

Steelers Top Colts in a Frenzied Finish; Panthers Move On | SPORTS, E1

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MONDAY, JANUARY 16, 2006

M1 M2 M3 M4 V1 V2 V3 V4

Weather

Today: Partly sunny.
High 41, Low 34.
Tuesday: Rain.
High 45, Low 40.

Details, B8

129TH YEAR No. 42 R DC MD

Recovery
A Constant
Challenge
For Barry

By YOLANDA WOODLEE
and LORI MONTGOMERY
Washington Post Staff Writers

Late one night in 1996, suspicious that Marion Barry was using drugs again, boxing promoter Rock Newman sat him down and told him that he should resign as D.C. mayor and focus on beating his addiction. Newman said Barry cried in his arms.

He remembers Barry telling him: "I love you, man. I know I betrayed your friendship." Barry agreed to leave town for a while and take a second stab at treatment. But he wouldn't give up politics. "He felt if he wasn't the mayor, he wasn't nothing," Newman said.

Newman is out of Barry's life now; he dropped away after questioning the sincerity of Barry's efforts to stay sober and clean during his

fourth and final term as mayor. A few years later, Barry's wife, Cora, left him, too, after he derailed a comeback council campaign by getting caught with a \$5 rock of crack cocaine in his car. By 2004, when Barry won the Ward 8 council seat, many of his old friends had abandoned him.

For 25 years, Barry has, by his own admission, battled addictions to drugs, alcohol and women even as he repeatedly sought and won election to public office. He found relief in New Age healing and spiritual guidance as well as medical treatment. But whatever strength he drew from those sources apparently didn't last. In November, a court-ordered urine test came up positive for cocaine, the drug that pulled his life apart and sent him to prison.

Now, Barry faces the possibility of another jail term and the potential loss of the political prominence he fought hard to regain. Some longtime friends doubt that he was ever fully committed to his own sobriety. However he came to use co-

See BARRY, A6, Col. 1



Voters cast ballots in the Chilean capital, Santiago, in a runoff that pitted a Socialist woman against one of the country's richest men.

Chile Elects First Female President
Bachelet, a Former Political Prisoner, Will Keep Socialists in Power

Michelle Bachelet, the winner of Chile's presidency with about 53 percent, shows off her inked thumb after voting.

By MONTE REEL
Washington Post Foreign Service

SANTIAGO, Chile, Jan. 15 — Socialist Party candidate Michelle Bachelet, a political prisoner during Gen. Augusto Pinochet's military dictatorship and a single mother of three, was elected president on Sunday, the first woman to lead a country long considered one of the most culturally traditional in Latin America.

With 97 percent of voting sites reporting, Bachelet won 53 percent of the vote to about 47 percent for billionaire businessman Sebastian Piñera.

Thousands of supporters filled the streets around Bachelet's election night headquarters here to celebrate, waving banners and chanting her name.

"I never thought I would see this happen," said Margarita Flores, 35, a supporter who held a bag of confetti. "Finally, a woman."

Bachelet's victory will keep the Socialist Party in the presidential palace for four more years, following the presidency of Ricardo Lagos. When Lagos won the 2000 election, it was the first time a Socialist had held the seat in Chile since 1973, when Pinochet overthrew the government of Salvador Allende. What followed was a 17-year dictatorship, marked by widespread human rights violations, that would fundamentally shape the personal and political life of Bachelet.

She is the daughter of a Chilean air force general who served under Allende and who was imprisoned and tortured after the coup. He died in prison. Two years later, government forces detained Bachelet and her mother, putting them in prison, where they were tortured. She eventually went into exile in Australia and Europe, returning to Chile in 1979 to work as a pe-

See CHILE, A12, Col. 1

Kaine's
1st Tests:
Growth,
Traffic

Policy Will Urge
Local Control

By MICHAEL D. SHEAR
Washington Post Staff Writer

RICHMOND, Jan. 15 — Virginia Gov. Timothy M. Kaine will call for new controls on growth and development Monday night, saying the only way to solve congestion on the state's roads is to slow the march of suburban sprawl.

In his first policy address to the General Assembly, the new governor will urge passage of a law that gives local governments the right to halt housing construction if roads are not adequate. The proposal will be part of a package of transportation initiatives he will unveil during his speech, according to a senior Kaine adviser who asked not to be named because the speech has not been authorized for release.

Kaine also will acknowledge the need for more money to build wider highways, buy more buses and trains and erect bridges. But he will not suggest an increase in gas or sales taxes or offer specific legislation that details how he thinks the state should raise the new funds, the adviser said.

Kaine also hopes to make good on a promise he made during the campaign to lock up the state's transportation fund so road and transit money can't be used for other purposes.

"I am proposing initiatives that better link land use and transportation decisions so that uncoordinated development doesn't overwhelm our roads and infrastructure," Kaine says in a draft of the speech, a portion of which was read to a reporter.

The fact that the centerpiece of Monday's speech will be about growth makes Kaine the first Virginia governor in modern times to tackle the politically touchy issue, which is usually left to city councils and boards of supervisors.

Northern Virginia governments, especially in the outer suburbs, have been struggling for years to find the right balance between growth and property rights. Some officials have said they fear lawsuits from developers if they turn down requests to build because of congested roads.

In October, Kaine ran a televi-

See VIRGINIA, A4, Col. 1

In Ga., Abramoff Scandal Threatens a Political Ascendancy

By THOMAS B. EDSELL
Washington Post Staff Writer

DAWSONVILLE, Ga. — Ralph Reed, candidate for lieutenant governor, had just finished his opening statement to the Dawson County Republican Party when retired pulp paper executive Gary Pichon sprang from his seat with a question that cut to the chase:

"Did you accept any gifts, commissions or other payments of any kind from Mr. Abramoff, and are you likely to be a party in the un-

folding investigation?"

Silence enveloped the 60 or so Republicans in the auditorium, and Reed's cheerful manner turned tense. "No," he replied. "No to all these."

As everyone knew, Pichon was referring to Jack Abramoff, whose outside Washington lobbying scandal has reached down to Georgia. Abramoff and Reed — the former executive director of the Christian Coalition —

have been friends for 25 years, and until recently it had been a mutually profitable association. Now it is proving highly inconvenient for Reed, and threatens to stall a career that has been emblematic of the modern GOP.

Reed served as executive director of the College Republicans from 1983 to 1985 and led a revival of the Christian right in the 1990s. He founded a grass-roots lobbying firm in 1997, bringing in millions of dollars in

fees, chaired the Georgia Republican Party in 2002 when the GOP took over the state, and served as Southeast director of the 2004 Bush-Cheney campaign.

At age 44, he still has the choirboy looks that have been noted in dozens of profiles over the past 20 years. But the first major dent in Reed's carefully cultivated image came with the disclosure in the summer of 2004 that his public relations and lobbying

See REED, A7, Col. 1

Russian Case Shows
No Holds Barred in
Business and Politics

By PETER FINN
Washington Post Foreign Service

BELGOROD, Russia — Three assailants emerged from the darkness in the stairwell of Alexander Annenkov's apartment building and knocked him to the floor, a short-handled ax slicing into his thigh. Screaming, Annenkov raised his right arm against another stroke of the ax, and his hand was almost severed, he recalled. "The last blow was with the handle on my head," said Annenkov, 29, who was found unconscious by neighbors. "I don't think they were trying to kill me. It was a message."

The message, he contends, was aimed at the very powerful company that employs him: the conglomerate Inteko, controlled by Russia's only female billionaire, Yelena Baturina.

Within hours of the assault Oct. 9, a Russian government medevac plane, arranged for by Baturina's husband, Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov, took off for this city near the Ukraine border to bring the gravely injured executive back to a hospital in the capital. Accompanying it was the company's private jet, carrying a senior executive to lend support to the colleague.

The attack came as Baturina and a group of her political allies were taking on Belgorod Gov. Yevgeny Savchenko and his own business supporters. The governor opposes Baturina's effort to turn nearly 250,000 acres of Soviet-era collective farmland into a modern agribusiness. He has denied on local television that he used violence against Baturina's executive.

The controversy opens a window on an enduring feature of life across Russia: the high-stakes battles be-

See RUSSIA, A14, Col. 1

INSIDE

Remembering
A Civil Rights Leader

With readings, music, dance and community service, residents from across the Washington area join to celebrate the life and legacy of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., shown here with wife Coretta Scott King. METRO, B6

By GENE HERRICK —
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Protests Spread in Pakistan

At rallies in major cities, speakers condemn the United States for Friday's fatal missile strike near the Afghan border. WORLD, A10

Selling Their Life's Work

Big firms court owners of small government contractors, offering growth. But it can be a tough choice. WASHINGTON BUSINESS, D1

Ants are the first non-humans to teach, some scientists say. | A8



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Translator's Conviction
Raises Legal Concerns

Trial Transcripts Show Lack of Evidence

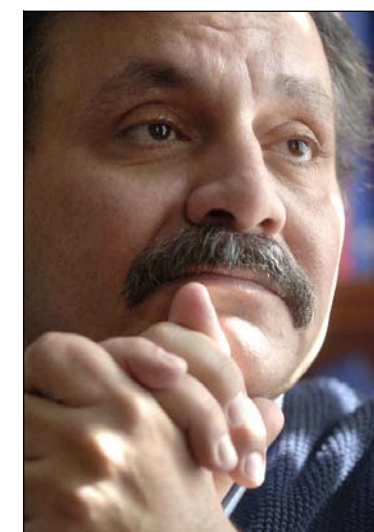
By MICHAEL POWELL
and MICHELLE GARCIA
Washington Post Staff Writers

NEW YORK — For three years federal agents trailed Mohammed Yousry, a chubby 50-year-old translator and U.S. citizen who worked for radical lawyer Lynne Stewart. Prosecutors wiretapped his phone, and FBI agents shadowed and interviewed him. They read his books and notepads and every file on his computer.

This was their conclusion: "Yousry is not a practicing Muslim. He is not a fundamentalist," prosecutor Anthony Barkow acknowledged in his closing arguments to a jury in federal district court in Manhattan earlier this year. "Mohammed Yousry is not someone who supports or believes in the use of violence."

Still, the prosecutor persuaded the jury to convict Yousry of supporting terrorism. Yousry now awaits sentencing in March, when he could face 20 years in prison for translating a letter from imprisoned Muslim cleric Omar Abdel Rahman to Rahman's lawyer in Egypt.

In June 2000, Stewart released to a reporter a version of the letter,



BY HELAYNE SEIDMAN FOR THE WASHINGTON POST
Mohammed Yousry was convicted of supporting terrorism for translating a letter from Omar Abdel Rahman.

which discussed a cease-fire between Islamic militants and the Egyptian government. Prosecutors said that the lawyer and the translator, by these acts, conspired to use Rahman's words to incite others to carry out kidnappings and killings.

See TRANSLATOR, A9, Col. 1

Lack of Evidence Against Translator Raises Legal Questions

TRANSLATOR, From A1

No attack took place.

"Kill who? What are they talking about?" Yousry asked recently as he sat alongside his wife, Sarah, an evangelical Christian, in their modest Connecticut condominium. "The words I'm looking for, it's insane."

The prosecution and conviction of Stewart, 66, on charges of aiding terrorist activity, drew international attention, overshadowing Yousry's case. But legal experts, civil liberties lawyers and a juror say Yousry's conviction raises many troubling questions, not least how a court-appointed translator working on instruction from lawyers could be held responsible for navigating complicated and dangerous legal waters.

The trial transcripts reveal that prosecutors advanced no evidence to back up certain claims, including the assertion that Yousry was in touch with Middle Eastern terrorists.

"You would expect a translator to take his lead from the defense lawyer and you would not expect that translator to understand the intricacies of a very broad criminal statute," said Neal R. Sonnett, a former federal prosecutor who chaired an American Bar Association task force that opposed the Bush administration's position on enemy combatants. "There is a real issue whether it's even fair to charge, much less convict, someone like him."

Yousry had no legal training and translated nothing without instruction from defense lawyers. He passed rigorous federal security clearance checks. A PhD candidate at New York University, Yousry harbored no affinity for Rahman, writing that the cleric promoted "Muslim totalitarianism."

Justice Department prosecutors said secret recordings of meetings in Rahman's prison showed that Yousry crossed the line between legal and illegal behavior. Yousry read letters to Rahman from radical supporters, even though he understood that they were violent men.

"He stuck his head in the sand and deliberately avoided knowing what would have been obvious," prosecutor Robin Baker told the jury. "We don't need to prove why."

Yousry was tried alongside Stewart, who supports armed revolution, and Ahmed Sattar, a Rahman aide and sympathizer with fundamentalist causes, in Manhattan, five blocks from Ground Zero. All three were convicted. Prosecutors played a videotape of Osama bin Laden and mentioned al Qaeda attacks, even though the case had nothing to do with that group.

A month after the trial, a female juror wrote to U.S. District Judge John G. Koeltl, complaining that fellow jurors talked of terrorist attacks and their desire to teach the defendants a lesson. "They had an agenda," Juror 39 told The Washington Post in her first interview. "People are so fearful that if you disagree with the government on one thing it makes you a terrorist."

"I have to plead guilty to being a coward," Juror 39, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said of her vote to convict. "It doesn't feel good, but I punked out."

Out of Egypt

Yousry has round cheeks and curly hair, wears baggy sweaters and jeans and has the aspect of an absent-minded professor. He's far removed from a privileged upbringing in Egypt, where his father was a military general, a physician and a supporter of President Gamal Abdel Nasser.

Yousry came to New York City in 1980. He met Sarah, and they married in a church. Their daughter graduated from a Baptist college.

In 1995, Yousry's translation agency offered him a job with the legal defense team for Rahman, a prominent Egyptian radical who was accused of conspiring to blow up the United Nations building and the Holland and Lincoln tunnels. Yousry struck up a cordial if fractious relationship with Rahman, who speaks little English. "He liked to torture me about drinking and not praying and all that good stuff," Yousry recalled.

In October 1995, Rahman was convicted and sentenced to life in prison. Stewart and former attorney general Ramsey Clark, a courtly Texan with decidedly left-wing politics, set about trying to persuade the United States to transfer Rahman to an Egyptian prison. They asked Yousry to return to the case in 1997.

Yousry declined — he wanted to write his dissertation and teach. His adviser, historian Zachary Lockman, suggested a marriage of academics and work. "Knowing that he would have access to the FBI tapes and to Rahman, I suggested a biography of Rahman and his movement," Lockman said. "I guess I'm responsible in a very sad way for the trouble he's in."

In April 1997, Attorney General Janet Reno imposed unprecedented restrictions known as "special administrative measures" on Rahman, denying him access to mail, newspapers and any visitor except his wife and attorneys. Prosecutors argued that Rahman's words were so dangerous that they constituted a weap-

on. Theirs was not an idle worry: Egyptian militants had slaughtered 58 tourists in Luxor in 1997 in hopes of forcing Rahman's release.

Clark and Stewart signed the administrative measures. Prosecutors did not demand the same of Yousry. The defense attorneys repeatedly tested the regulations. Clark in 1997 told reporters of Rahman's support for a cease-fire with the Egyptian government without earning a rebuke from prosecutors.

Prosecutors argue that the translator should have balked when the lawyers skirted the legal edge. This notion bemuses Clark. "Mohammed would assume that the lawyers knew what they were doing," he said in an interview.

Prison Meeting

By 2000, Stewart had taken the lead in Rahman's defense. A grandmotherly Maoist, she was an accomplished trial lawyer who eschewed Clark's diplomatic speech.

But Stewart did not realize that a year earlier Justice Department lawyers — under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act — obtained permission to secretly videotape visits to Rahman in his maximum-security prison in Rochester, Minn. They also obtained wiretaps on Yousry and Sattar.

At the core of the government's case were two prison meetings with Rahman in May 2000. On May 19, Yousry read a note to Rahman from his radical followers, asking whether to maintain a cease-fire with the Egyptian government. Rahman dictated a response the next day. Contrary to prosecution claims, government tapes show the cleric did not favor ending the cease-fire.

"The militants," Rahman wrote to his attorney in Egypt, "should not cancel it altogether."

Stewart chattered to distract the



Radical lawyer Lynne Stewart was convicted of aiding terrorist activity.

guards and joked with Yousry that they could get in trouble. Prosecutors argued this was proof of a "red-handed" conspiracy. Yousry denied involvement, saying Stewart revealed in thumbing her nose at prosecutors.

On June 14, 2000, Stewart — without Yousry's knowledge — read a statement about the cease-fire to a Reuters correspondent. Misinterpreting Rahman's intent, she said he had withdrawn his support for it.

If this was a conspiracy, it was a remarkably uncoordinated affair. Four months later, Sattar, the postal clerk, released a fatwa, or religious edict, in Rahman's name urging followers to "kill Jews everywhere." Yousry, government tapes show, learned of the fatwa days later while reading the newspaper to Rahman. He immediately said he had to inform the lawyers.

"Mr. Yousry," Rahman snapped in a rare use of English, "this is none of your business!"

Later government tapes reveal

Yousry upbraiding Sattar when he learned the postal clerk spoke to suspected terrorists after militants bombed the USS Cole in Yemen in October 2000. Yousry became worried. "I asked Ramsey what I should do," he recalled. "He told me: 'Listen to the lawyer and you'll be safe.'"

Indictment

A plume of black smoke rose from Ground Zero as four FBI agents knocked on the door of Yousry's home in Queens two days after Sept. 11, 2001. Yousry said little. Two more days passed, and he thought better of his reticence. He called the agents back and talked about Sattar and the USS Cole and Rahman. He met four more times with FBI agents over six months.

In the spring of 2002, a federal prosecutor suggested Yousry testify if the government indicted Stewart and Clark. This was confirmed by a federal law enforcement source. "They wanted me to entrap Lynne



Ahmed Sattar, right, an aide to Muslim cleric Omar Abdel Rahman, left, was tried alongside Stewart and Mohammed Yousry.

and Ramsey," Yousry said. "I said no."

On April 9, 2002, FBI agents and helmeted police officers with high-powered rifles came to arrest Yousry while his friends and neighbors peered behind cruisers and kitchen curtains. Stewart had been arrested that morning.

The FBI ultimately recorded thousands of hours of Yousry's telephone conversations and electronic activity over three years, but prosecutors introduced none of those tapes into evidence. Yousry never spoke to Rahman without the lawyers' permission, even when left alone with him. Nor, transcripts show, did the prosecutors offer evidence to back up assertions that Yousry talked to militants in the Middle East.

Prosecutors argued that Yousry metaphorically closed his eyes to the bad characters around him. They noted that he padded his résumé and suggested that he addressed Rahman as "spiritual master" to

show allegiance; in fact, it's a common Arabic honorific. Prosecutors speculated that Yousry betrayed the nation in hopes of gaining a Harvard teaching position.

The jury began deliberations in early 2005 and conversation was not friendly to the defendants. "A woman was in tears she was so scared of terrorism," Juror 39 said. "Another kept asking why it took Yousry so long to finish his dissertation, that it was suspicious."

On Feb. 10, 2005, the jury foreman pronounced the defendants guilty on all counts. Yousry went ashore; his daughter, Leslie, dissolved in tears.

Afterward

Judge Koeltl recently rejected Yousry's legal appeal based on the account of Juror 39. The judge noted that juries are given great leeway. David Stern, Yousry's lawyer, cannot quite accept that. "I'm in the habit of defending bad people, and they've mostly done what they're accused of," he said. "This guy is flat-out innocent, and it's disgraceful he's going to prison."

Michael Gasper, who studied with Yousry and teaches at Yale, often visits the translator. The friends drink wine and laugh, and when Gasper leaves, Yousry presses another favorite history book into his guest's hands. The translator will have no use for them in prison. "The way he has taken it makes me cry, he's so gracious," Gasper said. "I try not to talk about it, but he keeps giving me those... books."

Yousry talks of hope. "I awake every morning and think: I will be vindicated," he said. "It just hasn't happened yet." But he passes the days until sentencing in his book-lined study. He figures it is the size of a prison cell and he wants to get used to it.

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