . . . they have to eat their losses," he said during an interview in his eighth-floor office at Central Police Headquarters.

Jackson, who for years has maintained that the Division of Police is severely understaffed, said the move is aimed at getting more officers into patrol cars.

"Every area of the Division of Police has asked for and needs



Police Chief James G. Jackson wants to schedule another police-recruit test this year, citing upcoming retirements.

additional personnel, but patrol is the one that has taken the biggest hit as far as I'm concerned," he said. "We need to keep those cruisers filled."

Despite a 2001 private-consultant's study that said the city should deploy 420 cruisers daily, the city has 323 — down from 337 at the time of the study, Jackson said.

The numbers were the subject of a memo the chief sent last week to Safety Director Mitchell Brown.

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### By the numbers

Public Administration Service, a private consulting firm, issued a report in 2001 saying the city needed to add 121 police officers. The study was based on the Division of Police's 1999 staffing levels. The change in staffing for selected bureaus since 1999:

BUREAU	1999	2004*	GAIN/LOSS
Patrol	937	958	+21
Detective	207	206	-1
Training	128	93	-35
Traffic	71	75	+4
Narcotics	65	76	+11
Juvenile	61	69	+8
Intelligence	60	56	-4
Internal Affairs	12	34	+22

\*Totals as of 5/12/04  
Source: Columbus Division of Police

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