

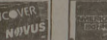
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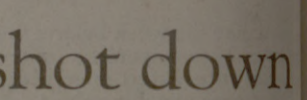
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Car bomb caps week of riots

ENNISKILLEN, Northern Ireland (AP) — A car bomb ravaged a country hotel Sunday soon after it was evacuated, knocking hotel guests to the pavement and capping a week of rioting that threatens to transform Northern Ireland's uneasy peace into a memory.
The Irish Republican Army denied Sunday that it planted the bomb that blasted The Killivehin Hotel, a social hub for this lakeside town.
The hotel was packed with a Catholic wedding party, bar guests, tourists and fishermen when a caller warned hotel staff there was a bomb in a car parked outside.
Police said an Isuzu Trooper, stolen 11 days ago in Dublin, contained 1,200 pounds of homemade explosives. They praised hotel staff for evacuating 250 guests — some straight off the dance floor — to a back parking lot before the bomb tore apart the building's front 25 minutes later.
Scores were treated for shock; only three people were slightly injured.
"What a terrible way to start married life," said the groom's cousin, Eamonn Turbett. "The wedding itself was excellent and there was a lovely atmosphere at the reception. ...And then this happens."
The bomb — the first in Northern Ireland since the Irish Republican Army stopped its violent campaign against British rule in 1994 —

— crowned the worst week of rioting seen here in a generation.
Violence erupted last Sunday when police blocked members of the Orange Order, Northern Ireland's dominant Protestant fraternal group, from marching through a Catholic part of Portadown, a town 25 miles southwest of Belfast.
The Orangemen stood their ground, and militant Protestants subjected Northern Ireland to four days of rioting.
Since Thursday, when police conceded defeat and allowed the march through the Catholic area, Catholic fury has spilled onto the streets.
Police and soldiers spent a third night Saturday repelling mobs of Catholics who hurled gasoline bombs, bricks and rocks at them in Belfast and Londonderry, the province's second-largest and predominantly Catholic town where Northern Ireland's "troubles" began with similar scenes in 1969.

Sunday's hotel bombing reinforced the fear that Northern Ireland is sliding back into murder and grief, a past Enniskillen residents vividly remember. In 1987, an IRA bomb killed 11 Protestants as they commemorated the dead from two world wars.
Despite the IRA's decision to end its cease-fire in February by bombing London, Enniskillen residents said Sunday they hadn't been mentally prepared for a



Enniskillen
Car bomb explodes at hotel

Health care reform bill shot down

The Democratic proposal was spearheaded by Sen. Tom Daschle

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Democratic proposal to end the Senate impasse on health care reform went nowhere Sunday, slamming into the same wall that has effectively brought legislative progress in the Senate to a halt.
Bringing to national TV their increasingly strident differences, Republican leader Sen. Trent Lott and Democratic leader Sen. Tom Daschle each accused the other party of blocking action on health care and other key issues. Lott accused the Democrats of "planned gridlock" while Daschle said his colleagues only want to stop "extreme legislation."
Daschle, appearing with Lott on NBC's *Meet the Press*, challenged Lott to accept a proposal where the main goal of the legislation — assuring that people can carry insurance from one job to another and be protected when they have pre-existing health conditions — be separated from a controversial bid to set up tax-exempt medical savings accounts (MSAs).
Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., has blocked the appointment of conferees for House-Senate negotiations on the bill for nearly three months because of the MSA dispute.
The health insurance fight has epitomized the election-year partisanship in Congress that has paralyzed movement on bills both sides want.
Lott, who took over as majority leader from GOP presidential candidate Bob Dole a month ago, said that after some successes — notably passing a minimum wage increase — "to my shock all of a sudden I found that everything was being blocked and I saw for the first time it looked to me like there was a planned gridlock in the Senate."
"We're not going to apologize for stopping extreme legislation," Daschle responded. "The Republicans have been intent on passing extreme legislation and we are going to stop that."
Last week two Nevada senators, both Democrats, stopped action on the 1997 Defense spending bill and other legislation by launching a filibuster to protest a proposed plan to set up temporary storage facilities for nuclear waste in their state.
Since Lott became the GOP leader, he and Daschle have tried hard to project an image of collegiality and cooperation, but Lott reacted in anger when Daschle suggested that Lott's support for ending federal funding for the National Endowment for the Arts was an example of Republican extremism.
"I don't impugn Tom Daschle's integrity when he disagrees with me, but when he disagrees with me he calls it extremism," Lott said. "I don't appreciate his response."
Lott said attacks on Republicans are coming from the "looney left" in Congress who "have nothing really to say."
The two did, however, express confidence that they could pass legislation revamping the welfare system that President Clinton could sign.
A deadlock on that issue was broken last week when Republicans agreed to separate welfare and Medicaid reform. The Democrats had objected to having the two in one package.
Lott also said he will not attempt this year to bring up legislation overturning a ban on assault weapons, avoiding one contentious issue, and that the Senate is also too busy this year to take up legislation to restrict affirmative action programs.
House Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., speaking on ABC's *This Week with David Brinkley*, said the House will not consider a major affirmative action bill soon, but he said it would debate a bill to end quotas and set-asides in small businesses.

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"Let's get that taken care of," Daschle said, referring to maintaining insurance from job to job, "and then let's bring up this medical savings account issue separately."
Daschle, D-S.D., also asked the Republicans to seriously consider another compromise proposal on MSAs that the Democrats gave Lott last week.
Lott, R-Miss., dismissed Daschle's offer. "The Senate has already acted on this issue and the House has acted, and what we need to do is go to conference and work out the differences."
The House version of the bill contains the tax-exempt accounts. Although the Senate voted down MSAs, GOP leaders insist they be part of the final legislation — at least as an experiment that would be gradually expanded.
Democrats, expressing concern that the accounts will result in young, healthy people leaving traditional plans, say they are willing to accept a small-scale study but reject the GOP proposal which would make the accounts available

All's well in Roswell: Movie release bolsters tourism at UFO festival

The success of Independence Day has cast the spotlight on the New Mexico city

AMARILLO (AP) — Some think aliens visited the eastern New Mexico city of Roswell nearly 50 years ago. This summer, the human invasion of Roswell has been indisputable.
The July 2 release of the wildly successful alien attack flick "Independence Day" happened to coincide with the city's annual UFO convention. Not coincidental are the hundreds of national and international media that have flocked there.
In Roswell, the alien business is no joking matter. "People here do not laugh about it; they are easily offended by people who don't take them seriously," Dean Crosby, director of the International UFO Museum and Research Museum, told the Amarillo Globe-News.
Crosby organizes the annual Roswell UFO Encounters convention in a city of 50,000 residents and three museums dedicated to the extraterrestrial.
Roswell became the hub of UFO study in 1947 following a mysterious crash near the now-closed Walker Air Base there. Visitors and media have brought extra attention to a place already etched in inter-planetary history.
The "Area 51" crash site at Roswell is a key to the plot of "Independence Day" and is part of the story line of another summer action release, "The Rock."
The president of UFO Central Home Video recently said that videos based on extraterrestrial themes have piggy-backed on the success of "Independence Day."
Tim Crawford said that some, including "Alien Autopsy," and "UFOs: The Best Evidence," are related directly to Roswell.
One of the scores of television cameras recently fo-

ocused upon Roswell belonged to CBS' "Late Show with David Letterman." Movie reviewer "Manny the hippie" was dispatched from San Francisco to Roswell to check out UFO fever.
"Is this some sort of punishment?" a less-than-enthusiastic Manny responded to Letterman's travel plans for him.
Everyone from "Late Show" to ABC's "Nightline" has taken a crack at Roswell this month.
Despite all the hype, many still treat claims of life outside our universe as pure fancy, a view another museum curator believes inaccurate.
"I just tell them, 'You know, it's a proven fact that your more educated people believe we're not alone in the universe,'" said John Price, founder of the UFO Enigma. "That usually shuts them up."
Roswell is about 200 miles southwest of Amarillo.

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