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Bush makes first trip to New York as president

NEW YORK (AP) — In his Big Apple debut, President Bush made it to two of New York's most famous sites, welcoming new citizens at Ellis Island and honoring the late Cardinal John O'Connor at St. Patrick's Cathedral.

New York went against him in last year's election, but Bush went out of his way to reach out to Democrats on his trip Tuesday, giving Sens. Hillary Rodham Clinton and Charles Schumer round-trip flights on Air Force One. They accompanied him all day.

Bush tailored his maiden New York appearance as president to bring him to friendly settings.

When he reiterated his opposition to abortion by calling O'Connor a defender of "innocence and the right to be born," he drew an ovation. Rather than urge his listeners back into their seats, he basked in the applause.

On Ellis Island, Bush pledged a welcoming spirit for new immigrants and a five-year, \$500 million effort to smooth the path

from arrival to citizenship, setting a goal of processing new applications in six months or less. Some applications drag on more than four years, the administration said.

He looked on as 29 men and women from 18 countries took the oath, then led them in their first pledge of allegiance, directing them: "Right hand on your heart."

The national anthem echoed through the cavernous Ellis Island museum, immigrant faces on stained-glass windows looking down on the proceedings.

There were also echoes of Bush's efforts during the presidential campaign last year to distance himself from the anti-immigrant rhetoric of others in the GOP.

"Immigration is not a problem to be solved, it is a sign of a confident and successful nation," Bush said. "New arrivals should be greeted not with suspicion and resentment, but with openness and courtesy."

Bush presented the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest award conferred by lawmakers, to the family of O'Connor.

It was O'Connor to whom Bush apologized last year after campaigning at Bob Jones University, a South Carolina school whose leader once called the Catholic

Church a "Satanic cult." O'Connor died in May 2000.

Bush has courted the support of Catholics since taking office, meeting with top leaders around the nation.

In St. Patrick's, he sat between Schumer and O'Connor's successor, Cardinal Ed Sheehan.

"We remember a life of good works, strong faith and great influence," Bush said.

Bush waited six months to visit the largest state. But standing on Ellis Island back to the Statue of Liberty, he borrowed New York State's tourism slogan. "New York!" he said.

Nodding to Mayor Rudolph Giuliani at the cathedral, he said: "For me on my first visit as president, it's a pleasure, Mr. Mayor, to be in the capital of the world."

Bush lost the state to Democrat Al Gore 59 percent to 34.5 percent in November.

"I visited all sorts of areas in New York that I didn't win and it helped me do a lot better," Schumer said. "I think the same will be true for the president."

Clinton's trip to New York represented her first ride aboard Air Force One since her husband left the White House Jan.



BUSH

News in Brief

Three killed, one injured in shooting

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Shots were fired into a chartered bus early Monday, killing one person and injuring three others.

The shots apparently were fired by someone in a car shortly after the private bus left the Century Club nightclub, police said.

Police said there were no suspects and the attack appar-

ently did not target anyone.

Killed was Tony Lorenzo Galloway, 26. Police said they did not know his hometown.

A 20-year-old woman was shot in the abdomen and was in critical condition at UCLA Medical Center with massive liver bleeding, said hospital spokeswoman Elaine Schmidt.

A 36-year-old man shot in the chest was treated and released Monday, and a 30-year-old man shot in the lung was in fair condition.

Police did not immediately release the names of the wounded.

Father arrested in death of daughter

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — A doctor who told authorities his 14-month-old daughter fell out of a window to her death was arrested on suspicion of murder.

Dr. Dennis Tison's daughter, Isabel, died of head injuries

at a hospital Jan. 12.

Tison was arrested Monday on suspicion of murder after child abuse and was being held without bail at Sacramento County Jail.

Tison, who runs weight loss clinics in Sacramento and Citrus Heights, told detectives he was using his home office computer and Isabel was playing on top of his desk when she leaped out of the second-story window and fell to a wood deck below.

Amendment proposed to outlaw gay marriages

NEW YORK (AP) — Worried that courts might open the door to gay marriage, a coalition of religious leaders and family-policy experts wants to amend the U.S. Constitution with a declaration that marriage can only be between a man and a woman.

The Federal Marriage Amendment, to be presented Thursday at a news conference in

"Let's challenge the homosexual movement to play fair on the playing field of democracy."

— Matt Daniels
executive director of Alliance for Marriage

Washington, would require ratification by both houses of Congress and the legislatures of 38 states to become law.

Gay-rights advocates describe the initiative as "gay-bashing," while its backers say the amendment would prevent judges from setting family policies that lack public support.

Matt Daniels, executive director of the Alliance for Marriage, said coalition members decided to propose the amendment because of fears that Vermont's year-old civil union law — granting marriage-like rights to same-sex couples — would spawn lawsuits nationwide by gays seeking similar rights.

"Let's challenge the homosexual movement to play fair on the playing field of democracy," Daniels

said. "If they want the benefits of marriage allocated to a wider circle of groups, they need to convince the majority of people that it's the right thing."

The idea of a marriage amendment was raised in 1998 by an alliance of conservative Christian groups. Daniels' coalition does not include those organizations, but its 45-member advisory board has a strong religious tilt, including leaders of major black denominations, an Episcopal bishop, several Roman Catholic officials and representatives of Jewish and Muslim groups.

Its lay members include professors from Princeton University, Amherst College and law schools of Harvard, Notre Dame and Louisiana State.

Daniels said members of Congress from both parties were prepared to support the amendment but their names will be released later — not Thursday's news conference.

"We believe this is more important than partisan politics, so we'll announce it with no politicians at the microphone," he said.

Thirty-four states already have adopted "defense of marriage" laws, defining marriage as the union of a man and a woman. Daniels is optimistic that enough state legislatures will ratify the proposed amendment for it to pass.

However, he said it might take several years to mobilize enough support in Congress. There have been 27 amendments to the Constitution — only one of them ratified since 1971.

"Congress won't act until the situation is so alarming to more people," Daniels said. "It will require more developments in the courts — but we have no doubt that it will happen."

Man fighting sodomy law

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — A man charged with sodomy for having oral sex with a 16-year-old girl is fighting prosecution, arguing that the law violates his right of free expression.

He is the first person to be charged under Utah's anti-sodomy laws since 1990, and his case may be the first consensual sodomy case in more than 15 years. A hearing was scheduled for next week.

Derrick Sundquist was 19 when he was charged last year with misdemeanor sodomy.

In Utah, a 16-year-old may

have consensual sex with a person who is no more than four years older.

Sodomy was outlawed in Utah even for married couples until 1977, when the law was changed to apply only to unmarried people. It is punishable by up to six months in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

If the girl was younger than 16 or Sundquist was older than 20, he could have faced felony charges of sodomy of a child, which are more common and not in dispute, said attorney Brian Barnard, who has filed a brief

supporting Sundquist on behalf of the Utah Civil Liberties Foundation.

In recent years, Utah judges have dismissed lawsuits challenging sodomy and fornication laws, saying that because people are seldom prosecuted, plaintiffs are not in imminent danger of going to jail for having sex.

Sundquist was charged after the girl told police about consensual sex in American Fork, 30 miles south of Salt Lake City.

His attorney has filed a motion to dismiss the charge.



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doors open at 9:00

\$1.00 Mixed Drinks } 9-11
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Thursday

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75¢ Mixed Drinks } 9-11
75¢ Longnecks }

\$2.50 Chuggers
ALL NIGHT

Ladies 18 & up FREE 'til 11
Ladies 21 & up FREE 'til midnight
Guys with Cowboy Hats FREE 'til 10

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