

Gonzales Hearings to Begin

(AP) — Attorney General nominee Alberto Gonzales' confirmation hearing this week may become more contentious because the White House has refused to provide copies of his memos on the questioning of terror suspects.

"We go into the hearing with some knowledge of what has occurred because of press reports or leaks but without the hard evidence that will either exonerate or implicate Judge Gonzales in this policy," complained Sen. Richard Durbin of Illinois, the Senate's No. 2 Democrat.

Durbin and other Democrats plan to question Gonzales on his involvement in the crafting of policies concerning questioning - policies that the Justice Department has backed away from.

Still, the issue probably won't be enough to stop Republicans from confirming Gonzales as the first Hispanic attorney general.

Republicans hold 55 seats in



Alberto Gonzales

the new Senate, while Democrats control 44 seats and there is a Democratic-leaning independent. The Democrats have not yet decided whether to try to block Gonzales' confirmation.

Gonzales, while at the White

House, also wrote a memo to President Bush on January 25, 2002, arguing that the war on terrorism renders obsolete the Geneva Conventions strict limitations on questioning of enemy prisoners.

Presidential Vote Challenged

Residents say long lines spoiled result

(AP) — One voter didn't see any signs of fraud on Election Day but was suspicious of the results. Another was surprised by long lines in her suburban city, where voting was always quick in the past.

Others were angered by having to wait hours to vote in black neighborhoods. Some left in frustration without casting their ballots.

In all, 37 voters in this swing state are challenging President Bush's Nov. 2 victory over Democratic Sen. John Kerry. They want Ohio Supreme Court Chief Justice Thomas Moyer to set aside the election results.

The filing came the same day that the Rev. Jesse Jackson held a rally in Columbus to support the challenge and urge the U.S. Senate to debate Ohio's results

on Thursday when Congress is in joint session.

Mark Lomax, a 25-year-old Columbus resident, stood in line 3 1/2 hours on Election Day.

"In 2000, if Al Gore had just held on and fought to the bitter end, he would have been president," said Lomax, who is black. "I kind of have the same feeling now - whether or not you like John Kerry, that's not the issue."

Oregon Soldiers Leave for Mideast

Nearly 100 Oregon National Guard troops from Detachment 1, D Company, 113th Aviation Battalion mobilized for duty in Afghanistan Monday.

A mobilization ceremony was held at the Army Aviation Support Facility #2 in Pendleton. The unit will train at Fort Sill, Texas for a brief period before deploying for duty in Afghanistan in support of Operation

Enduring Freedom.

The unit will deploy with CH-47 Chinook helicopters. These are the dual-rotor helicopters capable of carrying large payloads to remote and austere locations. The aircrafts are capable of lifting cargo, transporting troops or carrying vehicles.

There are currently more than 1,300 of Oregon's citizen-soldiers deployed throughout the world. Approximately 1,265 are

on duty in Iraq, 16 are in Afghanistan, and another 46 are on duty at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Another 100 soldiers are preparing to deploy to Iraq later this month.

About 4,500 members of the Oregon Army National Guard and about 2,200 citizen-airmen in the Oregon Air National Guard remain on duty in the state to meet whatever needs may arise within Oregon.

Civil Rights Enforcement Drops

Despite steady complaints

(AP) — Federal enforcement of civil rights laws has dropped sharply since 1999 even though the level of complaints received by the Justice Department has remained relatively constant, according to a study released Sunday.

Criminal charges alleging civil rights violations were brought last year against 84 defendants, down from 159 in 1999, according to Justice Department data analyzed at Syracuse University.

In addition, the study found that the number of times the

FBI or other federal investigative agency recommended prosecution in civil rights cases has fallen by more than one-third, from over 3,000 in 1999 to just over 1,900 last year. Federal court data also show the government has sought fewer civil sanctions against civil rights violators.

The study's co-author, David Burnham, said the results show that civil rights enforcement dropped across-the-board during President Bush's first term in office. The Justice Department enforces a wide range of civil rights laws ranging from guaranteeing fair housing access to pro-

secuting hate crimes.

"Collectively, some violators of the civil rights laws are not being dealt with by the government," Burnham said. "They've declined by a huge number of cases. This trend, we think, is significant."

It's unlikely that the decline has occurred because fewer civil rights violations are occurring, the study suggests. The number of complaints about possible violations received by the Justice Department has remained level at about 12,000 annually for the past five years.

The Justice Department had no comment about the study.

Free Health Fair

In honor of Martin Luther King's birthday, a free health fair is planned for Monday, Jan. 17 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Lloyd Center in the lower level courtyard in front of Nordstrom.

The fifth annual Multicultural Health Fair, presented by Pacific University's School of Physician Assistant Studies, offers free blood pressure and blood glucose screenings, hemoglobin, vision and foot care screenings and massage therapy.

U S Injured Hits 10,000

(AP) — The number of U.S. troops wounded in Iraq since the start of the war in March 2003 has surpassed 10,000, the Pentagon said Tuesday in a delayed update of its casualty data.

Of the 10,252 total wounded, the Pentagon said 5,396 were un-

able to return to duty and 4,856 sustained injuries that were light enough to allow them to resume their duties.

The number of U.S. military deaths in Iraq stood at 1,335 on Tuesday, according to the Pentagon.



Ask Deanna!
Real People, Real Advice
An advice column known for its fearless approach to reality based subjects!

Dear Deanna!
I've been dating my boyfriend for 8 months. I love him because he's attractive and popular among other things. He hasn't said he loves me, but I tell him that I love him and he responds by telling me I am infatuated with him and my heart is lying to me. What does that mean? Hopeless in Love; Lanham, Md.

Dear Hopeless:
Time to head back to biology class. The heart has nothing to do with love. The primary function of the heart is to pump blood throughout the body. Love is mental and requires maturity, emotional balance and common sense. He's arrogant and full of himself to tell you that you are infatuated. Unless you have time to waste, get away from this man and his smoke screens and get on a train that's really going somewhere.

Dear Deanna!
When I met the woman I'm with, I wasn't saved. Now I've given my life to the Lord and she doesn't understand why I won't have sex with her. I asked her to

marry me but she said no. I don't feel as if I can continue this relationship because my salvation is more important. What should I do? --Dennis; Memphis, Tenn.

Dear Dennis:
You're doing the right thing by avoiding fornication which is a sin. It's not worth it to send your soul to Hell over lust—a moment of passion with someone who isn't your spouse. Lead her to the Lord and help her become saved. God doesn't want you to be unequally yoked so don't sweat the marriage rejection. Pray for her and continue to walk with God so she'll see your faith and obedience.

Dear Deanna!
I'm 22 and learned that the man who raised me is not my real father. I feel empty as I look at him as just another man instead of my dad. How do I deal with this and keep from hurting his feelings? --Signed N.T.; Boise, Idaho

Dear N.T.:
All Daddies can't be classified as Fathers. Your stepdad may not be the sperm donor, but he's the one that fed you, clothed you and kept a roof over your head. Look at him for the good he has done. Don't cheapen his efforts because he lacks the official title of "Real Daddy." You must care for him if you are concerned about his feelings. Be glad he was in the home for you and not on a child support poster.

Ask Deanna is written by Deanna M. Write Ask Deanna! Email: askdeanna1@yahoo.com or 264 S. LaCienega Blvd. Suite 1283 Beverly Hills, CA 90211. Website: www.askdeanna.com



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