

NATIONAL BRIEFS

MIT most expensive

NEW YORK (AP) — Massachusetts Institute of Technology has replaced Bennington College of Vermont as the nation's most expensive college, with total expenses nearly \$23,000 a year, a survey shows.

Overall, college costs this fall rose an average of 5 percent to 8 percent, continuing a six-year moderating trend, according to the annual College Board survey released Wednesday.

But with a possible recession and resurgent inflation, some college officials fear tuition may climb more sharply in the next few years.

Clean air jeopardized

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush is warning that hard-fought clean air legislation may fall apart unless Congress steps up efforts to work out a compromise.

The president Wednesday beamed the slow progress of House-Senate negotiations on a final clean air package and offered a compromise proposal "to help break the logjam that once again has appeared."

House and Senate members have been struggling since early July to resolve differences in separate clean air bills that won overwhelming approval in each chamber earlier this year.

Souter has majority

WASHINGTON (AP) — A clear majority of the Senate Judiciary Committee is backing the nomination of Judge David Souter to the Supreme Court.

As the committee met Wednesday to vote on Souter's confirmation, the only question was how big a majority he would get. Ten of the committee's 14 members had endorsed President Bush's nominee by Wednesday night, and none had come out against him.

Souter, 51, who spent 12 years on the New Hampshire bench before joining the federal appeals court in Boston this year, would be the 105th Supreme Court justice if confirmed by the full Senate.

Gunman acknowledges shots

NEW YORK (AP) — Subway gunman Bernhard Goetz, contradicting the defense that got him acquitted in 1987, conceded he stuck his gun in a wounded teen-ager's ribs and shot him, telling the victim: "You don't look too bad, here's another."

Goetz, in a deposition released Wednesday, also undercut defense attorney Barry Slotnick's assertion at trial that the gunman never hesitated between shots when he opened fire on four young men in a subway car in 1984.

Goetz, who is white, also acknowledged making racist comments before the day he shot the black teen-agers.

Jury selection continues

CINCINNATI (AP) — Defense

attorneys sought to expose bias toward homosexuals in questioning potential jurors at the nation's first obscenity trial of a museum and its director.

The Contemporary Arts Center and director Dennis Barrie are charged with obscenity and displaying nude photos of chil-

dren in an exhibit of pictures by Robert Mapplethorpe, a gay man who died of AIDS last year.

Municipal Judge David Albanese pledged to seat a jury today, saying the process begun Monday had already gone on too long. By Wednesday,

lawyers had rejected eight prospective jurors and tentatively seated seven.

Potential jurors must distinguish between art and obscenity in weighing the charges over seven of the 175 photos from the exhibit. One photo shows a man urinating into another

man's mouth. Others show anal penetration with objects and other homosexual or sadomasochistic images.

On Wednesday, the defense persuaded the judge to remove two prospective jurors who admitted they were prejudiced against homosexuals.

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