

# New Tobacco Strain Boasts Low-Nicotine Alternative

By RACHEL NYDEN  
Staff Writer

A new type of tobacco that is virtually nicotine-free has been developed by Vector Group, a parent company of Liggett Group Inc., that will provide smokers with a new way to quit.

A spokeswoman for Vector Group, who would not give her name, said the company is developing this idea to give smokers a nonaddictive option.

"Initial tests with focus groups have shown that (low-nicotine cigarettes) smoke and taste just like regular cigarettes, but we believe it will have the least amount of nicotine as any cigarettes on the market right now," she said.

She added that in addition to giving smokers a new choice, the lack of nicotine eliminates the risk of nitrosamines, which cause cancer.

It is unknown when the new tobacco strain will reach market since it still needs approval from the Food and Drug Administration — a process that can take years.

Jed Rose, director of the nicotine research program at Duke University, said studies involving the reduced-nicotine cigarettes have shown that they help smokers quit.

He said the tobacco has been tested two ways — by allowing smokers to gradually switch from their regular cigarettes to the low-nicotine ones or by abruptly making the switch with the aid of a nicotine patch.

"Either way, about half the sample could make the switch," Rose said. "This shows the habit component is important, and smokers can switch over if they are motivated to do so."

He said the low-nicotine cigarettes are an efficient means of weaning people off smoking, but he added that smokers still found it difficult to quit completely.

"We're hoping to test a more gradual weaning process to get them to slowly move to the low nicotine cigarettes," Rose said.

Low-nicotine cigarettes currently on the market work by reducing the amount of smoke inhaled and the

amount of nicotine smokers consume — causing smokers to overcompensate by smoking more cigarettes.

But, according to Rose, the new low-nicotine cigarettes will alleviate this problem.

"Since nicotine isn't in the tobacco to begin with, (smokers) get a good amount of smoke and don't feel the need to compensate by smoking more cigarettes," he said.

Patrick Reynolds, founder and president of tobaccofree.org, also said the reduced-nicotine cigarettes seem like an efficient tool for fighting tobacco addiction.

Reynolds is the grandson of local tobacco tycoon R.J. Reynolds. He founded tobaccofree.org after his father died of a smoking-related illness.

"A nicotine-free cigarette is a clear step in the right direction," he said. "One wonders why the larger companies haven't made a nicotine-free cigarette already."

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# Ashcroft's Fairness Questioned

Bush's nominee for attorney general is receiving partisan support, sure of the backing of one Senate Democrat.

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A black Missouri judge said Thursday that John Ashcroft "seriously distorted my record" to block the judge's appointment to a federal court in what Senate Democrats claimed was a bid for political gain.

"The question for the Senate is whether these misrepresentations are consistent with the fair play and justice you all would require of the U.S. attorney general," Missouri Supreme Court Judge Ronnie White told the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Now President-elect George W. Bush's choice for attorney general, Ashcroft was a Missouri senator seeking re-election when he engineered the party-line 1999 defeat of the federal nomination for White, the first black judge on Missouri's highest court. That vote, the first defeat of a district court nomination on the Senate floor in 40 years, has become a focus of Democrats and civil rights groups opposed to Ashcroft's confirmation.

Republicans argued that Ashcroft had based his objections on legal disagreements with White, not politics or race.

On the third day of the hearings, which seem likely to lead to Ashcroft's

confirmation, Democrats and Republicans called character witnesses and representatives from women's, civil rights, law enforcement and crime victims' groups.

With no sign of a break in Republican support for Ashcroft and one Democrat, Georgia's Zell Miller, committed to voting for him, opponents raised the possibility of a filibuster.

Ashcroft's sharpest critic, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., was considering that long shot move, which would force Ashcroft's backers to get 60 votes in the evenly divided Senate to put him in charge of the Justice Department.

Meantime, the White episode filled the old Senate Caucus Room with drama as the jurist recounted his rise from poverty and then a former prosecutor graphically described a quadruple murder that led to one of White's most controversial opinions.

White described growing up in segregated St. Louis in an unfinished basement. He was bused to a school where white children "would throw milk and food at us and tell us to go back to where we came from."

"This racism only strengthened my determination. I was not going to let the color of my skin or ignorance or the hatefulness of others hold me back," he said.

Some civil rights groups accuse Ashcroft of racism. Democrats who served on the committee with Ashcroft have all denied he's a racist, though Sen. Joseph Biden, D-Del., and others have called him racially insensitive.

Instead, most Democrats seemed to back the view of Kennedy, who told White that Ashcroft "tried to use your record on death penalty cases to help win his hotly contested Senate seat in Missouri against Governor (Mel) Carnahan."

Ashcroft repeatedly attacked Carnahan's commuting, at Pope John Paul II's request, of a death sentence.

But Ashcroft was defeated even though Carnahan died in a plane crash shortly before the election. Carnahan's widow now holds the seat.

White said he was "surprised to hear that he (Ashcroft) had

gone to the Senate floor and called me 'pro-criminal' with a 'tremendous bent toward criminal activity,'"

White testified that as a judge, he had voted to uphold the death penalty in 41 of 59 cases.

In 53 of the cases, White said, he voted with the majority of his colleagues on the court, most of whom were appointed by former Gov. Ashcroft. White was the lone dissenter three times, he said.

*"I was not going to let the color of my skin or ignorance or the hatefulness of others hold me back."*

RONNIE WHITE  
Missouri Supreme Court Judge

# Star-Studded Bush Gala Features Ricky Martin

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Festivities leading up to George W. Bush's inauguration began Thursday with a star-studded show at the Lincoln Memorial. Bush obviously relished the event, smiling, flashing a thumbs up sign at entertainer Wayne Newton and promising to give the country "a fresh start."

Before laying claim to the presidency this weekend, Bush, with his wife, Laura, as well as Vice President-elect Dick Cheney and his wife, Lynne, mingled with celebrities including Latin singer Ricky Martin.

Bush took to the stage toward the end of the show and, in an unspoken acknowledgment that he had won the presidency despite losing the popular vote, thanked those who didn't vote for him.

"Wherever you come from, whatever your political party, thank you for taking part in this great tradition of our country," Bush said. "My administration will serve all Americans and this inaugural is for all Americans to enjoy."

"I am honored to serve and I am ready to start," he said.

Organizers had anticipated a crowd of 75,000 people, but the cold and an intermittent drizzle apparently kept many away, although police gave no official crowd estimate. Bush and other members of the incoming administration sat under a canopy that protected them from the elements.

Martin was the headliner for the show, set on a stage built on the memorial's steps. After Bush spoke, Martin sang one of his signature songs, "Cup of Life," swiveling his hips to the salsa-style music.

## Campus Calendar

Today

3 p.m. — MCAT Prep Group (Section 2), offered by the UNC Learning Center, will meet in 204 Phillips Annex. The course fee is \$100. To register, call 962-3782.

Monday

5:30 p.m. — A meeting will be held for writers, cartoonists/artists, graphic designers and advertising for **Bounce Magazine**, a new humor magazine dedicated to amusing and enriching the UNC community with satirical commentary on current events. For more information, e-mail bounce@unc.edu.

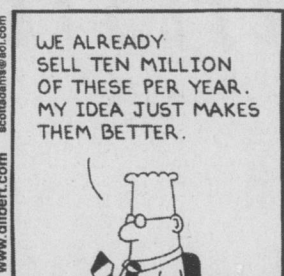
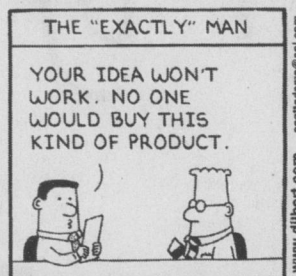
8:30 p.m. — Annual budget orientation sessions will be held in 304 Dey Hall tonight and Jan. 25.

Any student group interested in the annual budget must have a representative at one of the orientations.

## The Daily Crossword

Friday, January 19, 2001  
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## THE Daily Crossword

By Stanley B. Whitten

- |                              |                           |                                   |                           |                     |                        |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>                | 48 Related                | 1 Pack down                       | 22 Hawaiian hi            | 36 Man alone        | 58 Australian gemstone |
| 1 Use a trotline             | 50 Get the picture        | 2 Hind part                       | 26 Shoe pad               | 38 Duplicity        | 59 Chief Norse god     |
| 6 Natural alarm clock?       | 51 Goof                   | 3 "Rule Britannia" composer       | 27 Mark with blotches     | 41 Wear away        | 60 Hamilton bills      |
| 10 Declare                   | 52 Show no respect: slang | 4 Stage sides                     | 28 Itty-bitty bite        | 42 Spewack or Abzug | 61 Border              |
| 14 Eagle's pad               | 54 Hint                   | 5 Simple shed                     | 29 Eye-like               | 47 In poorer health | 62 City                |
| 15 Medley                    | 56 Florida 2000 concern   | 6 Descending wind                 | 30 Preventive measures    | 49 Mellifluous      | 63 One-tenth of MX     |
| 16 Alternative to suspenders | 62 Skin problem           | 7 Landed                          | 32 Outstanding brilliance | 53 Cubic meter      |                        |
| 17 Spiritual nourishment     | 64 French military cap    | 8 Finch                           | 34 Drop feathers          | 55 Bring forth      |                        |
| 18 Takes the cake            | 65 Cryptic                | 9 Snacked                         |                           | 57 Direct           |                        |
| 19 First name in mysteries   | 66 Isinglass              | 10 In the sack                    |                           |                     |                        |
| 20 Florida 2000 concern      | 67 Periods of note        | 11 Location of Louis XIV's palace |                           |                     |                        |
| 23 Ornamental button         | 68 — by (copying)         | 12 Building extension             |                           |                     |                        |
| 24 Slippery fish             | 69 Even                   | 13 Hwy. with a number             |                           |                     |                        |
| 25 Goal                      | 70 Depend                 | 21 Boring tool                    |                           |                     |                        |
| 28 Soundless agreement       | 71 Like a standoff        |                                   |                           |                     |                        |
| 31 Monster of myth           |                           |                                   |                           |                     |                        |
| 33 Masquerade mask           |                           |                                   |                           |                     |                        |
| 35 Freezes                   |                           |                                   |                           |                     |                        |
| 37 Per unit                  |                           |                                   |                           |                     |                        |
| 39 "The Planets" composer    |                           |                                   |                           |                     |                        |
| 40 Florida 2000 concern      |                           |                                   |                           |                     |                        |
| 43 Dim with tears            |                           |                                   |                           |                     |                        |
| 44 Racetrack ribbon          |                           |                                   |                           |                     |                        |
| 45 Swiss bowman              |                           |                                   |                           |                     |                        |
| 46 Very slow tempo           |                           |                                   |                           |                     |                        |

**Carolina Women's Basketball vs. Oklahoma**  
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