

"There is nothing
so powerful as truth"
DANIEL WEBSTER

THE UNION LEADER

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DIRTY TRICKS

Federal officials
erted by police
alleged GOP
hone jamming

JOHN DISTASO
for Political Reporter

Fanchester police have alerted U.S. Justice Department to an election Day operation allegedly created by a Republican tele-marketing dealer that jammed out-the-vote phone banks operated by the city's firefighters on and the state Democratic Party.

Fred Roach of the city's de-ive bureau said this week Ida-based telemarketing firm Willoerprises was hired by GOP keplace of Alexandria, Va., to ke repeated hang-up calls to a up of New Hampshire phone ks on Nov. 6.

tion and Democratic officials l the phone jam, broken by izon after two hours, lasted 3 enough to hurt their efforts each people who needed rides he polls. Union president Wil- 2 Clayton said many intended

TELEPHONES, Page A10

Bode Miller smiles on the podium after winning the Men's Alpine Ski Championships in St. Moritz, Switzerland, yesterday.



Miller skis to go

Franconia native takes combined at WC

By PAULA TRACY
Union Leader Staff

FRANCONIA — Despite the fact his name is known by Europeans and ski race enthusiasts everywhere, Bode Miller said his quiet home town here in the White Mountains will not be changed by his international ski success.

(See full coverage in Sports Page D1)

"Franconia is pretty much i-ervous and that is pretty m-why I am who I am," Miller s-esterday in a conference c-fter winning the gold medal the combined at the world cha-pionships in St. Moritz, Switz-

Arthur Ferretti, 96, is dead



Pr
'Th
is
for

■ Bush se- his comm- weapons.
WASHINGTON

esident should stop downplay-
ing this threat, start paying more
attention to it and immediately
engage the North Koreans in di-
rect talks."

ELEPHONES

(Continued From Page A1)

acts with potential riders, es-
pecially seniors, were not made,
"I know a lot of them got
it out" of voting.

Roach said a state harassment
law may have been violated. The
law's multi-state nature prompt-
ed him to contact authorities
about possible federal violations,
he said.

State Republican Chairman
Mike Miller said yesterday
that state committee hired GOP
Marketplace, but not to jam oppo-
sition phone lines, something she
said she knew nothing about.

Miller, elected chairman two
weeks ago, said party executive
director Chuck McGee told her
it, "at the very end of the elec-
tion cycle, the state party con-
tacted with GOP Marketplace
about the thought that the party
could use telemarketing to do
a get-out-the-vote calling. But
calls were never made, and
state party is currently work-
ing on getting a refund."

She noted the hiring occurred
before my time" as party chair-
man. Miller worked with the
publicans' own get-out-the-
vote effort in the final hours of
the campaign.
GOP Marketplace calls itself
the first Internet-based political

MILLER

(Continued From Page A1)

Miller, 25, grew up in Easton,
a village of fewer than a thou-
sand residents and sited at state-
owned Cannon Mountain where
his mother, Jo, worked. His fa-
ther, Woody, is an area social
worker and the family runs Tam-
ack Tennis Camp in the sum-

the North Koreans through a va-
riety of channels," he said.

The two countries continue to
exchange harsh words. On
Wednesday, Defense Secretary

B2B (business-to-business). We
link campaigns and committees
with telephone vendors online."

The Republican State Commit-
tee paid GOP Marketplace \$15-
\$60 on Nov. 1. A lawyer for GOP
Marketplace would neither con-
firm nor deny the firm hired Milo
Enterprises.

State Democratic Chairman
Kathleen Sullivan said, "It breaks
my heart that anyone in this
country would engage in criminal
activity to try to prevent seniors
from voting and to interfere with
a free election."

City firefighters head Clayton
said union volunteers noticed
they could not make or receive
calls at about 7:30 a.m. on Elec-
tion Day. After an hour, he said,
the problem was reported to po-
lice.

Lt. Roach said Verizon was
contacted, freed the phone lines
and identified the caller as Milo
Enterprises.

He said Milo officials, con-
tacted last month, "were very co-
operative. They said they were a
telemarketing firm for hire and
had been paid in advance (by
GOP Marketplace, Roach said,) to
repeatedly call a variety of phone
numbers in New Hampshire on
November 5."

Roach said Milo officials told
him that when they arrived at
work early on Nov. 5, their work-
ers had been making the calls for
about an hour. But after checking
the work order, Roach said, they
stopped the blocking operation,
realizing it could be "a problem."
Roach said he later spoke to a
vice president at GOP Market-
place and, "He was very evasive."
The Union Leader's call to GOP
Marketplace President Allen Ray-
mond was returned by company
attorney John Partridge, who said
Raymond "can't confirm or deny"
that Milo Enterprises was hired.

but we have to find a way to do it
that does not suggest to the
North Koreans that we are doing
it because they have this tool, this
weapon..."

Sullivan said she identified the
party numbers blocked as those
for the Democratic City Commit-
tee office, the state party's now-
closed coordinated campaign of-
fice and state party field offices in
Nashua, Rochester and Clare-
mont.

Roach noted a state law mak-
ing it a misdemeanor to make a
telephone call "with a purpose to
annoy or alarm another." Prose-
cuting an out-of-state entity on a
misdemeanor is difficult, he said,

Clayton said the firefighters
don't ask riders their party affilia-
tion. He noted many union mem-
bers are Republicans and the
state firefighters union backed
Republican Craig Benson for gov-
ernor.

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which are held in odd-numbered
years, match up the best skiers in
the world for almost two weeks of
competition.
Friends and followers in the
Granite State, who watched the
results fed live on the Internet at
about 9:30 a.m. here, said they
were thrilled he was able to put
together two solid runs of slalom
and was able to overcome a 17th

great voters. Furthermore, he
said, the jam only lasted for about
10 to 20 minutes. And officials
with the Kerry campaign also dis-
missed the story.

but he said he has contacted the
U.S. Justice Department in Wash-
ington.

One federal law prohibits caus-
ing "the telephone of another re-
peatedly or continuously to ring,
with the intent to harass any per-
son at the called number." Roach
said, "It appears (the Justice De-
partment) may be interested in
pursuing the matter."

McGee, the Republican State
Committee executive director,
said early yesterday he had
vaguely heard of GOP Market-
place and did not hire the firm.
Later, Miller called The Union
Leader to say that McGee "was
mistaken," and had in fact hired
it for telemarketing.

Sullivan said, "I find it fasci-
nating that Chuck McGee's initial

showing in decades.
"We've been in the basement
for years," he said.
Miller's uncle, Mike Kenney,
who is also coach at FSC, keeps
the connection between the pro-
gram and Miller alive. Kenney is
with Miller now. Come Feb. 15,
the club will be auctioning a pair
of skis Miller raced on this winter

ter suburbs. Meanwhile,
paper said, the Gore camp
ratcheted up its own get-out-
vote efforts in Manchester
Nashua. Gore won the primary

reaction was to lie. I don't know
I can believe anything now."

Roach said blocking pho-
ne lines "is serious crime, regard-
less of whether it's a misdemeanor
or a felony. Whether it be you,
or a union hall, they're all
guilty."

Raymond is a 33-year-old or-
ganizer whose recent clients
included Republican Nation
Committee co-chair Pat
Harrison and former President
candidate Steve Forbes' 20
campaign committee, accord-
ing to the firm's Web site. Last ye-
ar he headed the Republican Le-
adership Conference, which spent
about \$150,000 advertising
against conservative GOP form
candidate for governor Govt
Humphrey.

In Bedford, the tuition prop-
osal requires a simple majority
approval, although some vot-
ers have questioned that aspect
of the plan and say it could re-
quire at least a 60 percent vote for
approval. School officials are stat-
ing by the opinion of legal
counsel that only a simple ma-
jority is needed. That stance was
clarified last night in response
to a voter's question.

Bedford board mem-
bers said Bedford's students
could continue to attend West but
a new tuition arrangement would
have to be negotiated with Man-
chester. School board member
Dan Sullivan said Bedford proba-
bly wouldn't have to pay \$20,000
per student in tuition but would
pay more than the other three
towns if those communities ap-
proved their agreements with
Manchester and Bedford didn't.
Under the plan, Bedford would
be guaranteed seats at West up
until it reached a population of
about 1,000 students. Bedford
currently has a high school popu-
lation of about 807 students,
according to officials.
In addition to the projected tun-
tion costs of about \$6,700 per stu-
dent, the capital costs for the
project should not total more
than \$1,500 per student, accord-
ing to school board members.
The figures are for a "worst-case"