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BOSTON WINS WORLD SERIES

Red Sox lift Curse with sweep

Champs: With the victory over St. Louis, the franchise ends its 86-year drought and misery that dates to its sale of Babe Ruth to the Yankees.

By **STEPHEN KIEHL**
SUN STAFF

BOSTON — The Red Sox finally did it.

After 86 years of heartbreak and misery, the star-crossed team that seemed haunted by its own history has slain its demons, buried its past and, at long last, won the World Series. The storied Boston Red Sox completed a sweep of the St. Louis Cardinals last night, 3-0, to capture the team's first Series since 1918.

Somewhere, Babe Ruth is rolling over.

But there is joy in New England. Lots of it. After coming so close so many times and always finding a way to lose, a delirious Red Sox Nation now finds itself planning a victory parade. After always waiting until next year, next year is here. This will be a winter for celebrating, not second-guessing.

Even before the final out was recorded, a large crowd gathered outside Fenway Park and began chanting, "Sweep! Sweep!" as several hundred of officers in riot gear, carrying clubs and pellet guns, kept a nervous watch.

One fan was holding a sign that read, "Curses are made to be broken." Fans shot fireworks into the sky and waved brooms over their heads.

A police officer on a bullhorn told the crowd: "This is the Boston Police. You must move out of the street. If you do not, we will move you."

The police used pepper spray gas to move the crowd away from Fenway. Glass bottles and full beer cans flew at officers.

Police at Kenmore Square changed their tactics from last week, when the American League Championship Series celebration got out of hand. With about twice as many officers deployed, police broke up the crowd into smaller groups, preventing [See Series, 6A]

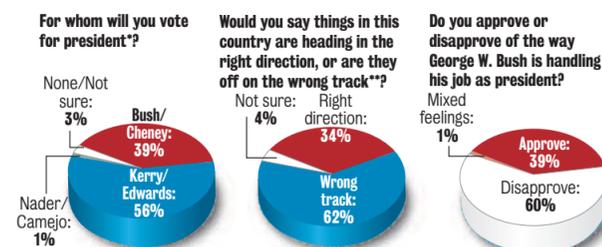


SUE OGROCKI: ASSOCIATED PRESS
Red Sox players Doug Mientkiewicz (left), Keith Foulke and Jason Varitek celebrate after defeating the Cardinals, 3-0, to win Game 4 of the World Series.

2004 Election 5 days until Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 2

Maryland voters strongly behind Kerry, poll shows

THE SUN POLL: PRESIDENTIAL RACE



* Numbers do not add up to 100 due to rounding. ** Poll of all adults
Results from a poll conducted by The Sun by Ipsos-Public Affairs of 602 registered voters in Maryland on Monday and Tuesday. The margin of error is 4 percentage points.

SUN STAFF

62 percent of state residents say nation is on wrong track

Democrat leads Bush by 17 points

By **DAVID NITKIN**
AND **JOANNA DAEMMRICH**
SUN STAFF

Maryland voters overwhelmingly feel that the nation is veering in the wrong direction and support Sen. John Kerry in his race against President Bush by 56 percent to 39 percent, according to a poll conducted for *The Sun* and released today.

Disaffected by the war in Iraq and troubled by terrorism, the economy and the president's leadership, 62 percent of Marylanders surveyed this week said the country was on the wrong track, compared with 34 percent who said things were on the right path.

Six in 10 state residents said they disapprove of the job Bush is doing in the White House, a sentiment that translates directly into support for Kerry, said Thomas Riehle, president of Ipsos-Public Affairs of Washington, which conducted the survey.

"The election is more about whether you like and want to reelect Bush than what your opinion of Kerry is," Riehle said.

Kerry's advantage in Maryland ranks among the largest in the nation, and reaffirms the state's status as the bluest of the blue states, or those expected to support the Democratic senator from Massachusetts.

Registered Democrats outnumber Republicans nearly 2-to-1 in Maryland, where Al Gore won by 17 percentage points in 2000.

"Clearly, it's in keeping with the Democratic bias in the state," said James G. Gimpel, a University of Maryland political scientist. "Democrats are feeling [See Poll, 11A]

O'MALLEY'S BALTIMORE

The mayor's message: Accentuate the positive

By **LAURA VOZZELLA**
SUN STAFF

Mayor Martin O'Malley is big on symbols. Plastering the city with black-and-white posters to convince Baltimore to believe in itself. Running the 1814 flag up city poles to highlight local history. Putting a new coat of paint on troubled schools to give students a lift.

And then there's the photo of the partial glass of water that O'Malley's senior staff has been known to send out in response to newspaper articles it considers negative.

"Bet I can guess what you think this is," reads the accompanying message.

To the administration, the glass is half full. The mayor's mission has been to convince others — not just the news media, but ordinary Baltimoreans — that it is not half empty.

As O'Malley- [See O'Malley, 8A]

CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Bush, Kerry trade fire over cache, troops

By **DAVID L. GREENE** AND **JULIE HIRSCHFELD DAVIS**
SUN NATIONAL STAFF

PONTIAC, Mich. — President Bush swung back at Sen. John Kerry yesterday for turning a missing cache of powerful explosives in Iraq into a campaign issue, saying the Democrat is making "wild charges" and demonstrating he is "not a person you want as your commander in chief."

Kerry, in turn, intensified his attacks on Bush in what he called a "growing scandal," accusing the president of arrogantly pursuing flawed policies in Iraq, hiding results from the public and evading blame when problems arise.

"What we're seeing is a White House that is dodging and bobbing and weaving, in their usual efforts to avoid responsibility," Kerry said at a rally in Sioux City, Iowa, "just as they've done every step of the way in our involvement in Iraq."

Until yesterday, Bush had refused to answer questions about 377 tons of explosives missing from a sprawling Iraqi military [See Campaign, 9A]

Explosives: Material unlikely moved once U.S. arrived. Page 12A

Fossils of tiny human dug up in Indonesia

Bones: A hobbit-like cousin of modern man lived on an island maybe as recently as 13,000 years ago.

By **DENNIS O'BRIEN**
SUN STAFF

Researchers probing a cool cave on a tropical Indonesian island have found a bizarre branch of our family tree — an extinct hobbit-size species of human that experts are calling one of the most important discoveries in 50 years.

The people on the island of Flores were a little over 3 feet tall, weighed about 55 pounds and had brains a third the size of ours — smaller than the brains of chimpanzees. But they used fire and stone tools and hunted collectively as recently as 13,000 years ago — a period when humans elsewhere were beginning to farm.

Researchers from the Indonesian Research Centre for Archaeology and a group of Australian universities discovered *Homo floresiensis* while looking for clues about how ancient humans first reached Australia. Instead they found evidence of the smallest people ever known.

"We came to refer to them as the hobbits because keep in mind they're only half as big as us," said [See Fossils, 6A]



NATURE
The skull of a modern human (right) dwarfs that of an adult female of the newly discovered *Homo floresiensis*.

Arafat's condition reportedly deteriorates

Palestinian, 75, said to collapse; battle over succession looms

By **PETER HERMANN**
SUN FOREIGN STAFF

JERUSALEM — Yasser Arafat's health sharply deteriorated last night, and doctors rushed to the battered West Bank compound where the aging Palestinian leader has been living under Israeli army siege for 2½ years.

Details of the 75-year-old leader's condition remained murky this morning amid a flurry of contradictory information from various Palestinian officials.

Some said Arafat had collapsed and fallen unconscious for several minutes; others vehemently denied the reports.

Feeling ill, Arafat summoned his current and past prime ministers, Ahmed Querria and Mahmoud Abbas, to his bedside in Ramallah.

He vomited a short time later while eating soup, officials said, and was then taken to a medical clinic inside his compound, where his condition continued to deteriorate.

One official said Arafat authorized a three-person team to run the Palestinian Authority during his illness. Another said it wasn't true.

Officials said more doctors — including his private physician — were to arrive today from Europe, Jordan and Egypt, and they are considering moving Arafat to a nearby hospital.

Israeli officials said they had granted permission for Arafat's wife, Suha, to visit him from Paris.

"He's sick and he's gotten somewhat worse," said Edward Abington, the former U.S. consul general in Jerusalem, who lobbies on behalf of the Palestinian Authority in Washington. He spoke to Arafat by telephone Tuesday and said he sounded weak.

The chaotic [See Arafat, 15A]

I N S I D E

Bay Bridge repairs wear on commuters

The Maryland Transportation Authority's expanded lane closing schedule to make concrete repairs to the Bay Bridge has turned a once-peaceful drive for commuters into a headache. [Page 1B]

Weather

Partly cloudy. High, 60; low, 42. Yesterday's downtown high, 64; low, 53. [Page 10B]

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Classified	7B	Horoscope	4c
Comics	6c	Lottery	2b
Crosswords	6-7c	Movies	LIVE!
Deaths	5B	Television	4c

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