

One Nation News

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DOJ elects to protect white citizens, Christians

By Simon Anderson
ONE NATION NEWS

The Bush White House has remade the U.S. Department of Justice into a conservative watchdog under the radar of most citizens. Much of the change occurred under the watch of former Attorney General John Ashcroft -- a man who refused to distance himself from white supremacist groups after his nomination by George W. Bush. The revamped Department of Justice, or DOJ, now focuses its efforts on protecting the rights of white citizens, particularly Christians. The change in policy has begun to gain more media attention in recent months:



Attorney General Alberto Gonzalez. (AP)

Recent news reports concerning the DOJ fit in with its conservative agenda:

- It alleged that Southern Illinois University was in violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act that prohibits discrimination in employment

on the basis of race, sex, natural origin or religion. It alleged that three graduate fellowship programs violated equal opportunity laws because they weren't open to white people.

- The EEOC ordered the DOJ to reinstate with back pay an African American woman who was fired as a federal prosecutor in Huntsville in 2002. The woman, Deirdra Brown-Fleming, was fired after alleging racial and sexual discrimination. She states she was routinely called 'nigger' in the office.

- The DOJ has gone after a Noxubee (MS) County Democratic Party official who is African American, alleging that he exploits racial tensions in order disenfranchise white candidates and voters. It was the first use of the Voting Rights Act to allege discrimination against white people.

Since, 2002, the Bush White House has been filling the permanent ranks of the DOJ with lawyers who have strong conservative credentials but little experience in Civil Rights, according to an investigation into the matter by the Boston Globe newspaper.

Prior to fall of 2002, administrations of Democrats and Republicans attempted to keep the DOJ politically neutral by allowing civil servants to hire for the DOJ's Civil Rights

WHITE: turn to 4

It's official: Sen. Barack Obama throws his hat in the ring

By Nedra Pickler
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, DC - Democratic Sen. Barack Obama on Tuesday took the initial step in a bid that could make him the nation's first African American president.

Obama filed papers creating a presidential exploratory

committee, a move he announced on his website www.barackobama.com. He said he would announce more about his plans in his home state of Illinois on February 10.

"I certainly didn't expect to find myself in this position a year ago," Obama said in a video posting. "I've been struck by how hungry we all are for a different kind of politics. So I've spent some time thinking about how I could best advance the cause of change and progress that we so desperately need."

Obama, a 45-year-old with little more than two years into his Senate term, is the most inexperienced candidate considering a run for the Democratic nomination. He quickly rose to national prominence, beginning with his keynote speech at the 2004 Democratic National Convention and his election to the Senate that year, but still is an unknown quantity to many voters.

Two best-selling autobiographies --



Minnesota Attorney General Lori Swanson. (AP)

New AG targets predatory lenders with hefty fines, jail

By Brian Bakst
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Prison time and hefty fines are part of Attorney General Lori Swanson's recipe for weeding out mortgage lenders who knowingly get homebuyers in over their heads.

Swanson, a first-term Democrat, said last Thursday she'd ask the Legislature to adopt an eight-point plan to guard against so-called predatory lending.

She said the growing number of home foreclosures and loan defaults convinces her that tighter lending regulations are needed.

"Legislation alone can't solve the problem," Swanson said. "But, self

regulation has clearly failed in this industry."

Many of the requirements would force lenders to provide more useful information to borrowers upfront and take steps to make sure loans fit a buyer's financial means.

There's also the possibility of two years in prison and \$75,000 in fines -- greater penalties if the victim is disabled or elderly -- for people who provide grossly unsuitable loans. That includes falsifying loan applications to make a borrower's income, assets and debts appear more favorable or extending a mortgage to someone who clearly lacks the capacity to repay it.

LENDERS: turn to 8B



Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill. (AP)

The Audacity of Hope: Thoughts on Reclaiming the American Dream and *Dreams from My Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance* -- have helped fill in the gaps but have still only touched a fraction of the public.

Nonetheless, he ranks as a top con-

tender. His appeal on the stump, his unique background, his opposition to the Iraq war and the fact that he is a fresh face set him apart in a competitive race that also is expected to include front-runner Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton of New York.

OBAMA: turn to 3

Afri-Stats: The numbers that define your world

IN 1801, ONE OUT OF FIVE PEOPLE IN UNITED STATES WERE SLAVES.



FREE SLAVES

Source: Library of Congress/1800 U.S. Census

BUSINESS NATION

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Weekly Business Section for One Nation News

Wednesday, Jan. 24, 2007

Rising Stars



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BUSINESS NATION

DINNER



AND A DASH

Inside in Business Nation

SOFTWARE:

Rollout of Vista seems to show cracks in the Microsoft juggernaut
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LEGAL:

Errors in Consumer Reports articles can cost companies
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INFORMATION NUGGET:

THE NIKE SWOOSH? IT WAS INVENTED BY CAROLINE DAVIDSON BACK IN 1971. SHE RECEIVED \$35 FOR MAKING THE SWOOSH. THE FIRST SHOE WITH THE SWOOSH WAS INTRODUCED IN 1972.



Icon provides free security for abuse victims

By Lynne Olson
ONE NATION NEWS

You see one world. Elijah Shaw sees another.

Shaw, the security expert and veteran bodyguard with a stellar reputation for protecting VIPs and celebrities (including singer Usher and supermodel Naomi Campbell), has spent thirteen years traveling the world using his keen observation skills and focused attention; not to take in the sights, but to keep his clients safe.

Shaw, the 33-year-old St. Paul business owner, has spent the past nine years building an elite VIP protection, security and investigative firm that employs 36 people; its comprehensive blend of services has carved out a unique security industry niche, both state- and nationwide.

Now Shaw, the volunteer, is using his observational skills to provide security services to area shelters that house women who are domestic violence victims. And, the staff at Icon Services Corporation has enthusiastically joined his efforts.



Elijah Shaw, owner of Icon Security Services. Courtesy: ICS

"I enjoy what I do and wanted to use my [protection services] skills to personally give something back to the community," Shaw said. "When I announced my intentions to my staff, I was impressed that they wanted to volunteer their time, too. In fact, they came up with additional ways to help."

The initial intention of Icon's new "ISC Safety Net" program was for Shaw to provide bodyguard services

for victims of domestic violence who are going into potentially dangerous situations such as contentious court hearings or collecting belongings from home or work.

But, when Shaw and his staff met with shelter directors, they noticed the facilities and grounds weren't as secure as they could be. Therefore, Icon's early efforts have been focused on assessing existing security, pro-

ICON: turn to 8B

Target, Wal-Mart horn in on supermarkets

By Diana Middleton
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jacksonville, FL - Long gone are the days when shoppers auto-piloted to the nearest grocery store to purchase food.

Last year, research conducted by retail consulting firm Retail Forward found that 46 percent of shoppers prefer to shop for food where they can also purchase items like clothing, home accessories and CDs (think Wal-Mart and Target stores).

Nowadays, as more shoppers eschew their local grocery store for the price-slashing power of a Wal-Mart Supercenter, analysts say grocery stores are retooling their strategies to halt shoppers from shifting their allegiance to one-stop "big box" retailers.

Meanwhile, some shoppers are altering their shopping patterns altogether to chase the best customer service or unique, specialized products.



The shake-up means traditional grocery stores are reinventing product mixes and creating niches to maintain market share and sustain sales growth, all while capturing the attention of an increasingly disloyal army of shoppers. Retail analysts say the key to luring customers back to grocery stores is to offer them something

unique: Top-notch customer care, eclectic and exclusive products or an innovative store floor plan were examples given.

"At this point, supermarkets have either caved in to the pressure (of Wal-Mart and others) or they've figured

SUPERMARKETS: turn to 10

Briefly ...



Netflix showing TV and movies on the internet

Netflix Inc. started showing movies and TV episodes over the internet last week, providing its subscribers with more instant gratification as the DVD-by-mail service prepares for a looming technology shift threatening its survival. The company unveiled the new "Watch Now" feature recently, but only a small number of its more than six million subscribers will get immediate access to the service, which is being offered at no additional charge. Netflix expects to introduce the instant viewing system to about 250,000 more subscribers each week through June to ensure its computers can cope with the increased demand.



City looks to redevelop Ford site

A task force will look at redeveloping the site of St. Paul's soon-to-be-closed Ford Ranger plant, Mayor Chris Coleman announced recently. Coleman said the Ford site in Highland Park "represents one of the best economic development opportunities" in the nation. The task force was chosen from among more than 100 applicants and will be a committee of the city's planning commission. They'll prepare a development framework to be considered by the planning commission, the city council and the mayor. Ford plans to shut down the St. Paul plant next year as part of a company reorganization.



Jury Selection in Coke trial

One hundred potential jurors filed in to a federal courtroom last Tuesday for the start of the conspiracy trial of a former Coca-Cola secretary accused of stealing trade secrets from the world's largest beverage maker in an effort to sell them to rival Pepsi. The potential jurors answered questions from about whether they work for or have relatives who work for Coca-Cola.

Index of Afronomic Indicators

African American vendor payouts (%) Scale is 1.00 for one dollar paid out to African American vendors:

Personnel:	.9
Distribution:	.1
Printing:	.1
Office/Equipment:	0
Other:	.4

Payout to African American vendors: 30 cents/dollar
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SOFTWARE

A weak Windows Vista rollout - is it a sign of the end of Microsoft's dominance?

By Contributing Writer
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Here comes a new Windows operating system from Microsoft Corp. Long delayed, it's the first in several years, so the company plans an enormous marketing campaign to tout the software as a way to get more out of computers.

But, Microsoft's legion of detractors roll their eyes, calling the new Windows a weak imitator of other operating systems. Meanwhile, technology analysts wonder whether Microsoft's dominance is nearing an end, since programs coming over the internet are emerging as a more powerful force in computing than software tied to individual desktops.

Ah, those were the days. Who can forget the release of Windows 95?

That's right: While the description above applies to the new Windows Vista operating system hitting stores January 30, it also was the landscape 11-1/2 years ago, when Microsoft came out with Windows 95 and ended up cementing its position in the PC industry.

However, there's one key difference this time: Back in August 1995, people actually lined up outside computer stores to buy the new edition of Windows the moment it went on sale at midnight.

LENDERS: from 1

Consumers would get more power to sue to recover losses and a ban on loan prepayment penalties that was scrubbed from Minnesota's books in 1996 would be reinstated.

Prentiss Cox, a University of Minnesota law professor who led a task force on predatory lending, said he expects reputable mortgage lenders to rally behind the proposals because they go after the companies and people stretching the rules.

"It's surprisingly common sense," he said.

Pat Martyn, executive director of the

Don't expect that to happen for Vista.

That doesn't mean Vista will be a dud. It can't be, not when just about every new PC sold will have Vista included.

Still, there's no ignoring the fact that Vista lacks a camping-outside-stores level of excitement -- even if the company's marketing campaign does incorporate heavy use of the word "wow." That's what Microsoft contends people say when they see Vista for the first time.

"Each time Microsoft puts out a piece of software, they're competing with their own previous software"

While that may be the case, analysts expect Vista -- which already has been available for business users since November 30 -- to gradually replace its most recent predecessor, Windows XP, over the next few years.

This is partly because Windows XP is good enough for many computer owners. In contrast, Windows 3.1, which Windows 95 ushered out to the tune of the Rolling Stones' "Start Me Up," was relatively primitive (remember DOS?).

More graphical, more polished and easier to use, the \$90 Windows 95 introduced many people to PCs for the

Minnesota Association of Mortgage Brokers, said the 600-entity group shares Swanson's goal of going after unscrupulous players in the mortgage industry.

"If Minnesotans lost faith in the credibility of a real estate transaction in general it would be very detrimental to the industry," Martyn said. "So, we have to be vigilant to make sure it's above reproach and it's conducted appropriately and well within the law."

Martyn said his group is anxious to see more details and wants to make sure the steps don't make loans too hard for people to access.



A Windows Vista rollout. (AP)

first time, just as the Web was about to take off.

A lot of the improvements in Vista -- which will retail for \$100 to \$400, depending on the version and whether the user is upgrading from Windows XP -- are redesign touches, or invisible tweaks toward better stability and security. Those are important things, to be sure, but not the stuff that makes fans scream like they're seeing a New Edition reunion concert.

"Each time Microsoft puts out a piece of software, they're competing with their own previous software," said

Matt Rosoff, an analyst with the independent Directions on Microsoft research firm. "Now there's not that much extra stuff in the plumbing that they can do. There's not going to be the big obvious leap."

Vista's non-buzz might also come from something that was faintly glowing on the horizon in 1995 and now illuminates all of computing: The desktop seems farther from the center of the action. Storage, bandwidth and content are insanely vast online, and the resulting interactivity is what people think of -- whether they're viewing a video, playing a "massively multiplayer" online game

or shopping for Tickle Me Elmo dolls -- when they think of using their computers.

That makes the operating system mainly a home base, a file cabinet, a platform for other things. Vista is elegant and faster at searching, and it offers improved multimedia management tools, but it's just an operating system. In 1995 that alone was a big deal. Vista would have to desalinate water or levitate things to deserve such hype.

This is still fine with the accounting department in Redmond, WA. Windows will remain a cash heifer, generating the 80 percent profit margins that explain why everyone has heard of Bill Gates. Friedman, Billings & Ramsey Co. estimates that Vista will boost Windows revenue to \$16.3 billion in 2007 from \$12.4 billion in 2006, although much of the increase will come from Microsoft's deferral of \$1 billion in revenue from 2006 to 2007.

But, the current state of affairs could matter in other ways. If Windows is just expensive plumbing that people happen to get but don't clamor for, then open-source offerings or new entries -- such as a long-rumored quasi-operating system that might come from Google Inc. -- could erode the Windows monolith. That trend has al-

VISTA: turn to 12

ICON: from 7B

viding recommendations for changes that maximize safety and providing protection when a situation warrants it. For instance, one night last fall, regular armed patrol service by Icon provided additional reassurance to women residing in one shelter after a victim's abuser tried to break in.

"We already had a patrol near the area, so it was easy for us to drive by the shelter periodically during the night," Shaw said.

Melani (no last name given), executive director of Asian Women United of Minnesota, operates one of four Twin Cities woman's shelters that contacted Icon upon learning about the Safety Net program; she feels fortunate to be working with the firm.

"He's really made a difference and our clients feel more secure," she said. "Elijah and his staff really checked things out to discover what

was and was not working. I was even happier when he said he'd do it for free."

She's also been impressed with the sensitivity that Shaw and his staff have shown while working with women who have suffered domestic violence.

"People don't really understand what victims go through," she said. "Elijah doesn't question the choices a woman makes. He just takes her word for it," acknowledging that the role of a security firm is different than that of law enforcement agencies and others who may mean well.

The ISC Safety Net program was inspired by Shaw's brother, who works for the Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

"[My brother] Michael has a wealth of knowledge about domestic violence," said Shaw. "He knows what's out there and what's not. I listened to

what he was saying and thought this was where I could give back."

Shaw, who grew up in the gritty Chicago projects, knew he was doing the right thing when he first sat down with a shelter director.

"All my pistons were firing," he said. "It was easy for me to see things like security cameras pointing in the wrong direction. I knew that we could be a real help by providing a security eye. It's rewarding for us, giving us a sense of satisfaction."

Melani offers another perspective on Icon's volunteer efforts.

She said, "Women who have been victimized have gone through a lot and they have negative impressions of men. Elijah and his staff provide a male protective presence that sends a positive message to the women who are domestic violence victims."

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