

Boston Sunday Globe

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BREAKFAST FLAKES

TODAY: Cloudy with snow at night, highs 34-41
TOMORROW: Snow ending noon, breezy, highs 31-36
FULL REPORT: PAGE B8

Church allowed abuse by priest for years



This article was prepared by the *Globe Spotlight* Team: reporters Matt Carroll, Sacha Pfeiffer, and Michael Rezendes; and editor Walter V. Robinson. It was written by Rezendes.

Aware of Geoghan record, archdiocese still shuttled him from parish to parish

First of two parts

Since the mid-1990s, more than 130 people have come forward with horrific childhood tales about how former priest John J. Geoghan allegedly fondled or raped them during a three-decade spree through a half-dozen Greater Boston parishes.

Almost always, his victims were grammar school boys. One was just 4 years old.

Then came last July's disclosure that Cardinal Bernard F. Law knew about Geoghan's problems in 1984, Law's first year in Boston, yet approved his transfer to St. Julia's parish in

Weston. Wilson D. Rogers Jr., the cardinal's attorney, defended the move last summer, saying the archdiocese had medical assurances that each Geoghan reassignment was "appropriate and safe."

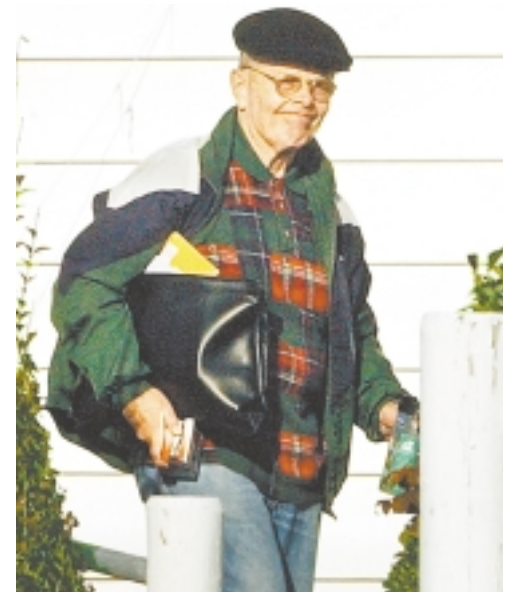
But one of Law's bishops thought that the 1984 assignment of Geoghan to St. Julia's was so risky, he wrote the cardinal a letter in protest. And for good reason, the Spotlight Team found: The archdiocese already had substantial evidence of Geoghan's predatory sexual habits. That included his assertion in 1980 that his repeated abuse of seven boys in one extended family was not a "serious" problem, according to an archdiocesan record.

The St. Julia's assignment proved disastrous. Geoghan was put in charge of three youth groups, including altar boys. In 1989, he was forced to go on sick leave after more com-

plaints of sexual abuse, and spent months in two institutions that treat sexually abusive priests. Even so, the archdiocese returned him to St. Julia's, where Geoghan continued to abuse children for another three years.

Now, as Geoghan faces the first of two criminal trials next week, details about his sexual compulsion are likely to be overshadowed by a question that many Catholics find even more troubling: Why did it take a succession of three cardinals and many bishops 34 years to place children out of Geoghan's reach?

Donna Morrissey, a spokeswoman for Law, said the cardinal and other church officials would not respond to questions about Geoghan. Morrissey said the church had no interest in knowing what the Globe's questions would be.



Former priest John J. Geoghan leaving his family home in Scituate in November.

SPOTLIGHT, Page A14

Antitrust exception shields baseball

Proviso may stymie Reilly probe of Sox

By Bob Hohler

GLOBE STAFF

America's last great monopoly, Major League Baseball, long has prevailed over the meek and mighty: players seeking legal relief from owners who controlled them like chattel, fans pleading with judges to keep their prized teams from skipping town, elected leaders trying to examine how an exclusive group of rich individuals and corporations privately governs the national pastime.

All those who have challenged the multibillion-dollar industry — as Massachusetts Attorney General Thomas F. Reilly has over the sale of the Red Sox — have encountered a nearly impenetrable shield: an exemption from antitrust laws that for 80 years has provided big league baseball protection unrivaled in professional sports.

Reilly has cried foul, like many others before him. Saying baseball's protected status fostered a climate in which the high bidder for the Red Sox lost to a group that was favored by a "club" of owners that controls the sport, he called on Congress to examine the deal and repeal the game's sweeping exemption from antitrust laws.

But even though the Senate Judiciary Committee may review the sale in March as part of a hearing on baseball's antitrust exemption, **BASEBALL, Page D13**



REUTERS PHOTO

President Bush defended his tax cuts vigorously at a town-hall-style meeting yesterday in Ontario, Calif.

Bush joins fiscal fight, defends tax cut

Economy will share priority with terror war

By Anne E. Kornblut

GLOBE STAFF

ONTARIO, Calif. — President Bush, marking a shift toward domestic politics after three months of war, yesterday launched a spirited defense of his tax cuts and promised to block any attempt to revise them, declaring, "Not over my dead body will they raise your taxes."

Joining an escalating war of words

over the economy, Bush used his first major appearance of 2002 to lambaste Senate Democrats who have blamed last year's \$1.3 trillion, 10-year tax cut for the recent downturn. In a town-hall-style meeting sponsored by Hispanic business leaders here, Bush mocked "some in Washington saying the tax cut caused the recession."

"I don't know what economic textbook they're reading," Bush said. "The best way to come out of a recession is to say to a small-business person . . . it's your money."

Then, raising a specter that no one has

actually proposed, Bush said, "Not over my dead body will they raise your taxes."

While the president is determined not to let Democrats use a weak economy against him as they did against his father in 1992, his words yesterday were reminiscent of George H.W. Bush's 1988 campaign pledge, "Read my lips: no new taxes." Amid a slumping economy, that broken promise later became an albatross for the elder Bush in his failed reelection bid.

Later yesterday, in an almost identical speech in Oregon, Bush did not repeat the **BUSH, Page A16**

US comes up empty in search for Omar

Cleric reportedly rides off; two other Taliban detained

By Elizabeth Neuffer and Colin Nickerson

GLOBE STAFF

KABUL, Afghanistan — Mullah Mohammed Omar, the Muslim cleric who is No. 2 on the American target list, has evaded a manhunt and vanished from the mountainous area in which he was believed to be hiding, Afghan officials said yesterday.

They said Omar had fled the region around the hamlet of Baghran, in south-central Afghanistan, possibly roaring out on a motorcycle. The team of US Army Special Forces and anti-Taliban Afghan troops who had been searching for him gave up the hunt and left yesterday, too.

For the past week, the same Afghans have claimed that a noose was tightening around Omar and hundreds of diehard Taliban loyalists in the area, as mujahideen fighters closed on their suspected positions in the rugged mountains near Baghran.

"There aren't any Taliban or Al Qaeda in Baghran now," Haji Gallalai, intelligence chief for the Kandahar region, told reporters. "Mullah Omar is also not in Baghran."

Even as Omar seemingly eluded capture, US forces in Afghanistan yesterday took custody of the Taliban's former ambassador to Pakistan, Mullah Abdul Salam Zaeef. He was deported from Pakistan after being held by authorities there.

The American forces also have taken custody of Ibn Al-Shaykh al-Libi, who ran some of Osama bin **OMAR, Page A22**

Bomb probe eyes Pakistan links

Extremist may have influenced Reid

By Farah Stockman

GLOBE STAFF

LAHORE, Pakistan — The investigation of Richard Colvin Reid, the British national arrested aboard an American Airlines flight with explosives in his shoes, has led authorities to one of Pakistan's most secretive and controversial spiritual leaders, a man who over the past 15 years has brought more than 100 US citizens, mostly African-Americans,

to Pakistan for religious and military training.

US officials believe that Reid, like the American converts, was a follower of Sheik Mubarak Ali Gilani, according to a Pakistani government official who has been asked by the United States to search for traces of Reid's past in Pakistan.

"He was there," said the official, referring to Gilani's walled compound in Lahore.

A member of Gilani's large extended family also said that Reid had visited the home. Both the Pakistani official and the family member declined to be identified.

But a spokesman for Gilani's network of followers said that Reid, 28, is unknown to them and called the report that he was a follower of Gilani a conspiracy to discredit the group, which has been targeted by the United States since the 1993 World Trade Center bombing.

"He is not a follower, and he is not known to any of the people within our system," Khalid Khawaja, a close friend of Gilani, said of Reid. "If there was anything like that, we would have known it."

The Pakistani official said he is **REID, Page A23**



AFP PHOTO

DREAMS OF FLIGHT — Women waiting outside the Ariana Afghan Airlines office yesterday in Kabul after applying for 40 flight attendant positions. The vacancies drew 140 applicants.

Rappaport's party-crashing quest for No. 2

By Yvonne Abraham

GLOBE STAFF



JAMES RAPPAPORT
"It is not divisive"

CONCORD — Headed from his first day of battle, still wearing makeup from multiple camera calls, James Rappaport, GOP candidate for lieutenant governor, paced from enormous room to enormous room in his mansion, rallying his troops via conference call.

Acting Governor Jane Swift had just announced her running mate for this year's gubernatorial race. Not Rappaport, of course, despite his best efforts. Swift had made it

abundantly clear that he was not and never had been her man, and Rappaport was spitting out counterspin at a frantic pace.

Snippets of his speech were audible as he passed through the yellow living room.

"We now know what our goals are," he said. "This is about us taking our case to the people. Look, I was running first . . . It is not divisive . . . We're going to have to hang tough . . . There are five people running for governor on the other side. Why isn't that seen as divisive? They're going to paint us as the fringe . . ."

Swift chose aide Patrick C. Guerriero after making her way down an embarrassingly long list of potential, but unwilling, running mates to avoid giving Rappaport the nod.

But Rappaport isn't going to let a little thing like being dismissed by Swift stop him from becoming her No. 2.

And if the state Republican Party won't rally behind him, he'll just run as an outsider.

And if the GOP faithful won't cough up donations to help him, he'll use his own money, of **RAPPAPORT, Page A17**

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