

Today	Saturday	Sunday
High: 42 Low: 33 Precip: 90%	High: 42 Low: 31 Precip: 100%	High: 42 Low: 31 Precip: 40%

IN BRIEF

Congress formally OKs Bush election decision

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Congress certified President Bush's re-election Thursday, but only after Democrats forced a challenge to the quadrennial count of electoral votes for just the second time since 1877. Bush's election day triumph over Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., was never in doubt. After a nearly four-hour delay to consider and reject a dispute over voting in Ohio, lawmakers in joint session affirmed Bush's 286-251 electoral vote victory — plus a single vote that a "faithless" Kerry elector cast for his running mate, former Sen. John Edwards, D-N.C. A total of 270 votes are needed for victory.

Tsunami death toll may rise sharply without more aid

JAKARTA, Indonesia — With health officials warning that the death toll of more than 140,000 from last month's tsunami could jump sharply without a continual supply of aid, world leaders struggled Thursday to figure out the best way to help victims and to prevent such a catastrophe from happening again. Donors concluded an emergency one-day summit as relief workers scrambled to move aid to areas of Sumatra, the Indonesian island hit hardest by the earthquake and giant waves that crashed ashore Dec. 26. Volunteers hurled sacks of rice and instant noodles into trucks as U.S. helicopters loaded with other supplies buzzed overhead en route to isolated communities.

Andrea Yates' murder conviction overturned

HOUSTON — Andrea Yates' murder conviction for drowning her children in the bathtub was overturned by an appeals court Thursday because a psychiatrist for the prosecution gave erroneous testimony that suggested the Texas mother got the idea from an episode of "Law & Order." The ruling means Yates is entitled to a new trial, though prosecutors said they would try to have the conviction reinstated.

— The Associated Press

\$12,000
Fine given to a Greek shipping company for a 2003 Columbia River oil spill

9 American soldiers killed in Iraq on Thursday

1.3 billion
People are citizens of China after a highly publicized birth on Thursday

5 million
Of South Africa's 45 million people are infected with HIV

\$700 million
Made per year in Canada from mail-order prescription drugs

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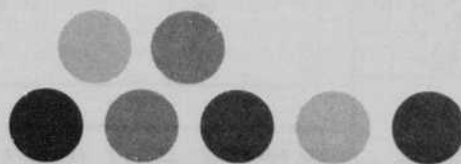
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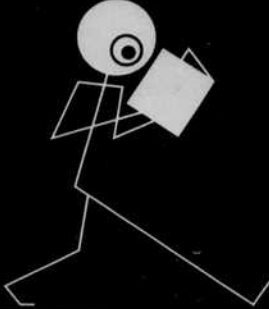
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