

# PROGRESS MADE IN HOMELAND SECURITY

--Government trying to improve homeland security by discovering the problems of the past and making improvements for the future. --

## **BACKGROUND:**

It is an issue that has haunted the American people and government since September of last year. What went wrong in our national defenses and how do we stop it from happening again? It is an issue so important that the Defense Department is seeking an extra \$10 billion a year for the next five years, beyond the growth in its regular budget, to carry out its campaign against terrorism, senior Pentagon and other administration officials announced this week. An issue so important that there will be a 10 member panel to investigate the events of September 11. An issue so important that the largest reorganization of government ever is being planned.

After over a year of bickering, plans, amendments, delays and rewrites, which have graced the news headlines, in the shortened Thanksgiving week, progress has been made. Whether it is from increased congressional support for Bush after the November elections, a desire to finally move forward, a need to establish order before a possible war with Iraq or an opportunistic moment (when journalists and lawmakers take a break) before a holiday, we will never know. However, we do know that making a decision, though not always the best one, is often better than not doing anything at all.

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[www.theweeklyreport.com/Newsletters/July8.pdf](http://www.theweeklyreport.com/Newsletters/July8.pdf)

## **STORY 1:**

### **Bush Names Kissinger to Head 9/11 Probe**

President Bush on Friday appointed former Secretary of State **Henry Kissinger** to lead an

investigation into why the government failed to foil the Sept. 11 attacks.



A bill Bush once opposed, it creates a 10-member independent panel for an 18-month inquiry into the attacks on Washington and New York that killed

more than 3,000 people. Debate about the commission has been marked by differences between the White House, Democrats and victims' relatives over how far the probe should go and whether Bush himself should testify.

Kissinger's appointment gives the commission instant respectability, and puts a White House ally in charge of an inquiry that has the potential to embarrass Bush. Kissinger, 79, echoed the president in pledging to "go where the facts lead us." He said he would accept no restrictions.

Later, Democratic congressional leaders named former Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell to be vice chairman of the panel. After leaving the Senate in 1995, Mitchell led the negotiations that produced the landmark Good Friday peace pact of 1998 for Northern Ireland. The commission will build upon the work of congressional investigators who reported this year that clues to the hijackers' plot were ignored or misunderstood. Lawmakers have criticized the CIA for not tracking two al-Qaida operatives it learned of in early 2000. Those operatives were two of the five hijackers on the plane that crashed into the Pentagon. Congressional investigators also noted poor communication between the FBI and CIA on terrorism matters, and questioned the State Department on visa programs that allowed all 19 hijackers to enter the country unchallenged.

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The commission has a broad mandate to examine issues such as aviation security and border problems, along with intelligence. While the president said lessons could be learned from Sept. 11, he seemed to put a greater emphasis on the panel determining methods and motives of terrorists who might strike in the future. Democrats and some family members laid out goals that assume a more critical look at the government's actions before Sept. 11.

Like the Homeland Security Department, the independent commission was an idea Bush came to support only after intense political pressure.

Bush said that he did not envision testifying to the panel, in part because there was no precedent for it. However, President Reagan testified before a panel he appointed to investigate the Iran-Contra affair and Ford testified before a House subcommittee about his pardoning of Nixon.

## **STORY 2:**

### **Timetable Set for New Homeland Dept.**

Within hours of signing the new Homeland Security department into law Monday, President Bush asked the Senate to approve his hand-picked leadership team and submitted his transition blueprint to Congress.

According to the months-in-the-making plan, the final pieces will be in place by Sept. 30, 2003. The plan calls for a large portion of the department to take shape March 1, when the Secret Service, Coast Guard, Customs Service, Immigration and Naturalization Service and a few other agencies fold their employees and budgets into the new Cabinet entity.

President Bush chose longtime political ally Tom Ridge and two high-powered deputies to lead the new Department of Homeland Security. For Ridge's deputy, Bush is nominating Navy Secretary Gordon England, a former General Dynamics Corp. vice president. Asa Hutchinson, head of the Drug Enforcement Administration and a former GOP congressman from Arkansas, is

Bush's pick for undersecretary of border and transportation security.

Bush initially opposed creation of a Homeland Security Department. Facing criticism from Democrats, he embraced the concept in June and used it as a political issue in the midterm election campaign.

In the 57-year-old Ridge, Bush picked a Vietnam hero, 12-year congressional veteran and longtime political ally of the Bush family who was on the president's short list of potential running mates in 2000. Raised in blue-collar Erie, Pa., Ridge worked summers as a union laborer and went to Harvard University. Nearly 14 months ago, he left his position as Pennsylvania governor to serve in the White House and has won praise as the president's homeland security adviser for improving communication between Washington and local governments. His most visible creation — the color-coded national warning system — became an instant butt of jokes but has helped Americans understand the ebbs and flows in terrorism threats, even if they're still unsure what, if anything, to do about the dangers. No one else was seriously considered for the top job at the new department, Bush aides said.

The centrist views that made a vice presidential nomination untenable to conservatives in 2000 — Ridge supports abortion rights — could help him in his new post. His record of accommodating unions could help heal a rift between the White House and labor groups representing federal employees that oppose a provision allowing Bush to waive collective bargaining rules in the new department.

Creating the department will involve merging \$40 billion in budgets from a broad swath of well-protected bureaucratic turf. Critics warn that problems are sure to crop up. Ridge was more optimistic. "Hopefully from day one we'll see tangible results," he said on CNN. "I understand that blending 22 departments and agencies and 170,000 people is going to be a very complicated, time-consuming task."

Other changes will continue in phases even as the new agency searches for permanent housing, according to an outline of the shift distributed by the White House.

White House site: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/>

### **SIGNIFICANCE:**

The White House transition plan to transfer agencies to the new Department of Homeland Security, according to officials speaking on condition of anonymity:

**March 1:** The Secret Service, Coast Guard, Customs Service, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Transportation Safety Administration and the General Service Administration's federal protective services.

**April 1:** The FBI's National Infrastructure Protection Center.

**May 1:** The Pentagon's national communication system.

**June 1:** The Agriculture Department's Plum Island Animal Disease Center.

**Sept. 30:** Final transfers take place.

The extra \$10 billion a year for the Defense Department could be used for military actions, for other emerging counterterrorism operations around the world, as a reserve war fund and for the costs of added protection for military bases in the United States and overseas. None of it would go to the new Department of Homeland Security, or for increases requested by other departments and agencies, like the C.I.A. and the F.B.I., for their roles in counterterrorism.

1990s, it became clear that the spread of HIV, and the epidemic's devastating impact on all aspects of human lives and on social and economic development, were creating an emergency that would require a greatly expanded United Nations effort. Nor could any single United Nations organization provide the coordinated level of assistance needed to address the many factors driving the HIV epidemic, or help countries deal with the impact of HIV/AIDS on households, communities and local economies. Greater coordination would be needed to maximize the impact of UN efforts.

Addressing these challenges head-on, in 1996 the United Nations drew six organizations together in a joint and cosponsored program - the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS). The six original Cosponsors of UNAIDS - UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, UNESCO, WHO and the World Bank - were joined in April 1999 by UNDCP.

The goal of UNAIDS is to strengthen and orchestrate the unique expertise, resources, and networks of influence that each of these organizations offers. Working together through UNAIDS, the Cosponsors expand their outreach through strategic alliances with other United Nations agencies, national governments, corporations, media, religious organizations, community-based groups, regional and country networks of people living with HIV/AIDS, and other nongovernmental organizations.

With an annual budget of US\$ 60 million and a staff of 129 professionals, UNAIDS is a modest-sized program with a substantial impact. The UNAIDS Secretariat operates as a catalyst and coordinator of action on AIDS, rather than as a direct funding or implementing agency.

The largest donors to UNAIDS in 1998 were the United States Government, which contributed US\$ 15 million, followed by the Governments of the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Sweden, Norway, and Denmark. UNAIDS also receives funds from non-traditional donors such as China, Thailand and South Africa.

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## **WORLD AIDS DAY**

--Sunday was a day to promote awareness of the HIV/AIDS virus. --

### **BACKGROUND:**

From 1986, the World Health Organization (WHO) had the lead responsibility on AIDS in the United Nations, helping countries to set up much-needed national AIDS programs. But by the mid-

UNAIDS is guided by a Program Coordinating Board with representatives of 22 governments from all parts of the world, representatives of the 7 UNAIDS Cosponsors, and 5 representatives of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), including associations of people living with HIV/AIDS. UNAIDS is the first United Nations program to include NGOs in its governing body. The Cosponsors and Secretariat also meet several times a year as the Committee of Cosponsoring Organizations (CCO).

The Secretariat of UNAIDS is based in Geneva, Switzerland. Current priority areas for the Secretariat include:

- young people
- highly vulnerable populations
- prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission
- developing and implementing community standards of AIDS care
- vaccine development
- special initiatives for hard-hit regions, including sub-Saharan Africa.

### **STORY:**

Millions of people around the globe marked World AIDS Day Sunday with marches, prayers and hope amid grim statistics that show the epidemic outpacing all efforts to control it. Various activities are taking place around the world to observe World AIDS Day. These activities aim at raising awareness among the people about the need to eliminate stigma and discrimination faced by people living with HIV/AIDS. These range from seminars, public rallies, messages from Heads of States, special film showings, launches of public service announcements, press advertisements and posters, concerts and special memorials and services. Most of these activities are being held under the World AIDS Campaign slogan "Live and let live".

In China, officials instructed one million students to launch a new national AIDS awareness campaign while in Britain, health experts warned

of a startling spike in new infections, and in South Africa -- the country worst hit by the disease -- they held a mass funeral for babies.

Sunday's World AIDS Day activities highlight how dangerously the disease has spread since it was first detected in the United States in 1981.

### **SIGNIFICANCE:**

Estimates released by the United Nations last week indicate that more than 40 million people worldwide are infected with HIV, the virus which causes AIDS, the vast majority of them in sub-Saharan Africa. AIDS will have killed 3.1 million people by the end of this year, while five million more will have been infected. But the story does not end there: just under 14,000 new cases of HIV infections occur every single day.

Ominously, the virus appears to be both spreading into regions which could transform the epidemic into a truly global disaster and developing resistance to AIDS-fighting drugs, complicating the quest for a vaccine.

Eastern Europe and Central Asia, with 1.2 million cases, now show the fastest growing epidemics, while officials fear that China and India are AIDS time bombs.

95% of all AIDS cases occur in the world's poorest countries. In several southern African countries, at least one in five adults is HIV positive. In 2000, the HIV prevalence rate among pregnant women in South Africa rose to its highest level ever: 24.5% bringing to 4.7 million the estimated total number of South Africans living with the virus.

The one positive is that awareness is spreading. China, long criticized for its sluggish response to the threat, launched a new round of awareness and prevention campaigns Sunday, taking on social taboos on talking about sexual activities in public. The government asked students to spread out into the countryside to educate people about the disease and denounce discrimination against sufferers.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.worldaidsday.org>

## ENTERTAINMENT:



## Four Blind Mice

By James Patterson



In this latest thriller from perennial bestselling author James Patterson, Washington cop Alex Cross gets involved in his partner's effort to save the life of an old Army buddy who's facing execution for a horrendous and inexplicable murder spree in North Carolina. The Army's evidence against Sergeant Ellis Cooper, a decorated Vietnam vet, is overwhelming, which isn't surprising since it's all been planted by a quartet of killers whose reason for framing the erstwhile hero isn't revealed until long after they are. The big secret is who set the murderers loose, and in true cliffhanger fashion, Patterson keeps it under wraps until the very end. Meanwhile, his usual blend of action, violence, fast pacing and uninspired-though-serviceable prose prevail, and will probably do so all the way to the top of the bestseller lists.

--Jane Adams, Amazon.com

James Patterson's most recent major international bestseller is "2nd Chance." He is the author of several bestsellers featuring Alex Cross, including "Along Came a Spider" and "Violets Are Blue." He lives in Florida.

### HOLIDAY GIFT IDEA?



## Sopranos' Family Cookbook

In what is quite possibly the most fun of all the Sopranos-themed titles being published in time for the show's September return, this tongue-in-cheek cookbook brings homestyle Soprano family cooking to the table. Artie Bucco,

the character (played by John Ventimiglia) who is the chef at the show's Vesuvio restaurant, sets the tone of this book of insider "family" secrets by explaining his family's move from Campania, Italy, to New Jersey, then turns to various Soprano characters. (A brief chapter on Neapolitan cooking is explained by the Newark Public Library's Natalie del Greco, who offers recipes for a simple Marinara Sauce as well as a Sunday Gravy.)

While the book's conceit is playfully written by Rucker (The Sopranos: A Family History) in the voice of each character, the recipes, by Scicolone (Italian Holiday Cooking), are solid and honest-to-goodness Italian-American dishes.

In the end, readers are left with a book-filled with stills from Soprano episodes-that is alternately enticing and wonderfully tacky, just like the Soprano family members themselves.

### SPORTS:

## Pole Sets World Record for Pole-Sitting

A young Pole set a new pole-sitting world record Wednesday, coming down from his perch in a German fun park after 196 days and nights.



Daniel Baraniuk, an out-of-work 27-year-old from Gdansk, collected nearly \$23,000 for winning the World Pole-Sitting Championship.

Organizers said he also secured a place in the Guinness Book of Records.

Ten competitors mounted their 8-foot 21/2-inch poles at Heidepark in the northern town of Soltau on May 15. They were allowed to leave their 24- by 16-inch seats, every two hours for 10 minutes.

Baraniuk, whose closest rival fell off his pole in October, said he gave up because of boredom as the number of visitors to the park dropped with the seasonal temperatures.

**THIS WEEK IN HISTORY:**

December 2, 1804

*Napoleon Crowned Emperor*

In Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, Napoleon Bonaparte is crowned Napoleon I, the first Frenchman to hold the title of emperor in a thousand years. Pope Pius VII handed Napoleon the crown that the 35-year-old conqueror of Europe placed on his own head.



The Corsican-born Napoleon, one of the greatest military strategists in history, rapidly rose in the ranks of the French Revolutionary Army during the late 1790s. By 1799, France was at war with most of

Europe, and Napoleon returned home from his Egyptian campaign to take over the reigns of the French government and save his nation from collapse. After becoming first consul in February 1800, he reorganized his armies and defeated Austria. In 1802, he established the Napoleonic Code, a new system of French law, and in 1804 he established the French empire. By 1807, Napoleon's empire stretched from the River Elbe in the north, down through Italy in the south, and from the Pyrenees to the Dalmatian coast.

Beginning in 1812, Napoleon began to encounter the first significant defeats of his military career, suffering through a disastrous invasion of Russia, losing Spain to the Duke of Wellington in the Peninsula War, and enduring total defeat against an allied force by 1814. Exiled to the island of Elba, he escaped to France in early 1815 and raised a new Grand Army that enjoyed temporary success before its defeat at Waterloo against Wellington on June 18, 1815.

Napoleon was subsequently exiled to the island of Saint Helena off the coast of Africa, where he lived under house arrest with a few followers. In May 1821, he died, most likely of

stomach cancer. He was only 51 years old. In 1840, his body was returned to Paris, and a magnificent funeral was held. Napoleon's body was conveyed through the Arc de Triomphe and entombed under the dome of the Invalides.

**WHO YOU NEED TO KNOW:****Henry A. Kissinger**

Henry Kissinger, born Heinz Alfred Kissinger on May 27, 1923, came to the United States from Germany in 1938. He received the BA Degree Summa Cum Laude at Harvard College in 1950 and the MA and PhD Degrees at Harvard University in 1952 and 1954 respectively. From 1954 until 1971 he was a member of the Faculty of Harvard University, in various positions.

In the Nixon administration, Kissinger served as the president's National Security Advisor and then Secretary of State. Kissinger was the go-between in the secret negotiations that eventually opened relations between the U.S. and communist China. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1973 for his role in arranging a ceasefire in North Vietnam — but he also has been strongly criticized by some for his wartime service.

After leaving government service, he founded Kissinger Associates, an international consulting firm, of which he is chairman.

He married Ann Fleischer in 1949 and was divorced in 1964. There were two children, Elizabeth and David. In 1974 he married Nancy Maginnes. Today Kissinger continues to write (he has published many books and articles), lecture and comment on television about foreign affairs.

Kissinger has ties to the Bush family and has provided informal advice to the White House. He donated thousands of dollars to Republican candidates in the last two election cycles, though none to Bush himself.

## FEATURE:

# 13 Favorite Holiday Movies

During the holiday season, it seems like you can't turn on the TV without coming across movies like *Miracle on 34th Street* and some version of *A Christmas Carol*. Here is Encarta's poll to find out what people's favorite holiday movies are and to get some new rental ideas for the holidays.

## 1. *A Christmas Story* (1983)

This wonderfully narrated memoir is a great family movie and was the hands-down favorite. The story of a boy growing up in the 1940s and wishing for the ultimate Christmas gift: a Red Ryder BB gun. Rated PG

## 2. *Miracle on 34th Street* (1947)

Starring Maureen O'Hara, Edmund Gwenn, and a very young Natalie Wood. Kris Kringle attempts to prove in a court of law that he is indeed the real Santa Claus. Meanwhile, most of the adults in the film think he is just an insane old man. Unrated

## 3. *Nightmare Before Christmas* (1993)

A very Halloweenish Christmas from Disney and creative genius Tim Burton. The Pumpkin King gets bored with Halloween Town and tries to take over Christmas Town. Rated PG

## 4. *Holiday Inn* (1942)

A love triangle--musical style--that takes place at a resort that's only open during the holidays. Starring Bing Crosby and Fred Astaire. To top it off, the movie won an Academy Award for best song: the classic "White Christmas." Unrated

## 5. *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* (2000)

Director Ron Howard's live-action remake of the 1966 animated television classic stars Jim Carrey as the Grinch who tries to end Christmas in

Whoville. Rated PG

## 6. *29th Street* (1991)

Luck is a funny thing. A New Yorker wins the state's first lottery on Christmas Eve, despite his bad luck. Based on a true story. Rated R

## 7. *It's a Wonderful Life* (1946)

Jimmy Stewart teamed up with Frank Capra? Who could ask for more? More: An angel gives Stewart a chance to see what life would be like if he hadn't been born. A real Christmas classic. Unrated

## 8. *Trading Places* (1983)

Two wealthy seniors make a wager on the lives of a snobby investor and a con artist. Starring Dan Aykroyd and Eddie Murphy. Rated R

## 9. *A Christmas Carol* (1951) (a.k.a. *Scrooge*)

This classic Dickens tale has been filmed numerous times, but we recommend the 1951 version. A bitter old man discovers the joy in life, thanks to the help of some ghosts. Unrated

## 10. *Planes, Trains & Automobiles* (1987)

Travel during the holidays isn't easy. Steve Martin does whatever he has to in order to make it home for the holidays--including taking on an obnoxious salesman (played by John Candy) as a traveling companion. Rated R

## 11. *The Bishop's Wife* (1947)

Cary Grant as an angel? How delightful! A minister's wife develops a crush on Cary Grant (who wouldn't?). Unrated

## 12. *Home for the Holidays* (1995)

Going home for the holidays can be difficult, as Holly Hunter's character proves in this Jodie Foster film about spending time with family during Thanksgiving. Rated PG-13

## 13. *Home Alone* (1990)

An eight-year-old enjoys the holidays after he is accidentally left at home while the rest of the family travels to Paris. This movie was the first of several *Home Alone* films. Rated PG

*Quote of the Week:*

Power is the ultimate aphrodisiac.

-Henry Kissinger

*Fact of the Week:*

If you bury a traffic ticket, it will decompose in about 4 weeks.

*Word of the Week:*

Frugiferous (fro\*jif'er\*us) a. Feeding on fruits, seeds or corn, as birds or other animals.

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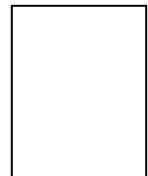
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