

# NEWS

## National and world news in brief

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### Obama's passport illegally accessed

According to State Department spokesman Sean McCormack, presidential candidate Barack Obama's passport has been accessed three times by contract workers lacking the authorization to do so.

The State Department hired contractors to build and maintain their systems, and did not have the authorization required to view Obama's passport. Two of the contractors have since been fired, and the third disciplined. According to McCormack, none of the contractors had management positions and were not linked with one another.

The Obama campaign has called for a complete investigation into the security breaches. "This is an outrageous breach of security and privacy, even



Source: CNN, BBC News

from an administration that has shown little regard for either over the last eight years," said Bill Burton, a spokesman for the Obama campaign. "Our government's duty is to protect the private information of the American people, not use it for political purposes."

McCormack stated the breaches were just a case of curiosity. Despite the breaches occurring on Jan. 9, Feb. 21 and March 14, the state department was not aware of them until Thursday. The White House was notified of the breach shortly after it was discovered, but declined to comment.

A similar breach occurred in 1992 during former president Bill Clinton's campaign. After the breach was made public, the FBI launched an investigation and learned someone had torn out pages of his passport.

### Chinese fire on Tibetan protestors

On Thursday, the Chinese government admitted opening fire on Tibetan protestors for the first time since unrest in Tibet began last week. Until this point, the Chinese denied using lethal force on the protestors but as of press time, the Chinese still government denied responsibility for any deaths.

According to the Xinhua news agency, police opened fire in "self-defense" on protestors on Sunday in Aba county, the location Tibetan activists said eight people were killed during the protesting near the Kirti monastery.

Earlier this week, a Tibetan activist group called The Tibetan Center for Human Rights and Democracy released photos of dead bodies with bullet holes, claiming they were casualties of police opening fire on protestors. The group claimed the bodies were deceased monks that joined protestors fighting for independence in Tibet and the return of the Dalai Lama.

The Chinese government has said only 13 people have died during the protests, all a result of "rioting"

in Lhasa. The Tibetan government paints a different picture, claiming 99 deaths so far, some a result of security forces opening fire on crowds.

On Thursday, the Chinese government also admitted that the protests had spread into areas in southwestern China which has a large Tibetan population. Before, the government claimed the protests were contained within the Tibetan Autonomous Region.

Large numbers of Chinese troops have been deployed in Tibet, with reports of over 400 Chinese military transports entering the country in a single day.

As of Thursday, all foreign press has been forced out of Lhasa. The last reporter to leave was an anonymous German reporter who was notified by authorities that he was the last foreign journalist in the country.

Despite the Chinese government accusing the Dalai Lama of orchestrating the protests, the exiled Tibetan leader is willing to meet with the Chinese present Hu Jintao.

### Five years of war in Iraq revisited

Continued from page 1.

the willing" in 2003 is now shouldered almost solely by the United States.

In the summer of 2007, the United States sent a surge of American troops to try and create a necessary space for political reconciliation. Violence has declined significantly since, but questions remain if the Iraqi government has made sufficient progress to go along. General Petraeus, commander of U.S. forces in Iraq, has recently stalled on drawing down troops.

And so, five years later, on March 19, 2008, President Bush gave another speech on the war, extending the same promises of victory made at the war's commencement, as yet unfulfilled. "I promised the American people that in the struggle ahead we will accept no outcome, but victory. Today, standing before men and women who have helped liberate a nation, I reaffirm the commitment. The battle in Iraq is noble, it is necessary, and it is just. And with your courage, the battle in Iraq will end in victory."

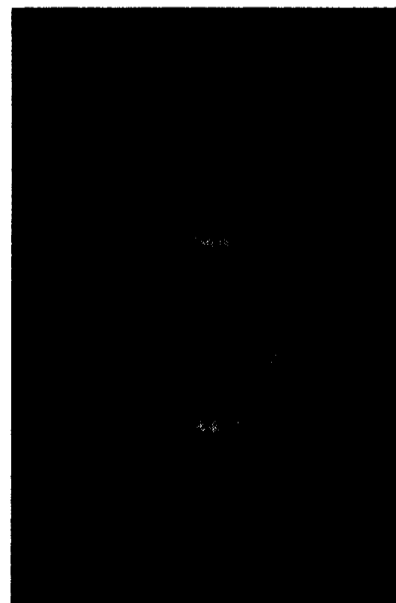
## Question of the Week:

### Five years after the United States invaded Iraq, how do you feel about the war?



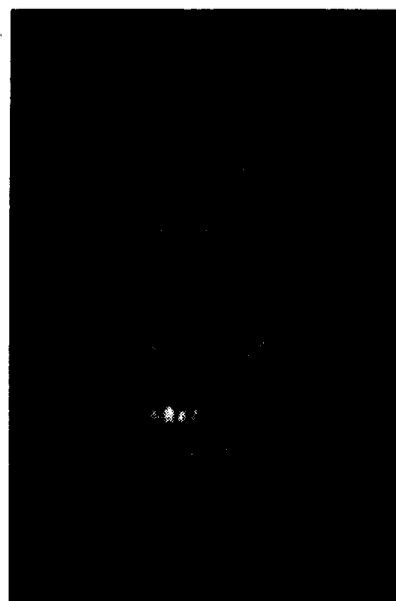
**Matt Kierzkowski**  
Freshman, Electrical Engineering

"I don't think we should be over there. It doesn't make sense to me. First we go for [Osama] bin Laden, then the weapons of mass destruction, then [Saddam] Hussein. It's a big rat race. We're just trying to find reason after reason to be over there."



**Alyssa Baran**  
Sophomore, Electrical Engineering

"I don't think we should have went in the first place. So now that we're there we've got to stay. We don't want to pull out and give ourselves the Vietnam image and show weakness as an entire nation. I know people who have been over there and they tell me how drastic the improvements have actually been."



**Mike Sceiford**  
Sophomore, Finance

"I feel that we should pull out of Iraq, but not too fast. We need to definitely head in that direction though. Reasonably, it was helpful at first. [I think] a lot of people are concerned about that spending and deaths, but in comparison [with other wars], it's not that high."

Compiled by:  
Evan Koser and  
Jeremy Korwek

This ad is saying nothing. It would seem it has given up. Like it's thinking, "What good can one ad really do?" But if you've read this far, you know that one voice can be heard.

To learn more about voting in Pennsylvania as a college student, visit [VOTESPA.com](http://VOTESPA.com) and under *Quick Links* select the *College Voting Guide*. Register. Vote. It's easier than ever.

You must register to vote by **March 24th** to participate in Pennsylvania's primary election on April 22nd. State law only permits Democrats and Republicans to vote for their parties' nominees.

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Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of State

## Quotes on Civility

"It is less important to redistribute wealth than it is to redistribute opportunity."

— Arthur Vandenberg, American journalist and senator (1884-1951)

Janet Neff Sample Center  
for Manners & Civility

