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President Besieged and Isolated, Yet at Ease *Grasping for Answers and Fixated on Iraq, Remains Resolute*

AKER
Post Staff Writer

dir of his presidency, George W. Bush is looking for answers. One at a time or in small groups, he summons historians, philosophers and theologians to his house to join him in the search.

as and sparking water, he asks his questions: nature of good and evil in the post-Sept. 11 world; lessons does history have for a president facing a crisis? I'm facing? How will history judge what we've done? does the rest of the world seem to hate America? me they hate?

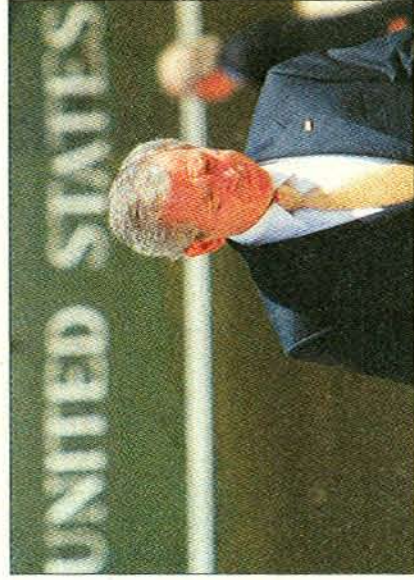
the questions of a president who has endured a historic political collapse in a generation. Not generally for intellectual curiosity, Bush is seeking out

those who are, engaging in a philosophical exploration of the currents of history that have swept up his administration. For all the setbacks, he remains unflinching, rarely expressing doubt in his direction, yet trying to understand how he got off course.

These sessions, usually held in the Oval Office or the elegant living areas of the executive mansion, are never listed on the president's public schedule and remain largely unknown even to many on his staff. To some of those invited to talk, Bush seems alone, isolated by events beyond his control, with trusted advisers taking their leave and erstwhile friends turning on him.

"You think about prime ministers and presidents being surrounded by cabinet officials and aides and so forth," said

See BUSH, A8, Col. 1



BY GERALD HEBBERT — ASSOCIATED PRESS
George W. Bush has invited a range of scholars to the White House to discuss his presidency and the currents of history.

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By ROB STEIN
Washington Post Staff W

Scientists report that they have uncovered a metabolic switch by which obese people help explain the weight problem and ways to melt flab at fat for cosmetic pump

In a series of experiments, researchers have identified a neurochemical pathway that promotes fat chronically stressed eat the equivalent of

et. The international showed that blocking can prevent fat accumulation shrink fat deposits; ulating the pathway (ly create new deposits offering new ways to