

Afghan Crash Kills 5 Troops

RACHEL McELWAIN
Staff Writer

A US Chinook helicopter crashed in the mountains of Afghanistan on Sunday, killing all five American crewmembers. According to CNN, the chopper was traveling within a convoy of aircraft, and the crash did not result from hostile attack. This marks the third Chinook crash of this year "contributing heavily" to the rising death toll of the US led operation. The chopper was heading back to base after dropping off troops, and an investigation is now being conducted to determine what caused the crash. Progress is being made however; CNN reports that millions of people were given the chance to vote in legislative elections, which is "the final step toward democracy." Israel hits Hamas with air strikes

Since the Gaza pullout occurred over a month ago, Israel launched its first retali-

ation effort against Hamas on Saturday. Striking three suspected weapons-storage facilities and a school known to recruit and train militants, Israel began its attack after 35 militant rockets were fired at Israeli towns. CNN notes, "security officials said that 'Operation First Rain' would include artillery fire, air strikes and other targeted attacks. The operation will grow in intensity, leading up to a ground operation unless the Palestinian security takes action...or Hamas ends the attacks itself." Israel set up a buffer zone in northern Gaza, evacuating residents from their homes, and closing the West Bank and Gaza to keep Palestinians from jobs in Israel.

Wolfowitz sets World Bank agenda

The new president of the World Bank, Paul Wolfowitz, gave his first speech to member countries on Saturday. According to CNN, Wolfowitz plans to "sharpen

the priorities of the bank." Over the next five years he plans to "promote anti-corruption measures, accountability, good governance, women's empowerment, education, health, increased infrastructure and agriculture." Hoping to reduce poverty and increase the potential for jobs, he lists Africa as a top priority. With an emphasis on results driven programs, Wolfowitz set forth an agenda that will provide a measure of support to impoverished countries. He hopes to continue sending World Bank staff members to countries with World Bank memberships, in an effort to undermine corruption and build capacity. One senior World Bank official said, "Mr. Wolfowitz is saying that to succeed in creating opportunity for the poorest people, we must prioritize our efforts and focus on producing measurable results on the ground where it counts."

Celebrating the Constitution

EMELIA DUNSTON
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, September 20th, Meredith College presented "Celebrating the Constitution" in Kresge Auditorium. The event was held to celebrate Constitution Day, an important day in US history, which was actually Saturday, September 17th. On that day, the writers of the constitution reached an agreement and signed the final draft of the Constitution.

"Celebrating the Constitution," presented by faculty members Clyde Frazier and Doug Spero, offered a viewing of Free Speech in a Digital Age, which featured a debate on censorship in libraries, of textbooks, and on the Internet. The video, produced by

PBS and set on a college campus, examined the reasons for both safeguarding and limiting speech, including protection of minors and community safety, ensuring a free marketplace of ideas, and guaranteeing democratic institutions. Featured guests on the video included First Amendment Attorney Floyd Abrams; Jack Valenti, Past President and CEO of the Motion Picture Association of America; and Stanford Law Professor Lawrence Lessig. In the video, the panel was presented with a hypothetical situation involving students who made derogatory statements about various minority groups and were asked how they would handle the situation if they

were the president of the university. Following the viewing, Professors Spero and Frazier lead an audience discussion on the video for a few minutes and allowed both students and faculty to ask questions. A small crowd showed up for the event, but those who were there seemed to enjoy it very much.

"I enjoyed the event because of the debate we were able to have after the movie. The debate was fun because we were able to discuss current issues and how they applied to the first amendment," said Freshman Shana Bynum.

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herald@meredith.edu

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