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Monday, September 16, 2002

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## **Terror arrests deepen uneasiness** among Muslims in New York

ACKAWANNA, N.Y. (AP) Clutching a shortwave radio tuned to an Arabic music station in Kuwait, Hassan corrosive sult Muhsen talked at length about the lure of cing the evacuation immigrant life in the United States before 

"Thank God we're in America, the sysoxville-Knox & tem is good and fair, but there is ignorance also," said the 53-year-old retired steelacid fumes com, worker. "Since yesterday I heard it three n and a few we times: 'Go home!' eared and release Five men from

Five men from Lackawanna's Yemeni cial Hazards Taz community were arrested and accused of itchison said the aiding the terrorists who planned the Sept. on the wind in 11 attacks. The men - all U.S. born te than 9,000 were charged Saturday with providing suparee to four me port and resources to foreign terrorist estbound on N organizations.

Now, the town's Yemeni-Americans 93,000 pounds must contend with suspicion and hostility from some of their non-Yemeni neighbors.

"I had no suspicion before, not even when 9/11 happened," said Anne Vertino, m the ruptured 34, as she sat outside her mother's house to neutralize across the street from a shuttered grocery ed to determine store where FBI agents arrested one of the d where Des suspects in raids Friday night and early as still unknow Saturday.

> "But knowing what happened and they're your neighbors in a small city, def-

and wonder what's going on. It's not the women I worry about or the children, it's the men," she said.

Federal authorities say the five men trained at an al-Qaida camp in Afghanistan where Osama bin Laden spoke about his anti-American beliefs before returning home in June 2001 to Lackawanna, a suburb of Buffalo on the shore of Lake Erie. Officials said they had no information the alleged terror cell was planning an attack in the United States.

Charged Saturday were Shafal Mosed, 24; Faysal Galab, 26; Sahim Alwan, 29; Yasein Taher, 24; and Yahya Goba, 25. The men all lived within blocks of each other in Lackawanna.

Peter Ahearn, special agent in charge of the FBI's Buffalo field office, said he worries the Yemeni community will be ostracized, but said hate crimes would not be tolerated.

'The role of the FBI is twofold," he said. "One is that we're going to conduct investigations of any terrorists, Muslim or not. That's our job. The other side of the coin, and we dealt with this right after 9/11, is that we investigate civil rights.'

About 1,000 Yemenis live in Lackawanna, working mostly in the fading initely you're going to treat them different steel industry at a galvanizing plant, a Ford

plant or an aluminum producer

Crouching next to the Lackawanna Islamic Center mosque, a 30-year-old man who identified himself only as Abdullah said the neighborhood has been relatively free of ethnic tension since Yemenis first moved here in 1922.

"We have a good relationship around here — blacks, whites and a little Hispanic," he said. "We might not know each other personally but we know each other by our faces.

The atmosphere has become tense, he acknowledged.

"We're going to have stares here and there, maybe a couple of words," he said. What are you going to do? Are you going to fight, argue with people? You've just got to be patient.'

Jim Hardwick, 70, who is black and has lived among the Yemenis for a half-century, said he hasn't changed his view of his neighbors.

'That's five (men) out of thousands," he said. "I don't have any opinion on the ones that I don't know. If I don't know 'em, I don't know 'em. The ones that I know, they would never be involved in what happened.

"You can't talk about anybody as a group," he added. "You have to talk about individuals.

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#### Homeland security bill may ambulan pass soon an accused di friends before WASHINGTON (AP) - The

Senate majority leader said Sunday that Congress will pass legislation before the November elections creating a Homeland Security Department despite a dispute over the president's power to hire and fire agency workers. President Bush is threatening to veto the bill, which the GOPed House passed and the Democratic-controlled Senate is

considering, unless it gives him flexibility over the estimated

170,000 employees that would

"I can't believe he'd veto a bill

posal "a power grab of unprece-

dented magnitude" that would

undermine the government's nonpolitical civil service system and

threaten labor union rights and

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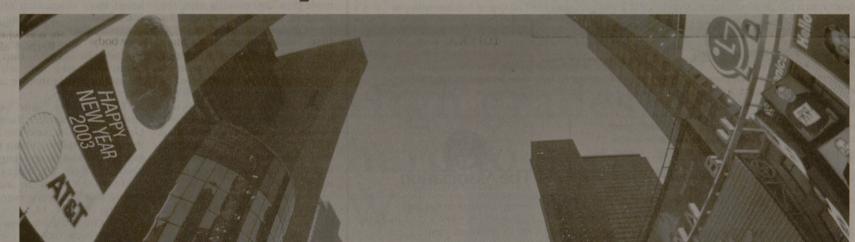
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over the issue of accountability, said Sen. Tom Daschle, D-S.D. "I can't believe he'd veto the bill over the issue of politicization of

# Wanna go to the Biggest Party of the Year?



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department needs broader powers to hire, fire, promote or demote nd pay employees, and to waive union rights in matters of national security, to meet emerging terrorderatio

> "We've put this in place for ood reason. The politicization of he federal work force is not something we should have, and hat's all we're saying now," Daschle said on ABC's "This Neek.

Despite the apparent impasse, Daschle said: "It will get passed efore the election. I am confilent of that."



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