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In America, fears on vote integrity

Disputed 2000 election casts shadow

By Adam Nagourney and Janet Elder

The nation is girding for Tuesday's presidential election worried about the integrity of the voting system, divided over the legitimacy of President George W. Bush's election four years ago and anxious about the future no matter who wins, according to the final New York Times/CBS News Poll of the 2004 campaign.

A majority of voters — and an overwhelming number of African-Americans — said they were concerned that their own votes would not be counted properly, and one-third said they expected to encounter problems when they go to vote, the poll found. Nearly 80 percent of black respondents said they expected that some states would make a deliberate effort to prevent them from voting.

The poll shows that Bush and his opponent, Senator John Kerry, remained locked in a statistical tie as they headed into the final hours of the race.

The anxiety appears to be a legacy of the disputed election of 2000: Half the respondents in this latest poll said they did not think Bush legitimately won the presidency in 2000, as against 45 percent who said they considered the outcome legitimate. And this campaign does not appear to have done much to burnish Americans' view of the way the country picks its president: Fifty-one percent described it as the most negative presidential campaign in their memory.

The poll found that Kerry's supporters are far more likely to expect trouble at the polls than Bush's supporters. The results suggest that whatever happens Tuesday, the bitterness that has gripped the nation this election year — indeed, for the four years since Bush won the presidency in disputed circumstances — seems unlikely to lift any time soon.

"I have a negative feeling about the Republicans because of the last election, and I think they've been working

U.S. parties trade accusations of voter irregularities. Page 4

ever since that election to make sure he gets elected again — they'll do almost anything to get him elected," Patricia Wilson, 66, an independent voter who lives in Philadelphia, said in a follow-up interview.

"I have that new disease PEAD — the pre-election anxiety disorder," she said.

"That fits me. I'm so upset I'm afraid I'm going to have a heart attack over it."

Jason Babcock, 23, a Republican who lives in Tampa, Florida, said of Bush: "My governor is his brother, so there is some concern. He wants his brother to remain president, so he'll go out of his way to make sure that happens."

"I don't know what he might or might not do, but he'll sure come up with something."

Fittingly enough, this final pre-election Times/CBS News Poll shows that the race is not much different at the end than it was in March, when Kerry emerged as his party's presumptive nominee.

The president has the support of 49 percent of respondents, as against 46 percent for Kerry. A series of other polls made public over the weekend suggested that the race was tied or that Bush had a slight lead.

The findings underscore what both sides view as the single most important factor in determining the outcome of the presidential race: which candidate does a better job turning out supporters.

At a time when pollsters watch for evidence of late campaign shifts and movement, Bush's job approval rating has risen to 49 percent, an improvement over his 44 percent rating two weeks ago. Incumbent presidents with job approval ratings under 50 percent have almost invariably been defeated.

The public's view of Bush's handling of foreign policy and the war in Iraq has also edged slightly upward. And there has been a slight increase in another measure that has been ominously low for Bush: the direction the country is heading.

CAMPAIGN, Continued on Page 6



Half the respondents in a recent poll said they did not think George W. Bush legitimately won the presidency in 2000.



The same poll said that John Kerry's supporters are more likely to expect voting trouble than George W. Bush's supporters.

100,000 protest new dam in China

Farmers angered over payments for land, reports say

From news reports

BEIJING: Up to 100,000 farmers clashed with the police in southwest China, protesting compensation payments for farmland requisitioned to make way for a hydroelectric plant, local residents and news media reports said Monday.

Unrest at the Pubugou hydroelectric project on the Dadu River in Sichuan Province began last Thursday and peaked Friday when locals marched on the Hanyuan County government offices carrying the corpse of a dead protester, Hong Kong's Sun Daily said.

Several people reportedly were killed and scores injured in the clashes, as some 10,000 People's Armed Police descended on the area to maintain order, the newspaper said.

It was the second episode of widespread civil unrest reported in the last two days.

In Henan, the authorities declared martial law in part of the province after clashes between minority Hui Muslims and ethnic Han Chinese, residents and officials said Monday.

The fighting there flared Friday and continued into the weekend after a Hui taxi driver's car hit and killed a 6-year-old Han girl, prompting recriminations between different ethnic groups in neighboring villages, residents said. A person briefed on the incident by the police said that 148 people had been killed, including 18 police officers sent to quell the violence.

The Chinese media have reported nothing about unrest in Henan. But a news blackout would not be unusual, as propaganda officials routinely suppress information about ethnic tensions.

Though most Chinese belong to the dominant Hans, the country has 55 other ethnic groups, including several Muslim minorities and others with ties to Tibet, Southeast Asia, Korea and Mongolia.

Hui Muslims, scattered in several provinces in the central and western parts of the country, are relatively well integrated into Chinese society and not generally considered a threat to stability.

Outbreaks of Hui unrest were not uncommon in the 1980s, and tensions continue to bubble to the surface after even minor provocations. Many Hui areas remain impoverished despite rapid economic growth in China's urban and coastal regions, and some members of minority groups say the Han-dominated government does little to steer prosperity to them.

CHINA, Continued on Page 6

These are the happy, peaceful days in Iraqi Kurdistan

By Thomas Fuller

ARBIL, Iraq: Truck drivers here say they are not worried about ambushes, shopkeepers report that security is not an issue, and local residents shrug off questions about violence and kidnappings.

"We have not closed our shutters at night in seven years," Abdul Wahid Hassan said inside his shop filled with brand-new refrigerators, televisions and air conditioners.

While cities like Baghdad and Falluja

are riven by insurgency, this dusty, sprawling city is part of the other Iraq, a region that stays out of headlines and where life resembles something closer to normalcy.

Populated mainly by Kurds, Iraq's northernmost region forms a thin peace crescent around the upper rim of the country, extending from Duhok to Arbil and Sulaimaniya, cities that are less familiar abroad precisely because they have largely avoided attacks.

One northern governor talks about promoting tourism, a seemingly out-

landish idea in a country gripped by violence but a measure of the security that Kurds feel they have achieved.

"People find it very difficult to believe that there is a safe area in Iraq," said Barzan Dezayee, the minister of municipalities in the regional Kurdish government, who is leading a campaign to raise funds for water and sewage projects.

"We need to convince people that not all of Iraq is Falluja, that Kurdistan is safe," Dezayee said.

Iraqi Kurdistan covers about 36,000

square kilometers, or almost 14,000 square miles, an area slightly smaller than Switzerland, and is home to about 3.5 million of Iraq's 25 million people.

Today it provides a glimmer of hope for the rest of Iraq: parents and their children linger at restaurants and shops long after darkness sets in, foreign aid workers walk unarmed through the streets, and the police and most soldiers wear soft hats.

While it might be tempting for President George W. Bush to cite Iraqi Kur-

distan as an example of what has gone right in Iraq, the relative peace here is not a result of the 2003 U.S. invasion.

Iraqi Kurdistan has been autonomous since the end of the first Gulf war in 1991 and thus has had a lot more time to stabilize and rebuild. Much of the area was protected by the no-flight zone patrolled by U.S. and British aircraft after that war and was largely free from the grip of Saddam Hussein during that period.

KURDISTAN, Continued on Page 6

UPDATE

Suicide bomber kills 3 in Tel Aviv market

TEL AVIV: A Palestinian blew himself up in a crowded outdoor market in Tel Aviv on Monday, killing three Israelis and wounding 32 in the first such attack since Yasser Arafat left the region for medical treatment last week.

The blast came at a time of growing

concern about instability during Arafat's absence. Militants appeared to be signaling that they are in charge, not Arafat's stand-ins, who have been trying to convey a sense of normalcy. Israel has said that while the Palestinian leader is away, it would show restraint. **Page 6**

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CURRENCIES | London

	Monday noon	Previous
€1 =	\$1.2755	\$1.2748
£1 =	\$1.8337	\$1.8337
¥1 =	¥106.40	¥106.00
₱1 =	₱1.2005	₱1.1978

Full currency rates | Page 14

OIL | London

	Monday noon
Brent crude	\$48.49 ↓ \$0.49

STOCK INDEXES

	Monday
Nikkei 225 close	10,734.71 ↓ 0.34%
FTSE 100 noon	4,661.70 ↑ 0.81%
Dow prev.	10,027.47 ↑ 0.23%

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Korean missionaries take on the hard cases

By Norimitsu Onishi

AMMAN, Jordan: A South Korean missionary here speaks of introducing Jesus in a "low voice and with wisdom" to Muslims, the most difficult group to convert. In Baghdad, South Koreans plan to open a seminary even after Iraqi churches have been bombed in two recent coordinated attacks. In Beijing, they defy the Chinese government to smuggle North Koreans to Seoul while turning them into Christians.

South Korea has rapidly become the world's second-largest source of Christian missionaries, only a couple of decades after it started deploying them. With more than 12,000 abroad, it is second only to the United States and ahead of Britain.

The South Koreans have joined their Western counterparts in more than 160 countries, from the Middle East to Africa, from Central to East Asia. Imbued with the fervor of the born-again, they have become known for aggressively going to the hardest-to-evangelize corners of the world, and sometimes being expelled from them. Their actions have come at odds with the foreign policy of South Korea's government, which is trying to rein them in

here and elsewhere.

It is the first time that large numbers of Christian missionaries have been deployed by a non-Western nation, one whose roots are Confucian and Buddhist, and whose population remains two-thirds non-Christian. Unlike Western missionaries, whose work dovetailed with the spread of colonialism, South Koreans come from a country with little history of sending people abroad until recently. They proselytize, not in their own language, but in the local one or English.

"There is a saying that when Koreans now arrive in a new place, they establish a church; the Chinese establish a restaurant; the Japanese, a factory," said a South Korean missionary in his 40s who has worked in Jordan for several years and, like many others, asked not to be named because of the dangers of proselytizing in Muslim countries.

In Iraq, eight South Korean missionaries were briefly kidnapped last April. In June, Kim Sun Il, who had planned to do missionary work, was taken hostage and beheaded. In July, nearly 460 North Korean defectors arrived in South Korea, thanks to a smuggling network set up by missionaries in China.

KOREANS, Continued on Page 6

