

Today	Thursday	Friday
High: 62 Low: 40 Precip: 80%	High: 53 Low: 40 Precip: 90%	High: 51 Low: 20 Precip: 90%

**Bells will tell world there's a new pope**

VATICAN CITY — Responding to Pope John Paul II's request, the Vatican will depart from centuries-old tradition by ringing bells in addition to sending up white smoke to signal the election of his successor.

Before he died Saturday at age 84, John Paul also made his wish known "to be buried in the ground" and not placed in an above-ground tomb, Archbishop Piero Marini said Tuesday. He will be buried in the tomb left vacant after the remains of Pope John XXIII were exhumed from the cramped grotto under St. Peter's Basilica in 2001 and moved to the main floor following his beatification.

John Paul will be laid to rest with a white silk veil on his face, a rosary in his hands and his body clad in liturgical vestments and the white miter. Following the centuries-old custom for burying popes, his body will be placed inside three coffins — wood, zinc and wood — a design meant to slow decomposition, the Vatican confirmed.

**Iraq prepares to name its new president**

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Ousted dictator Saddam Hussein will watch from his Baghdad jail cell as Iraq's newly elected parliament chooses a new president today, the next step in building Iraq's first democratically elected government in 50 years, Iraqi officials said.

Lawmakers put the finishing touches Tuesday on an agreement making Kurdish leader Jalal

Talabani president and Shiite Adel Abdul-Mahdi and interim President Ghazi al-Yawer, a Sunni Arab, his two vice presidents.

On Thursday, the 275 lawmakers elected Jan. 30 likely will name Shiite leader Ibrahim al-Jaafari prime minister, clearing the way for lawmakers to begin focusing their attention on writing a permanent constitution by their Aug. 15 deadline.

The new, interim government will lay the foundation for future elections and a permanent government, both of which are key to an eventual U.S. withdrawal.

**Kyrgyz parliament fails to accept Akayev's resignation**

BISHKEK, Kyrgyzstan — Parliament adjourned Tuesday without considering the resignation of ousted President Askar Akayev because not enough lawmakers showed up, prolonging the ex-Soviet republic's two-week-old political crisis.

Parliament fell two lawmakers short of the 50-person quorum, leaving Akayev still technically in power and adding to the confusion that has gripped this central Asian country since protesters stormed the president's office March 24, forcing Akayev to flee to Russia.

Some of those who had helped negotiate Akayev's resignation were among the legislators absent Tuesday.

Some observers attributed the no-shows to a lack of discipline rather than political motives.

"We have not had quorum in a few days," lawmaker Soronbai Jeyenbekov complained.

But Kyrgyzstan's KOORT television hinted at behind-the-scenes intrigues.

The station, in which Akayev's family owns shares, questioned the delay and the uncertainty over when the country will hear the 18-minute farewell address recorded by Akayev in Moscow.

The taped address, which was given to the parliamentary delegation, was supposed to be played to

parliament first, then broadcast on state television.

Omurbek Tekebayev, the parliament speaker who led the delegation to Moscow, acknowledged the delay meant Akayev held onto power — albeit in exile — for another day, but said the matter would be handled Wednesday.

**Saudi forces kill 14 in biggest battle yet**

RASS, Saudi Arabia — Security forces stormed a walled compound Tuesday where Islamic militants had been barricaded for days, ending the kingdom's largest gun battle yet and killing 14 armed extremists, including top leaders in the Saudi branch of al-Qaida.

At least six others were captured during three days of heavy firefights in the desert town of Rass, state-run television said, reporting the death toll and citing security officials after the battle was over. Fourteen members of the security forces were wounded.

"There was no chance for anyone to escape. We got them all," Interior Minister spokesman Brig. Gen. Mansour al-Turki said.

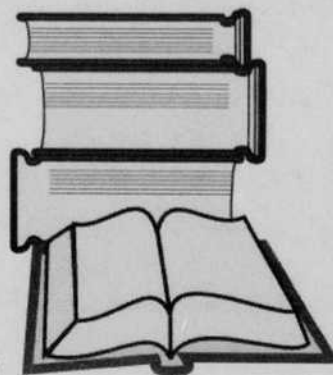
The standoff ended when security forces stormed the partially built villa compound Tuesday night, but he would not confirm the number of people killed and captured.

The size and ferocity of the battle in Rass, 220 miles northwest of Riyadh, suggested the security forces had uncovered a major cell of the al-Qaida-linked militant networks that the kingdom has battled in a crack-down launched in 2003 following a string of deadly suicide bombings.

For nearly 48 hours, up to 10 gunmen who survived initial fighting Sunday were holed up in the villa compound with a large arsenal of weapons. Surrounded by hundreds of Saudi special forces, they fired heavy volleys of automatic weapons fire and grenades.

— The Associated Press

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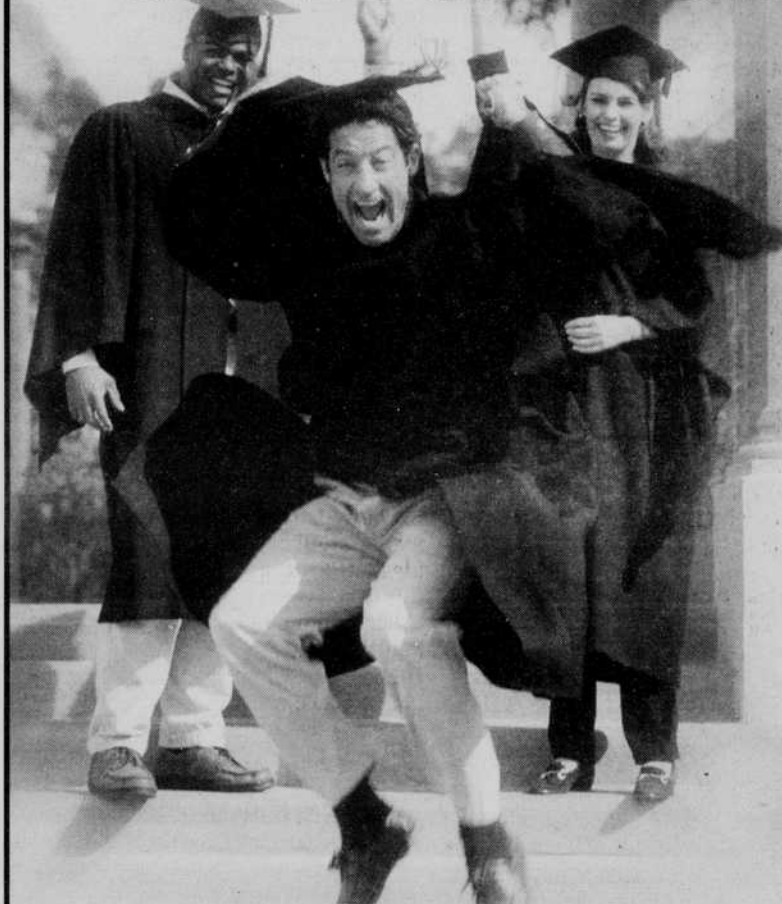
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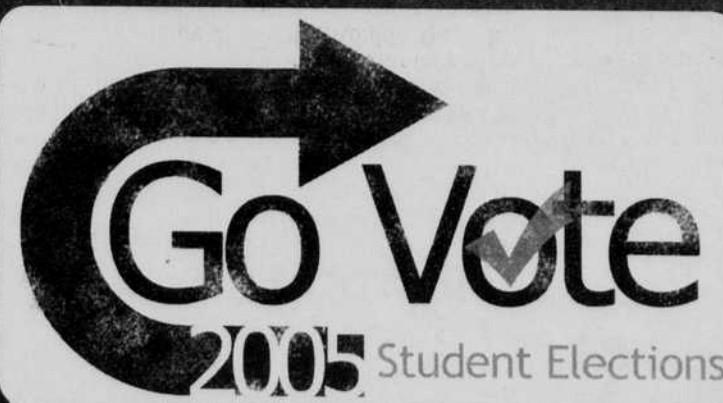
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