# **Israeli tanks fire on Gaza City**

#### By the Associated Press INTERNATIONAL

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — Israeli helicopters and tanks fired on the main Palestinian security compound in Gaza City early today, demolishing several buildings that the army said were used to make weapons and seizing grenades and missiles.

In the West Bank, Israeli forces imposed a curfew today in a Ramallah neighborhood and searched for a wanted Palestinian, while Israeli officials reportedly considered a proposal to link Jewish enclaves in Hebron following an ambush Friday that killed 12 soldiers and security guards.

Palestinians fired on the troops and shot missiles against tanks but no soldiers were injured, the army said.

The Israeli forces pulled out after more than three hours, leaving several of the 11 buildings in the security compound in ruins.

#### NATIONAL

LOS ANGELES — Harry Potter hasn't lost any of his magic at the box office.

"Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets," the second installment in the fantasy franchise based on J.K. Rowling's novels, took in \$87.7 million during its opening weekend, according to studio estimates Sunday.

That would be the third best debut ever, behind the record \$114.8 million that "Spider-Man" grossed in its first three days last spring and the \$90.3 million haul of "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" a year ago.

Though "Chamber of Secrets" opened in a record 3,682 theaters on a record 8,515 screens, distributor Warner Bros. had not expected the movie to set revenue records. Anticipation had been greater for "Sorcerer's Stone" because it was the first bigscreen adaptation of Rowling's tales, said Dan Fellman, Warner head of distribution.

LAS VEGAS --- Innovation continues despite the high-tech industry's downturn, Microsoft Corp. co-founder Bill Gates said Sunday as he unveiled a strategy to push "smart" computing technology into everyday gadgets such as alarm clocks and pens.

Gates, who opened the 23rd annual Comdex trade show, said there was a negative perception of high tech following the collapse of the tech bubble more than two years ago.

"Even though we're in an economic downturn, we're in an innovation upturn," he said. "I believe people are

### around the world

dramatically underestimating all the innovation going on in our industry."

Gates said the industry is moving away from focusing on personal computers and moving toward a world of personal computing — where portable and everyday gadgets can perform tasks typically run on full-powered systems.

Smart Personal Objects Technology, or SPOT, would empower everyday devices to draw on the Internet.

Such products are expected to be available within a year; prices were not announced.

CHICAGO — The parent company of United Airlines said Sunday it would fine judge and lawyer, and should be cut 9,000 jobs and reduce its flight schedule by another 6 percent as part of a restructuring plan tied to the ing member of Congress. carrier's effort to return to profitabil-

in its fight to avoid a bankruptcy filing. It hopes to receive a \$1.8 billion loan guarantee by then.

The carrier has been talking with the Air Transportation Stabilization Board over the last week about its loan application and what it needs to do to qualify for the loan guarantee.

The Elk Grove Village, Ill.-based airline said that with the cutbacks, it should be profitable by 2004.

"Our plan is intended to restore United's financial health, and it gives us the ability to repay ATSB-guaranteed loans," Glenn Tilton, United's chairman and chief executive officer, said in a statement. "The plan aligns our costs and revenues, while building a platform for future growth."

#### WASHINGTON

to take one last shot at blocking one of President Bush's judicial nominees while they still control the Senate, hoping to defeat the promotion of a former

of U.S. District Judge Dennis Shedd. tic intelligence gathering.

Joint Chiefs Chairman is Wildcat fan

MANHATTAN (AP) — Taking a break from his duties as chairman of ranked Kansas State with a degree in the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Richard mechanical engineering, visited the University football game.

While under its current Democratic control, the chamber has only debated an appeals court nominations when party leaders wanted to kill it.

Shedd is a former assistant to the 99vear-old Thurmond, who will retire in January. Thurmond, R-S.C., has asked for Shedd's promotion to the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond, Va., before he ends his 48-year Senate career.

Democratic senators and liberal groups have criticized Shedd's ruling as a trial judge, saying he has been insensitive in civil rights and employment discrimination cases.

Republicans say Shedd has been a confirmed as a retirement favor to Thurmond, the oldest and longest serv-

WASHINGTON — Homeland Se-UAL Corp. faces a Dec. 2 deadline curity Director Tom Ridge says he doubts the Bush administration would create a domestic intelligence agency separate from the FBI. But some senators seemed open to the idea, skeptical about whether the bureau can fill the spying role.

> Ridge, appearing on television talk shows Sunday, also played down as "really nothing new" an alleged statement from al-Qaida threatening new terrorist attacks in New York and Washington.

> Meanwhile, the Senate, meeting in an unusual postelection session, could vote as soon as today to create a Department of Homeland Security.

Ridge said his recent visit to MI5, the

#### British domestic intelligence agency, was "very revealing," but that the powers the British agency wields would be

WASHINGTON - Democrats plan unacceptable under the U.S. Constitution. He said he thought it unlikely the administration would create a similar

agency. He noted, as did several sena-

Myers, a 1965 graduate of 10th-

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#### aide to retiring Sen. Strom Thurmond. tors, that FBI Director Robert Mueller The Senate set aside most of today is working under orders from Bush to to debate the appeals court nomination reorganize the FBI to improve domes-

