

OFFICERS

Continued from Page 1

"It's awful that it happened," John Kurzawa, a 16-year-old from Northford, Conn. who was touring with his family, said. "I wish it hadn't happened. I hope as a nation we can get over it."

The repercussions were already setting in, though, from the grief of the families to the shaken colleagues of Chestnut and Gibson who were being offered counseling, to talk of enhanced security at a building prized for openness.

Among the options was reviled talk of construction of a Capitol visitors center, possibly underground, that could serve as a way station for tourists as well as provide for greater security.

Still, Abrecht, chief of the Capitol police, said there was little that could have been done in the way of security to prevent Weston's attack that would have been acceptable to members of Congress and the public.

"He was prepared to go in there and die and take anybody with him," Abrecht said on CNN's "Late Edition." "He never got more than 20 feet inside" the building.

The chief said the slain officers and

others who rushed to the scene "were heroic in every way."

Officials have said Chestnut tried to stop Weston when he burst past the metal detector at a first-floor entrance to the building Friday afternoon. Chestnut was shot in the head.

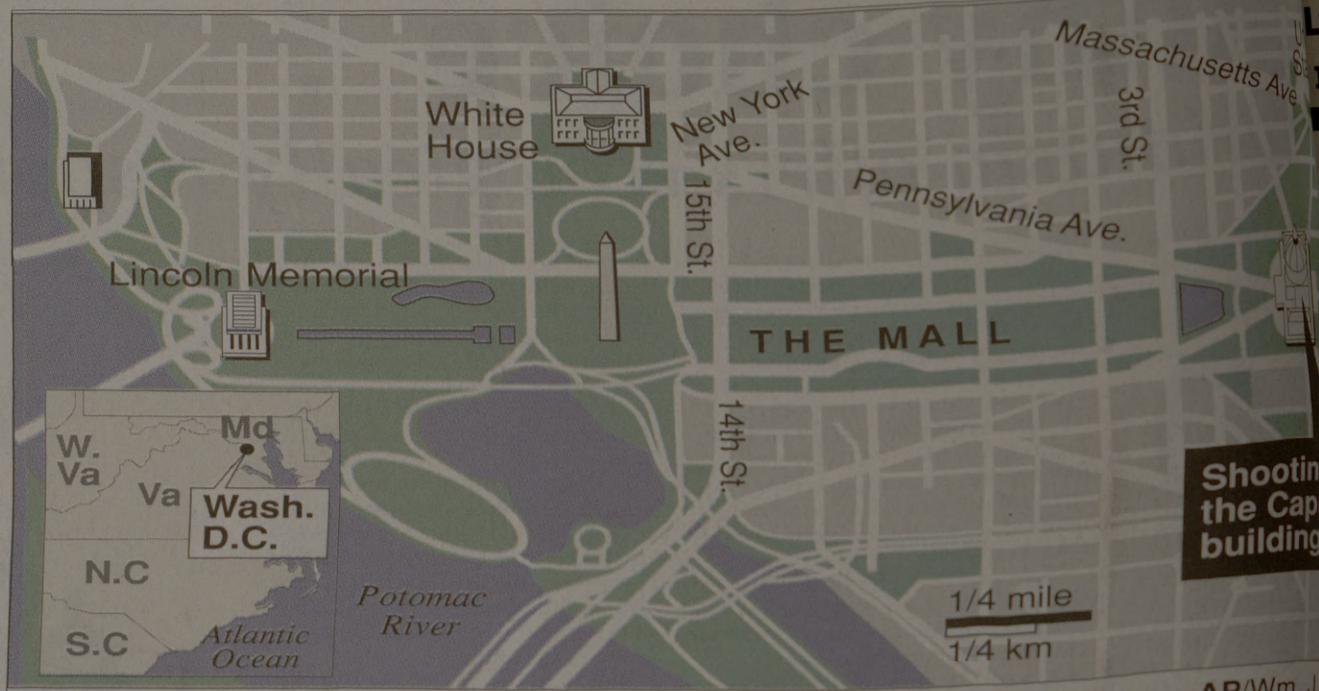
A second officer who had gone to get a wheelchair for a tourist then fired at Weston, who ran around the corner and opened the private door leading to a suite of offices occupied by the House Republican Whip, Rep. Tom DeLay of Texas.

Gibson, assigned to protect DeLay, shouted at numerous people in the suite to take cover and exchanged gunfire at short range with the gunman. Both officer and gunman fell, Gibson mortally wounded.

A tourist who was shot in the episode, 24-year-old Angela Dickerson of suburban Virginia, was released from the hospital Saturday.

In a series of meetings Sunday, congressional officials were in touch with the survivors of the two men as they attempted to work out the details of several days of observances.

Legislative business that had been scheduled in the House on Monday will be replaced by tributes to Chestnut and



Gibson, officials said.

Numerous high-ranking government officials have lain in state in the

Rotunda since Abraham Lincoln's casket was brought there in 1865. Others similarly honored include Presidents

John F. Kennedy, Dwight D. Eisenhower as well as Gen. John J. Pershing and Douglas MacArthur.

Temperatures not expected to lower soon

DALLAS (AP) — Low temperatures haven't received much attention during the deadly heat wave searing the Southwest. But Sunday's morning low of 82 set a record for the number of days the temperature has not fallen below 80 degrees in North Texas.

That kind of sustained heat, without any respite in the mornings or evenings, can be deadly, Charles Gaylor, of the Dallas County medical examiner's office, said.

"It's like running a fever: You can't run a fever indefinitely," Gaylor said. "If your body temperature was raised during the day when you didn't have air conditioning, it just stands to reason that if it doesn't cool off, you're not going to cool off."

The heat wave has killed at least 93 people in Texas since June 1 and caused \$1.5 billion in agricultural damage and more than 6,765 wildfires.

On Sunday, North Texans braved heat of 101 degrees, the region's 21st straight day of triple-digit weather.

The 82-degree low was the 24th time this year that the low temperature did not fall below 80, according to the National Weather Service. The old record of 22 was set in 1925 and tied in 1980's infamously hot summer.

High demand and heat-stressed pipes caused water mains in Fort Worth to rupture for a second straight day Saturday, shutting off water to two hospitals and the city's popular downtown tourist attractions.

Service was restored by Saturday afternoon, but a ban on all outdoor watering was still in place Sunday and city officials implored residents to conserve.

They will meet today to discuss when and how to lift the ban, water department spokeswoman Mary Gugliuzza said.

"If everyone goes out and turns their sprinkler system on at the same time, that could put quite a stress on the system again," she said.

Forecasters say there's little, if any, chance of rain in the coming week.

A large center of high pressure squatting over the South continues to choke off any hope of rainfall.

"The high pressure is pressing down on the earth and suppressing the formation of clouds that could perhaps develop into thunderstorms," Michael Mach, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Fort Worth, said.

And as long as the rain stays away, the lows will probably stay warmer than average.

"The main reason is that soil conditions are quite dry, and that soil is absorbing a tremendous amount of heat," Mach said. "It's like in a desert when you have sand — (dry ground) is a more efficient absorber of heat."

Hate-crime prevention needs strengthening, assistant attorney general Bill Lann Lee says

HOUSTON (AP) — Federal laws must be toughened to prevent hate-motivated crimes such as the June dragging death of an African-American man in East Texas, said Bill Lann Lee, acting assistant attorney general for the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division.

"We must have the law enforcement tools necessary to ensure that when hate crimes do occur the perpetrators are identified and brought swiftly to justice," Lee said Saturday at a roundtable discussion led by Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, D-Houston.

The forum focused on a hate-crime bill working its way through Congress. The bill would extend the hate-crimes statute to offenses based on disability and sexual orientation.

Currently, a hate crime can be prosecuted by the federal government only if it is motivated by race, religion, national origin and if it prevented the victim from exercising specific federally protected rights such as voting or attending school.

"The current law provides no coverage whatsoever on violent hate crimes commit-

ted because of a victim's sexual orientation, gender or disability," Lee said. "This means that federal hate crimes jurisdiction cannot be involved in some of the most horrible cases of violent crimes."

Gayle Rickie of Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays told the panel that hate crimes against homosexuals often go unreported.

"When a person reports such a crime, it endangers them even more, exposing them to further anti-gay bias," she said.

Some 64 anti-gay hate crimes were re-

ported in Texas last year, but many went unreported, Rickie said.

Also testifying was Renee Mullin, daughter of James Byrd Jr., who was chained to a pickup truck and dragged to death on June 7 outside of Jasper. The men have been charged with capital murder in connection with the crime.

Mullin tearfully beseeched parents to do more to prevent such crimes. "I feel frustrated that current laws cannot protect American fathers," she said.

Tasty treats to beat the heat



PHOTOS BY MIKE FUENTES

(Top left): Kevin Knabe, a junior high school student, makes a cookies 'n' mint ice cream treat. Knabe said shakes tend to be a more popular item during the summer.

(Top right): Justin Ezell, a senior finance major, makes a smoothie Sunday afternoon. Ezell said, "It [business] has been steady this summer, even though most of the students have went home for the summer."

(Bottom right): Sara Lammerts, a senior journalism major, serves William Martin a snow cone Sunday afternoon. Martin said he and his family often get snow cones to relax in the hot summer sun. Lammerts said business has never been better in the seven years she has run the snow cone stand.

