

Today	Thursday	Friday
		
High: 59 Low: 38 Precip: 10%	High: 59 Low: 38 Precip: 0%	High: 58 Low: 40 Precip: 20%

IN BRIEF

Thousands of people turned away from polls

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Iraq's interim president said Tuesday that tens of thousands of people may have been unable to vote in the country's historic weekend election because some polling places — including those in Sunni Arab areas — ran out of ballots.

As clerks pounded vote-count tallies into computers to compile final results, President Ghazi al-Yawer also said chaos and a power vacuum in Iraq mean U.S. forces need to stay for now, even though a new government will be formed after the results are known.

Pope John Paul II rushed to hospital for flu

ROME — Pope John Paul II was hospitalized on Tuesday after he suffered inflammation of the throat and had difficulty breathing, the Vatican said.

In a post-midnight statement, Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said it was decided to urgently hospitalize the 84-year-old pope at 10:50 p.m. after he suffered complications from the flu.

Medicare to cover Viagra, similar performance drugs

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Sexual performance drugs such as Viagra will be covered in Medicare's new prescription drug program, a lifestyle rather than lifesaving benefit that conservatives and watchdog groups say the government shouldn't provide.

Like those for maladies such as high blood pressure and heart disease, prescriptions for Viagra and similar drugs in its class will be tightly controlled. The new prescription coverage begins Jan. 1 and is expected to cost more than \$500 billion over the next decade.

Military death benefit called too narrow

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Lawmakers and military officials said Tuesday that President Bush's proposal to boost government payments to families of U.S. troops killed in Iraq, Afghanistan and other war zones was a good start but too narrow. Republicans suggested that those who die while training for combat missions also should be eligible for the increased death benefits. Democrats argued that the benefits should extend to all military personnel who die while on active duty.

— The Associated Press

Videos of prison riot squads surface

BY PAISLEY DODDS
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — Videotapes of riot squads subduing troublesome terror suspects at the U.S. prison camp at Guantanamo Bay show the guards punching some detainees, tying one to a gurney for questioning and forcing a dozen to strip from the waist down, according to a secret report. One squad was all-female, traumatizing some Muslim prisoners.

Investigators from U.S. Southern Command in Miami, which oversees the camp in Cuba, wrote the report that was obtained after spending a little over a week in June reviewing 20 hours of videotapes involving "Immediate Reaction Forces."

The camp's layout prevented videotaping in all the cells where the five-person teams — also known as "Immediate Response Forces" — op-

erated, the report said. Reviewers said they did not look at all the available videotapes.

Although the report cited several cases of physical force, reviewers said they found no evidence of systemic detainee abuse, according to the six-page summary dated June 19, 2004. An official familiar with the report authenticated it, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The tapes raised questions about mistreatment and misconduct, however, said the investigators, who suggested some clips needed more scrutiny to rule out abuse. The military has cited 10 substantiated cases of abuse at Guantanamo, and announced Tuesday an extension would be granted for an investigation to interview witnesses in the United States and abroad.

One such clip the investigators flagged was from Feb. 17, 2004. It

showed "one or more" team members punching a detainee "on an area of his body that seemingly would be inconsistent with striking a pressure point," which is a sanctioned tactic for subduing prisoners.

In five other clips showing detainees who appeared to have been punched by team members, the investigators said, "The punching was in line with accepted law enforcement practice of striking the pressure point on the back of the thigh to temporarily distract the detainee."

In other "questionable" cases, reviewers said a video showed a guard kneeling a detainee in the head, while another showed a team securing a detainee to a gurney for an interrogation.

A separate clip captured a platoon leader taunting a detainee with pepper spray and repeatedly spraying him before letting the reaction team

enter the cell, reviewers wrote.

Investigators also noted about a dozen cases in which detainees were stripped from the waist down and taken to the "Romeo block," of the camp. No female guards were involved, they said.

Romeo block is a camp section where prisoners were often left naked for days, said two former detainees, Britons Shafiq Rasul and Asif Iqbal, who were released last year.

Although no female guards were videotaped in any of the stripping cases, investigators cautioned the U.S. government about using the all-female team to handle disruptive detainees, citing religious and cultural issues. Many of the prisoners are Muslim men and under strict interpretations of Islam view contact with women other than their wives as taboo.

Commentator: Meeting adjourned abruptly after heated debate

Continued from page 1

the Commentator made Hill-Meyer feel unsafe. Hill-Meyer, who later filed a formal grievance against the publication, said Hill-Meyer was targeted because of transgender identity.

Although PFC members said before the meeting they would recall that decision, giving the impression that the mission statement might be passed, no approval came at Tuesday's meeting. Instead the PFC engaged in more than an hour of deadlocked discussion on everything from PFC's role to the legal implications of choosing to de-fund the Commentator.

Persis Pohowalla stressed that PFC members needed to stay viewpoint-neutral, and their main goal was to review the Commentator's budget, not its content.

"Even though we fund groups, that does not mean we support them," Pohowalla said. "We just fund them."

But Quiroz did not agree, saying that the PFC is responsible for looking at how student fee-funded groups affect other students on campus. Quoting from the ASUO's Green Tape Notebook, Quiroz said, "each program ... must submit a goal statement which allows each Finance Committee to determine for itself whether the program or activity meets the statutory standard of ORS 351.070(3)(d), which authorizes the (Oregon State Board of Higher Education) to collect fees to fund programs for the cultural and physical development of students."

"That's what the rules say, we do have the power, you cannot deny this," Quiroz said.

In Quiroz's view, the Commentator is not is not promoting that development.

"I'm in no way trying to silence the voice of the Oregon Commentator," Quiroz said. "We have a duty to pro-

tect those who are threatened by groups that are funded by incidental fees. What message are we sending to those who turn to us when all others have turned against them?"

Hill-Meyer said during the hearing that after consultation with administration on campus, coming to the PFC seemed like the only viable solution.

"Some might argue on an ideological level that to remove funding of a publication on the basis of its content is a form of censorship," Hill-Meyer said, reading from a statement. "But you must also remember that to provide funds to a publication is a form of sponsorship, and to provide funds to a publication that prints hate and justifies violence is a sponsorship of hate and violence."

But Commentator Editor in Chief Tyler Graf reiterated that comments made about Hill-Meyer were supposed to be satirical.

READ MORE ONLINE

For more articles on the Commentator's budget process this year, visit www.dailymerald.com.

Tempers flared, and there was booing and cheering as attendees traded remarks. Pohowalla was hard-pressed to keep order, forcefully banging her gavel several times and limiting each speaker's time to about two minutes.

PFC member Jael Anker-Lagos, who also called for viewpoint neutrality, tried twice to get a motion to approve the budget on the table with no support from the other members.

"I really do think that PFC should remember why you were elected," Pohowalla said. "I'm trying to do the best job that I can do."

ASUO President Adam Petkun reminded the PFC that the Commentator had not been found guilty of breaking any rules, citing the Southworth Supreme court decision that states that universities

must conduct a viewpoint-neutral allocation process.

"This isn't a court of law," Petkun said. "I don't think we can say that (the Commentator's) mission isn't important to the mission of the University."

But a motion to approve the mission statement failed 2-4-0, with only Pohowalla and Anker-Lagos voting in support of it.

Graf said the PFC had overstepped its boundaries and that the Commentator had done nothing wrong.

"I think it's going to set a very negative precedent," Graf said. "The PFC is making a subjective statement about our content."

Others called into question Hill-Meyer's decision to use the PFC as a means to address the Commentator's content.

"Toby what you've done tonight, it's blatantly illegal," Adrian Gilmore, last year's PFC chair and Commentator contributor said. "There's a reason why free speech is the First Amendment."

Commentator publisher Dan Atkinson agreed.

"If we have violated a rule, take it up with judicial affairs," Atkinson said.

But some PFC members were adamant.

"If I'm disobeying an unjust law, then I feel justified in doing so, and the executive can fire me for doing it," Kieffer said, adding later that he wanted to make decision "he could live and die with."

"So you're saying the First Amendment is an unjust law," Graf countered. "Are you insane?"

Graf said it was not the job of a "bunch of undergraduates" to determine what constituted hate speech, and that the Commentator did not habitually have content that intentionally put people in danger.

"Whose job is it to define hate? Is it your job?" he asked. "The precedent is against you. State law is against you."

Students on both sides of the debate also joined in the fray.

"As a student who pays incidental fees, I refuse to allow my fees to promote hate and incite violence," senior Stacy Borke said, eliciting a round of applause.

But there was still no agreement.

"You have forsaken free speech by closing down a publication," junior Matt Haulk said, and his share of cheering followed. "You have betrayed your position of power."

With one minute to spare and no progress in the decision-making, Quiroz quit and Pohowalla was forced to adjourn the meeting till a later date.

After the meeting, Graf said the Commentator is planning to take legal action.

"I think tonight has been one of the worst nights in student government history," Graf said.

He added that he did not think Quiroz was qualified for his position on the budget committee.

"He obviously had a bone to pick with us," Graf said. "I'm glad he's gone."

Atkinson echoed these sentiments.

"We have one less incompetent government official to worry about," Atkinson said.

After resigning Quiroz declined to comment.

Pohowalla had no comments about Quiroz's resignation.

Petkun said he was "surprised and a little disappointed."

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