

Israel

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"day of rage" to coincide with the Israeli voting. Dozens of Palestinians were hurt in clashes with Israeli soldiers in the West Bank, Palestinians said.

For many Israelis, the driving force behind the choice was a sense of insecurity spawned by months of fighting. Although the great majority of the nearly 400 people killed

have been Palestinians, Israelis have been badly rattled by bombings, drive-by shootings, abductions and ambushes that are seen as making increasing inroads into daily life.

And many Israelis simply could not stomach the fact that the outbreak of violence came on the heels of the most sweeping concessions offered the Palestinians by any Israeli leader: a state in 95 percent of the West Bank and virtually all of Gaza, and control of Arab neighbor-

hoods of Jerusalem, claimed by both sides as their capital.

During the brief campaign — begun after Barak resigned eight weeks ago — the prime minister warned again and again that Sharon could plunge Israel into all-out war with the Palestinians, or even ignite a regional conflagration.

Sharon countered by saying that calm must be restored before any meaningful dialogue could occur, and that Barak's proffered concessions on territory and Jerusalem

went too far.

"To those who want security for the citizens of Israel — I will bring it," he told supporters Tuesday in the northern town of Kiryat She-mona, on the Lebanese border.

For the first time in Israel's history, voters were choosing only a prime minister. No lawmakers' seats were at stake, so Tuesday's winner inherits the same sharply divided Knesset, or parliament.

Many analysts predicted it would be just as difficult for Sharon

to form a stable government as it has been for Barak — and that his term in office could be even shorter.

In the West Bank town of Ramallah, demonstrators burned pictures of both Israeli candidates, but the harshest words were reserved for Sharon. One of the protesters, a 61-year-old Palestinian woman named Masada Mousa, asked: "Do you think any Palestinian expects the murderer Sharon to achieve peace?"

EWEB

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avoidable last fall when the energy crisis, which has left California with rolling black-outs, hit the Northwest. The board asked the EWEB staff to formulate some ideas as to the best way to handle an increase.

Dick Varner, EWEB's fiscal services supervisor, presented the board with three options for a rate increase Tuesday, including a flat rate of \$.006 per kilowatt hour, and two models for an inverted rate, which would charge a higher amount per kilowatt hour for higher energy use.

Several board members stated before discussion began that they would not take action at the meeting, but would take more time to consider their options after listen-

ing to public opinion.

Eugene residents had learned about the proposed plans for the rate increase because of increased media coverage. EWEB spokeswoman Cathy Hamilton said public support has been split equally between a flat rate and an inverted rate.

Those who spoke at the meeting voiced support and opposition specifically for the inverted rate models proposed. EWEB Vice President Peter Bartel said before the meeting that the board was seriously considering using an inverted rate model because it would encourage conservation.

Those who oppose the inverted rate model said it would punish those who consume a large amount of energy but can't pay for it because they are on fixed incomes, such as the poor and the elderly.

"The inverted rate model is ask-

ing only part of the community to shoulder the bulk of energy costs," Craig Mayne said. "Just because someone is a heavy user of energy does not mean that they are a wasteful user."

Jean Melton is the president of Alvord Taylor, a company that houses low-income residents, specifically those on Medicaid and those with severe developmental disabilities and serious medical conditions. She said the people her company serves can't help being home all day, and therefore will use more energy and ultimately pay more in energy costs.

"The inverted rates hit those who are helpless the hardest," Melton said.

Those who favor the inverted rate model said it will fairly distribute the cost of energy to those who use more and aren't conserving.

"Those who use less should not

have to subsidize for those who use more," Melvin Erickson said. "People need to be motivated to use less electricity."

Other citizens who spoke think any increase, whether handled with a flat or an inverted rate structure, is unnecessary.

Mari Hern said EWEB needs to look at its practices and tighten its own belt before raising rates.

"Why is the general manager getting a six percent salary increase when rates are going to go up?" Hern said.

The month of January did produce lower loads, or amounts of energy used, which left EWEB in a better financial state. The loads were lower because of warmer weather and increased conservation efforts by area residents. This prompted EWEB Commissioner Sandra Bishop to opt for no rate increase.

"I don't see a need to raise rates," Bishop said. "I refuse to be driven by pure economics, and I don't feel this is an adequate time to look at conservation levels."

But the other board members will continue to look at the best way to increase rates, while taking into consideration how to best serve the public, Bartel said.

By taking a delay to further consider options, the board members hope to find a way to make landlords responsible for weatherproofing their tenants' living spaces and better accommodate those on fixed incomes. They will revisit the issue again in March.

"I'm inclined to not only take a delay, but also to work with the staff on various inverted rate programs that will give a conservation incentive and not punish low-income families," EWEB Commissioner Susie Smith said.

Drinking

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but not as nicely bound in such an organized way," said Amity Clausen, a senior journalism and psychology major.

Clausen studied abroad for five months in Australia and returned to the University ready to celebrate her 21st birthday with her friends. She put on a crown, started the night out at Jogger's Bar and Grill, and then hit the campus bars.

She had 17 drinks before her friends took her home. Clausen, who was also given a 21er book by her friends, said the primary problem with the book is that it encourages the birthday person fill up as many pages as possible.

Briscoe also said the book is an incentive for people to drink more than they probably should on their 21st birthday.

Ilona Koleszar, an attorney with Legal Services, said if something tragic happened to the person celebrating his or her 21st birthday, the birthday book could be used as documentation to prove friends had contributed to the person's intoxication.

"I think it wouldn't be very hard to make a civil tort claim," Koleszar said.

Koleszar said bad things happen when people drink too much, and the 21er book could be used as evidence

against somebody.

"Don't create stuff that [could] come back to haunt you," Koleszar said.

Koleszar said at the worst, if someone died on his or her 21st birthday, and the person's parents were looking for a cause, the 21er books could be used to claim wrongful death. She said parents could potentially seek a lot of money from the friends who aided in the person's intoxication.

Koleszar said the birthday book could also be used in cases of drunk driving accidents, personal injury and criminal trespassing.

In court cases, Koleszar said civil damages depend on how young the person is, the person's earning capacity and how much alcohol was served before death or injury.

"The birthday book is not a good idea. People should be very careful when they help people celebrate their 21st birthday," Koleszar said. "They should do it as responsibly as possible, and they should not make a record that could be used against anybody in a civil proceeding."

When she was in college, Koleszar said a friend passed out on his 21st birthday after he went home, choked on his own vomit and died.

"More than one person bought him too many drinks that night," Koleszar said. "It was a wake-up call — you don't forget that. It makes you reconsider your behavior."

But for bartenders, the birthday

book does have an advantage. Chuck Hare, the owner of Taylor's Bar and Grille at 894 E. 13th St., said the 21er books are useful for one reason. He and his employees can tell how many drinks a person has consumed by looking at them.

"You take a look at the book, and if a person has had 15 drinks throughout the course of the night, we cut them off," Hare said.

Hare said he doesn't support the myth that people should have 21 drinks on their 21st birthdays.

According to Oregon Revised Statute 471.410, it is against the law for a person to pour, sell or serve alcohol to a visibly intoxicated person.

Hare said the negatives that come out of the 21er "drinking festival" usually include throwing up, and his doormen are trained to watch for

signs of visible intoxication. If someone starts vomiting, Hare said he or she is quickly asked to leave the establishment.

"Liability is my first thought. Whether it's a 21st birthday or a 40th birthday, overseeing people is a huge issue for me," Hare said. "I have a liquor license I have to protect at all times."

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