

Daily Nebraskan

A close election, yes. Because voters weren't inspired by either candidate? No. Columnist Jake Glazeski gives his take
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Quarterback Eric Crouch has been playing with a hurt shoulder
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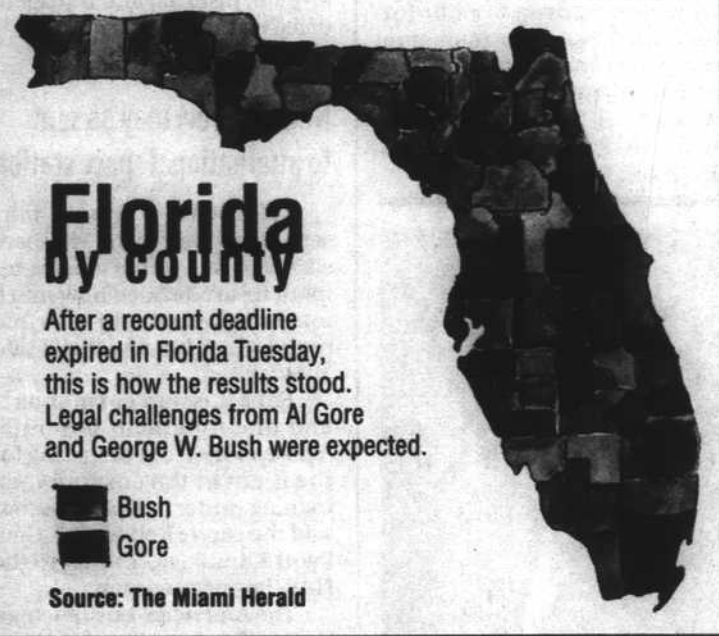
Through triumphs and tragedies: 100 years of UNL theater
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Recount is in, but the saga continues

Election still too close to call after 5 p.m. deadline

Some tiring of media's race coverage



Florida by county

After a recount deadline expired in Florida Tuesday, this is how the results stood. Legal challenges from Al Gore and George W. Bush were expected.

■ Bush
■ Gore

Source: The Miami Herald

Melanie Falk/DN

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
One week into America's election limbo, Florida counties officially reported their presidential votes after a state judge upheld Tuesday's deadline, even as thousands of disputed ballots were counted into the night at Al Gore's behest.

"When is it going to end?" asked Bush aide James A. Baker III.

There was no answer in sight. Baker floated a proposal to cease the ballot-by-ballot fight for the White House, but Democrats said he offered nothing new — and dismissed it outright. With lawyers and judges front and center in the presidential election, nerves began to fray and adjectives failed to serve.

"It's like the seventh day of being held hostage," stammered Jeb Bush, governor of Florida and the harried brother of the GOP presidential hopeful.

The latest margin for Bush was 286 votes, according to an unofficial AP tally.

Judge Terry Lewis ruled that counties could file new vote totals after the state's 5 p.m. Tuesday deadline to certify ballots. He gave Secretary of State Katherine Harris, a Bush supporter, authority to reject or approve them using "the proper exercise and discretion."

It was a setback for the vice president, who wanted a clear order lifting the Tuesday deadline, but his lawyers found solace in ruling language urging Harris to consider "all appropriate facts and circumstances."

Gore decided to hold off an appeal and press forward with recounts in four Democratic-leaning counties. He hopes Harris will approve the hand-counted ballots and is prepared to appeal if not.

Officials in Volusia County pledged an appeal, saying they needed more time to complete their hand recount.

"If the secretary of state arbitrarily refuses to accept the amended returns based on the recount and violates what this court has ruled ... which is to accept those results unless she has good reason not to, then we will be back in court," said a new member of Gore's massive legal team, David Boies.

A lawyer for Harris said if updated totals

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Al Gore legal-team member

are submitted after Tuesday's deadline, "it is then in her discretion to consider all the facts and circumstances and she will certainly do that." The spokeswoman, Donna Blanton, said the outcome of the statewide election should be known on Saturday, when all overseas absentee ballots have been counted.

But she left open the issue that could determine who becomes the nation's 43rd president — offering no definitive guidance on the fate of hand recounts in progress in scattered counties at Gore's request.

The race tumbled to the courts after a statewide machine recount trimmed Bush's lead from 1,784 votes to a few hundred, prompting Gore to push for painstaking manual recounts and Bush to fight them in courts of law and public opinion.

Officials in two counties tabulated ballots by hand Tuesday, with action in two other jurisdictions pending.

With the razor-thin lead in ballots counted so far, Baker said presidential candidate Bush would accept the results of manual recounts collected by close of business Tuesday and the overseas absentee ballots due in Friday. Both sides would also drop their dueling lawsuits, Baker said.

Bush and Gore were lying low. Gore called for calm on Monday but declined to field reporters' questions. Bush monitored the legal fight from his ranch in Texas for a third straight day and is expected to talk to journalists today.

BY JILL ZEMAN

It's hard to ignore this year's presidential election with updates' overtaking the front pages of newspapers and breaking news bulletins' interrupting television shows.

Many University of Nebraska-Lincoln students join the rest of the world in their new-found addiction to election news, but others are ready for things to get back to normal.

Junior biochemistry major Erick Kinyungu said although he supported Democrat Al Gore, he thought Gore should concede to Republican George W. Bush.

"I feel it's time for Gore to show his character," Kinyungu said. "It's not like he's admitting defeat."

Gore can still focus on the 2004 presidential race if he steps down, he said.

With the nation's focusing so heavily on who the next president will be, none of the candidates is speaking about issues anymore, Kinyungu said.

"It's all about the presidency now," he said. Jill Skradski, a junior art major, said because the vote recounts in Florida have consistently gone toward Bush, he should be the winner.

"We know who's going to win," she said. Tedious, manual recounts will bring more merit to whoever the winner is, she said.

Freshman art major Danielle Brady said she originally supported Green Party candidate Ralph Nader but has now swayed her support toward Bush.

"(Gore) lost, and that's all there is to it," she said.

The controversy has painted the candidates in a negative light, said freshman art major Joe Anderson.

Bush's lawsuits and Gore's calls for recounts make both look bad, he said.

But a manual recount may not be the most accurate way to check the votes, he said.

Please see REACTION on 3

International students ponder election chaos

BY GEORGE GREEN

America's recount-ridden and lawsuit-happy election has bewildered the international community, some UNL international students said.

A few countries are even laughing out loud at what they call American foolishness.

Tanya Lloyd, a math graduate student from the Bahamas, said the past week of election action has been cluttered with confusing information.

Lloyd said she didn't even know the president was chosen by an Electoral College before the controversy arose.

But Lloyd said watching the

political battle twist and turn has been interesting.

"I am excited to see the Democratic system work," she said.

In the Bahamas, people are definitely watching to see who will emerge from the political tangles with a victory, she said.

Zoe Ward, a junior marketing major from England, echoed Lloyd's feelings of confusion.

In her country, Ward said, the election system is much more concrete and easier to follow.

A system that sometimes doesn't produce conclusive

Please see FOREIGN on 3

Omaha Tribe language classes offered

BY VERONICA DAEHN

To make amends with American Indians and to reach out to native communities in the state, UNL's anthropology department is offering a class in the Omaha language.

Not only is this the first Omaha-language class taught at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, it's also the first class in the language taught at a land-grant university.

Robert Hitchcock, chairman of the anthropology department when the class was scheduled last year, said there had been concern the university wasn't doing enough for native people.

In the spring of 1998, American-Indian remains were found in 109 Bessey Hall. They were supposed to have been cleared from the room, but a year later, more remains were found.

Karl Reinhard, then associate professor of anthropology, was accused of illegally storing and studying the remains. Two separate investigations, carried out by the Nebraska State Patrol and university-hired attorney Robert Gritmit, exonerated Reinhard.

Reinhard has since moved to UNL's School of Natural Resource Sciences.

Hitchcock said the class offering was only partly to help make amends with American Indians over the bones issue.

It's important for the class to be taught in the anthropology department instead of in modern languages because anthropologists work a lot with native people, Hitchcock said.

The modern languages department offered a class in the Lakota Sioux language a couple of years ago. But when the professor retired, a replacement couldn't be found, and the program folded.

Since, there has been pressure to do more with in-state, native languages, Hitchcock said.

There is a heavy population of Lakota people in

Please see OMAHA on 7



More than 75 people line the Capitol steps at noon Tuesday to support the right for Palestinians to return to Palestine. The president of the UNL Muslim Student Association, Ahmad Ismail, and other supporters spoke during the rally, giving accounts of the violence in their homeland.

Nate Wagner/DN

Rally calls for increased involvement in Mideast

BY CHARLIE KAUFFMAN

To raise public awareness of the plight of Palestinians, more than 50 members of Lincoln's Arab community held a demonstration outside the Capitol on Tuesday.

"The main purpose is to show the public our side of it, to get them involved," said Ahmad Ismail, President of UNL's Muslim Student Association. "It's our duty to inform the people."

Ismail said the situation in the Middle East has been an open war for some time, and Palestinians are not equipped to fight against the military might of Israel.

His views were echoed in the signs the demonstrators carried, whose messages included: "Defenseless Palestinians Under Bombardment," "Zionism = Racism" and "Stop Killing our Children."

Ismail said the Israeli government has not

taken the necessary steps for peace, and it's up to the rest of the world to re-initiate the peace process.

"The best thing that can be done is some pressure from the international community," Ismail said. "The Palestinians are willing to defend their rights, but they cannot stand up for themselves."

Ismail said only after the public has been made aware of the situation can they lend their support to the cause.