

Campaign Made Official

continued from Front

huge new bureaucracy," Braun said in a low-key appearance at Howard University. Her only introduction came from her 26-year-old son, Matthew Braun.

"A woman can fix the mess they have created, because we are practical, we are not afraid of partnerships and we are committed to making the world better for our children."

Braun stunned the political establishment in 1992 - the "Year of the Woman" - unseating an incumbent Democratic senator in the primary, two-term lawmaker Alan Dixon, on her way to what was once considered an improbable victory in November.

Her election was heralded as an advance for women and minorities, but her popularity fell amid accusations that she exercised poor judgment in visiting Nigeria's brutal former dictator Sani Abacha and misused campaign funds.

A campaign finance investigation cleared Braun, but she lost her seat to well-funded Republican challenger Peter Fitzgerald in 1998. After the defeat, President Clinton appointed her ambassador to New Zealand.

Braun used her announcement speech to present her vision for the future - "an American renaissance" - and criticize President Bush's record on national security and the economy. Unlike the official campaign announcements by some of her nine rivals, Braun took questions from a handful of Howard University students and reporters following her speech. She fielded broad questions about poverty and children, and more specific queries about the command and control of U.S. troops in Iraq.

A fierce opponent of the U.S.-led war against Iraq, Braun said the United States will work to ensure a peaceful Iraq. "Americans don't cut and run, we have to see this misadventure through," she said.

During months of campaigning, Braun has struggled to build a fund-raising network. She has pleaded for financial support, especially when speaking to women's groups, but raised less than \$250,000 in the first half of the year.

Last month, she picked up her first two major endorsements from the National Organization for Women and the National Women's Political Caucus. Leaders of both groups said they would help raise money for her among their members, and their support gave Braun encouragement to continue her bid beyond the exploratory phase.

Braun ranks near the bottom in most surveys, but some polls show her with more support than some of her better-financed rivals. She ranks higher in some polls of black voters.

She has avoided much of the intra-party fighting of her rivals who confront each other in an effort to rise to the top of the field. Her criticism has been focused on President Bush's policies at home and abroad.

"America is at a tipping point - if we stay the course we are on now, we won't recognize this country five years from now," she said in Monday's speech.

POLICE

Patriot Act Called Abuse of Power

Critics say law is being turned on petty criminals; not terrorists

(AP) — In the two years since law enforcement agencies gained fresh powers to help them track down and punish terrorists, police and prosecutors have increasingly turned the force of the new laws not on al-Qaida cells but on people charged with common crimes.

The Justice Department said it has used authority given to it by the USA Patriot Act to crack down on currency smugglers and seize money hidden overseas by alleged bookies, con artists and drug dealers.

Federal prosecutors used the act in June to file a charge of "terrorism using a weapon of mass destruction" against a California man after a pipe bomb exploded in his lap, wounding him as he sat in his car.

A North Carolina county prosecutor charged a man accused of running a methamphetamine lab with breaking a new state law barring the manufacture of chemical weapons. If convicted, Martin Dwayne Miller could get 12 years to life in prison for a crime that usually brings about six months.

Prosecutor Jerry Wilson says he isn't abusing the law, which defines chemical weapons of mass destruc-

tion as "any substance that is designed or has the capability to cause death or serious injury" and contains toxic chemicals.

Civil liberties and legal defense groups are bothered by the string of cases, and say the government soon will be routinely using harsh anti-terrorism laws against run-of-the-mill law-

They (Justice Department) say they want the Patriot Act to fight terrorism, then, within six months, they are teaching their people how to use it on ordinary citizens.

— Dan Dodson, a spokesman for the National Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys

"Within six months of passing the Patriot Act, the Justice Department was conducting seminars on how to stretch the new wiretapping provisions to extend them beyond terror cases," said Dan Dodson, a spokesman for the National Association of

Criminal Defense Attorneys. "They say they want the Patriot Act to fight terrorism, then, within six months, they are teaching their people how to use it on ordinary citizens."

Attorney General John Ashcroft completed a 16-city tour last week defending the Patriot Act as key to preventing a second catastrophic terrorist attack. Federal prosecutors have brought more than 250 criminal charges under the law, with more than 130 convictions or guilty pleas.

The law, passed two months after the Sept. 11 attacks, erased many restrictions that had barred the government from spying on its citizens, granting agents new powers to use wiretaps, conduct electronic and computer eavesdropping and access private financial data.

Stefan Cassella, deputy chief for legal policy for the Justice Department's asset forfeiture and money laundering section, said that while the Patriot Act's primary focus was on terrorism, lawmakers were aware it contained provisions that had been on prosecutors' wish lists for years and would be used in a wide variety of cases.

Portland Terror Case to Test Patriot Act

(AP) — The American Civil Liberties Union has taken aim at the USA Patriot Act in an early court test of secret warrants the FBI says it needs for the war on terrorism.

Friday's brief filed in U.S. District Court in Portland marks the first ACLU challenge to the warrants in a criminal case, said David Fidanque, director of the ACLU's Oregon chapter.

The FBI used the secret warrants — called Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court warrants — to plant bugs and tap phone conversations of American Muslims and Portland-area residents now on trial for conspiring to support the Taliban and al-Qaida.

Congress first allowed the secret warrants in 1978, in a law that curbed the powers of the FBI and CIA to spy on U.S. citizens for political purposes.

The warrants' uses were restricted to FBI agents hunting for foreign spies.

But after the Sept. 11 attacks, Congress passed the Patriot Act allowing agents to use the warrants against U.S. citizens in criminal cases.

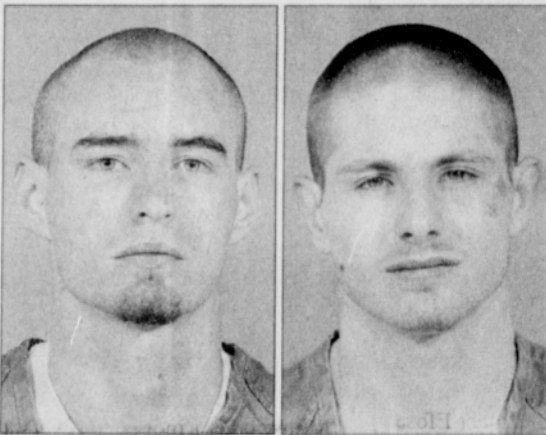
Unlike typical criminal search warrants, the FBI is not required to show probable cause.

Skinheads Charged in Racial Attack

Portland police have arrested two men on assault, weapons and intimidation charges after they allegedly attacked a black man and threatened another.

Police say 20-year-old Bryce Woods and 23-year-old Dennis Mothersbaugh are two self-described skinheads.

The investigation began Sunday after a security guard saw the two men arguing with a black man near Northwest Broadway and Northwest



Dennis Mothersbaugh and Bryce Woods

Couch Street.

The guard broke up the argument and a short time later police say the black man was stabbed in the back.

Police say the suspects fled and then threatened another black man with a gun.

Detectives responded to the scene and linked the two crimes after finding a security camera captured the second crime.

Police say both attacks are racially motivated. The suspects are jailed in Multnomah County.

Offender Release

(AP) — Vothy Chhay was a free man - for 42 minutes.

Released from the Clark County Jail at 7:25 a.m. last Wednesday, he was booked back in by 8:07 a.m. for investigation of car prowling - the same charge on which he was previously jailed.

Sheriff's deputy Tim Gosch was called outside the county courthouse about 8 a.m. after a Juvenile Court worker saw a man try to open the door of her white 2003 Lexus.

Gosch found Chhay, 19, nearby and arrested him. He had just been released pending trial in another car-prowling case.

Bilal Brothers Plead Guilty to Conspiracy

(AP) — Two of the "Portland Seven" terror suspects face at least eight years in prison after pleading guilty to charges of conspiring to help al-Qaida and the Taliban during the war in Afghanistan.

Ahmed Bilal, 25, and his brother, Muhammad Bilal, 23, both appeared before U.S. District Judge Robert Jones to formally enter their pleas after Jones announced the agreement Wednesday.

The brothers also pleaded guilty



Ahmed and Muhammad Bilal

to firearms charges in exchange for dismissing the main charge of conspiracy to levy war against the US.

Both had been accused of trav-

eling with four other men to China shortly after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attack in a failed attempt to enter Afghanistan and fight with the Taliban against U.S. forces.

Ahmed Bilal agreed to a term of 10 to 14 years while his younger brother agreed to 8 to 14 years, pending sentencing.

Another Portland defendant has pleaded guilty. Three have pleaded innocent, and the seventh person charged last year is a fugitive.

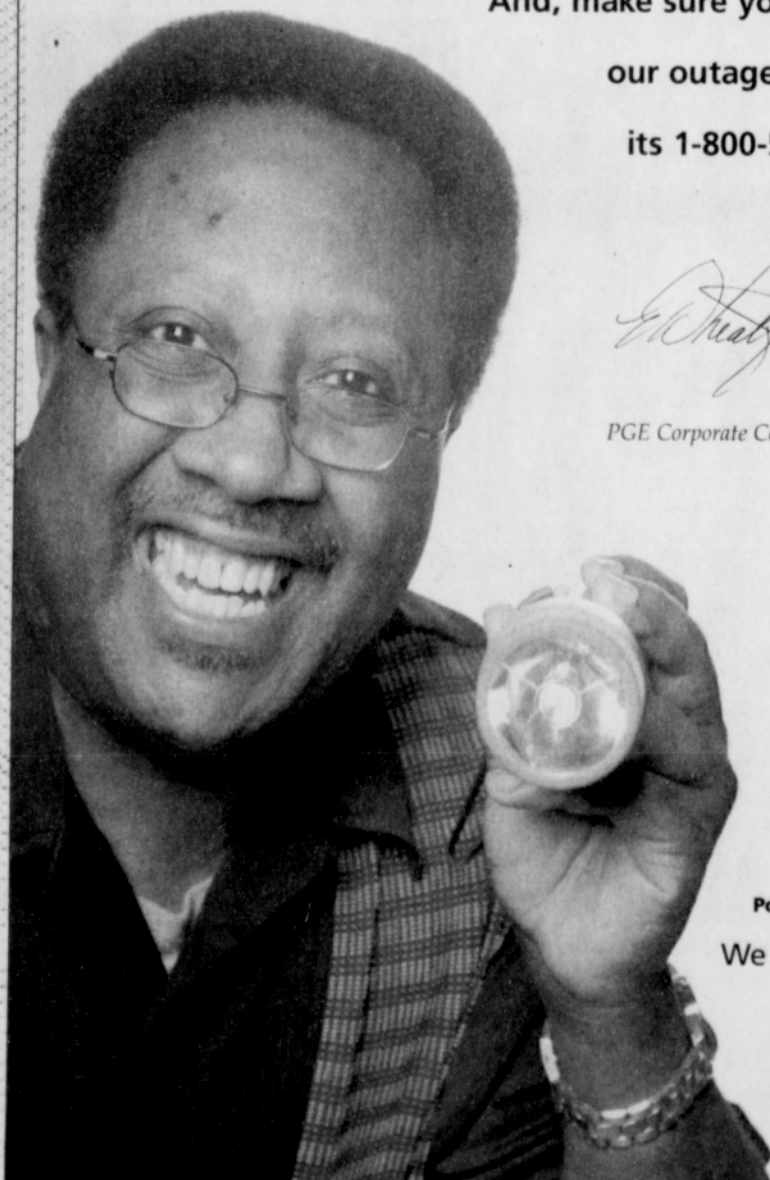
"Think of it as a hand-held power company."

Although rare, power outages can occur year-round.

If this happens, a flashlight can be a lifesaver when you need it. Besides the flashlight, toss in a portable radio, fresh batteries, a manual can opener, even a wind-up clock and you've got yourself a handy outage kit ready ahead of time.

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