Opponents to Hussein reluctant to join conference

By the Associated Press INTERNATIONAL

LONDON, — Iraqi exile Ahmed al-Haboubi's credentials as an opponent of Saddam Hussein are solid — he's seen the Iraqi president's brutality from inside an interrogation cell.

But al-Haboubi, a former minister in the government overthrown by Saddam Hussein's Baath party, has no plans to participate in a U.S.-backed conference of major Iraqi opposition groups to be held this week in London.

"This is an American conference with an American agenda to serve American interests and objectives," al-Haboubi said. "Regime change should be done by Iraqis and for Iraqis."

His criticism is shared by others among the varied Iraqi opposition groups who say the meeting to discuss a post-Saddam Iraq will be dominated by the large Kurdish and Shiite parties. The three-day meeting begins Friday.

JAKARTA, Indonesia — A little known Islamic militant group has claimed responsibility for the Oct. 12 Bali blasts and is threatening new attacks against Westerners, according to a Web site mentioned by the top suspect in the blasts.

"Let it be known that every single drop of Muslim blood, be it from any nationality or from whatever place, will be remembered and accounted for," said a message on the site run by a group calling itself al-Katibul Maut al-Alamiya, or the International Death

Jakarta's Kompas newspaper said Imam Samudra, one of the alleged masterminds behind the Bali bombings, told one of its reporters about the site and said it contained information on the basics of his struggle. The paper said the reporter briefly interviewed Samudra, who was arrested last month, at a jail on Bali.

"Our hearts are in pain and we will harness the pain and death of our brothers and sisters," the Internet message reads. "We will never let your cruelty on our brothers go unpunished. You will bear the consequences of your actions...'

NATIONAL

VALLEJO, Calif. — It turns out that Shea Brown, a typically rambunctious boy who watched cartoons, played football and inhaled fast food like any 6-year-old, was hiding in plain sight.

He disappeared in 1996 as an infant, seen being carried away from his house the day his mother was shot and her body burned in an unsolved murder that haunted police and this commu-

Then came the anonymous tip that led police to arrest the women Shea knew as his mother and grandmother. They are accused of kidnapping the boy and raising him only a few miles from where the murder took place.

Now the boy — born Le-Zhan Williams — is in protective custody while authorities figure out how to reintroduce him to the family he's never known. And that family is trying to reconcile their own joy with the frustration that their missing boy was always just across town.

SAN FRANCISCO—The California Coastal Commission deadlocked Wednesday in a vote to select a new leader, stalling a move that some feared around the world

could tilt the powerful panel away from coastal protection.

The vote came after preservation activist Sara Wan, the current chairwoman, decided to pull her name from consideration. Because the 12 board members split their votes between colleagues Dave Potter and Mike Reilly, another vote can be held.

Commissioner Christina Desser said afterward the panel may take up the vote again on Thursday. If not, commissioners could vote at their next meeting in January.

The election is the latest tempest for the commission that oversees some of the nation's most prized real estate. It gram. rules on proposals ranging from seaside golf resorts to celebrities' requests to expand their villas. It also has say over near-shore oil drilling off the Cali-

WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON — While a young GOP congressional leader two decades ago, Trent Lott declared that "racial discrimination does not always violate public policy" as he tried to save the tax exemption of a Christian university that banned interracial dating.

In his 1981 friend-of-the-court filing with the Supreme Court, Lott cited court rulings upholding affirmative action programs at colleges and compared them to the dating ban between black and white students at Bob Jones

"If racial discrimination in the interest of diversity does not violate public policy, then surely discrimination in the practices of religion is no violation," he argued, in asking the justices to block the Internal Revenue Service from stripping the school's tax exemption. At the time, he was the Republicans' new whip, the second highest position in the House GOP hierarchy.

Now the Senate's top Republican, Lott is battling to quell criticisms, fueled by Democrats, over remarks he made at a birthday party last week for 100-year-old Sen. Strom Thurmond, R-S.C. Lott had suggested the country would have been better off if Thurmond, running for president on a pro-segregationist ticket in 1948, had

is enacting by executive fiat key pieces of his divisive "faith-based initiative," including one that lets federal contractors display religious favoritism in their niring

Hoping to involve churches and religious organizations more deeply in government efforts to address social ills, Bush today was signing an executive order aimed at giving those groups a leg up in the competition for federal money, administration officials said. His plan was also the subject of a speech to religious and charitable leaders in Philadelphia.

The president began pushing the issue on Capitol Hill in his second week in office and ran into a fierce debate over how religious groups could get government money without running afoul of the constitutional separation of church and state.

He was successful in the House but

the Senate wouldn't even give him a watered-down version that focused on tax breaks for charitable giving.

WASHINGTON—The seizure and release of a North Korean missile shipment bound for Yemen could further alienate the reclusive dictatorship in Wan will remain chairwoman until Pyongyang and hurt U.S. efforts to pressure the regime to end its nuclear weapons program, analysts say.

> The United States has never publicly tried to intercept a North Korean missile shipment. North Korea observers say this week's incident in the Arabian Sea might actually lead North Korea to accelerate its nuclear weapons pro-

> "It undercuts our goals and it looks like the Keystone Kops," said Lee Feinstein, a former State Department official under President Clinton. "We're snatching defeat from the jaws of victory. It's difficult to track these missile shipments, then when we have a major success in tracking and boarding this ship, we have to let it go."

> Or, North Korea could interpret the move as a signal that the United States has abandoned diplomatic overtures in favor of hardball tactics, said Daniel Pinkston, a Korea expert at the Monterey Institute for International

public notice

Legal Publication **Abandoned Motor Vehicle**

Notice of sale of abandoned Motor Vehicle in the possession of Ramiro Lazo. The herein described the vehicle will be sold at public auction on January 10, 2003, at 9:00 a.m., to the highest bidder for cash, if the owner does not claim the same prior to time of sale and pay for removal, storage and publication costs incurred.

Description of vehicle: Make -Chevrolet, Model - Suburban, Serial or identification number -1GNER16K8LF143622, Color -Brown, Year - 1990, Vehicle is in storage at 1317 Cherry Goodland.

Published in the Goodland Daily News on Thursday December 12, 19, 26, 2002.



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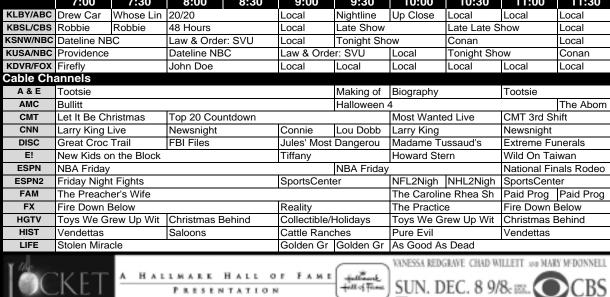
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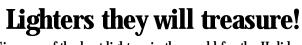
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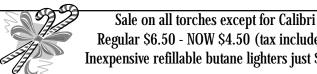


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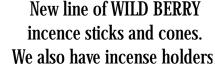
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