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# **Bush Criticized on Social Security**

## Accused of playing race card

(AP) - Black leaders on Monday accused President Bush of "playing the race card" in his pitch to sell his proposed Social Security over-

NAACP leaders Julian Bond and Dennis Courtland Hayes said Bush should focus on addressing the underlying health care reasons why blacks have a shorter life expectthey should support his idea of for while males. private accounts.

Americans, we urge the adminis- privatization," said Rep. Elijah whether we'll get Social Security and racial profiling in suburbs.

tration to address the long-term problems the system faces now," said Bond, the NAACP's chairman. "Recognizing the shorter life expectancy of people of color is commendable, but placing them further at risk is no solution."

Government statistics show that the average life span for a newborn black male is 69, compared with 75 for a newborn white male. Critics of Bush's plan say black mortality figures are skewed by higher death rates among infants and a higher exposure to violent crime. They cite statistics showing that by the common retirement age of 65, life expectancy instead of citing it as a reason years, compared with 81.6 years

Julian Bond

ancy for black males becomes 79.6 Cummings, D-Md., past chairman tional amendments on behalf of "Don't use the fact that Afri- with making our lives longer, in- ing rights, and court decisions "Rather than playing the race can-Americans have a lower life stead of putting more pressure outlawing segregated schools card to set Americans against expectancy as an excuse for onus when we're worrying about triggered white flight from cities

when we're older."

Hayes, the NAACP's acting president and CEO, said the creation of private accounts could trigger changes or reductions in Social Security's survivor or disability programs, both of which are beneficial for blacks.

"Unfortunately for African-Americans, our experiences here in America are color-coded," Hayes said. "We have to be concerned about mutations, of changes that occur that we sometimes didn't foresee when we thought we were doing something good."

As examples, he said constituof the Congressional Black Cau- blacks after the Civil War led to cus. "Deal with disparities, deal Jim Crow laws curbing black vot-

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In the same way, it provides an opportunity to highlight what NEA knows works in the classroom – the same ingredients that are supported by research by parents and by teachers and education support professionals: strong parental involvement, qualified and certified teachers, small class sizes that allow for individual attention, and books and materials aligned with high standards - and high expectations - for every child.

So on March 2 – and every day – take a moment and read with a child. Visit NEA.org to find out more about how you can get involved in activities in your area.

## **Olympic Bomber Admits Guilt**

#### Also to confess other bombings

(AP)—Eric Rudolph has agreed to plead guilty and admit setting off a deadly bomb at the 1996 Atlanta caused by a bomb in a Olympics and blasts at abortion backpack. In the next clinics and a lesbian nightclub in a two years, he allegedly deal that allows him to escape the death penalty, Justice Department bian nightclub in Atlanta officials said Friday.

possibility of parole. Rudolph had faced a possible death sentence.

Rudolph, 38, was charged with carrying out a series of blasts in Georgia and Alabama in the late 1990s.

One woman was killed and more than 100 people were injured in the Olympic blast, set off bombs at a les-

and at two abortion clinics - one in in Murphy, N.C. The plea deal calls for four con- Alabama and one in Atlanta. The secutive life sentences without the Alabama abortion clinic blast killed ports that agents have confirmed an off-duty police officer and critithe location of about 250 pounds of cally injured a nurse.

the mountains of western North Caro-

lina, where the former soldier used survivalist techniques to live off the land for more than five years-all while being on the FBI's list of 10 Most Wanted fugitives. Then in May 2003, he was captured after being seen scavenging for food near a grocery store trash bin

Eric Rudolph

Word of the deal came amid redynamite that Rudolph had hidden Rudolph then slipped away into in the mountains of western North Carolina.

### **Name-Brand Prescriptions Prices Soar**

(AP) - Wholesale prices for hike in five years and more than

name-brand drugs jumped an aver- jump just a year earlier and since the cent. age 7.1 percent in 2004 - the largest end of 1999, prices of more than 150 tion rate over that period, the report went up an average 13.3 percent.

The hike follows a 7.0 percent said. In 2004, inflation was 2.7 per-

By contrast, the price for 75 popupopular name-brand drugs have lar generic drugs hardly budged in twice the rate of inflation, accord-risen an average 35.1 percent, nearly 2004, rising 0.5 percent. In 2003, manuing to a study released Tuesday by three times the 13.5 percent infla-facturers' prices for generic drugs



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