

NEWS DIGEST

your quick guide to news from around the world

Dole welcomes Powell to campaign

1 WASHINGTON — Bob Dole welcomed Colin Powell's "vim and vinegar" to the Republicans' lagging White House race on Thursday.

In Dole's largest and most spirited crowd in weeks, several thousand people jammed downtown Cincinnati's Fountain Square to hear from the Republican presidential candidate, Jack Kemp and Powell.

Asked offstage what Powell brings to the campaign, Dole said, "He's a good friend. I think he gives me more vim and vinegar and vitality ... a little excitement, too."

Police seek motive in triple slaying

2 PORTLAND — The shooting deaths of three young men on a residential street on the city's northeast side left police mystified Thursday.

The killings Wednesday night did not appear to be drug or gang related, said police Lt. Cliff Madison.

Investigators still were trying to identify one of the victims. The names of the other two were withheld until relatives could be notified.

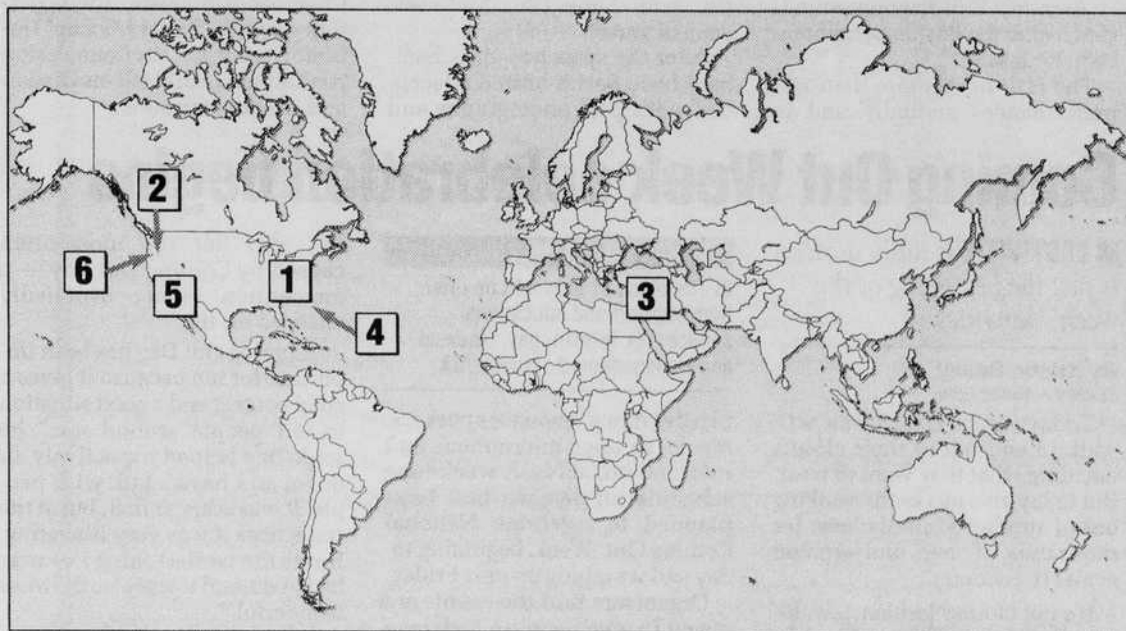
The gunman who remains at large fled on foot, and the car was impounded.

Palestinian ruler will not kneel for peace

3 RAMALLAH, West Bank — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat said Thursday that this week's negotiations with Israel have not yielded results, and warned that his people "will not be forced to kneel for peace."

Frustrated by the policies of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Arafat said he would not renegotiate the terms of an Israeli troop withdrawal from Hebron.

Among other things, negotiators have demanded that Israeli troops retain the right to chase suspects into neighborhoods under Palestinian control.



Pentagon lacks facts in chemical warfare

4 WASHINGTON — The Defense Department will never have a precise picture of how chemical warfare agents may have been dispersed over U.S. troops at an Iraqi weapons depot in March 1991, a Pentagon spokesman said on Thursday.

"There will be no definitive picture. We will never be able to say" exactly how many soldiers might have been exposed, Kenneth Bacon said at a Pentagon briefing.

Bacon said officials expect to derive "a range" of how many people may have been affected during an operation in which U.S. forces destroyed the depot.

Kardashian: Simpson tried to kill himself

5 SANTA MONICA, Calif. — O.J. Simpson tried to shoot himself in the head during the slow-speed Bronco chase but the gun misfired, said his attorney Robert Kardashian.

The once-fiercely loyal Kardashian, said Simpson was self-obsessed and suicidal on the day of his arrest.

Kardashian, who has known Simpson for 25 years described him as a spoiled ex-athlete concerned only with himself.

Kardashian confirmed earlier reports that Simpson badly failed a lie detector test shortly after the slayings of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman.

Medford man steals dog from death row

6 MEDFORD — Buster, a retriever-chow mix condemned to death by Jackson County commissioners for killing a goat, has been snatched from the pound by his owner and spirited out of state.

Hurlock said he helped Buster escape from the pound while a friend distracted animal control officers in another room.

"I'm in trouble," Hurlock said. "I knew that yesterday was going to be my last chance, so I went down there, hijacked him and got him out of the country."

Hurlock admits his dog killed the goat, but said state law is too harsh.

— The Associated Press

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