

Laura Bush takes lead U.N. role

By Jennifer Loven
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PARIS — When first lady Laura Bush presides over America's re-entry into the United Nations' main cultural organization here, she will be playing a role that melds her personal passions with the White House's goal of fostering better global relations.

Observers agree she is the perfect choice to represent the Bush administration at the ceremony being held Monday at the headquarters of the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

President George W. Bush announced a year ago, before the U.N. General Assembly, that the United States would rejoin UNESCO after 19 years away from a group once considered corrupt and anti-Western.

Formed in 1945 to promote international exchanges, UNESCO helps modernize education systems, establish standards on bioethics and preserve cultural and natural treasures. Recently, UNESCO has helped reopen schools and establish newspapers in post-Taliban Afghanistan and worked in post-war Iraq to recover looted artifacts.

Patrick Fagan, a longtime critic of U.N. operations at the conservative Heritage Foundation, said the re-entry of the United States into UNESCO has roots in Bush's effort — ultimately unsuccessful — to woo U.N. support on Iraq.

While acknowledging UNESCO has made great strides during the United States' absence, Fagan regards Bush's decision with "huge trepidation" and is looking for "constant vigilance" from the White House.

Mrs. Bush has credibility, Fagan said, because of her involvement in education and her strong support for policies he believes are sorely needed at UNESCO to encourage marriage, sexual abstinence and values education.

Steve Dimoff, head of the Washington office for the pro-U.N. United Nations Association of the United States of America, is delighted with Mrs. Bush's involvement — he believes it bodes well for UNESCO.

"Mrs. Bush is going with more of a personal interest and a commitment than I've seen in many years," he said.

Energy

Continued from page 1

Senate bill's attempt to spur use of renewables in electricity generation. The Senate had approved, despite vigorous opposition by the industry, a requirement that electric utilities produce 10 percent of their power from renewable fuels. This plan, however, never made the drafts during negotiations and will be abandoned.

Senators from both parties had supported a ban on the gasoline additive MTBE, which has been found to contaminate drinking water. A four-year phase-out was in the Senate bill, though not the House's.

Leading House members, including Tauzin and Majority Leader Tom DeLay, R-Texas, insisted on dropping the ban and giving makers of the petroleum-based additive a liability waiver in water contamination lawsuits. The issue remains under discussion, though Tauzin and DeLay are close to getting what they want, according to industry sources following the talks.

Lee Fuller, a lobbyist for the independent oil and gas industry, says many of the measures included in the final bill are needed "to grapple with this longer term question" of developing adequate energy supply. He acknowledges that the Senate-passed bill largely is being abandoned.

One of the biggest beneficiaries will be the oil and gas industry.

The emerging bill renews the push to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling, which the Senate has repeatedly rejected.

AP TOP

1. OU (57)
 2. Miami (3)
 3. Ohio St. (5)
 4. Virginia Tech
 5. Florida St.
 6. LSU
 7. Tennessee
 8. Arkansas
 9. Michigan
 10. USC
 11. Georgia
 12. Nebraska
 13. Texas
 14. Wash. St.
 15. Pittsburgh
 16. Kansas St.
 17. N. Illinois
 18. Washington
 19. Oregon
 20. TCU
 21. Minnesota
 22. Purdue
 23. Iowa
 24. Florida
 25. Michigan St.
- (First place votes in parentheses)

BATT SPORTS

1. OU (9)
 2. Miami
 3. Virginia Tech
 4. Ohio State
 5. Florida State
 6. LSU
 7. Tennessee
 8. Nebraska
 9. Arkansas
 10. USC
 11. Michigan
 12. Georgia
 13. Texas
 14. Kansas State
 15. Wash. State
 16. Washington
 17. Pittsburgh
 18. Minnesota
 19. Iowa
 20. N. Illinois
 21. TCU
 22. Oregon
 23. Florida
 24. Purdue
 25. NC State
- (As voted by The Staff. First place votes in parentheses)

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- A&M coach Franchione
"Their receivers are big guys, but that's not make a difference in position. We were better."
- A&M safety Appel

"He's probably the best ever played against me. I made a lot of mistakes in this game one day."
- Appel on WR Larry Fitzgerald

"We made halfhearted efforts, but the pass we have not got it yet."
- A&M coordinator Carl Harris
"This is a huge win."
- Pitt coach Harris

No. 3 A

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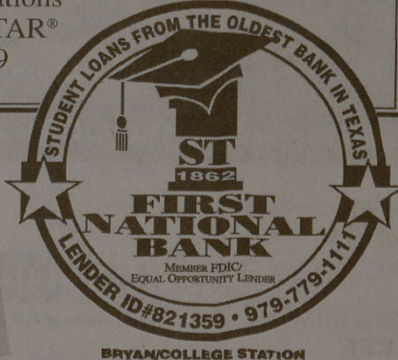
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