

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	2	12686	25549	12378	12212

Folder Title:

729262 [1]

Withdrawn/Redacted Material

The George W. Bush Library

DOCUMENT NO.	FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
001	Handwritten Note	While You Were Out - To: POTUS - From: Tom Foscue	1	04/27/2007	PRM;
002	Handwritten Note	[Thank You] - To: POTUS and FLOTUS - From: Ken Salazar	1	04/26/2007	PRM;
003	Card	[Note] - To: POTUS - From: Ted Stevens	1	04/30/2007	PRM;
004	Handwritten Note	While You Were Out - To: POTUS - From: Ron Harris	1	05/03/2007	PRM;

COLLECTION TITLE:

Records Management, White House Office of

SERIES:

Subject Files - PP (Presidential Personal)

FOLDER TITLE:

729262 [1]

FRC ID:

12686

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

Deed of Gift Restrictions

- 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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Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

ROACH_CL

729262

PP

Barcode Scanning Sheet



Collection Code: SECLOG

Staff Name:

SCANNED
BY
ORM

Document Date:

Correspondent: RAUL YANES

Subject/Description: MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE THE PRESIDENT
HAS SEEN MAY 01 07 THROUGH MAY 09 07: APR 10 07 --
HOURLY WEATHER FORECAST FOR CAMP DAVID, MD,
WASHINGTON, DC AND CRAWFORD, TX -- 5-DAY
WEATHER FORECAST FOR WASHINGTON, DC AND
CAMP DAVID, MD -- ARTICLE FROM SLATE/TODAY'S
PAPERS "ANNIVERSARY MESSAGE" B ...

729262

MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

MAY 01 07

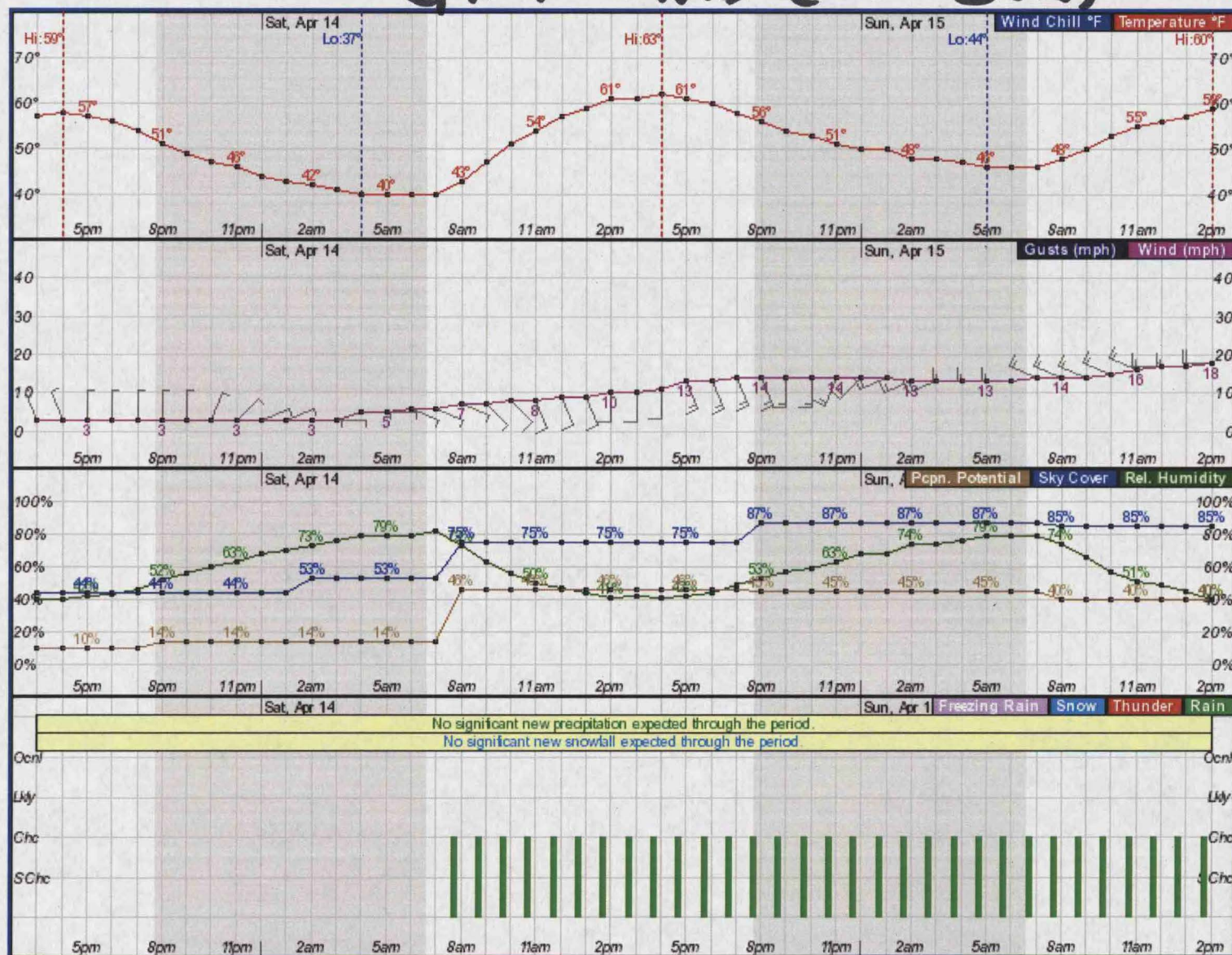
THROUGH

MAY 09 07

CAMP DAVID (FRI-SUN)

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

4/10/07



Saturday, April 14 at 5am

Temperature: 40°F Wind Chill: N/A Wind: E 5mph

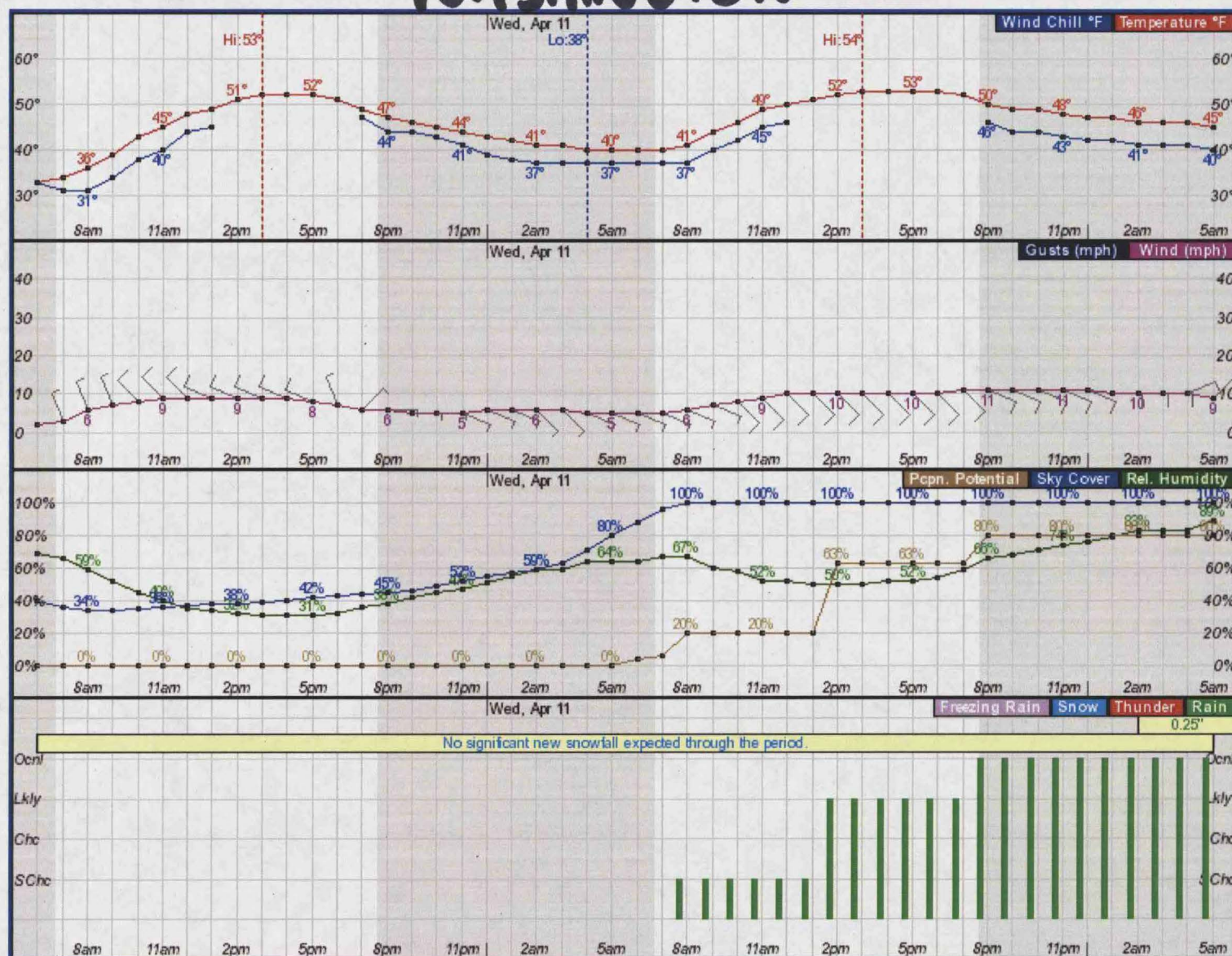
Precipitation Potential: 14% Sky Cover: 53% Relative Humidity: 79%

Rain: <10% Thunder: <10% Snow: <10% Freezing Rain: <10%

WASHINGTON

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

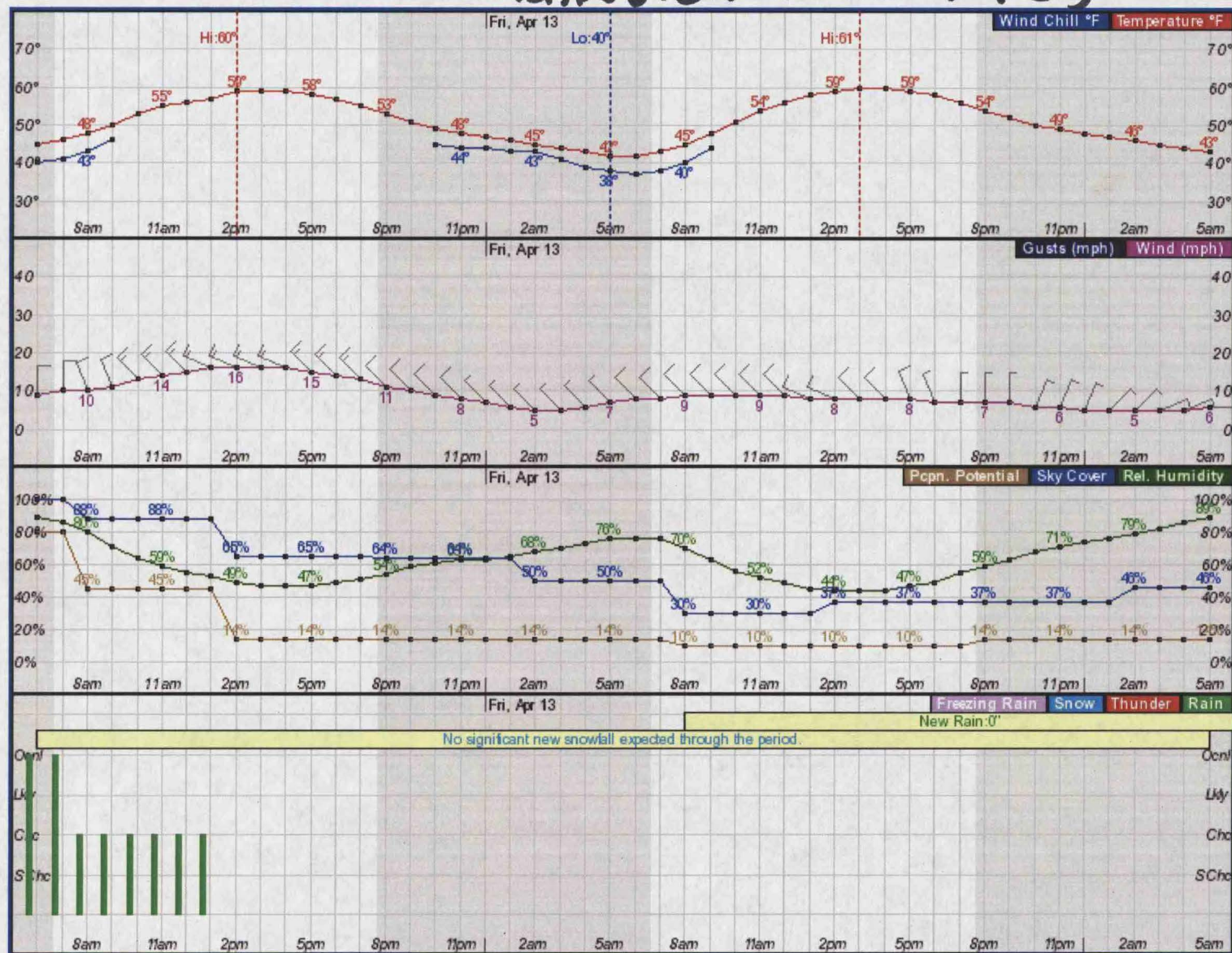
4/10/07



Wednesday, April 11 at 7am

Temperature: 40°F Wind Chill: 37°F Wind: ESE 5mph
 Precipitation Potential: 6% Sky Cover: 96% Relative Humidity: 67%
 Rain: <10% Thunder: <10% Snow: <10% Freezing Rain: <10%

WASHINGTON (THU-FRI)



Radars and Satellite Images

Additional Forecasts & Information

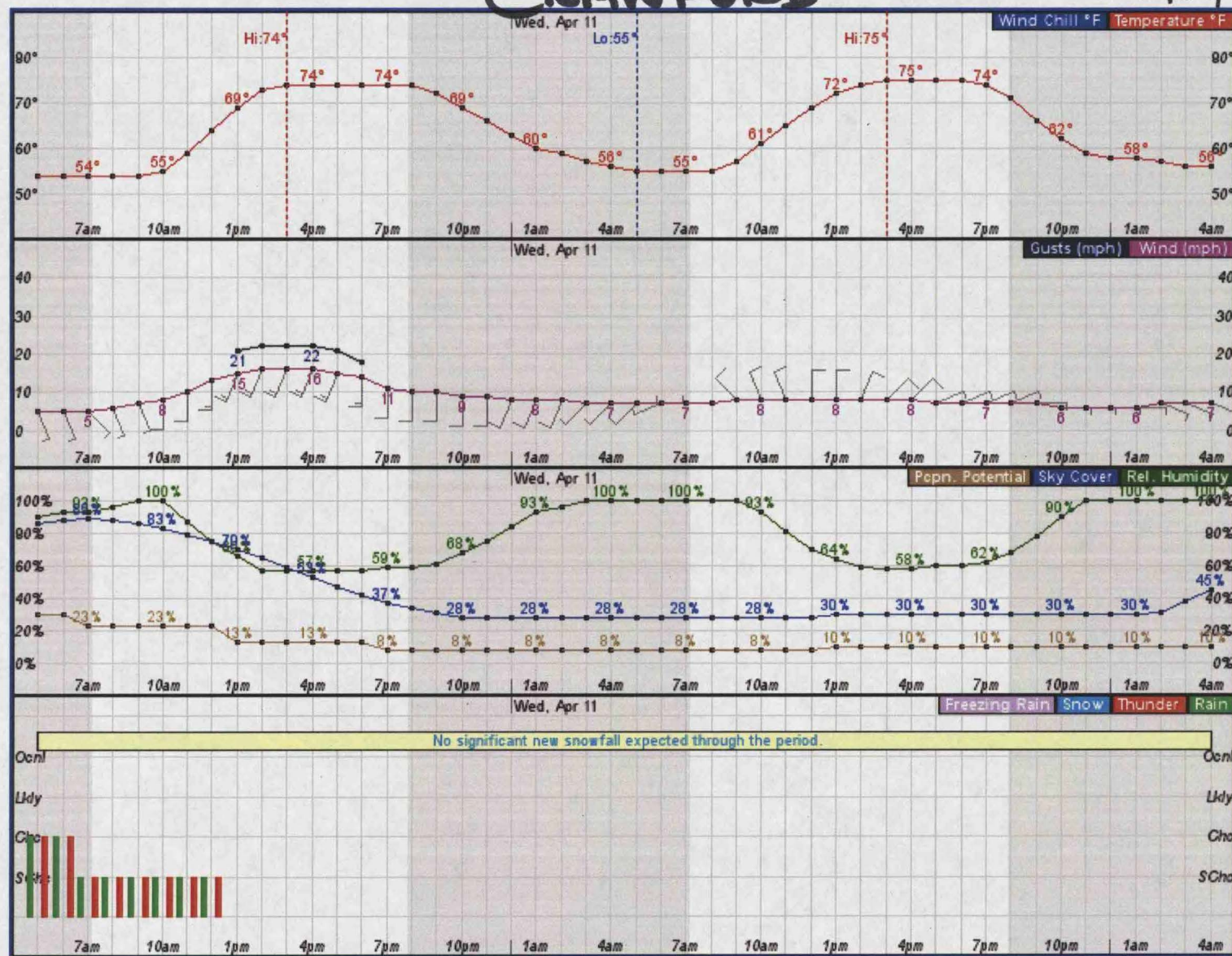
7-Day Forecast

Tabular Forecast

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

4/10/07

CRAWFORD



Wednesday, April 11 at 2am

Temperature: 59°F Wind Chill: N/A Wind: SSW 8mph
 Precipitation Potential: 8% Sky Cover: 28% Relative Humidity: 96%
 Rain: <10% Thunder: <10% Snow: <10% Freezing Rain: <10%

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
4/10/07

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

Tuesday, 10 April 2007

WASHINGTON, DC

Tuesday: Mostly sunny. Winds northwest at 5 to 10 knots shifting southeast in the evening.
Low 33°F. High 54°F.

Wednesday: Mostly cloudy with patchy morning fog becoming cloudy with rain showers beginning in the late afternoon. Winds southeast at 10 to 15 knots shifting northwest overnight.
Low 37°F. High 54°F.

Thursday: Cloudy with early morning rain showers and fog becoming partly cloudy in the afternoon. Winds northwest at 10 to 15 knots. Low 43°F. High 59°F.

Friday: Partly cloudy. Winds northwest at 8 to 13 knots shifting southeast overnight.
Low 41°F. High 62°F.

Saturday: Mostly cloudy becoming cloudy with evening and overnight rain showers and isolated thunderstorms. Winds southeast at 8 to 12 knots. Low 46°F. High 66°F.

CAMP DAVID, MARYLAND

Friday: Mostly cloudy with widely isolated early morning snow flurries becoming cloudy overnight. Winds northwest at 10 to 15 knots shifting southeast overnight. Low 36°F. High 58°F.

Saturday: Cloudy with fog in the morning and rain showers and isolated thunderstorms beginning in the afternoon. Winds south at 18 to 22 knots shifting west overnight. Low 41°F. High 62°F.

Slate

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today's papers

Anniversary Message

By Daniel Politi

Posted Tuesday, April 10, 2007, at 5:36 AM ET

The [New York Times](#) leads, and the *Wall Street Journal* tops its worldwide newsbox, with the thousands of Iraqis who answered Shiite cleric Muqtada Sadr's calls for a protest to oppose the presence of U.S. troops on the fourth anniversary of the fall of Baghdad. The peaceful [protesters](#) gathered in the southern city of Najaf, where they chanted anti-occupation slogans and burned American flags. The [Los Angeles Times](#) leads with more evidence of how the U.S. military is struggling to find the [necessary troops](#) for Iraq. Approximately 13,000 National Guard troops were told that they should expect to be sent to Iraq late this year. In addition, Defense Secretary Robert Gates is apparently considering four-month extensions for approximately 15,000 soldiers currently in Iraq.

[USA Today](#) leads with Iran's announcement that it is now able to produce nuclear fuel on an [industrial scale](#), which would signify a major development in the country's nuclear program. But no one seems to actually believe Iran's claims and most experts seem to agree the announcement was more about politics than actual capabilities. The [Washington Post](#) leads locally and off-leads a look at the role [mortgage fraud](#) played in creating the real estate boom.

Estimates on how many people were present at the demonstrations yesterday in Najaf varied widely, but, as everyone notes, it once again served to demonstrate Sadr's power. Sadr didn't attend the protest, and, in fact, he hasn't been seen for weeks, but he did put forward a message that was meant to appeal to both Sunnis and Shiites. The *NYT* has the best story on the [protests](#) and says that the only cleric who has ever been able to call for a demonstration this large has been Grand Ayatollah Ali-al Sistani. But just because Sadr can gather large crowds it doesn't necessarily mean that he still has control over his militia, the Mahdi Army.

On Sunday, Sadr had called on the Mahdi Army and Iraqi forces to stop fighting each other in the southern city of Diwaniya to unite against the United States. Were his calls answered? Depends on whom you believe. The *NYT* says the fighting [continued](#), while the *LAT* says the fighting "subsided" after [Sadr's plea](#). But what does all this mean? No one is exactly sure, and as, the *LAT* [helpfully notes](#), "the next move of Sadr's supporters is a riddle." It is still unclear whether Sadr is calling on his supporters to fight the Americans or if he wants to show the Iraqi government (not to mention U.S. officials) that he can't be ignored.

The announcement that National Guard troops will be deployed didn't exactly come as a surprise, but it's significant largely because many of those called have already served in Iraq or Afghanistan. Their deployment, however, would not come until December and is unrelated to the increase in troops that is part of the new security crackdown. That means the Pentagon has to find other troops for that purpose, and that is why the Pentagon is currently considering the four-month extensions for five brigades.

While everyone goes inside with President Bush officially announcing his latest push to change the country's [immigration policies](#), the *Post* fronts an interesting look at what it says is the "fast-growing" number of cities and towns that are trying to embrace illegal immigrants. Much attention has been paid to places that are trying to push out illegal immigrants with local laws but some communities are doing the opposite. In order to encourage illegal immigrants to come out of hiding, some are providing more

services and forbidding police officers from asking about legal status.

Everyone goes inside with word that Britain's Defense Ministry has changed its mind and now says the troops that were held captive in Iran are [not allowed](#) to sell their stories to the media. The initial decision to allow it was widely criticized by politicians and families of soldiers who have been killed in Iraq and Afghanistan. Regardless, two of the 15 service members already told their stories in exchange for payment. Meanwhile, Iranian television [broadcast images](#) that show the detained sailors and marines playing ping-pong and watching soccer to counter the claims that they were treated poorly while in captivity.

The *NYT* reefers, and everyone mentions, the decision by CBS Radio and MSNBC to [suspend](#) Don Imus' radio show for two weeks starting on Monday. The decision came after Imus spent most of the day yesterday trying to somehow explain why he called the Rutgers University women's basketball team "nappy-headed hos." As part of showing just how sorry he is (or as the *WP*'s [Lisa de Moraes](#) calls it, "his Walk of Shame"), Imus appeared on the Rev. Al Shaptrton's syndicated radio show to apologize.

In an editorial, the *Post* says its up to Imus' employers to decide whether to keep the show, but wonders why anyone would want to be a [guest](#) and be associated with his remarks. *USAT*'s editorial doesn't call for the radio host's ouster but it does provide a [succinct paragraph](#) that goes through some of the more offensive statements Imus has uttered throughout the years. And the *NYT* publishes an op-ed by journalist [Gwen Ifill](#), whom Imus famously called a "cleaning lady" in the early '90s.

Today's must-read is the first-person account by the *LAT*'s former Baghdad bureau chief, [Borzou Daragahi](#), which the paper publishes on Page One. Daragahi first arrived in Iraq more than four years ago and now, as he gets ready for a new assignment, he writes about how during his time in Iraq he often had to pretend to be someone else in order to survive. Throughout those years, Iraq became his life, an obsession he couldn't stop thinking about even when he was not in the country. But despite all the carnage ("I even got used to the smell of burnt flesh"), the dead friends, and the risks, Daragahi is honest: "I miss the action."

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

Article URL: <http://www.slate.com/id/2163844/>

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PATRICK J. LEAHY
VERMONT



UNITED STATES SENATE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20510

April 12, 2007

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

5/2/07

Dear Mr. President:

Many thanks for your very kind note for my birthday.

Also, thanks for the great photo of us with Taoiseach Bertie Ahern at the Friends of Ireland lunch last month. As always, it was a great event, and I enjoyed talking with both of you.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'PJL'.

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Actually - we
all look
Irish.

Withdrawal Marker

The George W. Bush Library

FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
Handwritten Note	While You Were Out - To: POTUS - From: Tom Foscue	1	04/27/2007	PRM;

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Records Management, White House Office of

SERIES:

Subject Files - PP (Presidential Personal)

FOLDER TITLE:

729262 [1]

FRC ID:

12686

OA Num.:

12212

NARA Num.:

12378

FOIA IDs and Segments:

2014-0072-F

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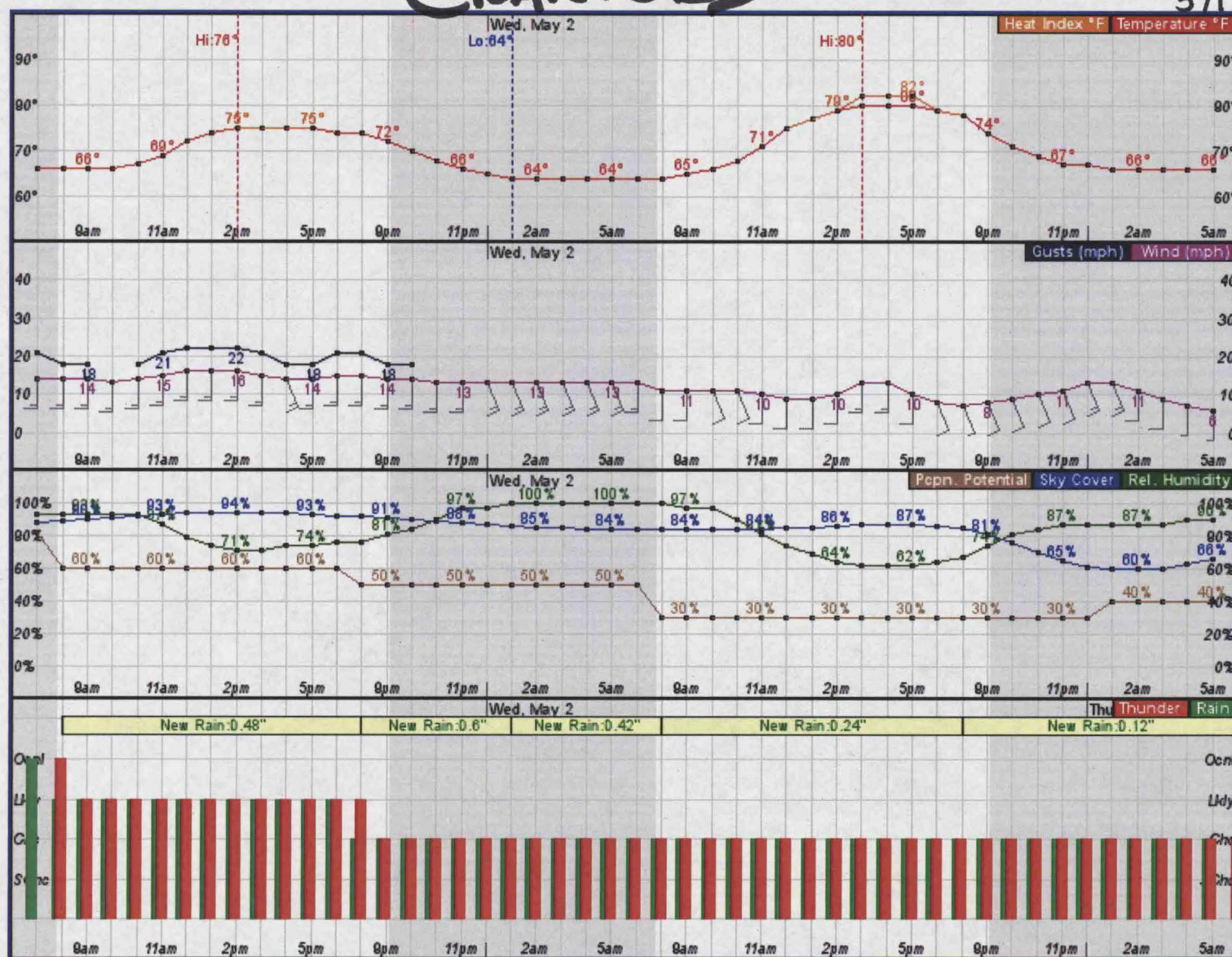
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CRAWFORD

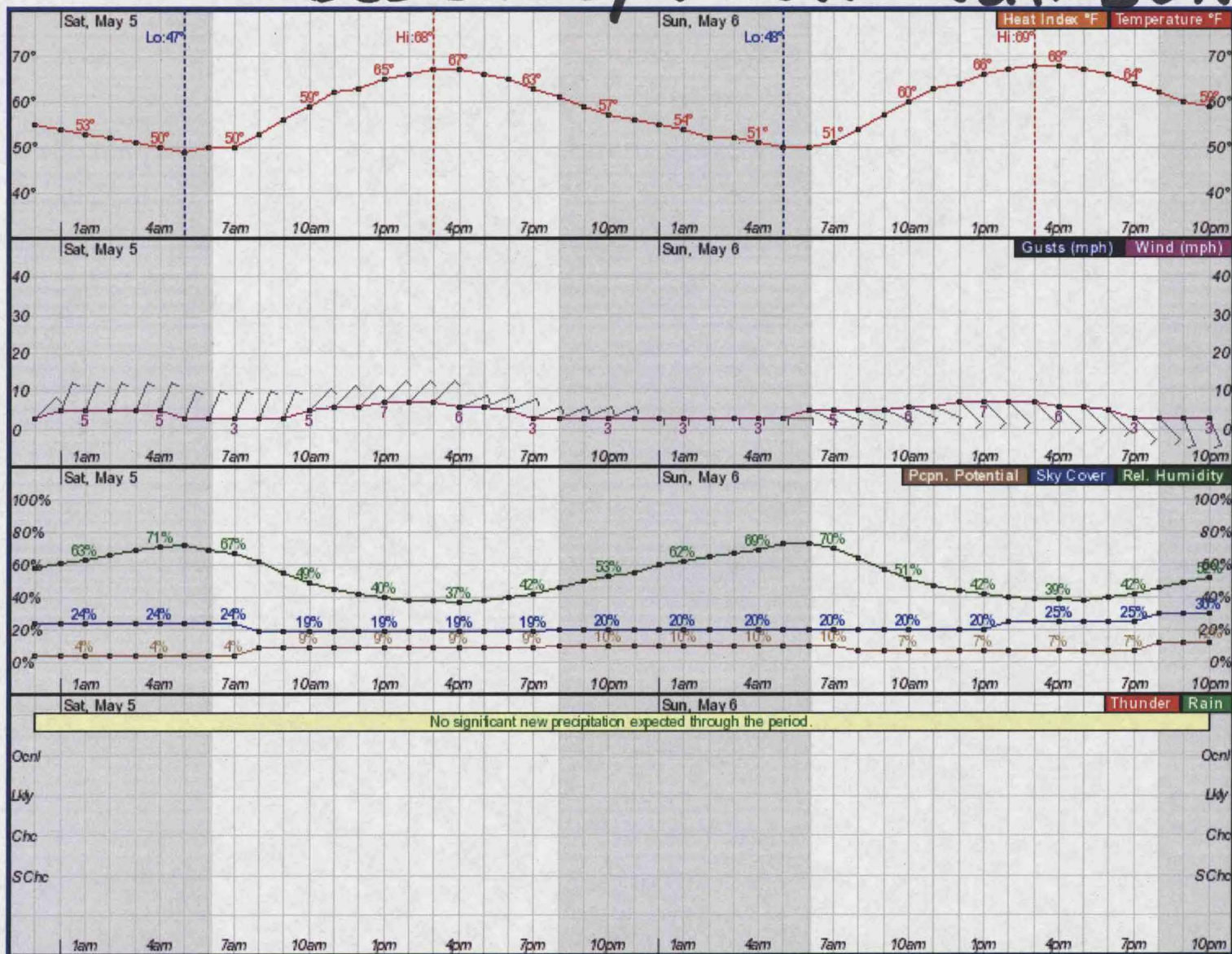
THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

5/1/07

**Tuesday, May 1 at 10am**

Temperature: 67°F Heat Index: N/A Wind: S 14G18mph
 Precipitation Potential: 60% Sky Cover: 92% Relative Humidity: 93%
 Rain: Likely (60%-70%) Thunder: Likely (60%-70%)

BELTSVILLE/PATUXENT (SAT-SUN)



Saturday, May 5 at 2am

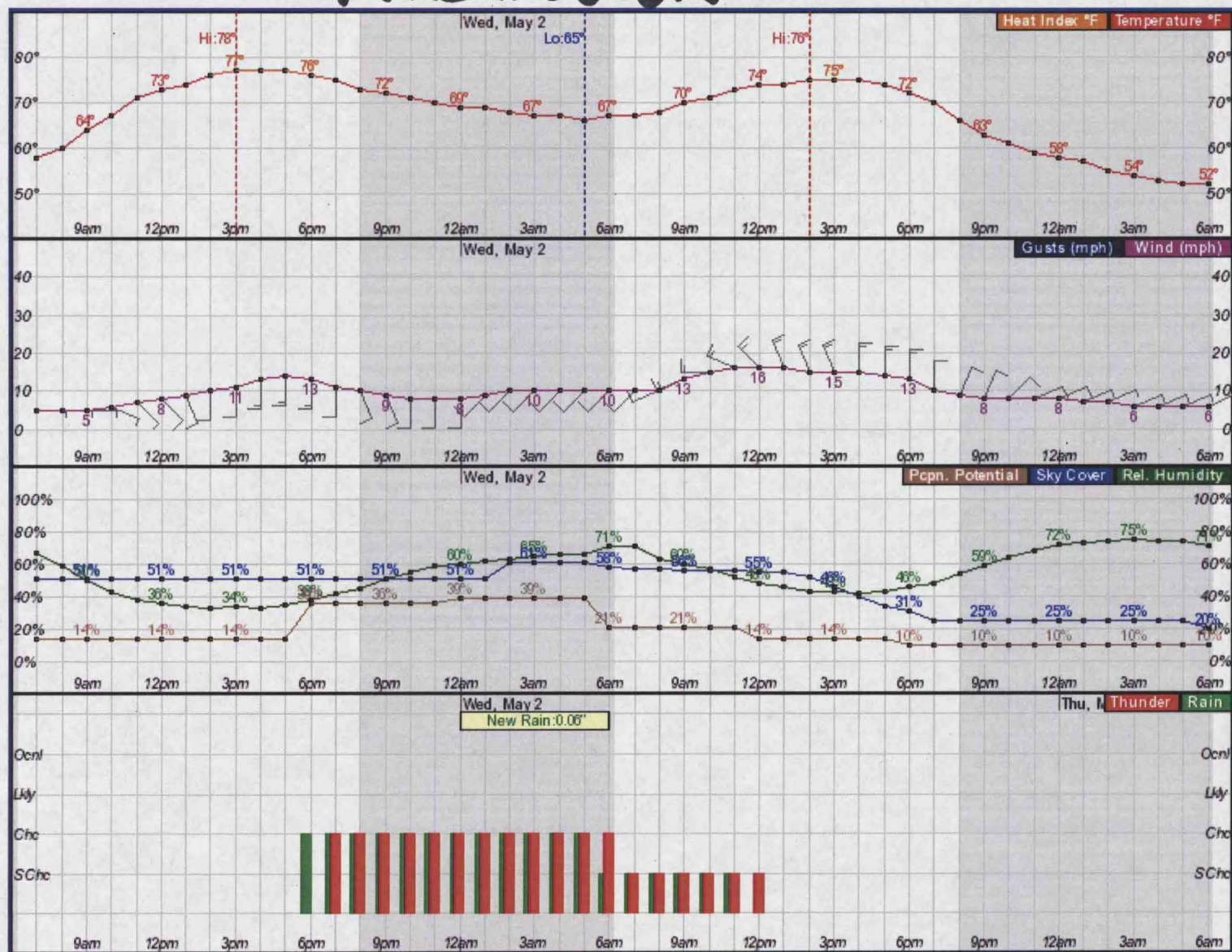
Temperature: 52°F Heat Index: N/A Wind: NNE 5mph
 Precipitation Potential: 4% Sky Cover: 24% Relative Humidity: 66%
 Rain: <10% Thunder: <10%

WASHINGTON

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

5/1/07

Page 2 of 3



Radar and Satellite Images

Additional Forecasts & Information

7-Day Forecast

Tabular Forecast

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

Tuesday, 1 May 2007

WASHINGTON, DC

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

5/1/07

Tuesday: Mostly cloudy with widely isolated overnight rain showers. Winds northeast at 5 to 10 knots shifting southeast after noon. Low 63°F. High 78°F.

Wednesday: Mostly cloudy with widely isolated morning rain showers becoming partly cloudy after noon. Winds north at 8 to 13 knots turning northeast at 5 to 10 knots in the evening. Low 63°F. High 75°F.

Thursday: Partly cloudy. Winds northeast at 3 to 8 knots turning southeast in the late afternoon. Low 50°F. High 69°F.

Friday: Mostly sunny. Winds northeast at 3 to 8 knots. Low 49°F. High 68°F.

Saturday: Mostly sunny. Winds northeast at 5 to 10 knots shifting southeast in the late afternoon. Low 49°F. High 68°F.

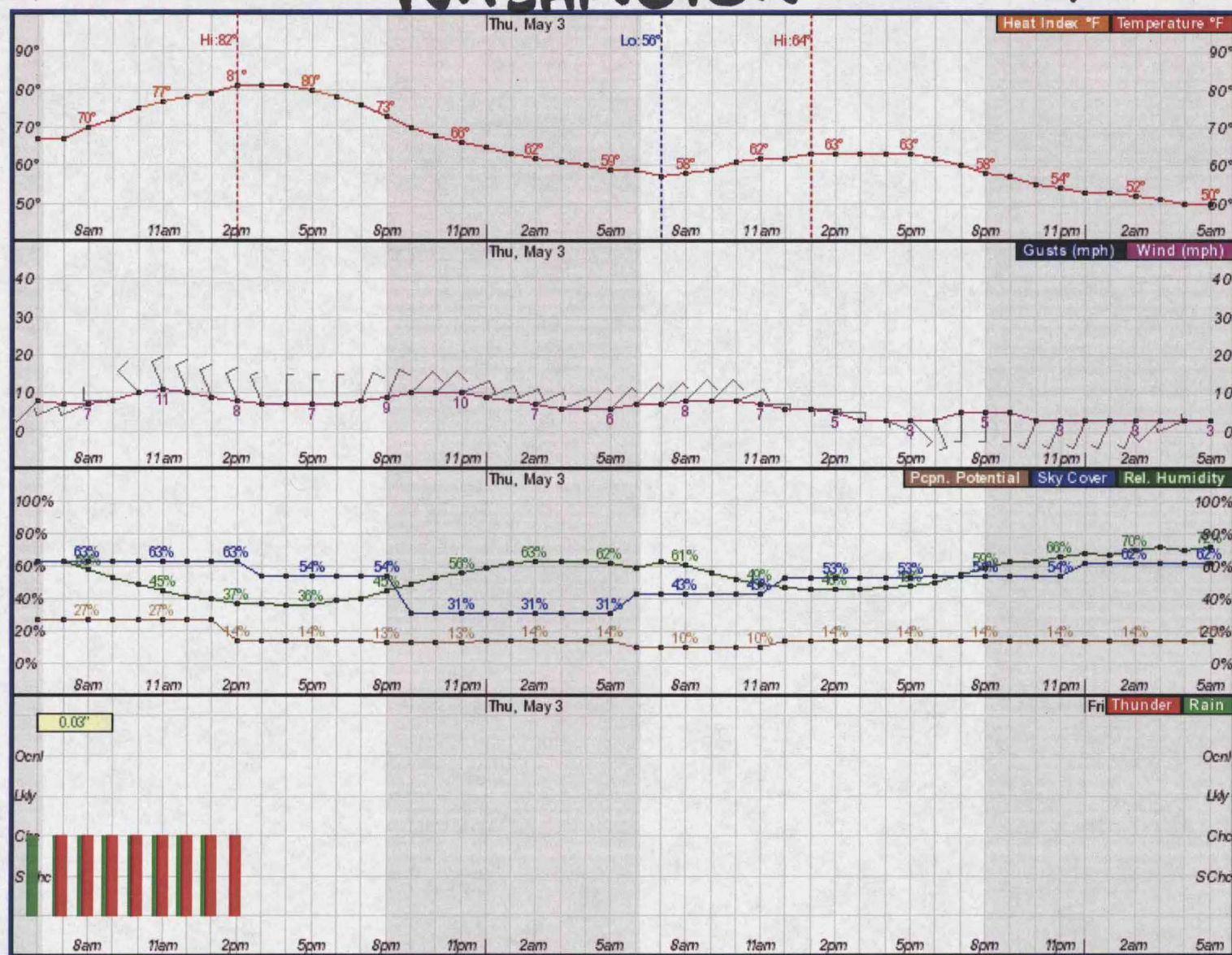
MACDILL AFB, FLORIDA

Tuesday: Mostly sunny. Winds southeast at 3 to 8 knots turning northwest after noon. Low 67°F. High 86°F.

WASHINGTON

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

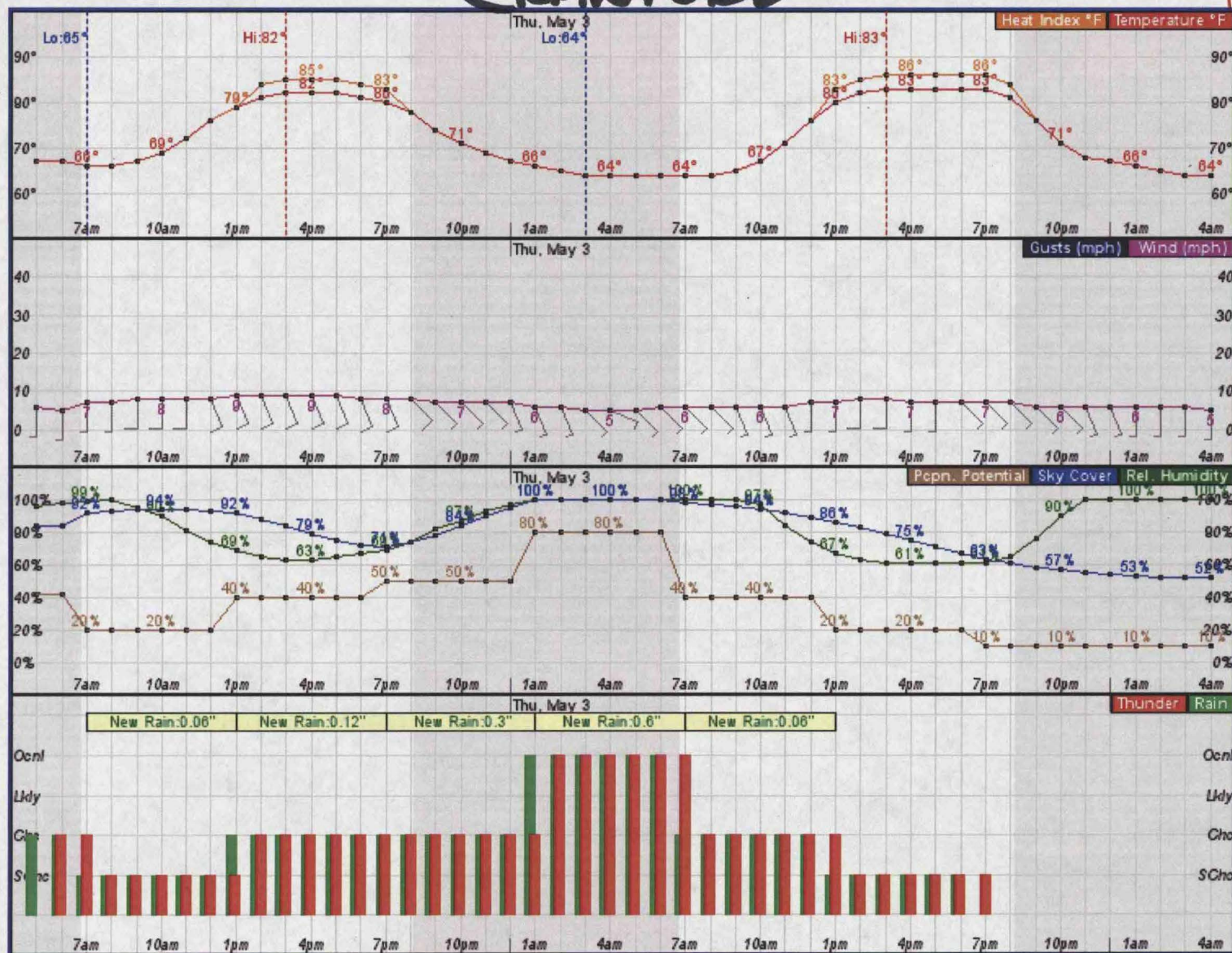
5/2/07



CRAWFORD

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

5/2/07



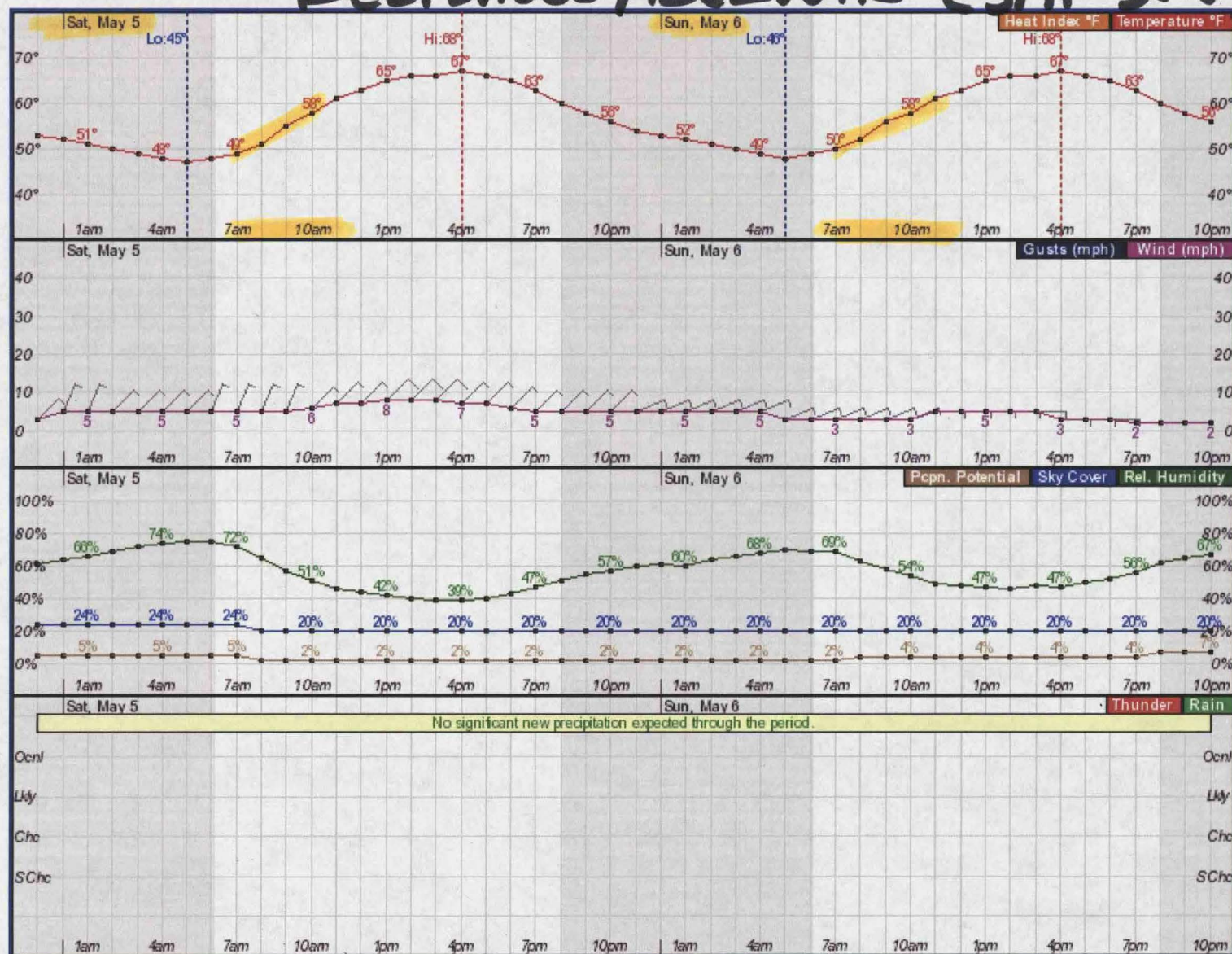
Wednesday, May 2 at 8am

Temperature: 66°F Heat Index: N/A Wind: S 7mph

Precipitation Potential: 20% Sky Cover: 93% Relative Humidity: 100%

Rain: Slight Chance (10%-20%) Thunder: Slight Chance (10%-20%)

BELTSVILLE/BELVOIR (SAT-SUN)



THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
5/2/07

Sunday, May 6 at 1am

Temperature: 52°F Heat Index: N/A Wind: ENE 5mph
 Precipitation Potential: 2% Sky Cover: 20% Relative Humidity: 60%
 Rain: <10% Thunder: <10%

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
5/2/07

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

Wednesday, 2 May 2007

WASHINGTON, DC

Wednesday: Mostly cloudy with isolated rain showers and afternoon thunderstorms becoming partly cloudy before sunset. Winds north at 8 to 12 knots. Low 62°F. High 81°F.

Thursday: Mostly sunny with patchy morning fog becoming mostly cloudy with isolated rain showers and thunderstorms before sunset. Winds north at 5 to 10 knots turning east in the late afternoon. Low 52°F. High 65°F.

Friday: Partly cloudy with patchy morning fog. Winds northeast at 5 to 10 knots. Low 49°F. High 67°F.

Saturday: Sunny. Winds east at 5 to 10 knots. Low 48°F. High 70°F.

Sunday: Mostly sunny. Winds southeast at 5 to 10 knots turning southwest overnight. Low 49°F. High 68°F.

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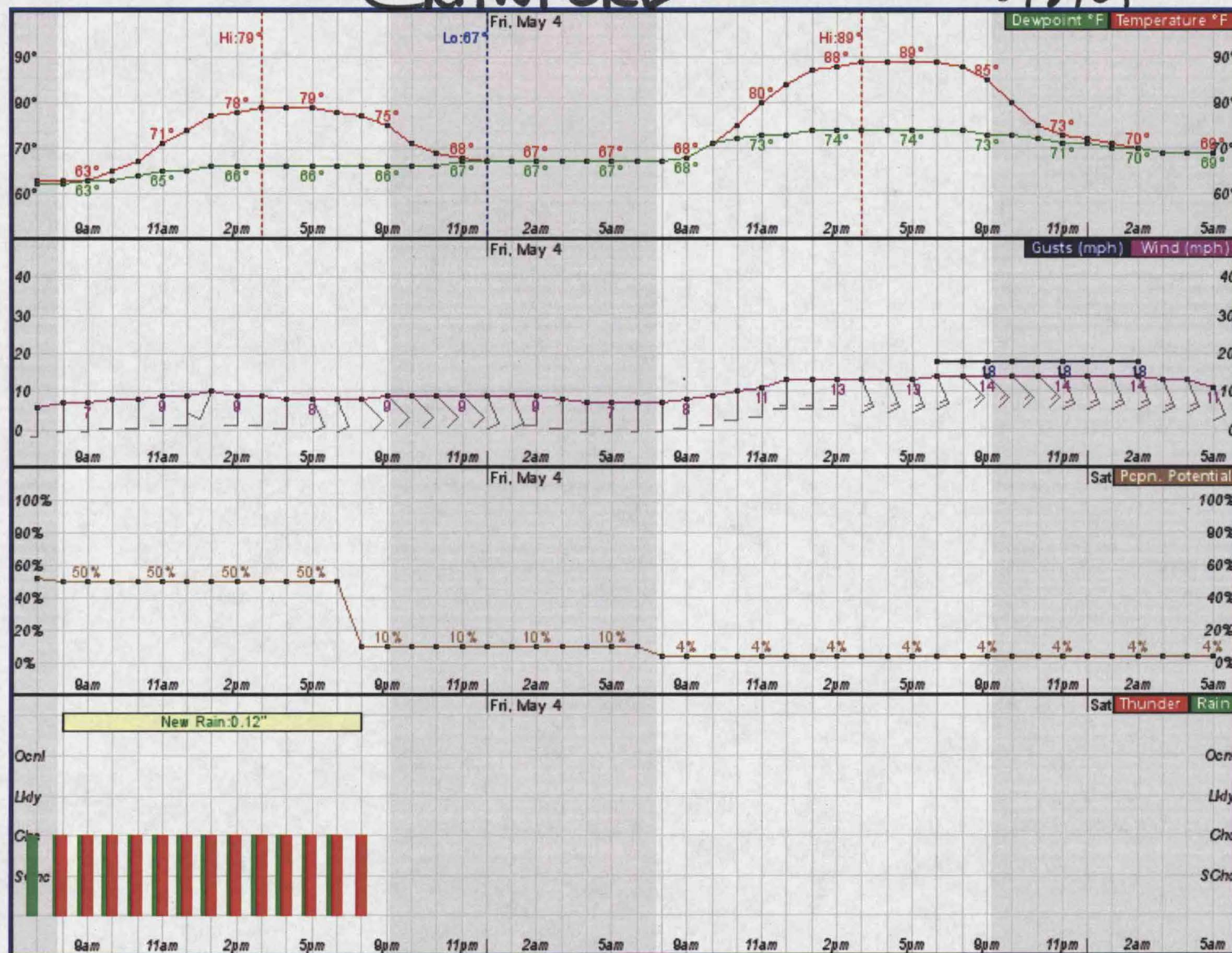
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CRAWFORD

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

5/3/07

**Thursday, May 3 at 9am**

Temperature: 65°F Dewpoint: 63°F Wind: S 8mph

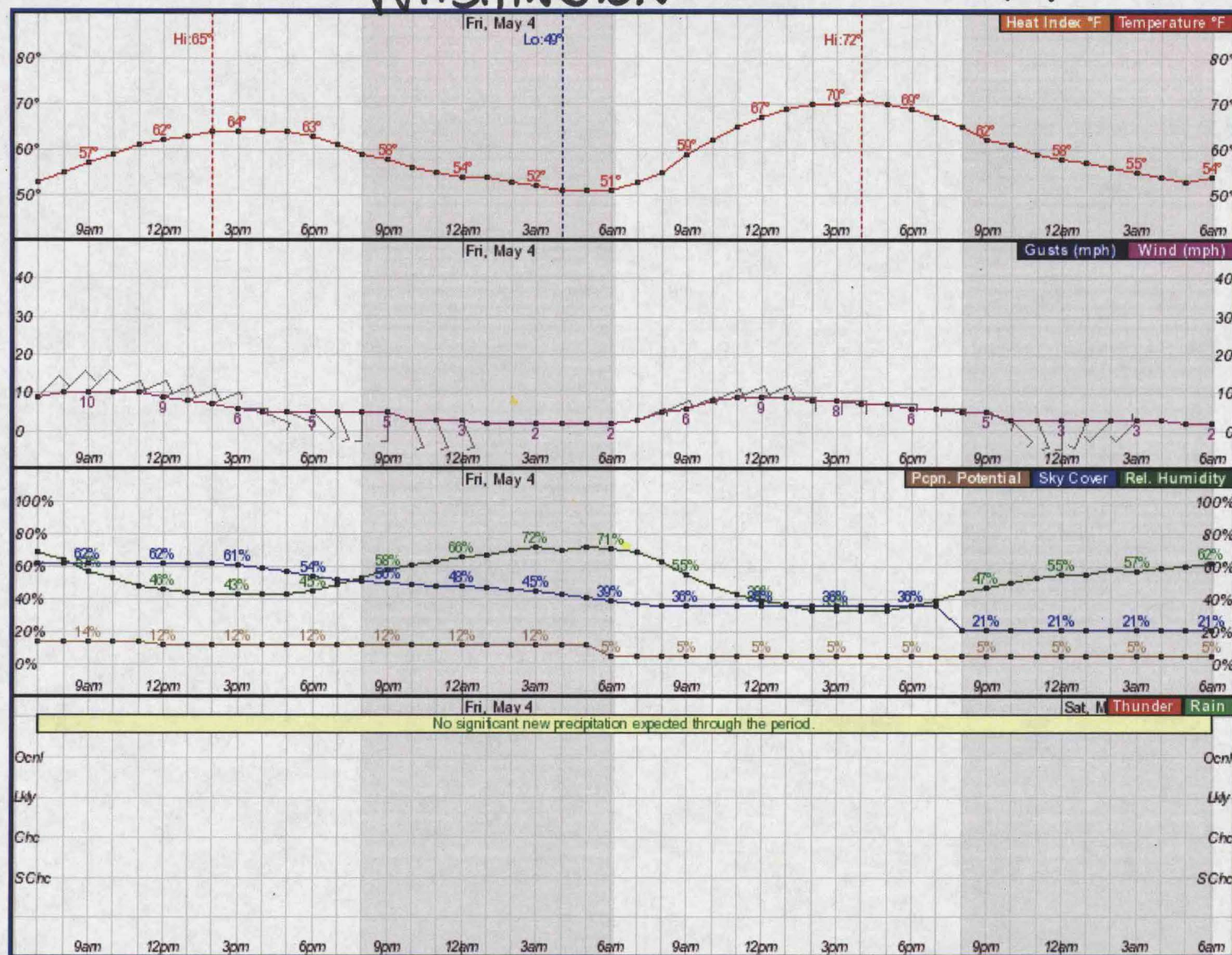
Precipitation Potential: 50%

Rain: Chance (30%-50%) Thunder: Chance (30%-50%)

WASHINGTON

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

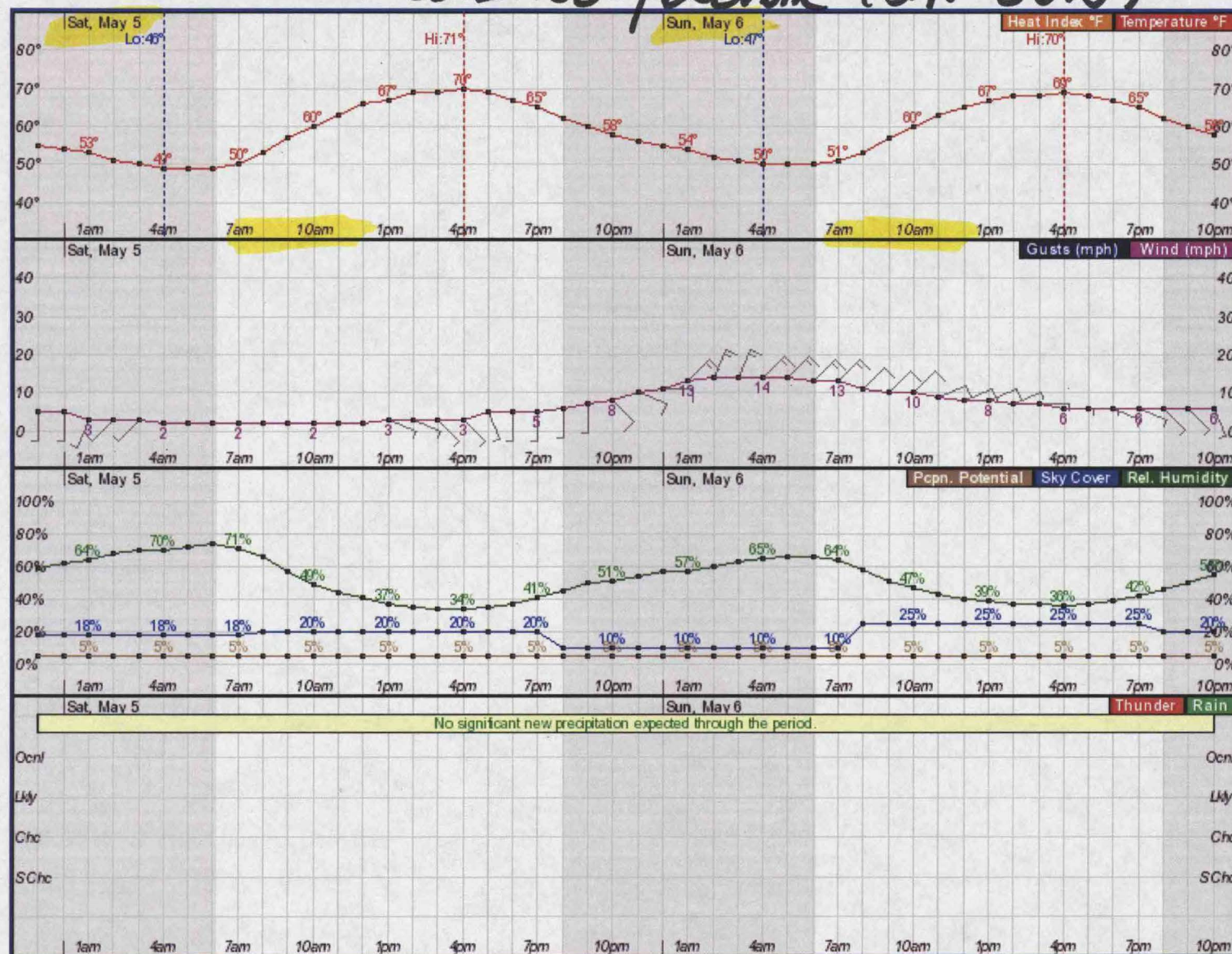
5/3/07


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

BELTSVILLE/BELVOIR (SAT-SUN)

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

5/3/07

**Saturday, May 5 at 7pm**

Temperature: 65°F Heat Index: N/A Wind: S 5mph
 Precipitation Potential: 5% Sky Cover: 20% Relative Humidity: 41%
 Rain: <10% Thunder: <10%

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

Thursday, 3 May 2007

WASHINGTON, DC

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

5/3/07

Thursday: Mostly cloudy becoming partly cloudy before noon. Winds northeast at 5 to 10 knots. Low 56°F. High 67°F.

Friday: Partly cloudy. Winds northeast at 4 to 8 knots. Low 49°F. High 68°F.

Saturday: Sunny. Winds northeast at 4 to 8 knots. Low 48°F. High 73°F.

Sunday: Sunny. Winds northeast at 5 to 10 knots turning south overnight. Low 49°F. High 68°F.

Monday: Sunny. Winds south at 8 to 12 knots turning west overnight. Low 49°F. High 75°F.

5/3/07

Slate

"FROM SASSY TO LADY SOUL"



today's papers

Let's Talk About Benchmarks

Timelines are out as discussions turn to benchmarks for the Iraqi government.

By Daniel Politi

Posted Thursday, May 3, 2007, at 6:11 AM ET

The *New York Times* leads with word that the Iraqi national oil law is likely to face some strong opposition in parliament as Sunni and Kurdish officials seem reluctant to support the legislation that would determine how oil revenue is distributed. This is bad news for the White House that was hoping the issue, which has always been touted as a key mark of progress in Iraq, would be resolved quickly. The *Washington Post* leads, and the *Wall Street Journal* tops its worldwide newsbox, with the post-veto negotiations between congressional leaders and President Bush. As expected, the House was not able to gather enough votes to override the veto, and it didn't take long for Democrats to say they will drop the timeline to get combat troops out of Iraq.

The *Los Angeles Times* leads with the Los Angeles police chief vowing to investigate the extraordinary events that took place at an immigration rights rally on Tuesday. At least 10 people, including several reporters covering the rally, were injured as police used batons and fired 240 "less-than-lethal" rounds at demonstrators. *USA Today* leads with a new study that says adults who have serious mental illness and are treated in public health systems have a lifespan that is approximately 25 years shorter than the average American. This marks an increase from the early '90s, when the difference was 10 to 15 years earlier than average. Part of the reason for this decreased lifespan has to do with characteristics of those who are mentally ill, but side effects of some medications, coupled with poor treatment are also to blame.

The *Post* reports that Iraq's oil minister said he expects the draft oil law would be passed by the end of the month but Kurdish legislators said they oppose some of the measures that are detailed in accompanying legislation and annexes. The main sticking point has to do with a provision that would give control of pretty much all the country's oil fields and related contracts to a state-run company that is yet to be established. "The whole problem is because this law was made in a hurry, and the Americans were rushing everyone to do it," a Kurdish legislator said. Some believe this could just be part of a bargaining tactic. Meanwhile, the *NYT* notes, the main bloc of Sunni legislators said the law shouldn't even be discussed at a time when the country's security situation is so dire.

Despite their concession on the timeline, Democrats made clear they would still try to put together a bill that would affect war policy. And, as the *LAT* details on Page One, they are likely to get help from an unlikely source – Republicans. Yesterday it became clear that the rift between the White House and some key Republican lawmakers is widening as more of them are advocating setting some form of binding benchmarks for the Iraqi government. The *WP* notes almost at the end of its story that Democratic leaders have concluded they will not be able to persuade the more anti-war lawmakers to go along with a bill sans timelines.

Meanwhile, in Iraq, a roadside bomb killed three American service members and the fourth of five brigades set to arrive as part of the "surge" arrived yesterday.

One of the main questions surrounding the police action in Los Angeles on Tuesday is why the "less-than-lethal" rounds were fired when the rally was largely peaceful and there were no arrests. The *LAT*

devotes a separate story inside to the accounts of reporters who were affected by the police actions. One radio reporter said she was hit in the back by a police officer as she was walking away. One journalist for Telemundo said police knocked down monitors, grabbed and threw a camera several feet, and proceeded to hit reporters with batons. For some reason, the other papers don't think the story deserves much play.

The *NYT* fronts, and everyone mentions, the Dow Jones board announcement that it would take no immediate action on Rupert Murdoch's bid because members of the Bancroft family representing 52 percent of the votes rejected the offer. This is not expected to deter Murdoch, and the *WSJ* wonders whether he will now pursue a "divide and conquer" strategy. The Bancroft family consists of a large group of people from several generations that have differing allegiances to Dow Jones so it might be possible to convince some to change their minds.

Both the *NYT* and *WSJ* take a look at how Murdoch runs his other newspapers for a hint at how he might lead Dow Jones. "Murdoch's hands-on style differs markedly from the traditions of the publisher he now wants to buy," the *WSJ* blankly notes. In a piece inside, the *NYT* points out several unusually large trades on Dow Jones options last week raise the question of whether they were acting on inside information.

The *WP* fronts, and everyone else goes inside with an announcement by the Justice Department that it is looking into whether a former senior adviser to Attorney General Alberto Gonzales took party affiliation into consideration when hiring career prosecutors. The actions by Monica Goodling could amount to a violation of federal laws, and raises more questions about partisan activity within the Justice Department. Also yesterday, the Senate Judiciary Committee issued a subpoena to Gonzales for e-mails relating to the firings of U.S. attorneys that involve Karl Rove. Also, new documents surfaced that show several of the fired attorneys said they received threatening phone calls from the chief of staff to the deputy attorney general. Michael Elston allegedly called several of the fired U.S. attorneys to pressure them to keep quiet about the circumstances surrounding their dismissals.

Over in the *NYT*'s op-ed page, Arnold Burns, a former Justice Department official puts forward a proposal to depoliticize the department. Burns suggests the attorney general no longer be a cabinet position and should simply be appointed for a fixed term, regardless of who is in power. In another piece, Frank Bowman, a law professor, says that even if Bush decides to stand by Gonzales, Congress could choose to impeach the attorney general.

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

Article URL: <http://www.slate.com/id/2165505/>

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Withdrawal Marker

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

5/3/07

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

CHARLES B. RANGEL
CHAIRMAN

May 1, 2007

Dear Mr President

Thank you for your invitation to accompany you to Harlem. You were very kind to me and of course your letter was a historic and well appreciated gesture. As an American, I really wish I could give you more votes.

Harlem thanks you for your visit.

Sincerely
Charlie

Withdrawal Marker

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FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
Handwritten Note	While You Were Out - To: POTUS - From: Ron Harris	1	05/03/2007	PRM;

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
5/4/07

Weinstein, Jared B.

From: Wehner, Peter H.
Sent: Thursday, May 03, 2007 4:09 PM
To: Weinstein, Jared B.; 17435416; Rove, Karl C.
Subject: follow up (I)

Apropos the discussion with Sir Alistair Horne this afternoon -- which covered both the genocide that followed our retreat in Vietnam and Henry Kissinger -- I thought the President might be interested in the note below, which I sent out in March. It is a profoundly moving letter that was cited in Henry Kissinger's memoir (Volume III).

From: Wehner, Peter H.
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2007 11:42 AM
Subject: "I have only committed this mistake of believing in you [the Americans]."

I was reading the third volume of Henry Kissinger's memoirs, Years of Renewal, and came across this powerful passage about the horror that befell Cambodia in the wake of Congress's decision to cut off funding to the governments of Cambodia and South Vietnam. I thought it apposite, given the legislative effort by Democrats to impose a rigid and artificial timeline for an American withdrawal from Iraq -- regardless of the conditions, regardless of how much progress General Petraeus makes, regardless of the consequences of retreat.

There are enormous human (as well as geopolitical) consequences when nations that fight for human rights and liberty grow weary and give way to barbaric and bloodthirsty regimes.

From Henry A. Kissinger's *Years of Renewal*

Incongruously, as the curtain fell on Cambodia, Washington returned to bureaucratic business as usual... Messages were sent to top-level Cambodians offering to evacuate them as well. To our astonishment and shame, the vast majority refused... Sirik Matak, former Prime Minister and the only leader of the 1970 coup still in Phnom Penh, expressed the attitude of the Khmer leaders in more elevated language. Responding to Dean's offer [John Gunther Dean, the U.S. Ambassador in Phnom Penh] to be evacuated, he sent a note, handwritten in elegant French, on April 12 while the evacuation was in progress:

Dear Excellency and Friend:

I thank you very sincerely for your letter and for your offer to transport me towards freedom. I cannot, alas, leave in such a cowardly fashion. As for you, and in particular for your great country, I never believed for a moment that you would have this sentiment of abandoning a people which has chosen liberty. You have refused us your protection, and we can do nothing about it.

You leave, and my wish is that you and your country will find happiness under this sky. But, mark it well, that if I shall die here on the spot and in my country that I love, it is no matter, because we all are born and must die. I have only committed this mistake of believing in you [the Americans].

Please accept, Excellency and dear friend, my faithful and friendly sentiments.

S/Sirik Matak

5/4/2007

On April 13th, the *New York Times* correspondent [Sydney Schanberg] reported the American departure under the headline, "Indochina Without Americans: For Most, a Better Life." The Khmer Rouge took Phnom Penh on April 17th... The 2 million citizens of Phnom Penh were ordered to evacuate the city for the countryside ravaged by war and incapable of supporting urban dwellers unused to fending for themselves. Between 1 and 2 million Khmer were murdered by the Khmer Rouge until Hanoi occupied the country at the end of 1978, after which a civil war raged for another decade. Sirik Matak was shot in the stomach and left without medical help. It took him three days to die.

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

5/4/07

Slate

"FROM SASSY TO LADY SOUL"

npr
HEARD

today's papers

The End of Silence

By Daniel Politi

Posted Friday, May 4, 2007, at 5:53 AM ET

The *New York Times* leads, and the *Wall Street Journal* tops its worldwide newsbox, with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice's meeting with Syria's foreign minister, Walid al-Moualem, during an international conference on Iraq. In the first high-level talks between the two countries in more than two years, Rice asked that Syria do more to prevent foreign fighters from entering Iraq. "I didn't lecture him, and he didn't lecture me," Rice said. The *Los Angeles Times* leads with, and no one else fronts, the House of Representatives voting to expand the federal hate crime law to people victimized for their gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability. The Senate is expected to approve the measure but the White House has threatened a veto saying it is "unnecessary and constitutionally questionable."

The *Washington Post* leads with yesterday's Republican presidential debate in California, where the 10 candidates repeatedly evoked the memory of Ronald Reagan and managed to spell out some differences in the issues of abortion, stem cells, immigration, and evolution. *USA Today* leads with word that the Department of Homeland Security is looking into outfitting cellphones with equipment that could detect "radiological isotopes, toxic chemicals, and biological agents." If it's successful, officials are confident it could revolutionize the way the country could detect and deal with a potential attack.

In recent weeks there has been much speculation about possible talks between Rice and Iran's foreign minister at the meeting in Egypt, but they never took place. Rice was apparently planning to approach her Iranian counterpart during dinner, but he left before she arrived. The *Post* notes that Iranian officials had "indirectly indicated" that this was not the appropriate time and place, but administration officials said they anticipate talks would take place sometime in the near future. *USAT* points out that photographers weren't allowed to take pictures of Rice and Moualem shaking hands. Many see this as a sign of a change in policy from an administration that until recently refused to talk to Syria and even criticized House Speaker Nancy Pelosi for traveling to Damascus.

Although the legislation to expand federal hate crime law has been discussed for almost 10 years, it has never reached the president. While opponents say the expansion would create a special class of victims and could stifle free speech, supporters insist the bill respects 1st amendment rights.

During the debate there was some criticism of Bush for his handling of the Iraq war. Former New York mayor Rudolph Giuliani was the only Republican candidate that didn't answer with an emphatic "yes" when they were asked whether it would be a good day for America if *Roe v. Wade* was overturned. Sen. John McCain and Giuliani were also the only ones that offered some kind of support for stem cell research. Three of the candidates signaled that they do not believe in evolution. The *LAT* points out that with Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger sitting in the audience, only two came out in favor of changing the constitution to allow those who weren't born in the country to run for president.

The debate itself was largely underwhelming, and the *NYT* notes that "at several points, it seemed as if the candidates were on a television game show." In a pointed critique of the debate, *NYT*'s Alessandra Stanley writes that the "the entire evening seemed intended to diminish the presidential aspirants rather than distinguish their positions."