

# Vatican gives its approval to revised U.S. abuse policy

## around the world

**By the Associated Press INTERNATIONAL**  
**VATICAN CITY** — The Vatican gave its approval today to the revised U.S. bishops' policy to combat sex abuse in the clergy.

Approval had been expected after differences in the original plan were worked out by joint U.S.-Vatican commission in November.

The Vatican released a letter from Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re and Bishop Wilton Gregory, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, pledging the Holy See's support to "combat and to prevent such evil."

Re also said that the Vatican "together with the bishops of the United States "feels duty-bound" to defend "the good name of the overwhelming majority of priests and deacons."

The cardinal asked the American bishops to continue their meetings with the heads of religious orders who have been included in the policy but who have raised concerns about coming under the policy.

Re's letter stressed that the Vatican will not tolerate sex abuse crimes against children, saying that Pope John Paul II has affirmed "the Holy See's aversion to this betrayal of the trust which the faithful rightly place in Christ's ministers, and to ensure that the guilty will be appropriately punished."

### NATIONAL

**NEW YORK** — Subways and buses kept rolling through the nation's largest city early today as the union representing transit workers suspended its threatened strike and tried to reach a labor agreement with management.

The union and transit agency are at odds over pay raises, health benefits and disciplinary and sick leave policies. The union's original strike deadline of 12:01 a.m. passed without a walkout ordered — at least temporarily averting a strike that could paralyze New York during the busy holiday season.

"We have made sufficient progress to stop the clock," union secretary-treasurer Ed Watt told reporters minutes after the deadline.

Transport Workers Union chief Roger Toussaint and Metropolitan Transportation Authority negotiator Gary Dellaverson continued talks into the early morning in a midtown Manhattan hotel.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg has said a strike could cost the city up to \$350 million a day in police overtime costs and lost business and taxes. Others warn a strike would create chaos in the streets, stranding travelers and endangering lives.

More than 7 million New Yorkers who depend on the nation's largest mass transit system were spared an enormous headache — at least temporarily — as transit workers stayed on the job.

**LOS ANGELES** — The American Film Institute has honored Martin Scorsese's "Gangs of New York" and Peter Jackson's "The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers" as two of the 10 best movies of 2002.

The list included a number of movies that have yet to be widely released, including the dark comedy "About

Schmidt," starring Jack Nicholson, and "The Hours," which stars Meryl Streep, Julianne Moore and Nicole Kidman.

The AFI also honored the Hugh Grant comedy "About a Boy" and the big-screen musical "Chicago," starring Renee Zellweger, Catherine Zeta-Jones and Richard Gere.

Rounding off the list was "Adaptation," "Antwone Fisher," "The Quiet American" and "Frida." Last year, the institute recognized "The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring" as it's movie of the year.

The AFI also honored the Top 10 television shows, which included long-time programs "The Simpsons" and "Everybody Loves Raymond" and HBO's critically acclaimed series "The Sopranos" and "Six Feet Under."

The TV list also included NBC's "The West Wing" and "Boomtown," as well as the WB's "Gilmore Girls" and the cable TV movies "Door to Door," "The Gathering Storm" and "The Believer."

### WASHINGTON

**WASHINGTON** — Six short weeks after midterm election triumphs, Senate Republicans are struggling rather than celebrating, plunging deeper into a messy debate over whether Sen. Trent Lott's racially charged remarks should disqualify him as leader.

"I am concerned that Trent has been weakened to the point that may jeopardize his ability to enact our agenda and speak to all Americans," Oklahoma Sen. Don Nickles said Sunday, becoming the first GOP senator to call for new leadership elections.

Lott did not respond to Nickles' comments. Spokesman Ron Bonjean said the Mississippi Republican was preparing for a 30-minute appearance on Black Entertainment Television tonight, part of a campaign to save his leadership post.

Lott said he intends to use the time "to discuss the serious issues of diversity, opportunity and race in America," Bonjean said.

Sens. John Warner of Virginia and Chuck Hagel of Nebraska said they supported a hurry-up meeting of the rank and file in view of the controversy swirling around Lott.

Republicans "must either reconfirm their confidence in Senator Trent Lott's leadership or select a new leader," Hagel said. "In the interest of the Republican Party, the president's agenda and the nation this issue must be resolved quickly."

**WASHINGTON** — Factory-style farms that produce large amounts of waste will have to comply with a new water pollution rule the Bush administration is issuing to comply with a court-ordered deadline.

The new rule coming from the Environmental Protection Agency today says all big concentrated animal feeding operations must apply for a permit to control pollution under the Clean Water Act, according to government sources and environmentalists familiar with the rule.

EPA Administrator Christie Whitman and Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman were making the announcement.

EPA is requiring permit holders to develop a "nutrient management plan" that sets limits on how much animal manure can be applied to fields. Animal manure typically contains nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus but also pathogens, salts and heavy metals like copper.

Years in the making, the rule deals with the concentrated manure from corporate agriculture that has led to fights between livestock farms and neighbors complaining about health and environmental effects.

**WASHINGTON** — American teenagers are cutting their use of illicit drugs, cigarettes and alcohol, said an annual survey for the government released today.

The downside: A large number of young people still using drugs, said Lloyd D. Johnston, who directed the study by the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research.

"There's a smorgasbord of drugs that are out there," said Johnston. "Very few drugs leave the table, but there are always new ones being discovered and put forward, like Ecstasy."

The survey of 8th-, 10th- and 12th-graders has been done for the Department of Health and Human Services for 28 years.

Results from the 2002 Monitoring the Future study showed more than half of 12th graders have used an illicit drug. Thirty percent of 12th-graders have used some drug other than marijuana, and 11 percent have used Ecstasy.

Still, those figures are down from recent years.

**WASHINGTON** — The number of death row prisoners dropped last year for the first time since the Supreme Court reinstated capital punishment in 1976, the Justice Department says. The decline was part of a trend that has seen fewer people sentenced to die in recent years.

The death row population fell from 3,601 in 2000 to 3,581 in 2001, the first year-to-year decrease in 25 years. Last year's total of 155 was the lowest number sentenced to die and put on death row since 1973. It was the third straight year of declines.

The number of death sentences imposed last year compares with 303 in 1998 and 319 in 1996, the Bureau of Justice Statistics reported Sunday.

Sixty-six people were executed last year, compared with 85 the year before. Through Dec. 11 of this year, 68 people have been executed.

Death penalty experts say juries and prosecutors appear to be exercising greater care in using the death penalty, particularly considering recent cases in which DNA evidence has proved that people were wrongly convicted. More prosecutors also appear to be accepting plea bargains in which a defendant accepts a sentence of life without parole.

# Competition tough in lamb biz

**By Vicki Smith**

**Associated Press Writer MORGANTOWN, W.Va.** — For Ginger Nelson, not many things are as disheartening as the words "New Zealand rack of lamb" on a restaurant menu.

"I think it's such a crying shame," she says. "It should be saying 'American rack of lamb.'"

At a time when U.S. sheep farms are shrinking, Nelson and her husband, Oscar, are tending the biggest flock yet in their Lewisburg fields. They are part of a 4-year-old, state-funded experiment to breed sheep out of season, sending lambs to market when supply is low and prices are high.

"We were trying to make the most that we could of our farming operation — graze as many animals as we could and get paid more than one time a year," Nelson says.

West Virginia University began the out-of-season breeding project in 1998, hoping to help the state's farmers hold onto their tiny share of the U.S. market. Although it's still considered research, the program has grown steadily.

Director Deborah Marsh says the project also offers farmers help with parasite management, exams to determine if rams are fit for breeding, pregnancy testing and product marketing. U.S. lamb production dropped from 7.5 million pounds in 1985 to about 4.6

million last year. Flocks have shrunk from 11 million to less than 7 million in the same period, the U.S. Department of Agriculture says.

The number of farms has plunged from 120,000 in 1985 to just 66,000.

Part of the downsizing is linked to a problem that affects many industries in today's global economy — competition from foreign producers who sell at prices U.S. farmers can't match.

In West Virginia, 100 farmers abandoned sheep production between 1998 and 1999, but since then, the number of farms has remained at around 1,000. The state has 6 percent more sheep and lambs than last year, the first increase in flock size since 1993.

And a recent survey of the state's sheep farmers found that nearly 68 percent plan to expand or maintain their flocks, Marsh says. Only 11 percent expect to downsize.

In part, West Virginia's success comes from the growing demand for lambs of all sizes at all times of year, particularly from booming ethnic markets in the Northeast.

Small lambs that once went from the farm to a feed lot for fattening are now going straight to buyers. Muslim buyers, for example, tend to like lambs in the 60- to 90-pound range.

"Bigger isn't always better for that market," Marsh says. "They like a light, lean lamb. ... We publish an ethnic calendar that shows some of these

holidays, and the farmers generally try to market the lambs seven to 10 days beforehand."

Italian markets in New York tend to prefer a 45- to 60-pound lamb, while Greek buyers want theirs slightly heavier, and kosher buyers like the traditional 100- to 125-pound lamb.

"Because of where West Virginia is located, we can go with our lambs into the Northeast and target some of those ethnic markets," Marsh says.

But there will be challenges.

Unfettered competition with Australia and New Zealand is resuming since the expiration last year of tariffs imposed by former President Clinton and a \$42.7 million assistance package due to expire in July 2003.

To compete more effectively, the American Sheep Industry Association began a magazine ad campaign earlier this year to build an identity for U.S. lamb.

Americans now eat 1.3 pounds of lamb per person each year, down from 1.5 pounds in the early 1990s. In the same year, the average American eats 96 pounds of beef and 68 of pork.

The Nelson family hopes to help improve those statistics.

"It's hard, and there are days you wonder why you're doing it," Ginger Nelson says. "We could probably make more money doing nothing on certain days, but somebody's got to feed the world."

# Prime time TV schedule

## Channel guide

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## Monday Evening December 16, 2002

	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
<b>KLBY/ABC</b>	Monday Night Football						Local	ABC New	Local	Local
<b>KBSL/CBS</b>	Raymond	Standing	CSI: Miami		Local	Late Show		Late Late Show		Local
<b>KSNW/NBC</b>	Fear Factor		Crossing Jordan		Local	Tonight Show		Conan		Local
<b>KUSA/NBC</b>	Fear Factor		Fear Factor		Crossing Jordan		Local	Tonight Show		Conan
<b>KDVR/FOX</b>	Boston Public		Greatest Christmas		Local	Local	Local	Local	Local	Local
<b>Cable Channels</b>										
<b>A &amp; E</b>	American Justice		IR: the Littlest Patient		Third Watch		TVography		American Justice	
<b>AMC</b>	Dreamscape				Enemy Mine			Dreamscape		
<b>CMT</b>	Hard Rock Live		Most Wanted Christm		In With	Flamewrth	Best of Showcase		CMT 3rd Shift	
<b>CNN</b>	Larry King Live		Newsnight		Connie	Lou Dobb	Larry King		Newsnight	
<b>DISC</b>	Big Tooth: Dead or Ali		Demolitions		Monster Garage		Crash Files		Crash Files	
<b>EI</b>	Ginger Lynn				Rank: Entertainers		Howard Stern		Wild On Far East	
<b>ESPN</b>	Brian Boitano's Skating Spectacular				College Cheer & Danc		SportsCenter		SportsCenter	
<b>ESPN2</b>	Bowling		Women's Pro Billiards		Strongest	Pardon	NBA2Nigh	NFL Films	Friday Night Fights	
<b>FAM</b>	The Christmas List				700 Club		The Caroline Rhea Sh		Paid Prog	Paid Prog
<b>FX</b>	Tightrope				Married		24		Tightrope	
<b>HGTV</b>	Sensible	Public Plc	Challenge	Love By	Kitchen	Interiors	Sensible	Public Plc	Challenge	Love By
<b>HIST</b>	Masada				Gangs of New York		Mail Call	Conquest	Masada	
<b>LIFE</b>	Judgement Day				Golden Gr	Golden Gr	Nanny	Nanny	Mad About	Chicago H

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<b>MTV</b>	Making	Making	Making	MovieHou	All Things Rock		MTV After Hours			
<b>NICK</b>	TBA	Rckt Pwr	Arnold!	Rugrats	Rugrats	Ginger	Cosby	Cosby	Cheers	Cheers
<b>SCI</b>	Stargate SG-1		Stargate SG-1		J Edward	J Edward	Twilight Z	Twilight Z	Stargate SG-1	
<b>TBS</b>	Sleepless in Seattle				When Harry Met Sally		Sleepless in Seattle			
<b>TCM</b>	The White Cliffs of Dover				To Please a Lady		Navy Blues			
<b>TLC</b>	Mysteries of Mating		Forensic Science		Trauma		Human Instinct		Human Instinct	
<b>TNN</b>	WWE Raw		WWE Raw Zone		CSI		VIP		Baywatch	
<b>TNT</b>	Door to Door				Door to Door		Law & Order		X-Files	
<b>TRAV</b>	Secrets Vegas		Secrets Christmas in		Las Vegas-Beyond		Secrets Vegas		Secrets Christmas in	
<b>TV LAND</b>	Gilligan's	Munsters	Andy Griff	Beaver	Bev Hill	Lucy	Archie B	Jeffersons	The Rockford Files	
<b>USA</b>	U-571					Nash Bridges		Robbery Homicide	Lvng Sngl	
<b>VH1</b>	I Love the 80's		I Love the 80's		Rock the	Rock the	I Love the 80's		I Love the 80's	
<b>WGN</b>	Sour Grapes				Celebrity	Heat of the Night	Matlock		Susan	
<b>Premium Channels</b>										
<b>HBO</b>	Multiplicity				A.I. Artificial Intelligence				First Look	
<b>MAX</b>	Charlie's Angels		Pearl Har		Monster's Ball				Joe Dirt	
<b>SHOW</b>	Defending Your Life				Legally Blonde			Lara Croft: Tomb Raider		

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## Tuesday Evening December 17, 2002

	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
<b>KLBY/ABC</b>	Life with	Less Than	NYPD Blue		Local	Nightline	Up Close	Local	Local	Local
<b>KBSL/CBS</b>	The Guardian		Judging Amy		Local	Late Show		Late Late		Local
<b>KSNW/NBC</b>	SNL Christmas 2002		Dateline N		Local	Tonight Show		Conan		Local
<b>KUSA/NBC</b>	SNL Christmas 2002		TBA		Dateline NBC		Local	Tonight Show		Conan
<b>KDVR/FOX</b>	That 70's	Grounded	24		Local	Local	Local	Local	Local	Local
<b>Cable Channels</b>										
<b>A &amp; E</b>	Cold Case Files		Cold Case Files		Third Watch		Biography		Cold Case Files	
<b>AMC</b>	Cross Creek				Valmont				Cross Cre	
<b>CMT</b>	Austin City Limits		Johnny Cash Tribute		Most Wanted Christm		Austin City Limits		CMT 3rd Shift	
<b>CNN</b>	Larry King Live		Newsnight		Connie	Lou Dobb	Larry King		Newsnight	
<b>DISC</b>	Mysteries of Twilight		Survive X		New Detectives		New Detectives		FBI Files	
<b>EI</b>	Wynona Ryder		AnnaNicol	Star Dates	Wild On China		Howard Stern		Wild On Adriatic	
<b>ESPN</b>	Jimmy V Classic						SportsCenter		SportsCenter	
<b>ESPN2</b>	2002 New Orleans Bowl						NFL2Nigh	NBA2Nigh	X Games	
<b>FAM</b>	Three Days				700 Club		The Caroline Rhea Sh		Paid Prog	Paid Prog
<b>FX</b>	LA Confidential						LA Confidential			
<b>HGTV</b>	Room	Decor Ce	Hunters	Drn Hous	At Home	Fantasy	Room	Decor Ce	Hunters	Drn Hous
<b>HIST</b>	Biblical Disasters #1		Runaways		Organized Crime		The Christmas Truce		Biblical Disasters #1	
<b>LIFE</b>	Something About Amelia				Golden Gr	Golden Gr	Nanny	Nanny	Mad About	Chicago H

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<b>MTV</b>	MTV's Primetime Players		Osbourne		Special		All Things Rock		MTV After Hours	
<b>NICK</b>	TBA	Rckt Pwr	Arnold!		Rugrats	Arnold!	Spng Bob	Cosby	Cosby	Cheers
<b>SCI</b>	The X-Files		The X-Files		J Edward	J Edward	Twilight Z	Twilight Z	Stargate SG-1	
<b>TBS</b>	Money Talks				Money Train		Fatal Beauty			
<b>TCM</b>	Pillow Talk				Lower Come Back		Sunday in New York			
<b>TLC</b>	Cruise Ships		Forensic Science		High Speed Pursuit		Human Instinct		Human Instinct	
<b>TNN</b>	Platoon				Star Trek: Generation		VIP		Baywatch	
<b>TNT</b>	Law & Order		Charmed		Lord of the Rings		X-Files		X-Files	
<b>TRAV</b>	Secrets of the Holy La		Secrets of Jerusalem		Where Christmas Beg		Secrets of the Holy La		Secrets of Jerusalem	
<b>TV LAND</b>	Gilligan's	Munsters	Andy Griff	Beaver	Bev Hill	Lucy	Archie B	Jeffersons	The Rockford Files	
<b>USA</b>	Six Days, Seven Nights				Six Days, Seven Nights		A Motown Christmas		Lvng Sngl	
<b>VH1</b>	I Love the 80's		I Love the 80's		Shania Twain		I Love the 80's		I Love the 80's	
<b>WGN</b>	Messenger of Death				Celebrity	Heat of the Night	Matlock		Susan	
<b>Premium Channels</b>										
<b>HBO</b>	Real Sports		Driven							