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MONDAY, JANUARY 29, 2007

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Bishop names accused priests

New policy keeps addresses private

BY JUDY HARRISON
OF THE NEWS STAFF

BANGOR — Bishop Richard J. Malone has reversed his position on keeping secret the names of priests removed from ministry due to accusations of sexual abuse before June 2002.

Previously, Malone publicly identified priests only after the Vatican had adjudicated their cases and disciplined them.

This makes the Roman Catholic Diocese of Portland one of 15 of the 195 dioceses in the country that have a policy of releasing the names of priests whose sex abuse cases are pending in Rome.

Malone named four diocesan priests who have been removed from ministry but whose names have not been released previously. He declined to name the communities where they are living. They are the Revs. George W. Beaudet, 67, of Maine; Frederick A. Carrigan, 72, who lives out of state; Michael L. Plourde, 56, of Maine; and Ronald N. Michaud, 60, of Maine.

The bishop said at a press conference Saturday at St. John's Catholic Church in Ban-

"Only by admitting failures and taking corrective action can trust and moral credibility be restored."

BISHOP RICHARD J. MALONE

gor that because it was taking the Vatican so long to act, he had become increasingly concerned about the potential risk of a re-offense in the cases of former priests who had not been identified to the public.

That fear became a reality last year for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Wilmington, Del., when a 77-year-old priest removed from ministry in 1993 but whose name had not been made public was arrested in Syracuse, N.Y., on charges of sexually abusing a boy there over a five-year period.

"Because of that, I have consulted at length with my advisers," Malone said, "and I am now convinced that the time has come to release the names of the remaining priests who were removed from ministry due to abuse allegations, whose offenses were admitted or sufficiently established."

Members of the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests criticized Malone, saying that his releasing the names did not go far enough. The organization called for the

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"For the sake of my children and grandchildren, I hope this makes a difference." —Marsha Lyons, Mount Desert



Monique Lamore (center), 31, of Camden and Diane Kay (right), 33, of Orrington listen to speakers during an anti-war rally on Saturday in Washington. Lamore adjusts a banner on which 18 of her friends placed their handprints.

PHOTO SPECIAL TO THE BANGOR DAILY NEWS BY ANDREW KNAPP

Mainers rally in D.C.

BY ANDREW KNAPP
SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

WASHINGTON — A passionate and boisterous contingent of about 150 Mainers joined tens of thousands more demonstrators on Saturday to advocate withdrawal of U.S. forces from Iraq and urge concentration on domestic issues. On Monday, some of them will lobby Congress to that end.

The protesters, including infants, college students, veterans, military parents, senior citizens, gathered in the center of the National Mall during the morning after a 12-hour

overnight bus ride. Half of them were from the Bangor area, while others were from Down East and northern Maine.

During a pre-march rally on the Mall, with the Capitol dome and a pale blue sky as the backdrop, they listened to speakers including the Rev. Jesse Jackson and actors Sean Penn, Tim Robbins, Jane Fonda and Susan Sarandon.

"Peace is controversial, but so is war," Jackson said, rousing a crowd

that lulled at times. "The fruit of peace is so much sweeter."

Each celebrity denounced President Bush's plan to send an additional 21,500 troops to Iraq. Each expressed grief for the 3,075 U.S. fatalities there, including 14 from Maine. Some called for the president's impeachment.

"It's important for us to gather together with others from all over the country to send a message that this war's got to end," said Diane Kay, 33, of Orrington. Kay's cheeks were adorned with peace symbols as she sat on the trampled Mall grass and

wielded a fluorescent green placard. "There's something amazing about being in a place like this and sharing this experience with so many people."

Expecting similar cold weather that plagued Maine last week, many protesters came overdressed, as morning temperatures in Washington rose from below freezing to the mid-50s by noon. New York City-based United for Peace and Justice, an advocacy coalition that organized the protest, expected a half-million people. Initial predictions appeared off that mark, despite tranquil weather.

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American helicopter shot down

BY RICHARD MAUER
AND QASSIM ZEIN
McCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

BAGHDAD, Iraq — A U.S. helicopter was shot down Sunday afternoon near the provincial capital of Najaf during a battle against religious fanatics believed to be planning a major attack Tuesday in the holy city of Karbala.

The helicopter was struck by what appeared to be a ground-fired rocket. U.S. officials said late Sunday that two service-

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AP PHOTO BY ALAA AL-MARJANI

Iraqi soldiers take up positions at Zarqa, Iraq, on Sunday. Iraqi troops backed by U.S. helicopters battled insurgents northeast of the Shiite holy city of Najaf. Provincial Gov. Assad Sultan Abu Klil said the operation was launched after reports that insurgents planned to assassinate Shiite clerics and pilgrims during the Ashoura festival, which reaches its climax Tuesday.

Gates attempts 'stop loss' curb

Forced tour extensions at issue

BY PAULINE JELINEK
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — In an action branded a backdoor draft by some critics, the military over the past several years has held tens of thousands of soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines on the job and in war zones beyond their retirement dates or enlistment length.

It is a widely disliked practice that the Pentagon, under new Defense Secretary Robert Gates, is trying to figure out how to cut back on.



Gates

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Vol. 118, No. 194



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W.Va. uses Weight Watchers to slim Medicaid recipients

BY TOM BREEN
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — Facing more than \$100 million in annual costs linked to obesity, the Medicaid program in one of the country's most overweight states is turning to Weight Watchers to help residents slim down. If it works, Maine and New Hampshire may be next.

Up to 75,000 West Virginians soon will be eligible for free weight loss courses through Weight Watchers, thanks to an effort by the state Medicaid program and the health benefits group UniCare, the largest provider of Medicaid coverage in the state.

Unicare's Medicaid clients who obtain a physician's referral

See *Weight*, Page A2

Small schools wary of consolidation

BY DIANA BOWLEY
OF THE NEWS STAFF

ORONO — All of Maine can enjoy property tax relief, but only if it is a result of a fair, equitable school funding formula in conjunction with a well-thought-out administrative consolidation, state Sen. John Nutting, D-Leeds, told a group of school administrators, school board directors and municipal officials who met on Friday at

the University of Maine.

Nutting, who spoke out against Gov. John Baldacci's school consolidation plan,

Inside Perry senator to host forum on proposal **Page B5**

urged the Maine Small Schools Coalition to become better organized in order to reject the governor's "draconian" plan for rural Maine.

That plan, which is included

in Baldacci's \$6.4 million biennial budget for 2007-2009, would consolidate the state's 152 school administrative districts into 26 megadistricts. The effort is aimed at reducing statewide school administrative costs from an average of \$396 per pupil to the national average of \$186 per pupil. Since Maine has one administrator for every 393 pupils, compared with one to 816 nationally, the consolidation

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