

Today: Mostly cloudy.
High 76. Low 63.
Friday: Thunderstorms.
High 76. Low 59.

Details, B8

As Cheney Seizes Spotlight, Many Republicans Wince

By DAN BALZ
Washington Post Staff Writer

As vice president, Richard B. Cheney famously spent much of the past eight years in undisclosed locations and offering private advice to President George W. Bush. But past was not prologue.

Today Cheney is the most visible — and controversial — critic of President Obama's national security policies and, to the alarm of many people in the Republican Party, the most forceful and uncompromising defender of the Bush administration's record. His running argument with the new administration has spawned a noisy side debate all its own: By leading the criticism, is Cheney doing more harm than good to the causes he has taken up and to the politi-

cal well-being of his party?

His defenders believe he has sparked a discussion of vital importance to the safety of the country, and they hold up Obama's reversal of a decision to release photos of detainee abuse as a sign that Cheney is having an effect. But there is a potential political price that his party may pay in having one of the highest officials in an administration repudiated in the last election continue to argue his case long after the voters have rendered their decision.

Cheney entered the arena this winter in a politically weak position after that election. His personal favorability ratings were and are still low. A Gallup poll in late March found that 30 percent of respondents gave him a favorable rat-

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Obama Shifts on Abuse Photos

Releasing Images of Detainee Mistreatment Would Endanger U.S. Troops, President Says

By SCOTT WILSON
Washington Post Staff Writer



Sens. Patrick Leahy, right, and Sheldon Whitehouse listen to testimony.

Harsh Treatments Draw Senate Scrutiny

Partisan attacks filled the first hearing into controversial detainee interrogation techniques approved by the Bush White House and the recent release of four memos legally defending the actions.

Story, A4

A month after making public once-classified Justice Department memos detailing the Bush administration's coercive methods of interrogation, President Obama yesterday chose secrecy over disclosure, saying he will seek to block the court-ordered release of photographs depicting the abuse of detainees held by U.S. authorities abroad.

Obama agreed less than three weeks ago not to oppose the photos' release, but he changed his mind after viewing some of the images and hearing warnings from his generals in Iraq and in Afghanistan that such a move would endanger U.S. troops deployed there.

"The publication of these photos would not add any additional benefit to our under-

standing of what was carried out in the past by a small number of individuals," Obama said yesterday. "In fact, the most direct consequence of releasing them, I believe, would be to further inflame anti-American opinion and to put our troops in danger."

Civil liberties and human rights advocates said the reversal would serve to maintain the Bush administration's legacy of secrecy. Kenneth Roth, executive director of Human Rights Watch, said Obama's shift was "deeply disappointing."

"Even given that the photos will undoubtedly generate outrage in the region, the best way to dampen that outrage is to hold those responsible accountable," Roth said.

The photos were assembled as part of

See PHOTOS, Page A4

Capitals Fall Flat, Penguins Advance With 6-2 Victory



By JOHN McDONNELL — THE WASHINGTON POST

A dejected Tomas Fleischmann skates off after Washington was bounced from the Stanley Cup playoffs with a 6-2 loss in Game 7 of its series with the Pittsburgh Penguins. Story, D1.

'Very Positive Season' but a Positively Lousy Ending

By BARRY SVRLUGA
Washington Post Staff Writer

Throughout a season that began last October, Verizon Center hummed consistently and exploded more than occasionally because the home team, the Washington Capitals, won so often and in such enthralling fashion. Last night, their red-clad fans had every reason to believe another victory was possible, even probable, in Washington's biggest hockey game in more than a decade. A victory would have extended the season at least another week, and have kept the arena on F Street jumping.

ONLINE DISCUSSION

Tom Boswell on Caps' Season

The columnist looks at the 8 seconds that ended a season on page D1 and discusses the team's future online at 11 a.m. today at washingtonpost.com/discussions.

Yet just after 8 p.m. last night, not even halfway through that very game, the most energetic place in town sat hushed, library-like. The Pittsburgh

Penguins, who had spent the past two weeks co-authoring a riveting series, simply throttled the Capitals, ending their season with a 6-2 decision in the seventh and deciding game of the National Hockey League's Eastern Conference semifinals.

Thus, there will not be another series. There will be no more how-did-he-do-those-moments-for-star-Alex-Ovechkin. And there will be no Stanley Cup, hockey's top prize, for the Capitals, who have never won a championship.

"It was definitely anticlimactic," Coach Bruce Boudreau said. "It certainly wasn't the way I would have envi-

sioned it, scripted it. Whether we won or lost, I would never have thought it would have ended up in a game like it was tonight."

Indeed, there was no way to predict such a lopsided outcome. Ovechkin, the Capitals' 23-year-old Russian star, and Sidney Crosby, his 21-year-old Penguins' counterpart from Nova Scotia, had matched the almost unmatchable pre-series hype, chatter that built them up as bitter rivals. The two teams had played six games, five of them decided by a single goal. Seventh and deciding games,

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U.S. Pushes Ahead With Derivatives Regulation

First in Broad Overhaul: Rules on 'Dark Markets' That Fueled Meltdown

By DAVID CHO
and ZACHARY A. GOLDFARB
Washington Post Staff Writers

The Obama administration yesterday unveiled a plan to regulate a vast market of exotic financial instruments known as derivatives, which fueled the global economic crisis and wounded some of the biggest names on Wall Street.

As the administration's first step to overhaul financial regulations, the proposal calls on Congress to establish rules that would restrict the banks, hedge funds and other investors that trade derivatives on what have been called "dark markets" for their lack of oversight.

The proposal would for the first time empower regulators to probe more deeply into the inner workings of these markets, and the firms that profit from them, and curb the risks traders can take.

But the proposal doesn't go as far as some analysts and officials want. The administration would allow a set of highly specialized derivatives to trade largely outside government view. Some analysts warn this exception might lead traders to create increasingly complex derivatives to avoid regulation.

In just a few years, trading in derivatives — which are essentially contracts between two investors betting on whether a stock, bond or other security will go up or down in value — has mushroomed into the world's largest market, estimated to be in the tens of trillions of dollars. It has allowed unregulated traders around the world to influence and bet on a vast array of sectors, from how much companies pay

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■ More homeowners get aid, but demand for foreclosure protection swamps lenders. | A12

INSIDE

THE NATION

NTSB Questions Colgan Air Officials

In an inquiry into a deadly crash, the executives are pressed about pilots' low pay and long commutes. A2

Craigslist Vows to Improve Monitoring of 'Adult Services' Ads

The move comes amid criticism that the popular Web site has facilitated prostitution across the country. A3

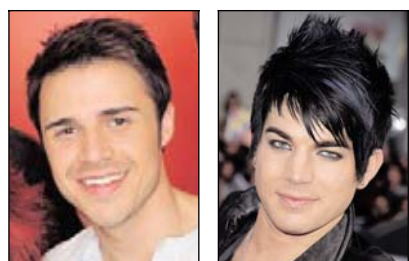
HOME

Backyard Chickens

They're not legal in many areas, but that hasn't stopped some homeowners from raising them anyway. H1

Luxe Looks for Less: Some ideas for redecorating on a budget.

H5



STYLE

It's Kris Allen vs. Adam Lambert

"American Idol" voters reject Danny Gokey, setting up next week's season finale. C1

SPORTS

Hitting Streak Ends at 30 Games

Nats top Giants, but Zimmerman's streak comes to an end. D1

An Iraqi Cleric's Swift Rise and Swift Fall

Arrest of Local Strongman Underlines Free-for-All of Loyalties as U.S. Departs

By ANTHONY SHADID
Washington Post Foreign Service

THULUYAH, Iraq — In October 2006, as the heat of an Iraqi summer was finally breaking, the blue eyes of Muthanna Youssef Hammoud glanced at four cars pulled to the side of the road in a tumultuous swath of northern Iraq then beholden to insurgents. "We didn't pay much attention," the wealthy businessman recalled.

Minutes later, a beige Toyota barreled in front of his blue BMW. A white Toyota blocked the street behind them. Alongside, the other two cars disgorged eight masked gunmen clad in black who fired a staccato burst in the air, then stuffed Hammoud and a friend into the trunks of the cars for a



Nadhim Khalil, a former insurgent who became a U.S. ally, dominated the town of Thuluyah until his arrest early this month in a kidnapping.

four-hour drive.

Their captors called the mastermind of the kidnapping "the sheik," orchestrating an odyssey that imprisoned the men in a half-dozen hideouts, some no more than a crumbling mud pen two feet high. Three weeks later, the sheik's men freed them af-

ter they paid \$180,000 in ransom, collected in part by selling a gas station in Thuluyah.

The incident was so anonymous as to be forgotten. Hammoud and his friend survived, a feat in itself in the nadir of Iraq's carnage, where civilians in this town of vineyards and orchards along a bend in the Tigris River were sometimes beheaded with a shovel. But the voice of the mastermind lingered with Hammoud, and his recollection led Iraqi and U.S. soldiers this month to arrest Nadhim Khalil, a former insurgent leader known to his followers as Mullah Nadhim, who had become an American ally here.

Khalil's rivals have hailed his detention.

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