

Committee OKs prayer meetings after school

United Press International
WASHINGTON — The Senate Judiciary Committee approved a bill Thursday to permit public elementary and high school students to meet for prayer or Bible study in classrooms outside school hours.

nton, R-Ala., requiring schools to give students who want to meet before or after school for religious purposes the same chance to use classroom space as other clubs.

"The meeting can be Jewish students, Moslem students, students of any denomination," Denton said. "The point is they must be granted equal access."

The measure is one of several proposed to relax the prohibition on school prayer established by 1962 and 1963 Supreme Court rulings.

There is no federal law or Supreme Court ruling barring students from holding religious meetings on public school grounds.

The American Civil Liberties Union testified against the measure on First Amendment grounds in April, calling it a subtle way to reimpose religion on others.

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Haitian officials deny AIDS link

United Press International
BOSTON — Haitian officials say their nation is being unfairly linked to AIDS, discouraging tourists and investors, but American health officials say Haitians compose a large number of high-risk cases.

"Haiti has sufficient problems without being selected as a scapegoat for a mysterious ailment that has, sadly, descended largely upon the American homosexual community," Fritz Cineas, Haiti's ambassador to the United States, wrote in the New England Journal of Medicine.

investors and tourists from venturing too near," he said.

But a spokesman for the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, which conducts surveillance reports on acquired immune deficiency syndrome, said Haitians are rightly classified as one of the four risk groups.

"It is unfortunate but we have evidence that Haitians may be at a higher risk than other groups," said CDC spokesman Chuck Fallis.

Exactly 5.1 percent of the more than 2,200 AIDS cases in the United States were among Haitians, Fallis said.

Most cases of AIDS — which strips the body of its immunity system and leaves victims open to a host of opportunistic infections — have been reported in homosexual men. Drug abusers and hemophiliacs comprise the other risk groups.

Fallis said Haiti — a nation with a population of 6 million — is second behind the United States in reported AIDS cases with 36 — 20 of them fatal.

"We, as a black nation, well understand the pains of world discrimination," he said, adding he trusted the United States would be "careful to ensure that its medical conclusions are based on objective, thoroughly researched conclusions and not on biased conjecture."

"The volume of media stories relating Haitians and AIDS has cast a pall of gloom over the country, deterring potential business



Ice cream and diet Coke? staff photo by John...

Marissa Arredondo gets more ice cream piled onto her banana split at the Banana Split sale sponsored by Omega Phi Alpha Arredondo, from Edinburg, a junior majoring in accounting.

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Pearl Harbor search starts, ships probed

United Press International
PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii — National Park Service and Navy

divers found a gaping hole in the forward section of the sunken USS Arizona during a survey of the battleship.

Cummins said it may be difficult to confirm survival ports the ship was hit by torpedoes since any torpedo holes may be buried deep under silt.

The hole was ripped open by 1 million pounds of explosives set off by a bomb when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor Dec. 7, 1941. Nearly 1,200 Marines and sailors aboard the ship died in the attack. About 1,100 remain entombed in the wreckage.

"It blew this big piece of decking out and just laid it out over the side," diver Gary Cummins, USS Arizona Memorial superintendent, said Wednesday at the start of a week-long survey.

The survey is the first extensive probe of the wreckage since the warship sank eight minutes after being bombed 42 years ago.

The divers will try to determine what can be done to preserve the battleship, try to locate any parts of the ship that may have scattered when the Arizona was sunk and will attempt to identify bomb and torpedo damage.

"There is a tremendous ship dup," Cummins said. "You can go along this (left) side and find holes, we won't know."

The survey team is videotaping the wreckage producing sketches with help creating a three-dimensional model of how the Arizona lay at the bottom of the harbor.

In addition, the team will find a clear area in the harbor place remains of the ship's superstructure. The ship's superstructure is currently stored on land but Cummins said the Navy would place it in the harbor next to memorial.

Cummins said before the project began that no diver would be on the ship out of consideration for the men entombed in the and for the safety of the crew.

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