




Today	Thursday	Friday
		
High: 53 Low: 33 Precip: 0%	High: 54 Low: 36 Precip: 0%	High: 57 Low: 40 Precip: 20%

IN BRIEF

Suicide bomber kills 21 in crowd of army recruits

BAGHDAD, Iraq — A suicide bomber blew himself up in the middle of a crowd of army recruits Tuesday, killing 21 other people in the deadliest attack in Baghdad since last week's election and highlighting a recent shift by insurgents to use human bombs instead of cars.

Insurgents are strapping explosives on the bodies of volunteers to penetrate the network of blast walls, checkpoints and other security measures designed to block vehicle bombs.

Several such attackers tried to disrupt voting in Baghdad on election day but were unable to get into polling stations. On Monday, a suicide bomber walked into a crowd of Iraqi policemen in the northern city of Mosul and detonated explosives, killing 12 of them.

Iraqi authorities initially said the Baghdad recruiting center was attacked by mortar fire, but witnesses reported only a single explosion, and the U.S. military said the blast was caused by a suicide bomber on foot.

Attacks have steadily risen since the Jan. 30 elections, when a massive U.S. and Iraqi security operation prevented insurgents from disrupting the vote. Those measures, including a ban on most private vehicles, closing the borders and an extended curfew, were relaxed soon afterward.

Dolly the sheep scientist gets cloning license

LONDON — The scientist who attracted the world's attention by cloning Dolly the sheep is about to take another major step for medical research: cloning human embryos and extracting stem cells to unravel the mysteries of muscle-wasting illnesses such as Lou Gehrig's Disease.

Ian Wilmut, who led the team that created Dolly at Scotland's Roslin Institute in 1996, was granted a cloning license Tuesday by British regulators to study how nerve cells go awry to cause motor-neuron diseases.

The experiments do not involve creating cloned babies, but the license has nonetheless stirred fresh controversy over the issue and prompted abortion foes and other biological conservatives to condemn the decision.

"Are we supposed to be appeased by professor Wilmut's declarations that the human embryos will be destroyed after experimentation and that his team has no intention of producing cloned babies?" asked Julia Millington of the London-based ProLife Alliance.

"All human cloning is intrinsically wrong and should be outlawed. However, the creation of cloned human embryos destined for experimentation and subsequent destruction is particularly abhorrent."

Wilmut, speaking after the announcement in Edinburgh, Scotland, defended the move.

Rice urges Europeans to end disagreements

PARIS — Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice took the argument over American ideals and influence to her European critics' door Tuesday and urged cooperation to move beyond disagreements over the war in Iraq.

"It is time to open a new chapter in our relationship and a new chapter in our alliance," Rice told Paris' Institute of Political Studies as she defended the Bush administration's foreign policy in hostile territory.

France was the most vocal opponent of President Bush's handling of the Iraq war, and Rice did not engender any goodwill in his first term when she said the United States should "punish France, ignore Germany and forgive Russia" for their opposition to the invasion.

Rice chose Paris for the major address of her first tour of Europe as America's chief diplomat to try to turn the page. She also took questions.

She did not back down from Bush's call last month in his inauguration speech to spread freedom across the globe, a challenge perceived as arrogant or naive on some European opinion pages.

Bush close to getting limits on class-action suits

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Congress is close to making it easier for corporations to dodge many of the class-action lawsuits that businesses say are bankrupting them while rewarding lawyers and doing little to help victims.

The measure, headed for a vote this week in the Senate and probably next week in the House, would be the first fulfillment of one of President Bush's priorities for his second term. But a fragile compromise could come unglued if senators make changes in the bill, such as giving federal judges more discretion to keep lawsuits alive.

"If the Senate passes any amendment, then they are jeopardizing" it, House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, R-Texas, said Tuesday.

Opponents of the legislation say it would only hurt average citizens and let big business escape multimillion-dollar judgments for wrongdoing.

But Bush, echoing business leaders' complaints, says a judicial system that lets lawyers look for friendly forums in state courts for "junk lawsuits" is tilted against corporate defendants. "Justice is distorted, and our economy is held back, by irresponsible class actions," he said in his State of the Union speech last week.

Billions in old tax refunds waiting to be claimed

WASHINGTON, D.C. — About 1.7 million people are missing out on more than \$2 billion in refunds for taxes they paid three years ago.

Many of them just never filed returns. It's not too late, but the window to claim the money closes in nine weeks.

"As soon as you send us your tax return, you'll get your money," Internal Revenue Service Commissioner Mark Everson said Tuesday. "But if you don't file, you won't get anything."

Taxpayers must act by April 15 to claim a refund for taxes paid in 2001, under laws that make the money the property of the U.S. Treasury after sitting unclaimed for three years.

The IRS estimated that half the people due refunds could claim more than \$484. It takes a 2001 tax return, filed by mail, to get that check. There's no penalty for filing a return late to claim a refund.

People who unknowingly leave refunds unclaimed often earned some wages and had taxes withheld from their paychecks, but they worked less than a full-time, year-round job.

That points to high school or college students and retirees. Others made self-employment tax payments during the year. Although they avoid the paperwork, they might not realize how much money they're giving up.

— The Associated Press

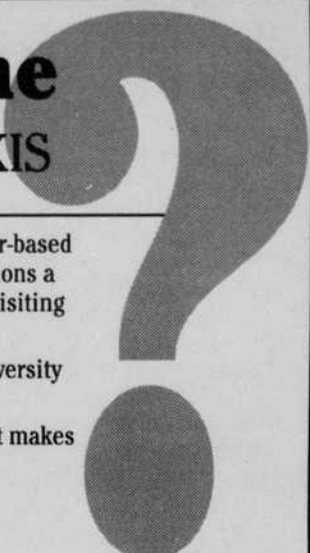
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The Testing Office is located on the 2nd floor (Rm. 238) of the University Health and Counseling Center, 1590 E. 13th Ave., Eugene OR.

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For more information visit the Testing Office web site at <http://www.uoregon.edu/~testing/>



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