

FOIA Marker

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Records Management, White House Office of Subject Files - PP (Presidential Personal)

Stack:	Row:	Sect.:	Shelf:	Pos.:	FRC ID:	Location or Hollinger ID:	NARA Number:	OA Number:
W	12	14	5	1	12474	25337	12377	12211

Folder Title:

725903 [1]

Withdrawn/Redacted Material

The George W. Bush Library

DOCUMENT NO.	FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
001	Card	[Thank You] - To: POTUS - From: Elaine Chao	1	03/27/2007	P6/b6;
002	Handwritten Note	[Letter] - To: POTUS - From: James L. Pahl, Jr.	2	03/30/2007	PRM;
003	Letter	[Letter] - To: POTUS - From: William H. and Lynn D. Munn	1	04/02/2007	P6/b6; Transferred
004	Letter	[Letter] - To: POTUS - From: Jack T. Trotter	1	04/04/2007	PRM;
005	Handwritten Note	[Letter] - To: POTUS - From: Charles W. Jenness	1	04/16/2007	PRM;
006	Card	[Thank You] [with attachments] - To: POTUS - From: Shelley and Family	7	04/16/2007	PRM;
007	Card	[Thank You] - To: POTUS - From: Pete [Pace]	1	04/16/2007	PRM;

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PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

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008	Handwritten Note	While You Were Out - To: POTUS - From: Secreatary Evans	1	04/17/2007	PRM;
009	Card	[Thank You] - To: POTUS and FLOTUS - From: Raul Yanes	1	04/17/2007	PRM;
010	Card	[Thank You] - To: POTUS - From: Sara Yanes	1	04/17/2007	PRM;
011	Email	Gold Star Parents - To: Public Comments	1	04/08/2007	P3/b3; P6/b6;

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ROACH_CL

725903

PP

Barcode Scanning Sheet

Collection Code: **SECLOG**

Staff Name:

Document Date:

Correspondent: **RAUL YANES**

Subject/Description: **MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE THE PRESIDENT
HAS SEEN APR 16 07 THROUGH APR 21 07: MAR 23 07 --
THANK YOU LETTER FROM LUCI BAINES JOHNSON FOR
TIME SPENT AT THE WHITE HOUSE WITH THE
PRESIDENT (ORIGINAL TO MRS. BUSH) MAR 27 07 --
THANK YOU FROM ELAINE CHAO FOR REMEMBERING
BIRTHDAY AND FOR GIFT MA ...**

SCANNED
BY
ORM

MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

APR 16 07 THROUGH APR 21 07

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

4/16/07

Please send
to

Mrs. Bush
Done 4-17-07

Luci Baines Johnson

March 23, 2007

Dear President and Mrs. Bush -

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for inviting our family to share in this historic day. We were especially touched by the thoughtfulness you showed Mother by including her by phone for an occasion that meant the world to her and to us.

Education was at the heart of Daddy's career in public service. His first job was as a teacher as was his last. He felt education was our greatest passport out of poverty and mankind's best hope for tomorrow. Thus there could be no honor our family would appreciate more than to have the education building in the Nations capitol Daddy loved so dearly named after him.

Your service to our country gives you so little time to call your own. Thus to give generations of Johnsons so many magical memories was a gift beyond measure.

You allowed each of our family units to have individual photographs with you that I know they will treasure always. Your staff gave us a tour of the grandchildren's garden where we were able to recapture family memories of my son's footprints and nieces hand prints and my sister's + my heart strings. And for beyond our wildest dreams you allowed Linda and me the chance to show our grandchildren where we had grown up.

Your horticulturist, curator and staffer Tracy Young gave us a tour we'll be telling all our descendants.

I believe your Grandfather and my father are singing your praises from Heaven for the extraordinary bipartisan support you gave this legislation and this family. I know we are —
With respect and gratitude —

Luci Baines Johnson

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2014-0072-F

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President George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Personal



NINE GREENWAY PLAZA
SUITE 1000
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77046

4/4/07

displaying an Alberto Gonzales-like memory, told the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee last week that she had "absolutely" no recollection of that statement.

It's wrong to paint with too broad a brush here: Most administration officials are decent, honest and hardworking; the Clinton administration, like others before it, had its share of scoundrels and hacks. But there is something in the "loyal Bushies" mind-set of this administration and its fundamental scorn for government that contributes to this arrogant misbehavior.

If your faith is more in the operations of the private sector than in the capacity of government, if you have scant commitment to the laws you are pledged to enforce, if you see government less as a trust to be administered than a force to be used for the benefit of political and ideological allies, then this kind of behavior is the inevitable result.

In short, if you identify so completely with the foxes, it's no wonder that you end up with a henhouse that is so thoroughly, tragically trashed.

Back To Baker-Hamilton (WP)

By David Ignatius

The Washington Post, April 4, 2007

Lee Hamilton, the former Indiana congressman who is a one-man bipartisan commission, recently suggested a simple test for evaluating political leaders. The best choice, he told a Washington gathering, is the person who can build consensus around difficult policy issues.

By that measure, we are seeing a long list of would-be dividers but not many leaders. The United States is losing a war in Iraq, yet instead of uniting around a policy that could reduce the damage and create a sustainable strategy for the future, Congress and the White House are on a collision course over funding for the troops.

A glimmer of hope that U.S. politicians haven't all lost their minds was a statement this week by Barack Obama challenging his party's extreme wing. "I think that nobody wants to play chicken with our troops on the ground," he said in an interview with the Associated Press. "I don't think that we will see a majority of the Senate vote to cut off funding at this stage."

Obama has the political maneuvering room to be sensible now because he was skeptical about the war from the start. But that didn't stop a blast from the left-wing blogger Kos, who wrote Monday that Obama "just surrendered to Bush." If Obama is in fact ready to challenge his party's most partisan activists, perhaps he is a man who can meet Hamilton's test.

The Democrats' problem is that they seem determined to join the Bush administration in doubling down bad bets on Iraq. In the Democrats' case, the mistaken gamble is that by imposing a Washington timetable for troop withdrawal, America will compel good behavior from the fratricidal Iraqis. That idea is naive. But then, so is the Bush administration's politically divisive strategy for an open-ended troop surge in Baghdad. No matter how clever Gen. David Petraeus's battle plan, it won't work unless it can be sustained politically, in Baghdad and Washington. The crucial asset for Petraeus is time, which in turn is a function of political consensus at home. And that asset is wasting, even as the number of U.S. troops goes up.

Here we return to Hamilton, co-chairman of the Iraq Study Group, and his partner on the other side of the bipartisan hyphen, former secretary of state James A. Baker III. Four months after its release, the Baker-Hamilton report still looks like the best way to unite Democrats and Republicans before there is a dangerous collision over funding for the war. The report has something for everyone: It shares the Democrats' goal of withdrawing most U.S. troops by March 2008 and stresses the need for milestones in Iraq. But it endorses the Bush administration's view that milestones should be jointly negotiated with the Iraqi government, rather than imposed by Washington. And it recognizes that troop withdrawals must be contingent on political and military conditions on the ground.

The Baker-Hamilton report focused on the need for a sustainable policy -- one that would make Iraq an American project rather than George W. Bush's war. That requires a shift in military strategy from U.S. combat operations to a counterinsurgency approach centered on training and advising the Iraqi military. But the study group, composed of five Democrats and five Republicans, also said it could "support a short-term redeployment or surge of American combat forces to stabilize Baghdad, or to speed up the training and equipping mission."

The most controversial aspect of the Baker-Hamilton report was its call for greater American diplomatic engagement in the region, including talks with Iran and Syria and a new push on the Israeli-Palestinian problem. Four months later, Bush administration officials have sat around a table in Baghdad with Syrians and Iranians, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice is beginning a serious effort to midwife the birth of a Palestinian state, and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is visiting Damascus. We're all Baker-Hamiltonians now.

The Baker-Hamilton report offered a way out of the partisan wilderness when it was released in December. It still does. It provides an Iraq platform on which responsible Republicans and Democrats can gather. Neither side will get everything it wants, but both can claim a measure of support for their positions. That's the essence of building consensus.

*Mr. President - Worth reading.
cc: The Vice President
The Chief of Staff*

John Corry

despite his previous allegations to the contrary -- and promised not to speak to reporters for a year. That means he will return home before the expected reelection bid of Australian Prime Minister John Howard, a close ally of President Bush.

Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates was right when he told a congressional hearing last week that "there is a taint" about Guantanamo and that trials there "lack credibility" in "the international community." Mr. Gates said he'd like to see Guantanamo closed and Congress pass new legislation to govern those prisoners who must still be held. Those are good goals that may take time to reach. That's why Congress should take the immediate remedial action that is available: restoring habeas corpus appeal rights to all prisoners at Guantanamo.

Fox-in-the-Henhouse Government (WP)

By Ruth Marcus

The Washington Post, April 4, 2007

The Bush administration's House of Straw seems to be blowing apart, buffeted by alternating gusts of scandal and incompetence.

The tornado of disastrous headlines -- a Pentagon that can't take proper care of its wounded, a Justice Department that can't be trusted to follow the law or tell the truth to Congress, a top White House aide who lied to a grand jury -- has been so overpowering that the day-to-day outrages of life in the Bush administration tend get overlooked.

So it's worth pausing to pay attention to some recent events that similarly underscore the failings of this administration and illuminate one of their root causes: a contemptuous attitude toward government itself. These episodes illustrate the administration's fox-guarding-the-henhouse personnel plan, the disdain of its appointees for the laws they are sworn to enforce and their spoils-of-war attitude toward the government they are entrusted with overseeing:

Â The president's amazing-even-for-this-crowd choice to oversee the federal family planning program, Eric Keroack, resigned after Medicaid officials in Massachusetts, where he had a private medical practice, questioned his billings. Keroack's suitability for the family planning post, in which he was responsible for overseeing the distribution of contraceptives to low-income women? He was director of a group that finds contraception "demeaning to women" and won't distribute it -- even to married women.

Â President Bush nominated Michael Baroody, a top official at the National Association of Manufacturers, to head the Consumer Product Safety Commission -- the agency charged with protecting consumers against the dangerous products of, yes, manufacturers.

Perhaps Baroody would be a great chairman, but he's spent most of the past two decades looking out for the interests of manufacturers, not consumers. The manufacturers association recently pressed the CPSC to relax its rules about when manufacturers must report incidents of defective products. (It did.) The group argued, again successfully, against a petition to require makers of cribs, strollers and similar items to include registration cards with their products to be able to help notify consumers in a recall.

Â The Interior Department inspector general reported that Julie MacDonald, the official who oversees the Fish and Wildlife Service but who has no academic background in biology, overrode the recommendations of agency scientists about how to protect endangered species. MacDonald also shared internal documents with industry officials and groups that lobby for weakened environmental protections, not to mention an online gaming buddy, the IG found.

An Interior lawyer called MacDonald's involvement in one endangered species matter "the most brazen case of political meddling" he had seen in more than 20 years in government. Nor, it seems, is such politicization limited to MacDonald. "Policy trumps science within the Assistant Secretary's corridor on many occasions," another department lawyer told the IG.

Â J. Steven Griles, a coal lobbyist who became the No. 2 official at the Interior Department (in other words, his job description didn't much change), pleaded guilty to lying to Congress about his relationship with lobbyist/felon Jack Abramoff. Griles's then-girlfriend introduced him to Abramoff and ran a lobbying group that received \$500,000 in Abramoff-generated funds; in turn, Abramoff sought and received Griles's help on client matters.

Â Griles's new significant other, Sue Ellen Wooldridge, who helped him fend off ethics charges when they both worked at Interior, resigned as head of the Justice Department's environmental section. Wooldridge and Griles bought a \$1 million beach house with the top lobbyist for the oil company ConocoPhillips; then Wooldridge -- supposedly with the blessing of ethics officials -- signed off on a move to ease up on anti-pollution requirements imposed on ConocoPhillips as part of a settlement.

Â Lurita Doan, a GOP mega-donor turned head of the General Services Administration, attended a luncheon on agency premises at which Scott Jennings, a top aide to Karl Rove, briefed political appointees on GOP targets for the 2008 election. According to six people present, Doan asked GSA employees how they could "help 'our candidates' in the next elections." Doan,

A train-wreck debate on Iraq will be destructive for both parties, not to mention the people in the Middle East. The Baker-Hamilton report is the best framework for building a policy that is sustainable, in Washington and in Baghdad. Leading Republicans and Democrats say that, in principle, they still support Baker-Hamilton. So do something about it.

In Fear Of Chinese Democracy (WP)

By Harold Meyerson

The Washington Post, April 4, 2007

Listen to the apostles of free trade, and you'll learn that once consumer choice comes to authoritarian regimes, democracy is sure to follow. Call it the Starbucks rule: Situate enough Starbucks around Shanghai, and the Communist Party's control will crumble like dunked biscotti.

As a theory of revolution, the Starbucks rule leaves a lot to be desired.

Shanghai is swimming in Starbucks, yet, as James Mann notes in "The China Fantasy," his new book on the non-democratization of China, the regime soldiers on. Conversely, the American farmers who made our revolution didn't have much in the way of consumer choice, yet they managed to free themselves from the British. In New England, however, they did have town meetings, which may be a surer guide to the coming of democratic change. It's a growing civil society -- a sphere where people can deliberate and decide on more than their coffee -- that more characteristically sounds the death knell of dictatorships.

Which is why the conduct of America's corporate titans in China is so disquieting. There, since March of last year, the government has been considering a labor law that promises a smidgen of increase in workers' rights. And since March of last year, the American businesses so mightily invested in China have mightily fought it.

Beyond the Starbucks of Shanghai, the China of workers and peasants is a sea of unrest, roiled by thousands of strikes and protests that the regime routinely represses. Cognizant that they need to do something to quell the causes of unrest, some of China's rulers have entertained modest changes to the country's labor law. The legislation wouldn't allow workers to form independent trade unions or grant them the right to strike -- this is, after all, a communist regime. It would, however, require employers to provide employees, either individually or collectively, with written contracts. It would allow employees to change jobs within their industries or get jobs in related industries in other regions; employers have hitherto been able to thwart this by invoking statutes on proprietary information. It would also require that companies bargain with worker representatives over health and safety conditions.

It's not as if Chinese unions would use these laws to run roughshod over employers. Chinese unions are not, strictly speaking, unions at all. They remain controlled by the Communist Party. Their locals can be and frequently are headed by plant managers, whether the workers want them or not. And yet, these changes proved too radical for America's leading corporations.

As documented by Global Labor Strategies, a U.S.-based nonprofit organization headed by longtime labor activists, the American Chamber of Commerce in Shanghai and the U.S.-China Business Council embarked on a major campaign to kill these tepid reforms. Last April, one month after the legislation was first floated, the chamber sent a 42-page document to the Chinese government on behalf of its 1,300 members -- including General Electric, Microsoft, Dell, Ford and dozens of other household brand names -- objecting to these minimal increases in worker power. In its public comments on the proposed law, GE declared that it strongly preferred "consultation" with workers to "securing worker representative approval" on a range of its labor practices.

Based on a second draft of the law, completed in December, it looks like American businesses have substantially prevailed. Key provisions were weakened; if an employer elects not to issue written contracts, workers are guaranteed only the wages of similar employees -- with the employer apparently free to define who, exactly, is similar. Business is relieved: Facing "increased pressure to allow the establishment of unions in companies," Andreas Lauff, a Hong Kong-based corporate attorney, wrote in the Jan. 30 Financial Times, "comments from the business community appear to have had an impact." The new draft "scaled back protections for employees and sharply curtailed the role of unions."

Phew!

Admittedly, a few nettlesome issues remain. First, about one-fourth of the global labor force is in China. Opposing steps toward the formation of unions there suppresses the wages of so many workers that its effect is felt worldwide. Second, since authoritarian China remains an adversary of the United States and a backer of some genuinely dangerous authoritarian regimes, blocking even the most modest steps toward the development of a civil society and democratic rights there poses a threat to U.S. security interests. Third, since the Bush administration champions the spread of democracy globally, why hasn't it taken America's leading corporations to task for retarding democracy's growth in China? And fourth, since preserving our national security should require executives at companies such as GE to answer for their conduct, where's the House Un-American Activities Committee now that we really need it?

NEW YORK TIMES

Bush Blames Democrats For Impasse Over Iraq Bills (NYT)

By Jim Rutenberg

The New York Times, April 4, 2007

WASHINGTON, April 3 — The political brinkmanship over Iraq war spending intensified Tuesday, as President Bush said Congressional Democrats had “undercut the troops” by passing legislation that ties continued war financing to mandated timelines for the withdrawal of American combat units.

Mr. Bush used a morning news briefing to renew his promise to veto emergency war spending bills with the withdrawal provisions that have passed in the House and the Senate.

He blamed Democrats for a growing impasse, saying they had been irresponsible in pushing bills they knew he would not sign. “Instead of passing clean bills that fund our troops on the front lines,” he said, “the House and Senate have spent this time debating bills that undercut the troops.”

By speaking Tuesday from the Rose Garden, Mr. Bush was seeking to seize the stage in an increasingly heated standoff over war financing that carries political risks for both sides. Democrats immediately struck back, blaming the president for forcing a deadlock that has delayed the release of money for operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

“We represent the American people’s views on this failed war,” Senator Harry Reid, the Senate majority leader, said in his home state, Nevada, where he toured a National Guard complex. Mr. Reid released a statement that said: “The president’s policies have failed, and his escalation endangers our troops and hurts our national security. Neither our troops nor the American people can afford this strategy any longer.”

The remarks from each side were among the most heated in the confrontation so far. They were made while Congress was in recess for the Easter holiday, but with Democrats unwilling to give Mr. Bush an open shot while they were away.

Mr. Bush warned that a failure by Congress to approve the \$100 billion he had requested for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan would prolong some tours in Iraq and shorten time at home between tours for others. “That is unacceptable to me,” he said. “And I believe it is unacceptable to the American people.”

“It’s one thing to object to the policy, but it’s another thing when you have troops in harm’s way not to give them the funds they need,” he said.

Among the signs of Democrats fighting back are an online petition begun by the presidential campaign of Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton of New York, expressing opposition to the veto that Mr. Bush has threatened for the bills that would attach timelines for withdrawal to the release of the war financing. “Mr. President, please work with us,” Mrs. Clinton said in a statement on Tuesday. “Don’t veto the will of the American people.”

In his appearance on Tuesday, Mr. Bush alternately exhibited playfulness and annoyance, but issued a similarly pointed call for cooperation. “If Democrat leaders in the Congress are bent on making a political statement, then they need to send me this unacceptable bill as quickly as possible when they come back,” he said. “I’ll veto it, and then Congress can get down to the business of funding our troops without strings and without delay.”

Mr. Bush said during the news briefing that the wrangling over the language of the war financing bills threatened to have a serious effect on the troops themselves.

He said that if he did not receive a bill he could sign by mid-April — and he has said he can only sign a bill “with no strings attached” — then the Army would be forced to consider curtailing equipment purchases and repairs and delay the training of National Guard and Reserve units.

If the standoff goes into mid-May, he said, the Army would have to delay the training of active-duty units, which would affect tour schedules by prolonging the stays of personnel already in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Democrats have argued that Mr. Bush made no such complaint last year when Congress, then held by Republicans, did not approve an emergency war spending measure until late spring. And the bill in the House, they said, would mandate that the president follow Pentagon policy limiting deployments and requiring a set period of rest between deployments — one year for the Army; 210 days for the Marines — or obtain waivers to ignore them.

Each side is betting that it is correctly gauging the public mood. White House officials and Republican allies in Congress say they believe that the Democrats will lose the public if they overplay their position and are perceived to be putting troops at risk, while Democrats say election results that put them in power, and polls since, indicate that the public wants to pull out of Iraq and expects them to force a withdrawal.

Withdrawal Marker

The George W. Bush Library

FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
Card	[Thank You] [with attachments] - To: POTUS - From: Shelley and Family	7	04/16/2007	PRM;

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COLLECTION:

Records Management, White House Office of

SERIES:

Subject Files - PP (Presidential Personal)

FOLDER TITLE:

725903 [1]

FRC ID:

12474

OA Num.:

12211

NARA Num.:

12377

FOIA IDs and Segments:

2014-0072-F

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advise between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

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- A. Closed by Executive Order 13526 governing access to national security information.
- B. Closed by statute or by the agency which originated the document.
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- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
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- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

Withdrawal Marker

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FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
Card	[Thank You] - To: POTUS - From: Pete [Pace]	1	04/16/2007	PRM;

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
4/16/07

5 DAY WEATHER FORECAST
PROVIDED BY THE JOINT PRESIDENTIAL WEATHER SUPPORT UNIT

Monday, 16 April 2007

WASHINGTON, DC

Monday: Mostly cloudy with widely isolated evening rain showers. Winds northwest at 20 to 25 knots gusting to 45 knots decreasing to 15 to 20 knots gusting to 30 knots overnight. Low 41°F. High 53°F.

Tuesday: Mostly cloudy. Winds northwest at 15 to 20 knots decreasing to 10 to 15 knots in the evening. Low 37°F. High 56°F.

Wednesday: Mostly cloudy becoming cloudy with isolated rain showers overnight. Winds north at 8 to 12 knots. Low 40°F. High 56°F.

Thursday: Cloudy with isolated rain showers ending in the evening. Winds northeast at 4 to 8 knots turning northwest in the afternoon. Low 41°F. High 55°F.

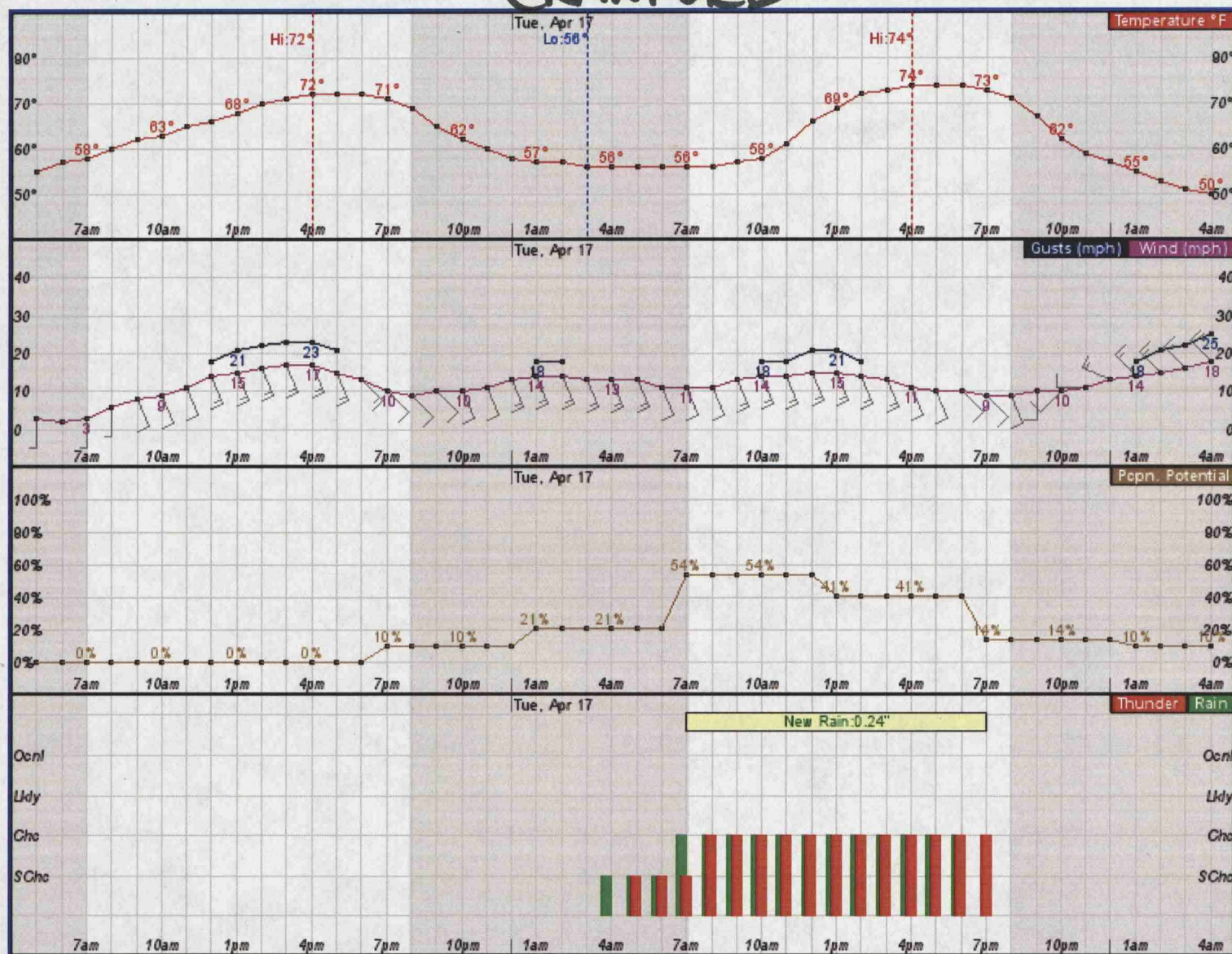
Friday: Cloudy. Winds northwest at 5 to 10 knots. Low 41°F. High 62°F.

TIPP CITY, OHIO

Thursday: Cloudy with isolated early morning snow flurries. Winds north at 8 to 12 knots. Low 33°F. High 49°F.

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
4/16/07

CRAWFORD



Monday, April 16 at 2pm

Temperature: 70°F Wind: SSE 16G22mph

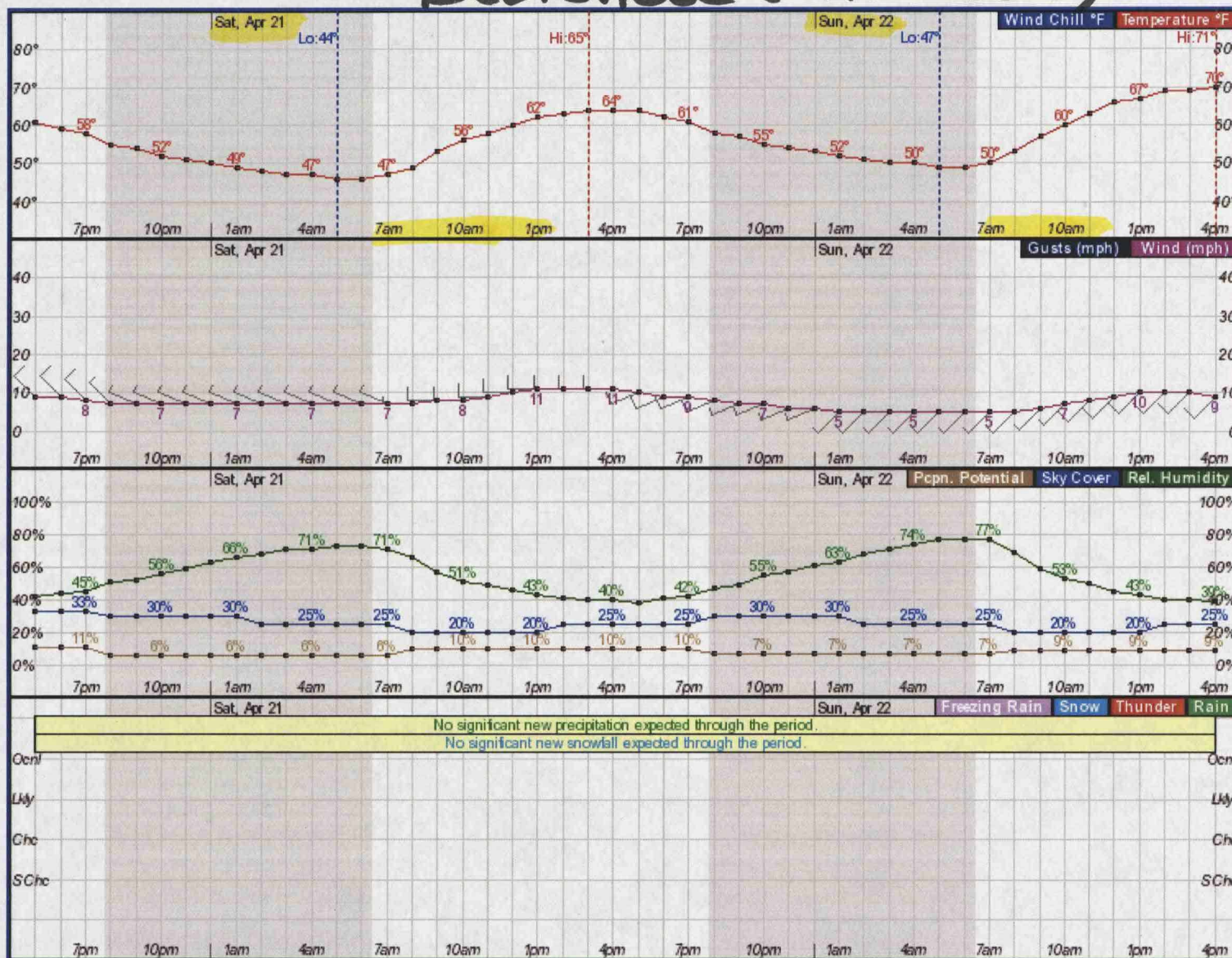
Precipitation Potential: 0%

Rain: <10% Thunder: <10%

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

4/16/07

BELTSVILLE (SAT-SUN)



Friday, April 20 at 5pm

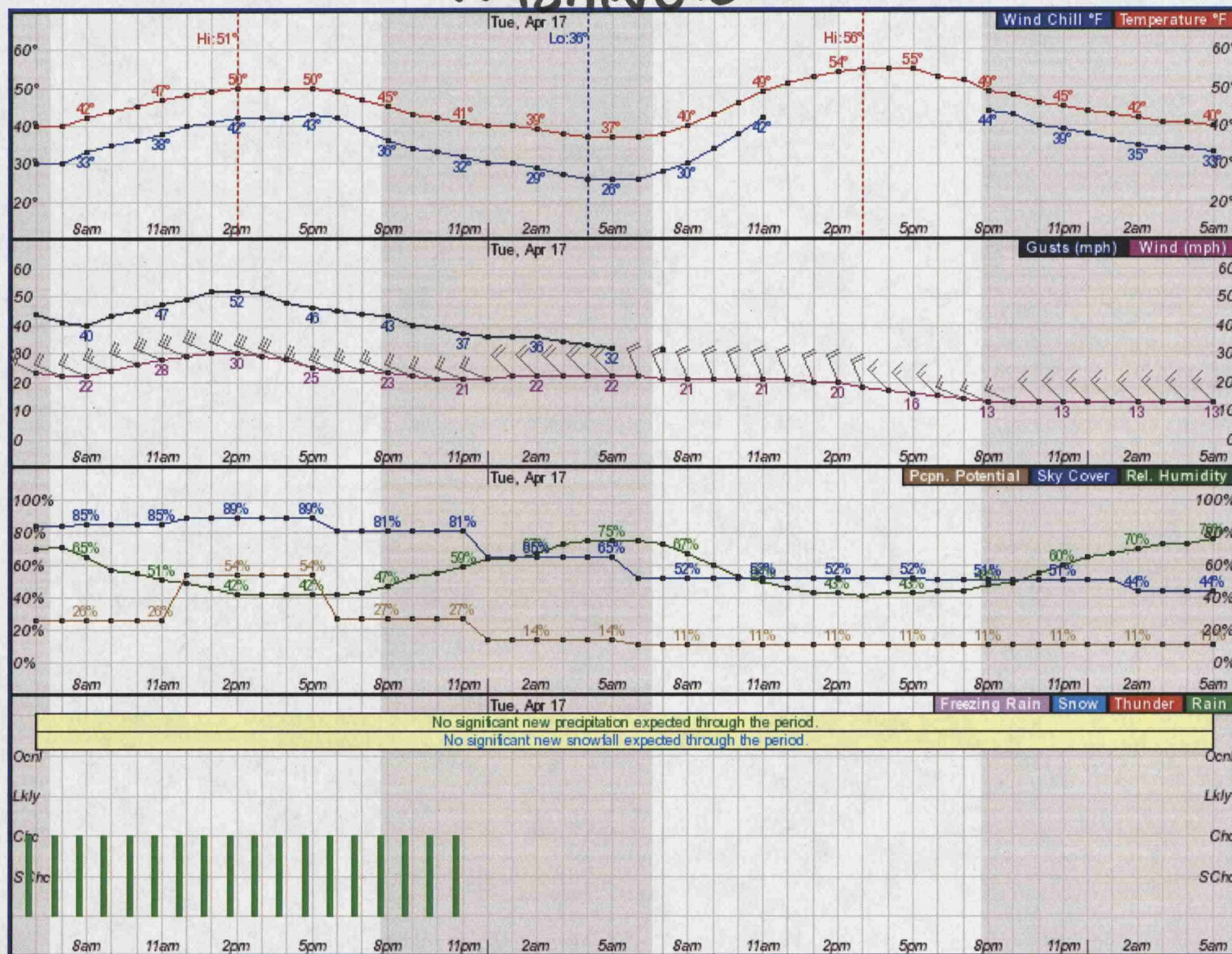
Temperature: 61°F Wind Chill: N/A Wind: NW 9mph
 Precipitation Potential: 11% Sky Cover: 33% Relative Humidity: 42%
 Rain: <10% Thunder: <10% Snow: <10% Freezing Rain: <10%

WASHINGTON

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

4/16/07

Page 2 of 3



Monday, April 16 at 2pm

Temperature: 50°F Wind Chill: 42°F Wind: WNW 30G52mph

Precipitation Potential: 54% Sky Cover: 89% Relative Humidity: 42%

Rain: Chance (30%-50%) Thunder: <10% Snow: <10% Freezing Rain: <10%

Slate



Slate »

DVD
EXTRAS

»

Deleted scenes, commentary,
and more.

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

4/16/07

today's papers

Death, Taxes and Dubya, Too

By M.J. Smith

Posted Monday, April 16, 2007, at 6:21 AM ET

The New York Times and *Los Angeles Times* lead with the release of Attorney General Alberto Gonzales's testimony a full two days ahead of a key hearing in the Senate on the controversy over fired U.S. attorneys. *The Washington Post's* top story is Sunday's campaign finance filings, showing Hillary Clinton with the most overall money in her account, but trailing Barack Obama for primary fundraising.

The Wall Street Journal tops its world-wide news box with a series of bombs killing 45 in Shiite areas of Baghdad, but also goes high with late word that troubled lender Sallie Mae has agreed to be sold into private ownership. *USA Today* leads with a survey showing 70 percent of school children in a Baghdad neighborhood have symptoms of trauma, including bed-wetting and stuttering.

The *LAT's* Gonzales story notes that Justice Department officials released the testimony on their own rather than wait for Chuck Schumer to do it for them as the two sides jockey for pre-hearing message control. A justice spokesman tells the paper the written testimony was due in to the Senate 48 hours before the hearing.

As for the text itself, Gonzales says he has "nothing to hide." He also apologizes for "my missteps that have helped fuel the controversy," and tries to address previous contradictions in his comments about the firings, including an earlier statement that he was not involved in discussions on the issue. He sticks by his account that much of the work was handled by former chief of staff D. Kyle Sampson.

Schumer and others, including Republican Sen. Arlen Specter, dismiss the testimony as not enough. Schumer pointed to statements from Michael Battle, former director of the executive office for U.S. attorneys, that he said showed further contradictions in Gonzales' story. The papers note that Gonzales published an op-ed piece in the *WP* on Sunday previewing his testimony, and that the hearing may be his last chance to save his job.

The *NYT* draws parallels between Gonzales' case and Paul Wolfowitz's situation at the World Bank, with growing calls for his resignation over a transfer that resulted in a hefty salary for his girlfriend. *The Times* is the only paper to front a Wolfowitz story, and its editorial page today called for him to resign.

Campaign finance reports were due in yesterday, and while Hillary Clinton came out on top in total money, the story gets far more complicated. She trailed Barack Obama in money raised specifically for the primary campaign, and the *WP* notes that Obama seems to have far more donors who have not yet "maxed out" their contribution amounts. Clinton was also helped by a \$10 million transfer from her Senate campaign account, the papers say.

The *NYT's* campaign finance story focuses on Obama receiving donations from former Clinton contributors, including a couple of them who slept in the Lincoln bedroom. But, as the story points out, this isn't so surprising considering it'd be difficult to find a Dem contributor who didn't have ties to the Clintons in the 1990s. Overplayed, perhaps?

It's tax time, of course, and the *NYT* and *WP* front tax-related features. The *NYT* looks at the increasing number of illegal immigrants filing taxes in hopes it will help them one day earn legal status, while the *WP* focuses on small business tax cheats. The paper highlights the case of a guy who claimed less than \$8,000 in taxable income from his family's two nail salons, but somehow wound up blinged out.

The *NYT* flags an insightful piece out of Iraq, where well-armed and apparently trained Sunni insurgents are increasingly setting up in Baquba, north of Baghdad. The paper says what's happened in Baquba is in many ways the opposite of what has occurred in Baghdad, where Shiite militias terrorized and forced out Sunnis.

The Internet as terrorist recruiting ground gets front-page play at the *LAT*. The story looks at a 22-year-old Moroccan, the son of a diplomat, who is alleged to have become a "media guy" for al-Qaeda in Iraq and something of a pioneer in Internet terrorism plotting.

The *WSJ* lays out on its front the strange tale of a Kenyan runner who became a Bahrain citizen to earn more dough as an athlete, only to be rejected later by the country's authorities because he competed in – and won – a marathon in Israel. The story describes an apparently common practice of Gulf states enticing skilled African runners to take up citizenship as a way of boosting the countries' sports prestige.

The *WP* visits the notorious Rocinha favela in Rio de Janeiro for a front page feature and describes the heavy violence involving minors there. The story offers these figures: "From 2002 through 2006, 729 Israeli and Palestinian minors were killed as a result of the violence in Israel and the occupied territories ... During the same period in Rio de Janeiro, 1,857 minors were reported murdered ..."

Elsewhere, the *NYT* reports on polar bear hunting in Russia, and why this may be a good thing.

And the papers note all baseball players wore number 42 on their jerseys yesterday to honor Jackie Robinson. If you're unclear on why, go here for your homework assignment.

M.J. Smith is a writer based in Paris.

Article URL: <http://www.slate.com/id/2164250/>

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THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON

April 13, 2007

The President and Mrs. Bush
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President and Mrs. Bush:

My family and I had a wonderful time during the Easter Egg Hunt at the White House on April 9, 2007.

It was a joy for Suzanne, our son, Nick, his wife, Charlotte, and I to watch our granddaughter, Ava, as she and the other children eagerly participated in the colorful bounty.

I thank you and Mrs. Bush for hosting such a wonderful event, and for including us in the fun.

Respectfully,

R. James Nicholson

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

4/16/07

Please send
to

Mrs. Bush

Done 4-17-07



The Secretary of
Veterans Affairs
Washington DC 20420

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

To President
Date 4/17/07 Time 12:35 ☐ AM ☐ PM

WHILE YOU WERE OUT
M. Secretary Rice
of _____

Phone Numbers ☐ Telephoned
Office _____ ☐ Please call
Voicemail _____ ☐ Returned your call
FAX _____ ☐ Called to see you
Pager _____ ☐ Wants to see you
Mobile _____ ☐ Will call again
e-mail _____ ☐ URGENT

Message
Needs to speak to
you for 2 min.
Re: Darfur Remarks.



AMPAD
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Reorder
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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
4/17/07

5 DAY WEATHER FORECAST
PROVIDED BY THE JOINT PRESIDENTIAL WEATHER SUPPORT UNIT

Tuesday, 17 April 2007

WASHINGTON, DC

Tuesday: Mostly cloudy. Winds northwest at 20 to 25 knots gusting to 32 knots decreasing to 12 to 18 knots in the evening. Low 44°F. High 56°F.

Wednesday: Mostly cloudy becoming cloudy overnight. Winds north at 10 to 15 knots turning east at 5 to 10 knots in the evening. Low 40°F. High 58°F.

Thursday: Cloudy with fog and isolated rain showers ending in the afternoon. Winds northeast at 4 to 8 knots. Low 42°F. High 55°F.

Friday: Cloudy with morning fog becoming clear overnight. Winds north at 4 to 8 knots. Low 41°F. High 62°F.

Saturday: Sunny with patchy morning fog. Winds north at 4 to 8 knots shifting southeast in the evening. Low 45°F. High 68°F.

BLACKSBURG, VIRGINIA

Tuesday: Mostly sunny. Winds northwest at 20 to 25 knots gusting to 35 knots decreasing to 18 to 22 knots in the evening. Low 43°F. High 59°F.

TIPP CITY, OHIO

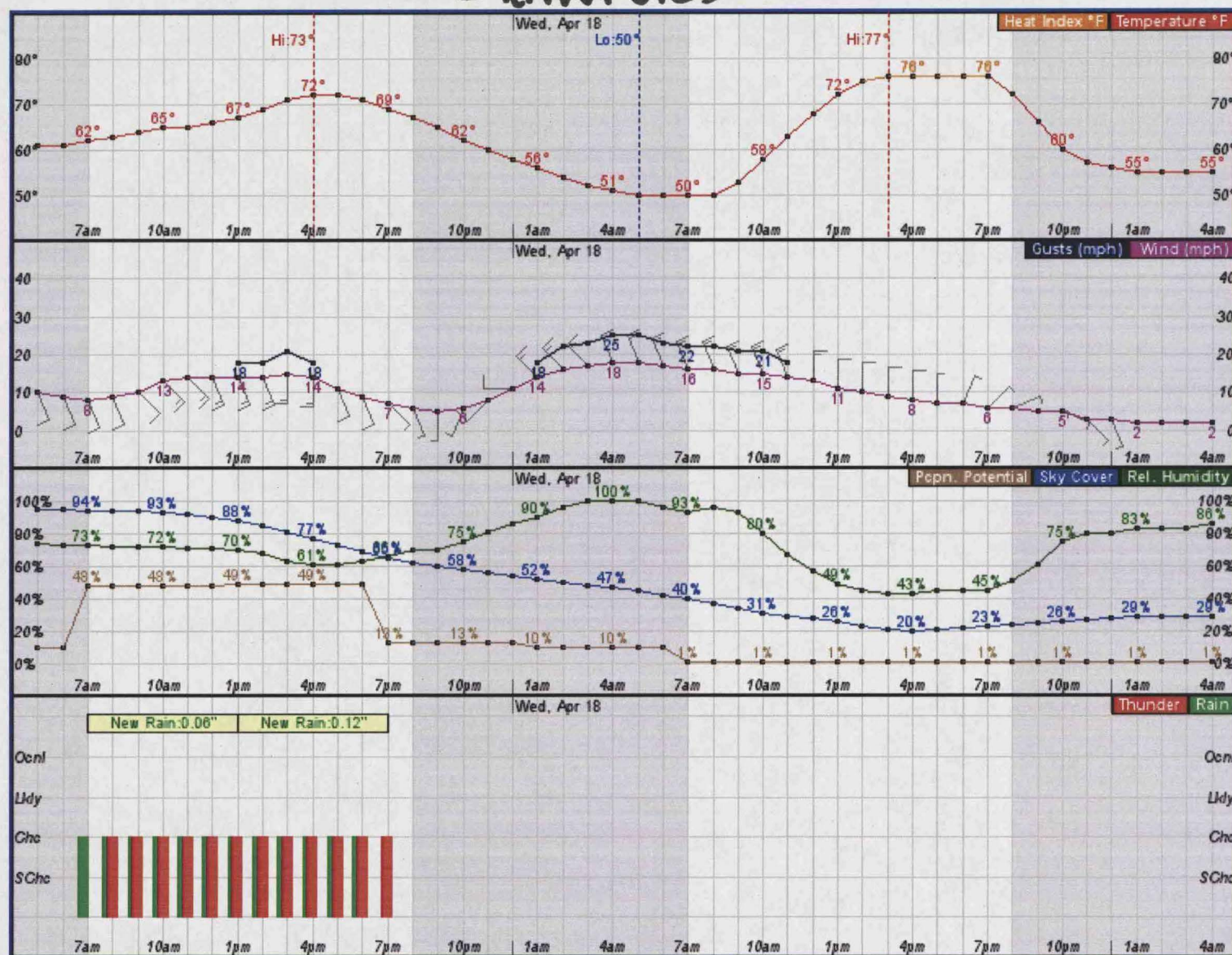
Thursday: Cloudy with morning fog and widely isolated afternoon rain showers. Winds north at 10 to 15 knots. Low 38°F. High 51°F.

GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

Friday: Mostly cloudy with morning fog becoming partly cloudy in the evening. Winds northeast at 5 to 10 knots shifting northwest in the evening. Low 34°F. High 58°F.

CRAWFORD

4/17/07



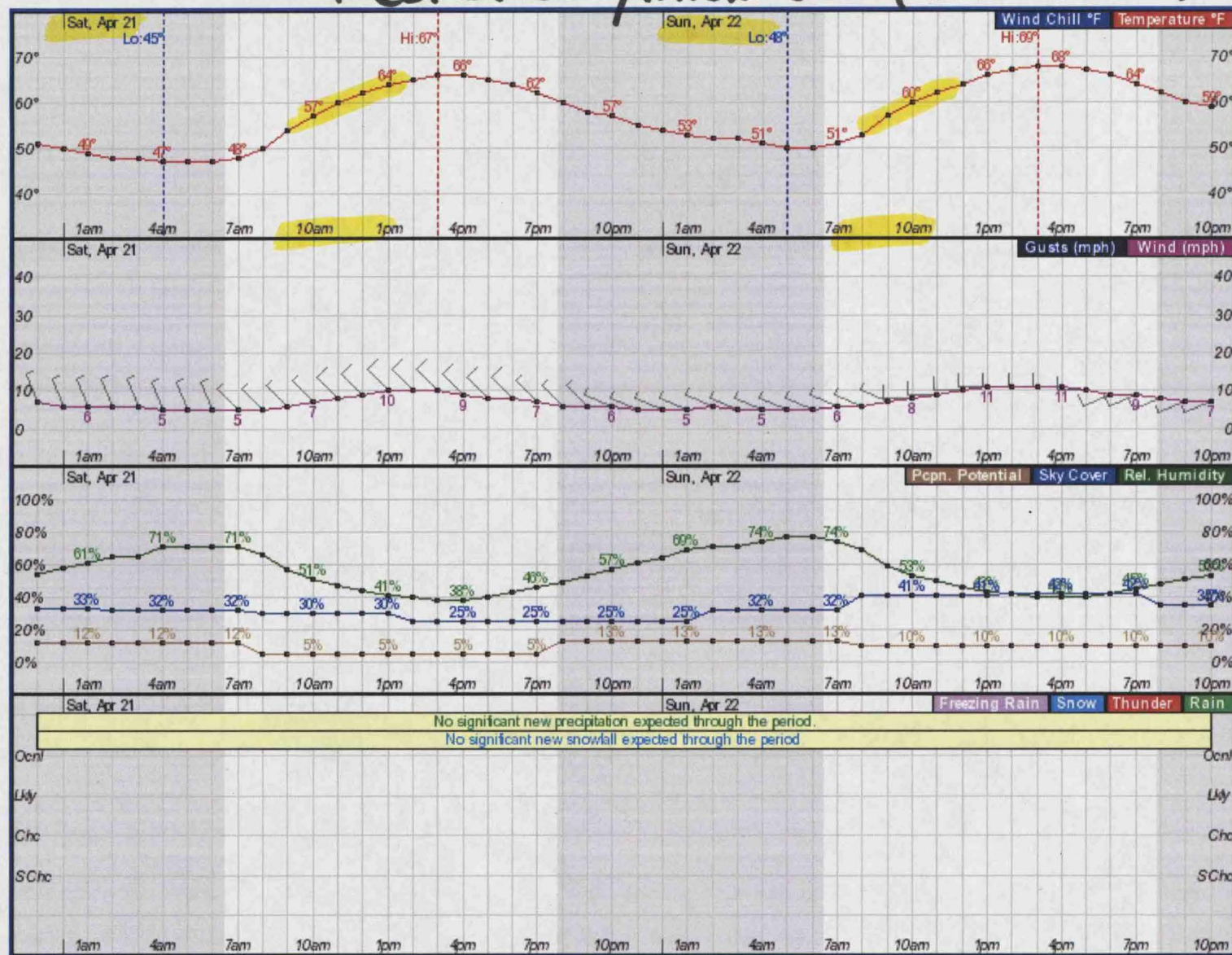
Tuesday, April 17 at 2pm

Temperature: 69°F Heat Index: N/A Wind: SSE 14G18mph
 Precipitation Potential: 49% Sky Cover: 85% Relative Humidity: 68%
 Rain: Chance (30%-50%) Thunder: Chance (30%-50%)

BELTSVILLE/PATUXENT (SAT-SUN)

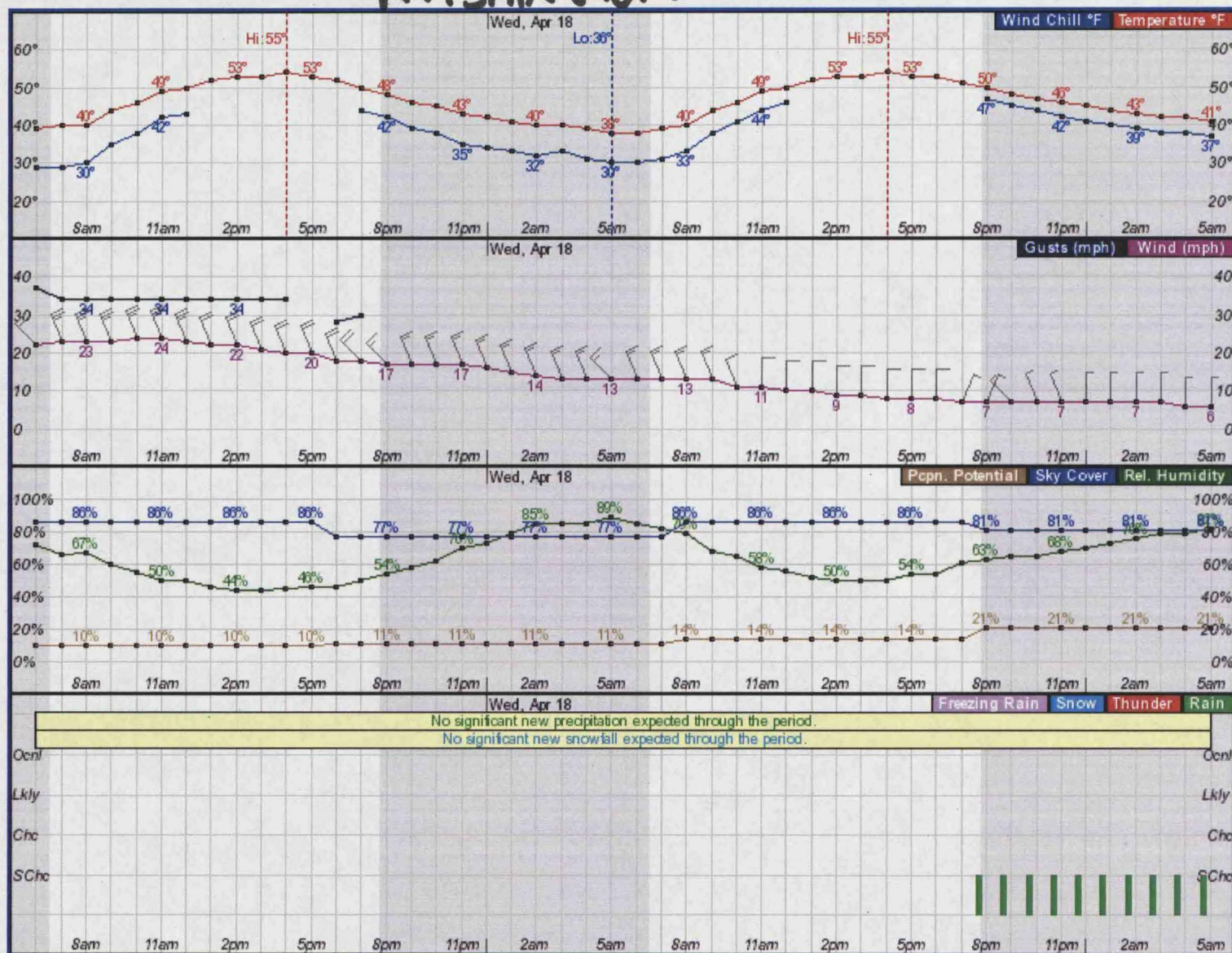
THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

4/17/07


[Radars and Satellite Images](#)
[Additional Forecasts & Information](#)
[7-Day Forecast](#)
[Tabular Forecast](#)

WASHINGTON

4/17/07



Tuesday, April 17 at 5pm

Temperature: 53°F Wind Chill: N/A Wind: NNW 20mph
 Precipitation Potential: 10% Sky Cover: 86% Relative Humidity: 46%
 Rain: <10% Thunder: <10% Snow: <10% Freezing Rain: <10%

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
4/17/07

Slate

TECHNOLOGY
ON SLATETECHNOLOGY
The future and what to do about it.

today's papers

Bloody Monday

By Daniel Politi

Posted Tuesday, April 17, 2007, at 6:03 AM ET

All the papers banner and devote most of their Page One space to, while the *Wall Street Journal* tops its worldwide newsbox with, yesterday's massacre at the Virginia Tech campus in Blacksburg that amounted to the deadliest mass shooting in U.S. history. Two shooting rampages left 32 people dead, and approximately 30 injured. The gunman (although it is still unclear whether there was only one) shot himself as police closed in on him. "I'm really at a loss for words to explain or to understand the carnage that has visited our campus," the president of the university said. All the papers front the same dramatic picture of police officers carrying out students from a campus building.

The tragic day began at 7:15 a.m. when two people were killed in a dormitory. But the worst came more than two hours later, when a gunman went into Norris Hall, a science and engineering building, and began shooting students and professors. Officials didn't release the name of the shooter but witnesses described him as a young Asian man and the *New York Times* gets word from federal law enforcement officials that he might have recently arrived in the United States. The *Washington Post* says the shooter carried a 9mm semiautomatic and a .22-caliber handgun, "both with the serial numbers obliterated." The *Los Angeles Times* says 26 people, mostly students, were being treated at several area hospitals. In a nice piece of Page One design, *USA Today* goes across the top with the excerpt of an e-mail sent out by the university at 9:50 a.m.: "A gunman is loose on campus..." Everyone spends time looking at this and other e-mails (the first came approximately half an hour earlier) as sadness turned to anger and more people began questioning whether university and police officials could have done more to prevent most of the deaths.

After the first shooting, police believed it was a "domestic" case and that the gunman had left the campus so they chose not to send out an e-mail alert until two hours later. Even after the shooting started it seems as though university officials had no plan to guide students. *USAT* talks to a student who says he was driving to school at 10 a.m. when he heard about the shootings from strangers who stopped him and urged him to turn around. At that point he called the school's information line: "I say to them, 'I hear everybody's getting shot, is class canceled?' And the lady tells me, 'All I can say is proceed cautiously.' Proceed cautiously? Meaning what? Avoid 9mm bullets?"

By that time the gunman had already entered Norris Hall, chained some of the doors from the inside, and started shooting. The *WP* and *LAT* both have accounts from students inside the building, where one of the most harrowing scenes appears to have played out in a German class. The shooter simply walked in the class and shot the teacher in the head. The *WP* talks to a student who says the gunman had a "very serious but very calm look on his face." The *LAT* and *NYT* quote another student in the class who told the college newspaper she was only one of a few people to have left the classroom unscathed. Interestingly enough, the same student also said the gunman "peeked in twice ... like he was looking for someone, somebody, before he started shooting." In other classrooms in the building students struggled to decide what to do as they began to realize that they were in the middle of a shooting rampage and they could be next. Some decided to jump out of windows and tell of how they heard shots in the classroom they had just escaped as they were running away from the building.

There was almost immediate outrage from students and their parents who questioned why police and

university officials didn't react more aggressively to the first shooting and put the campus on lockdown. But *USAT* talks to experts who make clear that putting a large campus on lockdown is no easy feat. The *WP* notes that although officials say there was a "lockdown" in classrooms, most students simply didn't know there was anything going on. In a story inside, the *LAT* does a good job of plainly going through several of the remaining open questions. Besides the late response time there is also the nagging question of whether there was only one gunman. If so, does that mean police were pursuing and interviewing the wrong suspect while the gunman roamed the campus?

In its lead story, the *NYT* mentions Virginia's lax gun laws make it relatively easy for anyone to purchase a handgun. Inside, the *LAT* notes that those who advocate for stricter gun controls said yesterday's events show the need for tougher regulations. Those who oppose tougher gun laws have, for the most part, remained silent.

While the university was late in bringing information, the *LAT* fronts a story looking at how students ("members of the most wired generation in history") were quick to use the Internet to describe their feelings, check on their friends, report new developments, and, of course, post videos and photos.

The *LAT* and *WP* both go inside with stories that wonder how the massacre will affect a university whose reputation and popularity had been steadily increasing. Meanwhile, officials at universities across the country are likely to begin reviewing their security procedures.

In other news, the *NYT* fronts, and everyone mentions, that Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr pulled out his six ministers from the Iraqi cabinet. Sadr said he was removing his ministers because the Iraqi government refuses to set a timetable for the withdrawal of U.S. troops. The U.S. military reported the death of seven American troops.

All the papers go inside with the Senate Judiciary Committee postponing the testimony by Attorney General Alberto Gonzales, which was scheduled for today, until Thursday due to the killings at Virginia Tech. Meanwhile, the papers get word that Kyle Sampson, Gonzales' former chief of staff, gave more details over the weekend on how the attorney general's previous statements about the firings of U.S. attorneys might have been inaccurate. In a private interview with Congressional investigators, Sampson said Gonzales took part in discussions about the firing of two U.S. attorneys, David Iglesias of New Mexico and Carol Lam of San Diego. In addition, Sampson said that Gonzales told him that President Bush had complained about Iglesias.

The *LAT* fronts, and everyone mentions, the Pulitzer Prize winners. The only newspaper to win more than one prize was the *WSJ*, which received the public service award for its stories on the backdating of stock options, and the international reporting Pulitzer for its series on the effects of China's emerging capitalism. The *LAT* got the award for explanatory reporting in recognition of its series that looked into the degradation of the world's oceans. The *NYT* won the feature writing prize for its stories about an immigrant Imam in the United States. The *Boston Globe* picked up a national reporting award for a series of stories about Bush's use of "signing statements." Lawrence Wright won the general nonfiction prize for his book, *The Looming Tower: Al-Qaeda and the Road to 9/11*, and Cormac McCarthy got the fiction award for the novel *The Road*.

Daniel Politi writes "Today's Papers" for Slate. He can be reached at todaypapers@slate.com.

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A World Free of Nuclear Weapons

By George P. Shultz, William J. Perry, Henry A. Kissinger and Sam Nunn

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

4/18/07

Nuclear weapons today present tremendous dangers, but also an historic opportunity. U.S. leadership will be required to take the world to the next stage -- to a solid consensus for reversing reliance on nuclear weapons globally as a vital contribution to preventing their proliferation into potentially dangerous hands, and ultimately ending them as a threat to the world.

Nuclear weapons were essential to maintaining international security during the Cold War because they were a means of deterrence. The end of the Cold War made the doctrine of mutual Soviet-American deterrence obsolete. Deterrence continues to be a relevant consideration for many states with regard to threats from other states. But reliance on nuclear weapons for this purpose is becoming increasingly hazardous and decreasingly effective.

North Korea's recent nuclear test and Iran's refusal to stop its program to enrich uranium -- potentially to weapons grade -- highlight the fact that the world is now on the precipice of a new and dangerous nuclear era. Most alarmingly, the likelihood that non-state terrorists will get their hands on nuclear weaponry is increasing. In today's war waged on world order by terrorists, nuclear weapons are the ultimate means of mass devastation. And non-state terrorist groups with nuclear weapons are conceptually outside the bounds of a deterrent strategy and present difficult new security challenges.

Apart from the terrorist threat, unless urgent new actions are taken, the U.S. soon will be compelled to enter a new nuclear era that will be more precarious, psychologically disorienting, and economically even more costly than was Cold War deterrence. It is far from certain that we can successfully replicate the old Soviet-American "mutually assured destruction" with an increasing number of potential nuclear enemies world-wide without dramatically increasing the risk that nuclear weapons will be used. New nuclear states do not have the benefit of years of step-by-step safeguards put in effect during the Cold War to prevent nuclear accidents, misjudgments or unauthorized launches. The United States and the Soviet Union learned from mistakes that were less than fatal. Both countries were diligent to ensure that no nuclear weapon was used during the Cold War by design or by accident. Will new nuclear nations and the world be as fortunate in the next 50 years as we were during the Cold War?

Leaders addressed this issue in earlier times. In his "Atoms for Peace" address to the United Nations in 1953, Dwight D. Eisenhower pledged America's "determination to help solve the fearful atomic dilemma -- to devote its entire heart and mind to find the way by which the miraculous inventiveness of man shall not be dedicated to his death, but consecrated to his life." John F. Kennedy, seeking to break the logjam on nuclear disarmament, said, "The world was not meant to be a prison in which man awaits his execution."

Rajiv Gandhi, addressing the U.N. General Assembly on June 9, 1988, appealed, "Nuclear war will not mean the death of a hundred million people. Or even a thousand million. It will mean the extinction of four thousand million: the end of life as we know it on our planet earth. We come to the United Nations to seek your support. We seek your support to put a stop to this madness."

Ronald Reagan called for the abolishment of "all nuclear weapons," which he considered to be "totally irrational, totally inhumane, good for nothing but killing, possibly destructive of life on earth and civilization." Mikhail Gorbachev shared this vision, which had also been expressed by previous American presidents.

Although Reagan and Mr. Gorbachev failed at Reykjavik to achieve the goal of an agreement to get rid of all nuclear weapons, they did succeed in turning the arms race on its head. They initiated steps leading to significant reductions in deployed long- and intermediate-range nuclear forces, including the elimination of an entire class of threatening missiles.

What will it take to rekindle the vision shared by Reagan and Mr. Gorbachev? Can a world-wide consensus be forged that defines a series of practical steps leading to major reductions in the nuclear danger? There is an urgent need to address the challenge posed by these two questions.

The Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) envisioned the end of all nuclear weapons. It provides (a) that states that did not possess nuclear weapons as of 1967 agree not to obtain them, and (b) that states that do possess them agree to divest themselves of these weapons over time. Every president of both parties since Richard Nixon has reaffirmed these treaty obligations, but non-nuclear weapon states have grown increasingly skeptical of the sincerity of the nuclear powers.

Strong non-proliferation efforts are under way. The Cooperative Threat Reduction program, the Global Threat Reduction Initiative, the Proliferation Security Initiative and the Additional Protocols are innovative approaches that provide powerful new tools for detecting activities that violate the NPT and endanger world security. They deserve full implementation. The negotiations on proliferation of nuclear weapons by North Korea and Iran, involving all the permanent members of the Security Council plus Germany and Japan, are crucially important. They must be energetically pursued.

But by themselves, none of these steps are adequate to the danger. Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev aspired to accomplish more at their meeting in Reykjavik 20 years ago -- the elimination of nuclear weapons altogether. Their vision shocked experts in the doctrine of nuclear deterrence, but galvanized the hopes of people around the world. The leaders of the two countries with the largest arsenals of nuclear weapons discussed the abolition of their most powerful weapons.

What should be done? Can the promise of the NPT and the possibilities envisioned at Reykjavik be brought to fruition? We believe that a major effort should be launched by the United States to produce a positive answer through concrete stages.

First and foremost is intensive work with leaders of the countries in possession of nuclear weapons to turn the goal of a world without nuclear weapons into a joint enterprise. Such a joint enterprise, by involving changes in the disposition of the states possessing nuclear weapons, would lend additional weight to efforts already under way to avoid the emergence of a nuclear-armed North Korea and Iran.

The program on which agreements should be sought would constitute a series of agreed and urgent steps that would lay the groundwork for a world free of the nuclear threat. Steps would include:

- Changing the Cold War posture of deployed nuclear weapons to increase warning time and thereby reduce the danger of an accidental or unauthorized use of a nuclear weapon.
- Continuing to reduce substantially the size of nuclear forces in all states that possess them.
- Eliminating short-range nuclear weapons designed to be forward-deployed.
- Initiating a bipartisan process with the Senate, including understandings to increase confidence and provide for periodic review, to achieve ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, taking advantage of recent technical advances, and working to secure ratification by other key states.
- Providing the highest possible standards of security for all stocks of weapons, weapons-usable plutonium, and highly enriched uranium everywhere in the world.

-- Getting control of the uranium enrichment process, combined with the guarantee that uranium for nuclear power reactors could be obtained at a reasonable price, first from the Nuclear Suppliers Group and then from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) or other controlled international reserves. It will also be necessary to deal with proliferation issues presented by spent fuel from reactors producing electricity.

-- Halting the production of fissile material for weapons globally; phasing out the use of highly enriched uranium in civil commerce and removing weapons-usable uranium from research facilities around the world and rendering the materials safe.

-- Redoubling our efforts to resolve regional confrontations and conflicts that give rise to new nuclear powers.

Achieving the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons will also require effective measures to impede or counter any nuclear-related conduct that is potentially threatening to the security of any state or peoples.

Reassertion of the vision of a world free of nuclear weapons and practical measures toward achieving that goal would be, and would be perceived as, a bold initiative consistent with America's moral heritage. The effort could have a profoundly positive impact on the security of future generations. Without the bold vision, the actions will not be perceived as fair or urgent. Without the actions, the vision will not be perceived as realistic or possible.

We endorse setting the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons and working energetically on the actions required to achieve that goal, beginning with the measures outlined above.

Mr. Shultz, a distinguished fellow at the Hoover Institution at Stanford, was secretary of state from 1982 to 1989. Mr. Perry was secretary of defense from 1994 to 1997. Mr. Kissinger, chairman of Kissinger Associates, was secretary of state from 1973 to 1977. Mr. Nunn is former chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

A conference organized by Mr. Shultz and Sidney D. Drell was held at Hoover to reconsider the vision that Reagan and Mr. Gorbachev brought to Reykjavik. In addition to Messrs. Shultz and Drell, the following participants also endorse the view in this statement: Martin Anderson, Steve Andreasen, Michael Armacost, William Crowe, James Goodby, Thomas Graham Jr., Thomas Henriksen, David Holloway, Max Kampelman, Jack Matlock, John McLaughlin, Don Oberdorfer, Rozanne Ridgway, Henry Rowen, Roald Sagdeev and Abraham Sofaer.

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4/18/07

today's papers

Warning Signs

By Daniel Politi

Posted Wednesday, April 18, 2007, at 6:12 AM ET

Monday's massacre at Virginia Tech continues to dominate the front pages this morning, as attention now turns to the student who was identified as the shooter and his victims. The *Washington Post* and *Los Angeles Times* lead with a look at Cho Seung-Hui, the 23-year-old English major who was identified as the gunman. As soon as his name became public, students and professors came forward to say they had frequently harbored concerns about the South Korean immigrant who barely spoke a word to anyone, didn't seem to have any friends, and wrote bizarrely violent assignments for class.

The *New York Times* leads with information released yesterday that gets closer to explaining why university officials took more than two hours to warn students there was a gunman on campus after the first two people were killed in a dormitory. It seems that, as some initially suspected, police and campus authorities were busy pursuing someone else they thought was responsible. *USA Today* leads, and the *Wall Street Journal* tops its worldwide newsbox, with yesterday's memorial services at the Virginia Tech campus. President Bush spoke at the university yesterday afternoon and urged members of the community to "reach out to those who ache for sons and daughters who are never coming home."

As the identity of the gunman was revealed it became clear there had been warning signs, and some had even raised their concerns to university officials. Everyone quotes poet Nikki Giovanni, who appears to have been the first to have voiced worries about Cho when he was a student in her creative writing class in the fall of 2005. Giovanni says Cho frequently turned in assignments that she found disturbing (yesterday, AOL posted two plays Cho allegedly wrote for a class). "Kids write about murder and suicide all the time. But there was something that made all of us pay attention closely," Giovanni said.

At one point, most of Giovanni's students didn't show up for her class, supposedly because they were afraid of Cho. As a result, the chairwoman of the English department, Lucinda Roy, agreed to teach Cho privately. The *NYT* says Roy was so nervous about being alone with Cho that she set up a system so that her assistant would know if she was in trouble. Roy shared her concerns with university officials but they said that nothing could be done since there were no specific threats.

By all accounts, Cho barely ever spoke a single word to anybody and always seemed to hide behind a hat and sunglasses. He shared a three-bedroom suite with five roommates, and the *LAT* says there was such little communication between them that some didn't even know how to pronounce Cho's name. One of his roommates said Cho's routine began to change a few weeks ago as he cut his hair into a military-style cut and started waking up earlier and going to the gym.

The *Post* says police found two three-page notes in Cho's room in which he bitterly wrote about wealthy students and even named people whom he believed had kept him from succeeding. While searching his room, officials also found prescription medicine that apparently was used to treat mental health problems. It is now believed that Cho was responsible for the recent bomb threats at the university.

Cho bought the two guns he used in the shooting rampage legally. Although officials have not been able to confirm that Cho also killed the two students in the dorm earlier in the day, the same 9mm weapon was used. Assuming Cho was responsible for the first shooting, it's unclear why he would have targeted the student and the resident advisor at that

particular dorm. The *LAT* talks to the roommate of the first victim and she says her friend did not know Cho, and has no idea why she was a target.

The roommate said that when police came to question her right after the shooting she told them about the victim's boyfriend and described him as a gun user. That appears to have led police to focus their energies on searching for the boyfriend without realizing that a gunman was still at large. This leads to two of the largest unanswered questions in the case: Assuming Cho was responsible for both shootings, why did he take a two-hour break and what did he do during that time? Also, could Cho have had an accomplice? The *NYT* goes inside with experts speculating what the delay between the first and second shooting could mean.

Meanwhile, as criticism of the university's response to the first shooting continued to increase, Virginia Tech's president asked Gov. Timothy Kaine to appoint an independent committee to review Monday's events. The committee will also look at whether university officials should have paid more attention to the warnings about Cho.

All the papers write heart-wrenching stories about the victims. The *WSJ* goes high with, and everyone else writes about, Liviu Librescu, a holocaust survivor who was a well-known professor of aerospace engineering. He was killed while trying to prevent the shooter from entering his classroom, which gave students time to jump out the window. And there's no shortage of emotional coverage as the papers write about the freshman who loved to dance, the grad student who just got married, and the sophomore who was a talented singer and violinist, to name a few. All the papers mention how MySpace and Facebook have become a gathering place for students to grieve and mourn (not to mention a source for journalists trying to find out information).

And now for some lighter reading ... The *LAT* fronts a very amusing dispatch from London that uses the breakup of Prince William and Kate Middleton to take a look at the intricacies of class structure in Britain and how they remain important. As far as most British media are concerned, the reason the prince broke up with the commoner was, well, because she was just "way too middle class." Never mind that Middleton's parents owned a \$2-million house or that they could send her to a prestigious college, it seems her mother's past as a flight attendant (not to mention her gum-chewing ways) was too much to bear.

*Daniel Politi writes "Today's Papers" for **Slate**. He can be reached at todayspapers@slate.com.*

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