

NEWS

Bush and Kerry gain last-minute votes

continued from page 1

ing ballot in Oregon, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, New Hampshire and Florida.

Green Party presidential candidate David Cobb spent most of this week on campaign in Wisconsin. Cobb said that he did not blame Green party voters for voting for Kerry, but that a vote for independent candidate Ralph Nader was a wasted vote, according to the Associated Press.

"If some people who believe in what I stand for say they are so fearful of four more years of George W. Bush that they have to vote for John Kerry, I'm okay with that," said Cobb. "Ralph (Nader)'s not building a movement, and he's not building a party."

Cobb's vice-presidential candidate, Pat LaMarche, is currently campaigning from homeless shelters in her "Left-Out Tour." LaMarche said that her efforts were aimed at expanding the number of Green Party voters rather than winning the presidency, according to the AP.

"Certainly my situation is one where I cannot win the election," said

LaMarche. "Getting votes is nowhere near as important as growing the Green Party."

Getting more votes from young people could be more difficult than LaMarche's goal. A Harvard University poll found that 19 percent of voters between 18 and 24 years of age changed their minds over a five-month period about their voting preferences. This voting block traditionally does not turn out in great numbers to vote. Out of the 48 million possible voters in 2000, only 18 million turned out to vote, according to the AP. This makes young voters an important variable in the coming November election. UNCA students had their own opinions on the effectiveness of appealing to young voters to turn out.

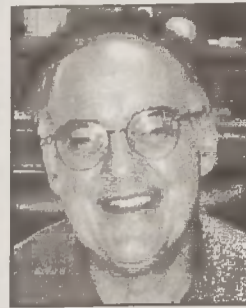
"I think that the candidates could increase young voter turnout by talking about college tuition, or about different ways to get people to go to college, maybe more scholarships," said Mary Catharine Mills, undeclared freshman. "I think ('Rock the Vote') is a great idea for us to see what Demo-

crats think, and what Republicans think. It should be very interesting." Other students speculated on why turnout might be low for young voters.

"I think (young voters) hear Bush's message since it is simplistic and repetitive, but they can't trust it, so it doesn't matter," said Jenna Walley, junior political science major. "If you read a lot, you know where Kerry stands on most issues, but he's had a hard time simplifying his platform for less interested voters."

Professors also joined the debate on why campaigns in this election are trying to encourage young constituents to come out and vote.

"One thing is very clear about this election. The president is very much a polarizing figure," said Dr. William Sabo, political science professor. "What that tends to do is evoke a deeper response in the parties, and what that does is bring people marginally interested in politics to take the next step, which is action. What the status is on this campus is sort of hard to tell."



BILL SABO
POLITICAL SCIENCE
PROFESSOR



MARY CATHARINE MILLS
UNDECLARED
FRESHMAN

Americans charged with prisoner abuse

by Rheannon Yokeley
Staff Reporter

Afghan judge Abdul Bakhtyari sentenced three Americans to serve jail time for the abuse and torture of Afghani citizens earlier this year, according to the Associated Press.

Officials caught Americans Jonathan "Jack" Idema, Brent Bennett and Edward Carabello inside a rented house in Kabul, Afghanistan July 5, according to the AP.

Government officials raided the house to find a private prison holding eight prisoners. The raid occurred after several reports of missing people led police to the house.

Idema and Bennett are both ex-servicemen for the United States, according to Reuters. Idema served as a Green Beret in the U.S. military. Both Idema and Bennett are from Fayetteville, N.C. The third man, Edward Carabello, is a documentary film-maker from New York. He reportedly filmed the abuse to use in a future documentary on counterterrorism.

After their capture, Idema claimed to have a special passport issued by an unnamed U.S. agency and a visa for Afghanistan resembling those given to Special Forces officers, according to the AP. Throughout the trial, Idema claimed to be operating under Afghan and U.S. approval. U.S. and Afghan governments deny any knowledge of the prison.

In the court room, several prisoners accused the men of burning them with scalding water, depriving them of food and sleep and beating them regularly, according to the AP.

"The news of another military prison abuse scandal is a terrible blow to America and our efforts in the Middle East," said Stephen Chalfa, Asheville resident. "In the war against terror, our enemy's only weapon is the propaganda they use to incite the radical individuals to commit terrorist acts. By abusing their prisoners of war, we give them a reason to justify their horrible actions."

"I don't know whether Idema and his crew were operating under Pentagon support. Having lived at Fort

Quran, even though he is a non-Muslim, according to the AP. Idema requested a former prisoner in the courtroom to proclaim him as a Muslim convert.

The three men claimed to be operating the private prison as a way to play a part in the war on terror, according to the AP. Detainees in the prison were mainly long-bearded men whom they suspected to be involved with the al Qaeda terrorist network.

Idema and his colleagues did not admit to any torture of the prisoners. Instead, they claimed to use interrogation techniques to force the men to admit to association with al Qaeda, according to Reuters.

The U.S. military stationed in Afghanistan admitted taking one prisoner from the private prison and keeping him

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Jennifer Attaway
senior political science major

in custody for two months after the three men turned him over, according to the AP.

During the trial, there were many instances of poor translation and frequent outbursts from Idema, according to Reuters. Proof of evidence presented by the three men consisted mostly of videotape recorded by Carabello.

Lawyer John Tiffany represented Idema and Carabello in the case. Bennett chose to represent

himself at the trial, according to the AP.

After over seven hours in session, the three-judge Afghani panel convicted Jonathan Idema and Brent Bennett of entering Afghanistan illegally, making illegal arrests, establishing a private jail and torturing the prisoners, according to Reuters.

Idema and Bennett each received a 10-year jail sentence.

Carabello's sentence is eight years in jail and four Afghani accomplices received a sentence to terms of one to five years each, according to the AP.

"I feel that we would all like to agree that our world is governed by a system that recognizes some basic

rights for all humans. Illegal detention and torture are contrary to these ideas. If this is what truly happened in Kabul, then the guilty men should be held accountable for their actions," said Jennifer Attaway, senior political science major.

Idema and Carabello plan to appeal the court's decision, according to the AP.

Bennett has not said whether or not he will appeal the decision.

"I think the people of our country who have done such terrible things to Afghans should be punished to the fullest extent of the law," said Jennifer Pace, UNCA graduate. "Their actions are morally and ethically wrong no matter what the circumstances."

The three men were sent to an Afghani prison to begin their sentence.

Russia

continued from page 1

Even students who consider themselves aware of current events say that this event took a backseat to coverage of the presidential election campaign that has been dominating the media.

"I feel pretty well-informed most of the time, but I hadn't heard of this," said William Byers, undeclared freshman.

Chechen rebels, possibly aided by al Qaeda in their quest for freedom from Russian rule, murdered over 200 people, including dozens of children.

The Chechen rebels, who took close to 1,500 people hostage within the walls of the school, began shooting hostages after an explosion inside the school set off a panic of gunfire from the armed civilians gathered outside the school, according to Ruslan Aushev in the *Novaya Gazeta*.

Aushev, a former president of the neighboring Russian region of Ingushetia, said he previously helped secure the release of 26 hostages the day before and called the civilian gunmen an "idiotic third force."

Aushev told the BBC he believes many of those civilians, who integrated themselves with the Russian military officials, were fathers of some of the hostages inside the school.

One terrorist accidentally triggered a blast inside the school that caused civilian gunmen to open fire, according to the surviving hostages, and the Russian government in no way authorized the response by the armed gunmen. In actuality, the government planned no raid for that day.

When the shooting began, officials on the scene tried frantically to convince the hostage takers that the security forces attempting to continue negotiations were not the ones firing on the school. The pleas were to no avail.

"The official (security) forces were not shooting, the captors were

not shooting and we were yelling at each other, 'Who's doing the shooting?'" said Aushev. "Then those in the school said, 'Right, that's it, it's time to let off the bombs.' They thought they were being stormed! It was only then the order to storm the building was given."

Survivor of the turmoil Alla Gadieyeva, 24, described the scene within the school as hellish, telling of the utter contempt of the terrorists toward the hostages, the breathtaking fear of those in captivity and the horrid conditions under which these hostages were detained.

"We were in complete fear," said Gadieyeva. "People were praying all the time and those that didn't know how to pray, we taught them."

On the first day of the conflict, attackers gave no food to the hostages, but they allotted a bit of water to the prisoners, according to Gadieyeva.

The second day, no food or water was given to the hostages, and when she asked her captors to give her mother some water, the terrorists laughed.

"My mother was terrified, and I thought she was having a heart attack. When I saw my mother go unconscious, so tired, so thirsty, I wanted it all to come to an end," said Gadieyeva.

Under such harsh conditions the children inside, already racked with fear, began to faint from sleep, food, and water deprivation, according to Gadieyeva.

That's when she says adults in the school urged the children to urinate in order for them to have something to drink.

"They're not human beings," Gadieyeva said of the Chechen terrorists. "What they did to us, I can't understand."

In all, casualties of the incursion totaled over 200 people, while the attacked injured 700 or so others, some very seriously.

Cuba

continued from page 1

growth of Cuba," said Oscar Sanchez, junior psychology major. "If you are able to hold someone back from economic growth, they will be submissive and in a bad situation. How can a country full of people who are highly educated and highly functional be so poor? Part of it is because of the embargo that does not allow Cubans to make business or afford investors to come to Cuba. It has so much to offer to the world: tourism, exportation and importation, and, yet, they are not able to do it."

Cuban Americans find it difficult to visit family or even send items through the mail to Cuba. The tightening of the embargo cut them off from a lot of the contact they once possessed.

"My perspective, as a teacher and as someone with close friends and colleagues in Cuba and from Cuba, is one of pretty high frustration," said Trautmann. "The whole thing is pretty sickening. A good friend of mine from Cuba who lives here worked to send money to his family, but he can't even send it from Asheville. He has to drive to Charlotte or Spartanburg to find a bank that will send it. I, personally, am not affected by the embargo except in political and emotional ways."

Throughout history, communist leaders became dictators after receiving power. Castro continued this trend, but it is hard for some to see him as completely bad or good.

"Just like any other political fig-

ure or rebel, he created this thing," said Sanchez. "He started the revolution with the hope of a better future for the Cuban citizens. But just like it's happened in communist history, he did not demonstrate his own values. I am not against Fidel Castro, but, at the same time, I question his methods. I don't see him as the devil portrayed in the propaganda of the West, but he's not a savior or angel either."

Despite how many decades ago the embargo began, Castro continues to hold his power. Not all problems in Cuba are due to the embargo, but he blames it all on the U.S.

"I think that the embargo does provide Fidel Castro with more opportunity for his stability rather than his instability," said Trautmann. "I also think he is tremendously astute. He turns it to his favor. Any tightening of the embargo offers Castro the opportunity to point the finger at the big enemy and say every single social, economic and political problem in Cuba is because of this U.S. embargo, and that's not true either."

Sanchez believes that it is more the embargo than Castro that holds back Cuba's advancement. He feels that, without the embargo, Cuba can grow with all the other countries, even with Castro's ruling.

"They always blame Castro for the oppression, but I believe it's more of the economic blockage that has stopped Cuba from growing," said Sanchez.

Weekly Forecast: Sept. 30 - Oct. 6



Today: partly cloudy, high 75, low 54.



Friday: partly cloudy, high 76, low 58, evening rain showers



Saturday: daytime rain showers, high 77, low 54



Sunday: Mostly Cloudy, high 70, low 47



Monday: clear, high 70



Tuesday: partly cloudy, high 68, low 48



Wednesday: clear, high 68