

TECHNICIAN

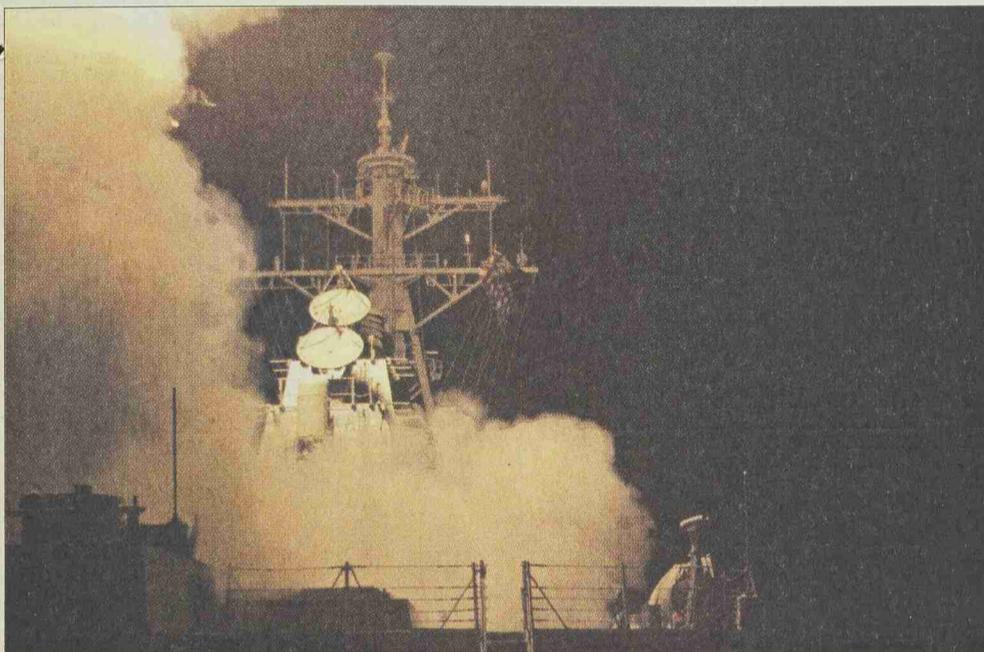
THURSDAY
MARCH
20
2003

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Raleigh, North Carolina

U.S. STRIKES IRAQ

PRECISION AIR STRIKES DIRECTLY TARGETING SADDAM HUSSEIN BEGAN LATE WEDNESDAY NIGHT



Three USS Donald Cook-based Tomahawk Land Attack Missiles (TLAM) sprint through the Thursday morning sky towards Iraq. The ship's TLAMs were among the first to be fired in the liberation of Iraq. The Cook is an Arleigh Burke class destroyer operating in the Red Sea in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. DoD photo by Chief Petty Officer Alan J. Baribeau, U.S. Navy

STRATEGIC ATTACK AIMED AT SADDAM HUSSEIN, SONS AND SENIOR LEADERS OF THE BAAATH PARTY AND IRAQI REVOLUTIONARY COMMAND COUNCIL.

Martin Merzer and Drew Brown
Knight Ridder Newspapers

WASHINGTON — War erupted Wednesday night as the United States launched cruise missiles at Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein and other “leadership targets” in Baghdad, officials said.

The strike was aimed at crippling Hussein’s regime and specifically targeted him, his sons and other senior leaders of the Baath Party and Iraqi Revolutionary Command Council, according to a senior Bush administration official. Ground forces poised at the Iraqi border did not appear to have been ordered into combat, however.

The attacks were an attempt to behead the Iraqi leadership without risking the civilian deaths and destruction that a full scale war would inevitably produce, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

“On my order, coalition forces have begun striking selected targets of military importance to undermine Saddam Hussein’s ability to wage war,” President Bush said during a four-minute address to the nation Wednesday night. “These are the opening stages of what will be a broad and concerted campaign.”

U.S. intelligence operatives had been in Baghdad and other parts of Iraq for weeks tracking the movements of senior Iraqi officials, according to the administration official.

The isolated attacks — far less massive than the strike many thought would ignite the war — came after a lengthy meeting between Bush and his national security advisers that began around 4:20 p.m. EST Wednesday.

Anti-aircraft fire and explosions were heard across Baghdad after air raid sirens sounded at the capital at dawn, but calm appeared to return to the city shortly after the initial missile strike.

And so, the second Gulf War — a preemptive war everyone saw coming and no one could stop — detonated at around 5:30 a.m. local time, 9:30 p.m. EST. That was about 90 minutes after the 8 p.m. Wednesday deadline set by President Bush for Hussein’s capitulation passed without any indication that he had fled into exile.

Earlier Wednesday, U.S. invasion forces rolled to within 100 yards of Iraq and a few enemy soldiers surrendered preemptively as a fearsome array of troops and weaponry stood Saddam’s regime.

“Welcome to the front line,” Army Maj. Frank McClary told officers from the 3rd Infantry Division as they stood at a breach in the fence that separates Kuwait and Iraq.

No Iraqis were visible and a U.N. guard post about 500 yards across the flat, featureless border appeared abandoned. Dozens of Bradley fighting vehicles and Humvees idled nearby. Large American flags flapped in the desert wind.

A few miles away, soldiers of the 101st Airborne Division completed a pre-combat ritual: They shaved their heads. “That means they are locked, loaded and ready,” said Army spokesman Max Blumenfeld. “This is their D-Day.”

U.S. officers said Army engineers cutting holes in the border fence were startled when two Iraqi soldiers surrendered well before hostilities began. The Pentagon reported that at least 17 Iraqis surrendered to allied forces rather than face what confronted them.

Poised in Kuwait, Qatar, the Persian Gulf, the

Mediterranean and elsewhere: nearly 300,000 U.S. and British troops, more than 1,000 warplanes and 60 warships, thousands of tanks and other armored vehicles, scores of attack helicopters, countless missiles and bombs.

The USS John McCain, a destroyer, and other elements of the battle group led by the USS Kitty Hawk aircraft carrier advanced to within striking distance of Iraq in the Persian Gulf. The McCain, with a crew of 350, carries Tomahawk cruise missiles and other potent weaponry.

Throughout Kuwait U.S. troops stepped up preparations against early Iraqi attacks on staging areas, sabotage of Iraqi oilfields and possible terrorist attacks. At Camp Virginia, 45 miles from the border, concern grew over a possible attack by Iraqi missiles. Many of the 7,000 soldiers there became visibly tense.

“If we have a Scud attack tonight, we need to meet back here after,” Col. John Gardner of the 7th Combat Support Group told his staff. “I need to know you’re safe.”

Beginning Thursday, Air Force personnel on bases in the region will be required to wear flak jackets and helmets whenever they are not inside secure buildings, according to Air Force Capt. John Sheets. They already were carrying gas masks, bio-chemical suits, field gear and antidotes for nerve agents.

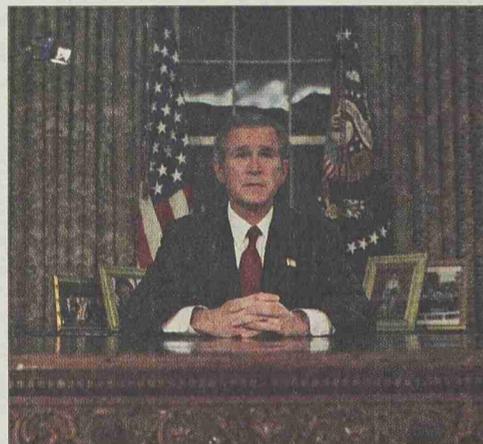
In addition, 75 American oil-fire experts

See STRIKE page 12



Signs of the attack could be seen soon after sunrise in Baghdad. Photo courtesy KRT

TWO HOURS AFTER HIS 48-HOUR ULTIMATUM TO SADDAM HUSSEIN EXPIRED, PRESIDENT BUSH TOLD THE AMERICAN PEOPLE THAT WAR WITH IRAQ HAD STARTED.



Bush addressed America from the Oval Office less than an hour after military operations began in Iraq. Photo courtesy KRT

Carie Windham
Assistant News Editor

As media stations across the nation began broadcasting pictures of a night sky in Baghdad and news that explosions could be heard in the distance, President Bush spoke from the Oval Office to tell the world that America had gone to war.

“American and coalition forces are in the early stages of military operations to disarm Iraq, to free its people and to defend the world from grave danger,” Bush said.

The address aired two hours after Bush’s 48-hour deadline for Saddam Hussein and his sons to leave Iraq expired. Approximately thirty minutes before, the first air raid sirens sounded over Baghdad.

“These are the opening stages of what will be a broad and concerted campaign,” the president said.

In his address, Bush said that a coalition campaign had been launched against selective military targets in Iraq — focusing on targets that would weaken the country’s military capabilities.

Pentagon officials later said that the attacks were also part of a “decapitation attack” targeting Hussein, himself. The success of the mission — which included F117 Stealth Fighters and cruise missiles launched from U.S. warships — is not yet known.

The United States was not alone in its attack. The president said that more than 35 countries are providing support from the use of naval and air bases, to help with intelligence and logistics, to the deployment of combat units.

“Every nation in this coalition has chosen to bear the duty and share the honor of serving in our common defense,” Bush said.

According to White House officials, the president was in a national security meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday and was not scheduled to address the nation. But strategic opportunity and developments in the Middle East prompted Bush to go ahead with

a prepared speech.

In a letter sent to the speaker of the House and the president pro tempore of the Senate on Wednesday, Bush said he had determined that diplomacy would not work to disarm Hussein or protect the national security of the United States against the “continuing threat posed by Iraq.”

His notification was required as a condition of a resolution passed in October to authorize the use of force against Iraq.

In speaking to the American people, Bush said that the nation’s goals would not be to further its own ambition.

“We come to Iraq with respect for its citizens, for their great civilization and for the religious faiths they practice,” he said. “We have no ambition in Iraq, except to remove a threat and restore control of that country to its own people.”

Beyond respect, the president also promised the American people that all efforts would be made to avoid civilian casualties.

But Hussein, he warned, did not share his goal.

“In this conflict, America faces an enemy who has no regard for conventions of war or rules of morality,” Bush said calling Hussein’s placement of troops and equipment in civilian areas a “final atrocity against his people.”

Bush’s comments on the possible length and gravity of war in Iraq did not waiver from messages his administration has delivered all week, that war could be longer and more difficult than many predict.

But this will not be a campaign of “half measures,” he said. And America “will accept no outcome but victory.”

Bush closed his four-minute speech with words of hope and confidence for the American people:

“We will pass through this time of peril and carry on the work of peace,” he said. “We will defend our freedom. We will bring freedom to others.

“And we will prevail.”

War to test students' preparation

U.S. soldiers, government officials and Iraqis aren't the only ones who prepare for the effects of war.

Ayren Jackson
News Editor

Staring blankly at her computer screen, Francine Gatewood twirls a piece of her dark hair around her finger. Minutes pass as Gatewood, a senior in computer science, continues to stare into space.

When asked what it is she is thinking about, Gatewood snaps back into the here and now and answers, "War."

As the war starts, it is not only the soldiers in the Persian Gulf, their families and friends or the Iraqi officials and citizens who will experience war anxieties.

The truth is that while the troops, the president and Iraqi officials prepare for war, so must the average American citizen. History has proven that the images and stories of war that are depicted daily during war times do inadvertently affect everyone — particularly children and young adults.

In the '91 Gulf War crisis, many psychologists across the country reported treating not only soldiers who were experiencing Gulf War Syndrome but also adults and children who had experienced psychological difficulties during the crisis and afterward.

And now while students everywhere try to concentrate on their studies and extracurricular activities, it remains a difficult task for some to not become distracted by the war.

"Students should not watch too much TV," said Karen Debord, associate professor and extension specialist in child development. "[They should] check in with their family regularly, stay close to friends and give each other support."

In addition, Debord says that students should stay to a routine, eat and sleep well and become acquainted with the university emergency policies and procedures. But some students have been preparing themselves by trying not to think too much about the war and by distancing themselves from the images in the media.

"I'm the type of person that when we do go to war, I am more reactive than proactive," Joseph Darkoh said. "Up to now, I've been trying to stay focused on what's going on in Raleigh and with me."

"I haven't prepared in any way for this," said Josh Tetterton, a sophomore in political science.

But some colleges and departments across campus have tried to reach out and prepare students for what is to come.

"This is going to be a very stressful time for all of us," stated an e-mail message that was circulated to students and faculty members within the computer science department. "Try not to get worried or angry or depressed about matters which are not your fault and especially not within your control right now."

And while the war will be fought in another time zone, thousands of miles away, some students still feel the need to be prepared should something happen on American soil.

"I have made sure that my mom has all of my contact information just in case something should happen," said Gatewood. "[My mom] tends to worry so I think that it is best for her to be able to reach me quickly."

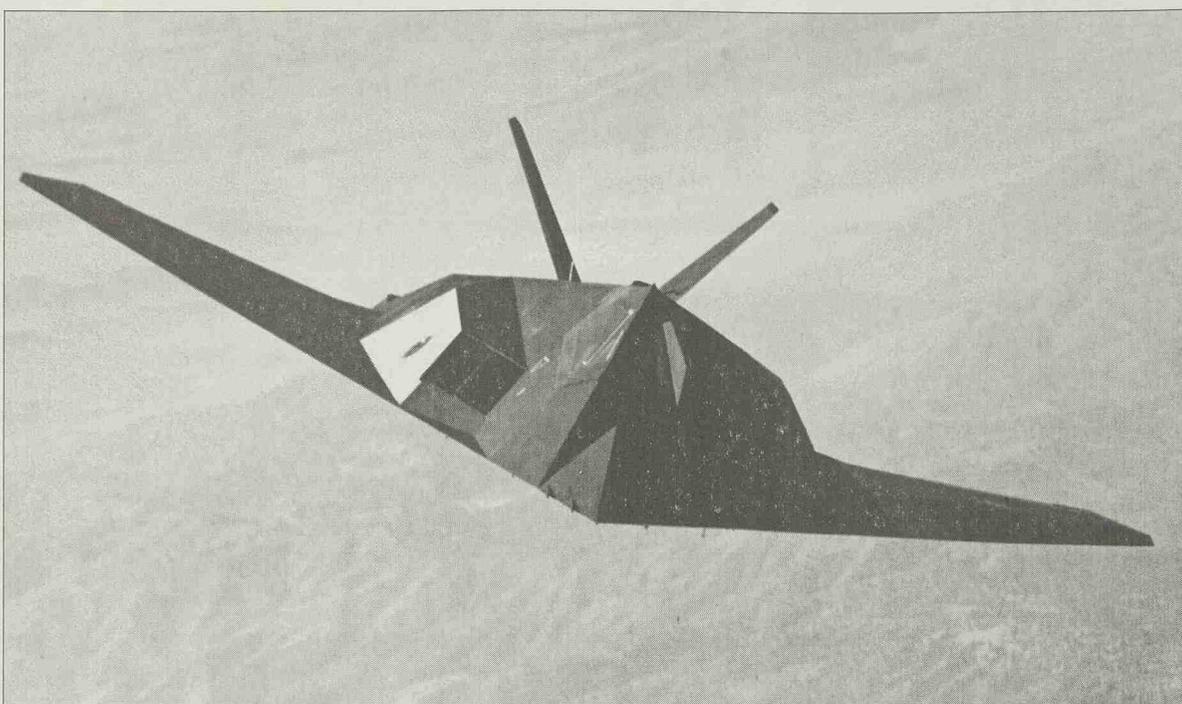
"I've been trying to plan for an emergency," said Naomi Keller, a junior in biochemistry. "I told my family we needed to have a plan, but they just shrugged it off."

The ways students plan to cope with the stress of war are as unique as the students themselves.

"I've prayed for protection and for the direction of the government," said Sam Chou, a junior in computer science.

While everyone has different ideas about what could happen with a war against Iraq, no one really knows what will happen. But regardless, students will prepare themselves for what is to come.

"The worst thing that can happen is for someone to not have previously thought about a scenario and then have it happen. Panic sets in, and you are going to be too much in a state of shock to do anything immediately," said Brian Davis, a senior in computer engineering. "I am not, however, altering my lifestyle. I live every day as I always have."



Stealth fighters like this U.S. Air Force F-117A Nighthawk flew some of the first pinpoint missions over Iraq late Wednesday night. Photo courtesy U.S. Air Force

Military relies on new, upgraded weapons

As U.S. troops proceed into battle, they have a wide range of new military weaponry on their side.

Cetty Abraham
Staff Reporter

As airstrikes begin and U.S. troops move closer to the Iraqi border, Americans are reminded of another time, not that long ago, that American troops fought in the Persian Gulf.

And while the location may not have changed, the weapons on the front lines are better and more technologically advanced than ever before.

"The truth is that war is unpredictable ... that people die and that it's dangerous," said Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld in a television interview last week.

Nevertheless, the government is trying to ensure that our troops will have the most advanced and accurate weapons available at their side. According to military experts, the biggest technical revelation of this war is directed-energy weapons.

Most of the directed-energy systems are meant to destroy or disrupt electronic and digital devices that control the maintenance of military forces as efforts are being made to minimize noncombatant casualties. Military planners are also turning to the latest in computer

modeling and software.

The U.S. military has long been developing a means to locate and destroy stockpiles of chemical and biological weapons that are believed to be in Iraq. Paramount among these concerns is finding a way of destroying the agents without releasing them into the atmosphere.

This problem is complicated since they might be stored or hidden in underground and populated urban areas. The computerized weapons that could destroy these agents are designed to produce a heat so intense it kills the spores in biological weapons and breaks down the poisons in chemical weapons, which would keep the toxins from being released into the atmosphere.

There are two main categories of anti-electronic directed-energy weapons: ultra wide-band devices and high-power microwave devices.

Ultra wide-band weapons emit energy across a large range of the electromagnetic spectrum. The increasingly popular E-bomb is among those weapons that use high-power microwaves to disable computer circuits. The targeted circuits would be those involved in the containment of biological and chemical weapons.

Although military planners are concerned that the electromagnetic pulse emitted could

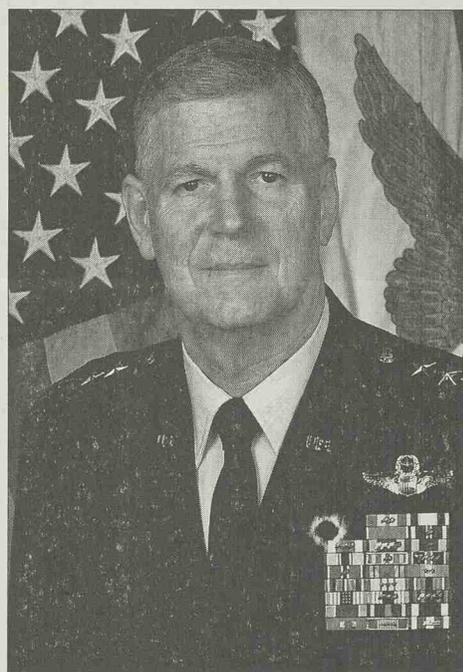
also disable civilian electronics, such as in hospitals and perhaps even U.S. aircraft or other military equipment in Iraq, Faraday cages can be used to protect sensitive electronic circuits. Faraday cages intercept and redirect excessive electromagnetic pulses into the ground.

The "blackout bomb" is another weapon that could be used in the war.

The bomb actually contains munitions with the specific purpose of dispensing carbon-fiber filaments, which are like spider webs of super-conductive material. The filaments disable electrical grids by short-circuiting power distribution equipment. This weapon was used in the '91 Gulf War, as well as the Kosovo air campaign.

Another computer tool is known as "Bugsplat," a program that can show the precise blast pattern from a specific bomb and how it could affect nearby buildings. The blob-like blast patterns on the screen resemble smashed bugs. By seeing the resulting destruction, military officers can fine-tune their attacks and select a smaller bomb that would destroy the target but result in fewer deaths and preserve neighboring civilian areas.

One group of weapons that isn't new — but has been improved — are precision-guided weapons, first introduced during Operation Desert Storm. At that time, according to Gen.



Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, will guide the U.S. forces in Iraq. Photo courtesy Defense Technical Info Center

Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in a radio address last week, they accounted for 10 percent of bombs and missiles used in the battle.

During the War on Terrorism, their involvement had risen to between 60 and 70 percent. My-

ers suggested that number could go even higher during another war in Iraq.

"We're going to be able to have more precision, which means we're going to be able to hit the targets better and reduce the civilian casualties, or collateral damage," Myers said.

Possible repercussions elicit concern

Officials estimate the cost of invading Iraq and the post-war occupation of the country to be between \$100 and \$200 billion.

Nancy Zagbayou
Staff Reporter

With military conflict in Iraq underway, many students are concerned about the repercussions of this war.

"This is history in the making," said Chris Johnson, a freshman in mechanical engineering. "The consequences of this war will affect all of us sooner or later."

Bailey Layton, a freshman in political science, worries that "the price to pay for this war is going to be higher than what we

are going to get out of it."

Public organizations all over the world are pressing the political leaders to closely analyze the outcome of war. According to polls, 40 percent of Americans, 82 percent of Europeans and 90 percent of South Americans are opposed to military actions without a resolution from the United Nations. An American-led war on Iraq might result into political inflections as major powers stand firm on their positions concerning war.

As the United States heads into war, political scientists wonder about the repercussions of global terrorism. Sept. 11, 2001, marked the beginning of a new era. The traditional wars in which enemies were in two separate camps are no longer a re-

ality with the new generation of suicidal terrorists. Although it is hard to predict at this point, many students believe that an attack on Iraq will cause a rise in terrorist actions.

Muslim countries, with political systems that can be characterized as theocracies, surround Iraq. Imposing democracy in Iraq would likely create political instability that will spread across the region.

"War will increase the tensions between the [United States] and the Middle East," said Ben Kirkley, a freshman in biology. Many students fear that this war will be perceived as a racial conflict.

As Erica Reinfrow, a graduate student in higher education, points out, "The most affected

people in the [United States] are going to be those of Middle Eastern decent and immigrants because many ignorant, close-minded people would consider them on the opposite side."

The Iraqi people have been oppressed under the rule of Saddam Hussein, and they are most likely to be the casualties of war. In the recent past, the Iraqis have experienced two grueling wars, which have resulted in hundreds of thousands of deaths, of both soldiers and civilians. According to a series of reports published in a leading medical journal, the citizens of Iraq are facing serious public health problems, which will likely be worsened by any future military actions. As Kirkley says, "A lot of innocent people are going to die."

In the perspective of many students, a conflict in the Middle East will translate into higher gas prices and, in the long run, a bad economy. As President Bush said in comments to reporters last January, "This economy cannot afford to stand an attack. And I'm going to protect the American people. The economy is strong. It is resilient. Obviously, so long as somebody's looking for work, we've got to continue to make it strong and resilient."

Officials estimate the costs of invading Iraq and post-war occupation of the country to be in the range of \$100 billion to \$200 billion. Still to be taken into account is the priceless lives of soldiers and innocent people who will die in this conflict.

2 Skinnee J's visits Raleigh before its end

2 Skinnee J's

Lincoln Theatre — Friday, 9 p.m.

Jake Seaton

Staff Writer

A cold day is about to blow through the world of music as the geek-hop/rock revolutionaries 2 Skinnee J's have decided to take an indefinite hiatus from the industry after an 11-year career.

The septet has been featured on two major labels and has traveled from one side of the globe to the other. Garnering devoted fans along the way, the J's have developed the kind of following comparable to the likes of Fugazi.

J's were roughly formed by an original nine-member

band from Brooklyn, N.Y., consisting of Special J and J Slim on vocals, Andy Action on drums, Eddie Eyeball on bass, DJ Casper on the keyboard, General Viturbo on guitar, Small Wonder on trombone, Funky Dollar Bill on trumpet and Robba Shanks on the saxophone. The nine members recorded an EP entitled "Six Songs for Five Bucks" in 1992. Before recording their second EP, "American Heroes," Small Wonder was replaced by the current keytar (a keyboard that is worn like a guitar) and samples artist Stevie Spice.

In 1996, while on a trip to Las Vegas, the J's meet a young gas station guru and Las Vegas personality known as A.J.

"Stumpy" Johnson when they ran into him at a poker table in a casino. Stumpy slyly bet the then-owner of J's ownership of the band and won when he bluffed with a pair of twos. Ever since, Stumpy, the current owner and sole proprietor of the J's, has toured with the band and squandered money away to build his own Stumpy Empire.

Stumpy promptly "fired" J Slim and General Viturbo in an effort to further his financial prospects and brought in the talent of J Guevara on vocals and King Vitamin on guitar. The new and improved J's then re-entered the studio and recorded the aptly titled LP, "Return of the New and Improved."

Once again, another change in the lineup occurred before the recording of "Sing, Earth-boy, Sing," as DJ Casper, Funky Dollar Bill and Robba Shanks left the band and A. Mays replaced King Vitamin on guitar. The now ironclad band entered the studio once again and recorded the mastermind of an EP that gained the attention of PolyGram affiliate Capricorn Records.

The super group of the day, the men out to change the world, again entered the studio and recorded its Capricorn debut LP, "Supermercado," which proved to be everything the J's devoted fans had hoped it would be. It successfully displayed the raw energy and pure emotion set at the live shows, and at the same time, it was actually well produced, since the group

was finally on an actual record label.

Stumpy proved to be the genius that he had always claimed to be. Although he never expected the band to go anywhere, he took a small time band from Brooklyn and transformed it into a hit-producing machine featured on Capricorn Records.

OK, so it wasn't really a hit-producing machine, nor was it a "featured" band on Capricorn Records, but it was on the track to stardom. The J's released two singles from "Supermercado," "(718)" and "Riot Nrrrd."

"Riot Nrrrd," a song of empowerment for those certain outsiders in the world, received praise from Modern Rock radio and led the J's to tour with the likes of Sugar Ray and Everlast. The nerds had come, seen and conquered, so it was time to record the follow-up to "Supermercado."

One small problem occurred, and on Oct. 11, 1999, the ironclad super group faced yet more losses in its coalition when Andy Action, an original member of the J's and A. Mays left the band — the search for a new guitarist and drummer began.

In an audition not unlike the antics of Limp Bizkit, the J's searched for a guitarist and drummer willing and able to fill the giant shoes left by A. Mays and Andy Action. Thankfully, there existed such guitarists and drummers in the world, and their names are Lance Rockworthy (also known as Power Lance) and Mikey B.

"Volumizer," the second album to be released by the J's through Capricorn, was pressed, wrapped and ready to be released until it hit yet another road-



2 Skinnee J's will take a break after an 11-year career, but not before playing in Raleigh on Friday. Photo by first name last name.

block. In July of 2000, after hearing of rumors of turmoil in the record label, J Guevara flew down to Atlanta to meet with the CEO of Capricorn Records to discuss the matters of the band and the record label. At that very meeting, the CEO assured J that the label was fine and their sophomore album was to be released just as planned. Sadly, one month later, Capricorn Records folded due to undisclosed financial problems.

Following Capricorn's tragic collapse, Volcano Records bought out the remains of the label, which happened to include the J's. "Volumizer" was once again ready to be released through a new label until Volcano called the J's back into the stu-

dio to retract its intended single "Stockholm Love," a Weezer-esque pop sensation, and "Secret Frequency," another poppy radio focused track. The label felt that the album had too much of a "grass-roots" feel — the intended result of Capricorn Records — and wanted the J's to record a few songs that would give the album a mainstream-market friendly composition.

In March of 2002, "Volumizer" was finally released to the public, minus "Stockholm Love" and "Secret Frequency," and featuring the three freshly recorded tracks "Grown Up," "Lemon Drop"

See SKINNEE page 7

Extra! Extra! Edwin has roots

Edwin McCain

The Austin Sessions

★★★

Grayson Currin

Senior Staff Writer

Anyone living in the Southeast during the past decade knows the stories; those stories of the South's stronghold of acoustic-based rock acts that explode onto the national scene only to fade away faster than the truncated, translucent fade-outs attached to their biggest (and sometimes only) hit singles.

Twenty years from now, everyone will remember Hootie & the Blowfish's "Cracked Rear View." Few will remember the bargain bin follow-ups like "Fair-weather Johnson" and "Musical Chairs." They had complete control over an intriguing sound that made them something special, and — out of the blue — they tried to get bigger than their Atlantic Records' bristles. Their singles became bland, and their albums seemed unavoidably listless. They outgrew themselves.

When Sister Hazel broke onto top-40 charts in 1997 with the single "All for You," it was poised at the pinnacle of the radio world. It was only natural. Harmonies more crisp and deep had not been heard since the days of Crosby, Stills and Nash glory, but it too overdid it. With its subsequent records, the group relied on overproduction and extrava-

gant arrangements to aim for the Billboard charts. In large part, it failed. Anyone who has heard its latest debacle, "Chasing Daylight," understands exactly how far this self-satisfying, audience-gripping cycle of maudlin singles and blandly imitative albums can drive itself.

Edwin McCain, who first broke from under the weight of the Charleston, S.C., scene with the support of Darius and the Other Pneumatic Pisces in 1995 with the single "Solitude," seemed to be the next domino in the self-perpetuating southern cycle of stand, deliver and disappear. For a while, it looked as if McCain was bound and determined to follow that road. After a solid debut effort, his subsequent albums met the same overproduction turmoil and adult contemporary blasé that spoiled Sister Hazel. His singles were huge — both in sound and sales. But, in their heyday, they stood as some of the most largely derivative pieces on FM play lists — blatant overproduction, massive fills, hackneyed lyrics and strained vocal polish.

But McCain is back. In fact, McCain is back with a passion, a voice, a guitar and minimalist arrangements that, at times, beg the label of "perfect."

The album, fittingly entitled "The Austin Sessions," is a personal, cozy glimpse into McCain's

roots and into his persona as a writer and a soul-searing vocalist. Few have ever accused McCain of having anything resembling a bad voice, but poor production choices and a plethora of distracting overdubs have always hampered it. With "The Austin Sessions," though, the sparse arrangements — often consisting of little more than an acoustic guitar and a seldom saxophone, banjo or restrained drum kit — allow McCain's edgy vocals to blossom.

On "Go Be Young," a track revamped to remarkable ends from the take included on 1999's "Messenger," McCain sounds like a pure suburban cross between Al Green and Bruce Springsteen, singing emotive soul with the conviction and power of the best of

them.

McCain sounds absolutely brilliant with the "Jack and Diane"-inspired "Little Girls." The song lands masterfully with a hook bigger than anything McCain has ever recorded, and with the help of the acoustic setting, he shines, instead of former producer Matt Serletic (better known for work with Matchbox 20 and Aerosmith).

McCain's writing seems particularly engaging on "The Austin Sessions," as he sorts with skill through effective imagery and allusion, referencing a "Kennedy veil" at one turn and "bloodied wingtips"

at another. Never has the good ol' boy from South Carolina sounded so comfortable with his words.

He still slips into cliché on occasion, but he seems to have turned his lyrical attentions up one painstaking notch. He avoids silly epithets for the most part, and his once-sappy verbal foreplay is miraculously subdued behind a real sincerity. Even with a song that seems conceptually doomed (such as "Wino's Lullabye"), McCain manages to proffer a happy bit of grace and earnestness — not brilliant, but not bad either.

He nails "Popcorn Box," a clever song penned by Eric Hamilton and Jeff Armstrong. His ebb-and-flow voice coupled with paced strumming and liquid clear solos, works perfectly, affectionately turning a song about interracial romance in a fractured southern town into something of a paean to love.

An insistent organ and equally persistent harmonies on "No Choice," the closing shot from Buddy Mondlock's sweeping 1999 "Poetic Justice" record, lends a needed hand to the heart-breaking narrative as McCain soars like an acoustic Fogerty down a red-clay road.

Other covers are hit and miss. He stumbles lethargically through the Dire Straits' number, "Romeo and Juliet," and a humdrum take on "Island Song" sounds more like Jimmy Buffet with a hangover, a sore throat and a whole lot of irritating heartbreak than the heartfelt fare heard on the rest of the record.

Sure, some of the work seems redundant. By the

See EDWIN page 7

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TECHNICIAN'S VIEW

Bush can't eat his cake

As the nation stands on the brink of war, President Bush wants to have his cake and eat it too. This week Bush will ask Congress for as much as \$100 billion for the conflict in Iraq, which will exist in some way, shape or form for an undetermined period of time. Meanwhile, he continues to apply the same strong-arm politics he's employed with the war to maintain support for his 10-year, \$1.5 trillion tax-cut package.

Moderate Congressional Republicans and many Democrats stand opposed to Bush's tax cut, saying that they don't want to revive the deficit spending that plagued the federal government in the early 1990s. There are three significant points of conflict with Bush's proposed tax cuts: whether the tax cuts will really stimulate the economy as they are intended to do, whether Bush can justify extravagant tax cuts and an expensive war effort simultaneously and whether deficit spending is as bad as tax cut opponents say it is.

The Bush administration readily admits that its tax-cut plan, if implemented, would result in deficit spending, but they seem to disregard this as a minor detail. They ignore the economists who say such spending could wreak havoc on interest rates and on Wall Street.

If Bush thinks war against Iraq is justified and necessary for the good of the American people and the world (and, clearly, he does), then he should be will-

ing to concede the tax cut that could cripple domestic social programs. Even though Bush's budget would cut some of his own education initiatives, his actions are still not justified. It just is not logical.

Regardless of whether one might think Bush has anything to gain politically from this war effort, it is painfully obvious that Bush is trying for too much. If the conflict in Iraq is successful, Bush pushes his tax cuts through and the economy recovers all by election 2004, Bush would have a shot at one of the highest presidential approval ratings ever.

But the chances of all these occurring simultaneously are slim to none. The responsible thing for Bush to do is to put aside his campaign promises and instead maintain the United States' fiscal solvency. And if the United States is to play international humanitarian/police officer as it is now, how can it do so while struggling economically itself?

Perhaps a small tax cut is in order. The hardworking people of the United States deserve some form of a tax break, and we would all like to believe there is always some amount of fat to trim in our American bureaucracy. But the cuts Bush seeks are simply ludicrous in this political and economic climate. If Bush continues to insist on these cuts, he may lose Congressional support for the war effort as well.

War instills fear and distrust

Staff
Editorial
The Good Five Cent Cigar
(U. Rhode Island)

(U-WIRE)
KINGSTON, R.I. — As American citizens, University of Rhode Island students are in-

definitely affected by the impending U.S.-led war against Iraq. It is the first time our generation will live through and fully understand the implications of war.

Besides the Persian Gulf War, which happened when the majority of college students were still in grade school, we have never known the feeling of being thrust in the middle of an international battle.

Fear, panic, disbelief, depression, sadness, denial. These are the thoughts streaming through most of our minds. What will happen once Bush declares war? Will we be safe on U.S. soil? How are we supposed to continue with our everyday routines knowing bombs are being dropped on Baghdad and our soldiers are putting their lives on the line?

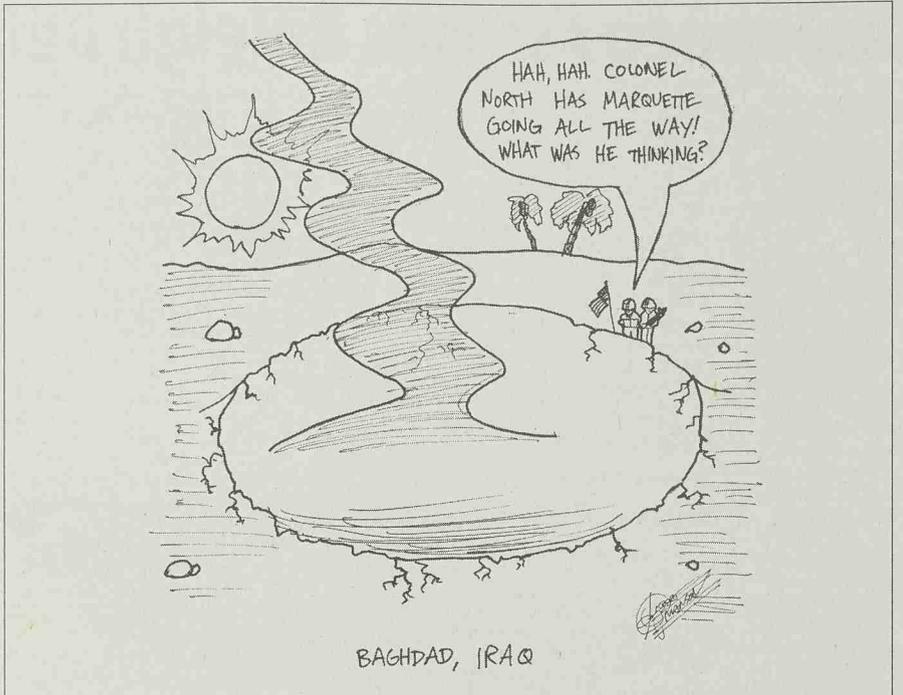
President Bush assured the country Monday night that the United States would end up the dominant nation. But even though most of us believe America has the capabilities and technology to win, there is still skepticism regarding the complete impact the war would have on our country.

Terrorist attacks, biological warfare

and weapons of mass destruction are real. Students know the capabilities of these evils and are fearful of them. In response to Bush's address, Hussein's son called Bush a madman and said American civilians are not safe if the United States launches an attack. These words send chills down our spines because we will always doubt if we really are safe. We never thought anything remotely close to Sept. 11 would happen, so how can we be so sure something, if not worse, will happen again?

Contrary to Bush's beliefs, the United States' actions will cause more turmoil in the world, rather than preserve peace. He said the war is to prevent terrorism. He said the war is to protect Iraqi citizens. But it seems likely terrorism will thrive under the precedent set by a U.S. attack without approval of the United Nations. Other nations may take the U.S. attack as a precedent for future foreign policies. The world as we know it may never be the same.

Bush seems only interested in ousting a corrupt dictator, not the well being of his people and others in the world. He clearly has his mind made up and doesn't care about the opinions of his citizens. Most of us do not want war. Our generation understands the complexities and is left feeling disillusioned with a war-hungry leader.



The eye of history



Andrew Dugan
Staff Columnist

Up until the very moment the very first shot is fired or the initial bomb is dropped, the world shall remain paused, speechless and powerless. The world can only now reflect on the apprehensive results of international diplomacy conducted for the honorable intention of preventing war but quickly became a gluttonous grab for show and power by several nations. The United States, traumatized by the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, remained so insistent on its right to attack a nation that has not directly provoked it that its reluctance to provide truly meaningful and damning evidence against the Iraqi government became interpreted as arrogance and disrespect for international law by many other nations.

France and Germany were so quick to object to U.S. and British proposals that they earned the ire of many Americans while earning the praise of their inhabitants. Smaller and less-powerful nations became the quick target for bribing by both sides of the diplomatic mess, further destroying the legitimacy of the United Nations.

But, this calamity is behind us and war is upon us. We can only hope for the impending conflict's brevity and few and far between casualties. War is an entirely unpredictable beast, but hopefully, those who have forecasted a quick and painless battle will be vindicated.

How history treats this military incident will not solely rely on low numbers of casualties, but also on how long the war lasts or any other such criteria that the American public usually evaluates to determine whether or not they will con-

tinue to pledge their support. While Bush may be convinced this the right course of action to take to prevent further tragedy to Americans, he still can and should convince the skeptics located within this country and beyond.

Once American forces have driven out the tyrants at hand and once Iraqi scientists know full and well that they are allowed to speak freely and without punishment, the Bush administration can prove once and for all that the arsenal owned by Saddam Hussein's government was both lethal and far-reaching. If the scientists or other bureaucratic agents can also attest to the fact Hussein was aggressively attempting to acquire nuclear weapons and seemed quite successful in pursuing this dream of his, then that will only be icing on the cake for Bush and his backers.

Some may scoff at the notion that Bush should still try and earn international respect and understanding for this armed undertaking — that the day of diplomacy has passed and the sun is showing no signs of returning to the sky. But, the chance to prove to the world that Bush's trepidation of a dangerously armed Hussein was founded and that he was not just some 21st-century cowboy who rode his way into the presidency would be a chance to prove, yet again, that America does not act on malicious motives like oil or personal vendettas but instead acts on the accepted principle of national (as well as international) defense.

A pleasant side effect of this invasion is, of course, the very real possibility that Iraq will join the ranks of democratic nations for the first time since its inception by the British after the World War I. Certainly, if the democracy works well

and does not become subjected to corruption, then Iraq will help the Middle East as a whole, an area well known for its dearth of democracy.

Let us remember, though, that though America has always been cheerful to the spread of democracy, making Iraq a democracy is not the primary objective of this conflict. No U.N. resolution has ever demanded Hussein hold free and monitored elections, and no nation can proclaim the nonexistent right to remove foreign governments simply because the government doesn't meet a certain standard. No way of living, no matter fortunate and desirable to all, can be forced upon people — it crosses the line between a general concern for the welfare of all types

of people and raw cultural imperialism. The world can no longer exchange words on whether troops should invade Iraq, the choice has been made and the decision is final. But once the war has been fought and won, it can be proven to the millions of protesters, to the French, to those who had their doubts in the United States and throughout the world, and to history that this was the best way.

True, there will be no way of deciphering what Hussein would have done had he remained in power for the remaining years of his life, but there will be vital and foreshadowing clues left in his wake. These clues, when studied in an objective and impartial manner, will determine how generations to come will understand this watershed moment in human affairs.

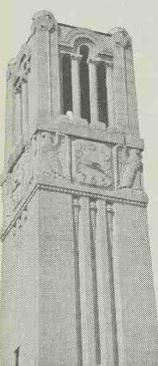
Andrew welcomes your comments. Reach him at abdugan@unity.ncsu.edu.

There will be no way of deciphering what Hussein will do if he remains in power.

TECHNICIAN

Jerry Moore • Matthew Pelland
Editors in Chief

THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY



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The dangers of grilling



Ben Kraudel
Staff Columnist

Having finally heard far too much about Iraq while simultaneously hearing absolutely nothing about Iraq, I have decided to forego any sort of commentary on the place of my nation to start a war with limited support and no clear agenda. I'll leave that to the several other semi-professionals who will surely spend the next several months analyzing every possible solution for this war, with the exception, of course, of never having entered into it.

However, there is an issue that cannot go another day with being addressed. According to a study released at Rice University, microscopic bits of polyunsaturated fatty acids are being released into the atmosphere from cooking meat in backyards, causing air pollution in Houston. Matthew Fraser, assistant civil and en-

vironmental engineering professor at Rice, led this study of the new dangers of eating meat. "Meat turned out to be a somewhat important source of the atmospheric fine particles in the urban area in Houston," said Fraser.

What this proves above all else is how incredibly spooked about absolutely everything our nation can be. This study is telling me that when I barbecue in my backyard or when I grill — even if I use a device that is sanctioned by George Foreman — I'm contributing to emphysema in my neighborhood. The study reported that even in Houston, which claims to be the barbecue capital of the world (Don't mess with Texas.), the pollution from flaming meat was in the single-digit percentages. I would hazard a guess that pollution from other combustibles — like, say, gasoline — was perhaps scoring a bit higher on the charts.

Instead, however, of spending time and

money developing a solution to the problems of urban pollution caused by industrial development or transportation, there is once again someone ready to do some inane study showing that we, as a country, are possibly damaging ourselves and those around us by grilling our meat.

What are possible solutions to this problem? We could boil everything. Except cultures that boil all their food seem to be itinerate and like to blow things up — perhaps that isn't a good idea. We could just not cook our meat — except

that leads to E. coli and salmonella. Also, likely not the best idea. Perhaps we should all become vegetarians. That would work, except it would only be a short time before cows would take the world over, and we simply can't have that.

I, for one, like to eat meat. I like to grill it. I have a tendency to grill it medium

When I barbecue in my backyard, I'm contributing to emphysema in my neighborhood.

See KRAUDEL page 5

CAMPUS FORUM

Altering PSA not a joke

As I read with excitement Monday's Technician about our school's travel to the NCAA Tournament, I was appalled at what I saw on page 5. A folic acid public service announcement was placed on the top right corner, but it was not a normal PSA. Someone changed it from the original form created by the March of Dimes with a group of young women to a picture of a couple, stating above the photo "It's not just for Anna and Jerry anymore." Essentially, it appeared to be making fun of the folic acid campaign for young women. The PSA is not designed to make women feel uncomfortable about folic acid. College students should not receive the false impression that folic acid is just for women who are pregnant.

All women of childbearing age should take folic acid, as it has been shown to reduce birth defects. But that is not all — men and women alike should take this essential B vitamin, as it has been shown to avert heart disease, stroke and even certain kinds of cancer. The recommended amount of 400 mcg of folic acid is found in

most multivitamins, and you can also receive folic acid in fortified cereals, orange juice and leafy green vegetables.

Though the picture and quote above may have been made in jest, I do not feel that it is in jest and I can assure the March of Dimes does not feel this way either.

We invite men and women to come to our next meeting of the March of Dimes Collegiate Council on Monday at 9 p.m. in Talley Room 3123.

For more information about folic acid and the March of Dimes Collegiate Council, please visit www.ncsu.edu/stud_orgs/modcc/.

Allison E. Hauser
Junior
Communications
President — March of Dimes
Collegiate Council at N.C. State

Lack of support for basketball coach

Herb needs to go to the curb.

Charles G. Willard
Class of '79

One frog prince wanted

Shauna Leach

Daily Titan
(California State U.)

(U-WIRE) FULLERTON, Calif. — If I could kiss a frog and turn him into my prince charming, I would. Don't get me wrong, I'm not desperate. I recently self-diagnosed myself with something I'd like to call the "Cinderella Syndrome." It can also be referred to as the "Snow White Syndrome" or the "Sleeping Beauty Syndrome." Basically, what it means is that I'm still waiting to meet my Prince Charming, and I'm finding that most of the men I meet are sadly lacking in princely charms. Am I expecting too much from the guys who I associate with? In a time when marriages are arranged by total strangers calling in and voting, I really don't think that it's too much for me to ask for some simple chivalry.

I was raised watching the classic Disney films. My mother would read fairy tales at bedtime, and my older sisters and I would dress up in my mother's silky bathrobes and satin slippers and pretend that we were on our way to a ball, where we were going to meet our Prince Charmings. I was mesmerized by Princess Diana's supposedly "fairy-tale" wedding to Prince Charles and always dreamed of having a knight come riding up on a white horse to take me away to our castle on a hill.

Now that I've grown up, I realize there isn't a prince in the world who is going to come and save me from the daily drudgery of class, homework and a 40-hour work week. Right now, I'd be perfectly happy with someone who is willing to open doors for me when we go out, pull my chair out for me at dinner, help me with my coat and treat me like I'm a "princess" instead of just one of his "boys."

I don't expect a guy to be perfect because Lord knows I'm not perfect either, and I don't expect him to spend all of his hard-earned money taking me out on expensive dates.

I'm just as happy wearing sweats, eating a pizza and watching Sports Center in the comfort of my own home. In fact, I used to do that all the time with a guy that I dated a few years back. He's the reason why I love hockey today. He's also the first guy I dated who took the time to open my car door and made sure I preceded him to the table when we ate out.

On the other hand, I once dated a guy who had no concept of a budget. He'd spend all of his money on weekend trips to Vegas with his buddies, and then when he came up short at the end of the month, he'd turn to me and expect that I'd have the money to front him for his rent or car payment. And he wonders why we don't date anymore!

I work hard for the car I drive, the clothes I wear and the other things I have. I don't expect anyone to pay for those things, and I don't think it should be expected of me to pay for someone else's.

It's really quite simple. It's the small things that will make a girl feel like you see her as a princess ... it's opening her car door, complimenting her on the outfit that she's wearing or taking the time to find out what her favorite flower is.

I guess until I find my "prince," I'll just have to deal with all the frogs that are out there.

KRAUDEL

continued from page 4

rare, so that I'm not actually thoroughly cooking the meat and avoiding the risk of E. coli but instead just grilling it enough to give it that brown tastiness. Still, this is beside the point; if you'd like my grilling recipes you can contact me elsewhere.

There are more than enough things for Americans to be concerned with at the moment without adding to that list the food they eat and how they need safe-

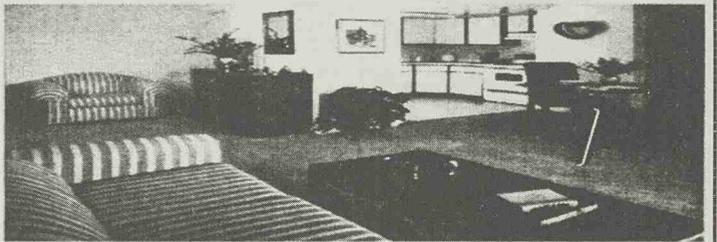
ly prepare it. There are far too many other things polluting the air and the water of this country to be concerned with something organic sending fatty death into the atmosphere. I have a sneaky suspicion this entire study was an excuse to get the phrase "polyunsaturated fat" into the news.

Essentially, I believe that this is just one more study done to get some newsprint and exposure, probably in hopes of getting more grant money, but on the whole being completely useless and really more a waste of money than anything else. There is nothing

that the people of Houston can or would readily do to reduce the risk of putting fatty smoke into the air when the country is about to go to war and there are far larger things to worry about. Once more, money could have been spent better had it been used to actually help people rather than just tell the public one more thing that's wrong, which they will make no effort to fix.

If you really would like recipes, or Ben's new cookbook, "Know Your Polyunsaturated Fatty Foods," write bpkraude@unity.ncsu.edu.

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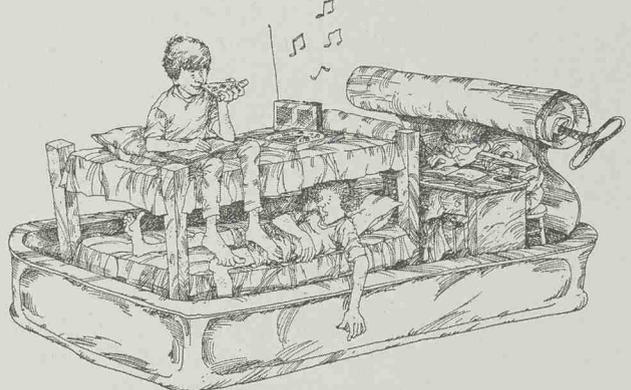
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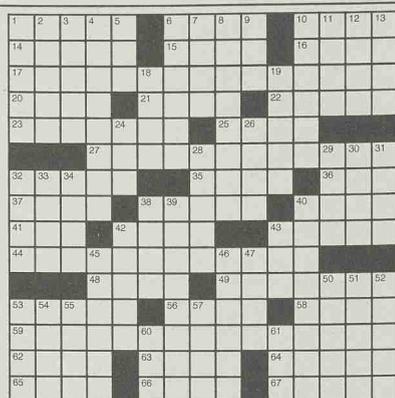
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The Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

ACROSS

- Propose
- Dangles bait on the water
- Hindu music form
- Got up
- Raison d'
- Isaac's eldest
- Close Tony winner
- Forceful trend
- Car tooter
- Hedren of "The Birds"
- Get atop
- Jewish month
- Close "101 Dalmatians" role
- Basketball coach Pat
- Nastase of tennis
- Comp pass pt
- Encumbrance
- Blustered
- Phone or bucks' leader?
- 10th mo.
- Legend
- Like some seals
- Another Close Tony winner
- Sicilian volcano
- Age
- Showplace
- Seines
- Art Deco designer
- Close thriller
- Tiny bit
- One Corleone
- Embroidered edging
- Philosopher
- Descartes by little rain
- Put down
- Illumination
- Swerve
- "Picnic"
- Blaze a trail
- Plant anchor



By A.J. Santora
North Grafton, MA

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

ALMA SLABS ESTE
NEAR PASTE SPAR
DANCEATHON TERM
SKY ACHY SIENNA
FREE MUSED
LATELY ROOMMATE
UNITY MENU BEG
MILE SELES PURR
POT OCTET LUCRE
SINASHOT BRACKET
WIAHO PARK
REHEARSAL SHIV NFL
ARILL ALLANADALE
GIRL ROUSE RHEA
SELA STEED YAWAN

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|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 33 Ruler segment | 50 Author Jong |
| 34 Pipe sealant | 51 Bar seat |
| 38 Meg or Irene | 52 Actress Berger |
| 39 City, NJ | 53 Yonder |
| 40 Attractive? | 54 Unit cost |
| 42 Iron or steel | 55 Broad, white collar |
| 43 Stop | 57 Back of a major? |
| 45 After a title | 60 Gardner of films |
| 46 Dragster | 61 Nav. rank |
| 47 Ingrid in "Casablanca" | |

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HOROSCOPE

By Linda C. Black Tribune Media Services

Aries March 21-April 19

Today is a 7. A person who once opposed you may soon see your point of view. Entice them rather than beating them over the head with it. You'll get more points that way.

Taurus April 20-May 20

Today is a 7. You've got talent, so why not exploit it? Sure, there's work involved. It's good for you to stay busy. Take advantage of the opportunity.

Gemini May 21-June 21

Today is a 6. At first you may only want to languish in luxury, but later you'll get down to work. Take on a tough assignment. You're getting stronger.

Cancer June 22-July 22

Today is a 6. You'll soon be able to apply lessons recently learned. Take courage. Even if it's hard at first, you're advancing.

Leo July 23-Aug. 22

Today is a 7. You're about to enter a less pensive, more energetic phase. This is gonna be fun, especially if you've been careful and saved up your money.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22

Today is a 6. New responsibilities could mean you have to go back to school. If you didn't get the promotion yet, you have all the more reason. The more you learn, the more valuable you become.

Libra Sept. 23-Oct 22

Today is an 8. Things may be getting a little too exciting. Strangely, this seems to be good for business. Your work may be changing slightly, but it seems quite lucrative. Hustle.

Scorpio Oct. 23-Nov. 21

Today is an 8. You're getting stronger, but so is the competition. Don't lose focus for a minute! With laser-like precision, you can achieve your goal or get pretty close.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Today is an 8. You're smart and getting smarter, so don't tell all you know. Give your competition a test, and see if they can figure it out.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Today is a 7. Somebody else's dilemma is your opportunity. Finding a need and filling it is one of your specialties.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Today is a 9. You

STEVE

continued from page 10

onship." Even worse than that, CBS felt compelled to play it over and over the next year. Not good times.

4. State's bracket

Could the Wolfpack have drawn a tougher bracket (outside of the West region)? First the Pack gets to play against an incredibly talented California team. If State wins, it gets to play Oklahoma in its backyard. Tough, tough draw.

3. Play-in game

This year, for the first time ever, I watched the play-in game. It was a very good game, and I was happy to see ex-Wolfpacker Eddie

Biedenbach pick up a win. But what if he had lost? What about Texas Southern? If you win your conference tournament, you've done enough to play in the NCAA tournament. I don't care what they say, the play-in game is crap.

2. Saddam Hussein/George Bush

Now, I realize these fellas have their own agenda, but trying to upstage the NCAA tournament is borderline blasphemy in my book. Couldn't these guys just sit down and watch some basketball and then start fighting in mid April? (I'm joking, people. Calm down.)

1. Tournament selection committee

Someone needs to get Lee

Fowler back as chairman of the selection committee as soon as possible. How many gaffs did these guys make?

They gave Kentucky the easiest road to the Final Four ever. They gave equally talented Arizona one of the hardest. They placed BYU in a bracket in which they can't possibly play. They gave Wake Forest and Florida No. 2 seeds while giving Duke a No. 3 and Illinois a No. 4. They let in Auburn and Alabama and kept out Boston College.

No one's perfect, but this is ridiculous.

Steve Thompson can be reached at sbthomps@unity.ncsu.edu or 515-2411.

BASKETBALL

continued from page 10

a player like Cal's Shipp, emotion also weighs heavily. A loss would mean the end of a stellar career for the Golden Bears' All-Pac-10 player, a career that has culminated this season with Shipp leading his conference in scoring and moving into the top five of Cal's all-time leading scorers.

"At this point, you are concerned with the possibility of it

being your last game," said Shipp. "All you really want to do is put it all out there, and leave it all on the floor. And know that if it happens to be your last game, you did everything possible to not make it your last game."

Which means whoever happens to be guarding Shipp — State says it will be a "team effort" — will have to be at the top of his game deservingly.

"I think Julius is going to get the brunt of the match-up," said Crawford, smiling. "[Shipp's] a

very good player, a good player. Julius is going to have his hands full, and I'm going to get a little bit of that match-up."

The game's winner will likely play No. 1 seed Oklahoma — the campus of which is only 20 minutes from Oklahoma City — who faces off against 16th-seeded South Carolina State. But for State, the focus is all on Cal.

The Wolfpack did, after all, bring too much to come home too soon.

OKLAHOMA

continued from page 10

then returned to its hotel where it played a different type of basketball: March Madness 2003 for Playstation. Some preferred NBA Live 2003.

But for a player new to the experience, such as Bennerman, Oklahoma — as weird as it may sound — is about excitement.

"I'm very caught up in the moment right now," said Bennerman. "It hasn't really hit me yet. It's very big, and it's really impressive. I'm just looking forward to getting out there and playing. But all this is new to me, and I'm very excited."

Amid all the fun and excitement of a tournament appearance, there is also the reality of having to perform on college basketball's greatest plateau.

Even for an experienced player like Hodge, the tourney experience is one to relish in. In Bennerman's shoes last year when the Pack made the NCAA tournament for the first time since 1991, Hodge expects his experience to pay off come tip-off today.

"It helps me out a lot," he said. "We have a lot of experience out on the court, and we're going to make the best of that experience."

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Schedule
M. basketball vs. California, 3/20, 12:25
Gymnastics @ William & Mary, 3/20
Baseball vs. Florida State, 3/21

Scores
M. tennis 5, UNCG 0



TECHNICIAN

BASKETBALL

NCAA tournament top five and bottom five



Steve Thompson

As the NCAA tournament begins, there are seemingly a million story lines about which one could write.

Yet I have only one column. Desperate times call for desperate measures, and thus I'm unleashing a new top five/bottom five — NCAA tournament style.

Top five

5. Wagner and Whittenburg go Dancin'
What can possibly be a better story than one of N.C. State's own 1983 national champions guiding an overlooked long shot into the NCAA tournament? This time around, however, Whittenburg may need a Lorenzo Charles-esque miracle just to get past Pittsburgh in the first round.

4. Digital cable

When I was younger, anytime any local team was on in the tournament, I was forced to watch that game. There were no options. With digital cable, however, I don't have to sit through Wake Forest vs. East Tennessee State. I can watch the far more entertaining Oklahoma State vs. Pennsylvania.

3. Return trip for Pack

I must say, I doubted the Pack could get into the tournament. When State lost to Maryland, I thought the season was finished and the NIT was in the cards. When Georgia Tech made a run in the first round of the ACC tournament, I started to think of what could have been if the Pack had held on against Wake Forest.

Thankfully, State teams have proven me wrong on many times this year. Two straight NCAA tournament appearances is awfully nice.

2. No tournament postponement

Having already heard that some of the games might be switched from CBS to MTV or UPN, I was shocked to hear that the NCAA was considering postponing the tournament because of the conflict in the Middle East. Doesn't life continue even during war? Must I watch Wolf Blitzer instead of T.J. Ford?

Thankfully, the NCAA announced the tournament would go on despite the problems. If the tournament had been postponed, I might have had to do schoolwork.

1. "One Shining Moment"

I don't know how this incredibly cheesy song does it, but year after year it's my favorite part of the tournament. Yes, the music stinks. But watching the past three weeks of basketball flash by in two minutes always reels me in.

A couple of things really signify what college basketball is about — bubble teams, Selection Sunday, mid-major upsets ... and "One Shining Moment."

Bottom five

5. Billy Packer

During the regular season, I can avoid Mr. Packer. CBS only covers a handful of games, and I can go without watching them. In the tournament, however, he's everywhere. This old curmudgeon is a hateful individual — hateful of the changing landscape of college basketball, hateful that no one cares about his opinions, and hateful that his hair disappeared not long after his talent did.

In 1997, I had just finished watching a tremendous game between Arizona and Kentucky when I had to hear Packer utter the infamous "Simon says champi-

See STEVE page 9

Pack dressed for dancing

N.C. State faces a California team a lot like itself in today's opening-round of the NCAA tournament.

Andrew B. Carter
Assistant Sports Editor

OKLAHOMA CITY — After three fancy charter buses had arrived at the Oklahoma City Hilton Tuesday night, N.C. State basketball team managers lugged enough luggage and gear to last the team at least three weeks.

It was certainly enough to last more than two days.

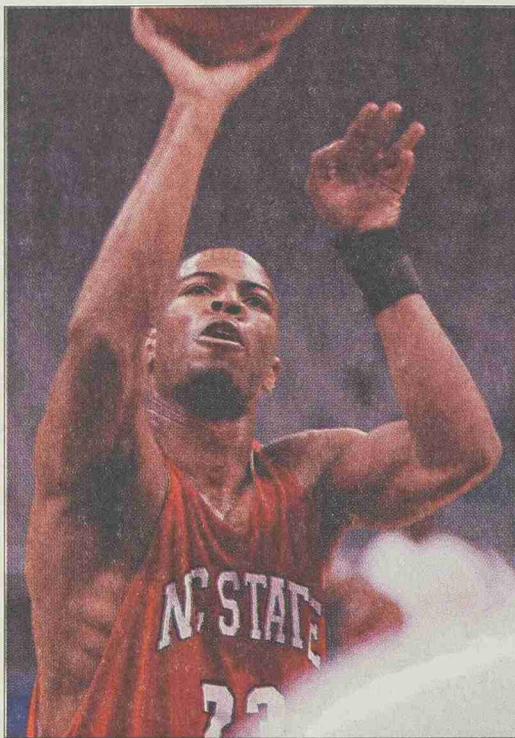
And somewhere in all that baggage, strewn about the Gatorade containers and band equipment, were the Wolfpack's dancing shoes. State (18-12), a No. 9 seed in the East Region will get to try them on again, for the second year in a row, when it faces eighth-seeded California (21-8) today at 12:25 p.m. in the opening round of the NCAA tournament at the Ford Center.

For State, it represents all the opportunity it could want, especially since much of that opportunity was in doubt just a week ago. But since then, State has blitzed past two teams and come painfully close to an ACC championship. Now, it's another championship the Wolfpack will be chasing.

"It was very big for us in the ACC tournament, because [there was] a lot of pressure on us about making the NCAA tournament," said the Pack's Clifford Crawford. "Right now, we're on the ultimate high. We're still trying to come down from that. Going into the NCAA tournament, we're just going to try and win as many games as possible. Right now, our minds are just on Cal."

State held a light public workout on Wednesday at the arena, before meeting for a more stringent practice later in the day at a local high school gym. And when the Pack faces California today — in the schools' first-ever meeting — State players might need to shake their collective heads, wipe their eyes and make sure it's not a mirror they're looking into.

That's because the Wolfpack and Golden Bears feature similar players and styles. In State's Marcus Melvin and Cal's Amit Tamir, both teams showcase big men who aren't afraid to shoot the long ball. In



Scooter Sherrill and the Wolfpack got some practice at the Ford Center during team shoot arrounds on Tuesday. Staff Photo by Matt Huffman

State's Julius Hodge and the Golden Bears' Joe Shipp, each team has a versatile guard/forward that is adept to doing anything on the court. Even the teams' coaches, State's Herb Sendek and Cal's Ben Braun, coached in the same conference before landing their current jobs, which offers even more sense of familiarity.

If the Pack does have a clear-cut advantage over its first-round opponent, it might be athleticism. But the Golden Bears can counter that with a frontcourt that consists of two players — Tamir and center Gabriel Hughes — who are 6-foot-11 and 6-foot-10, respectively.

"Their guys are kind of big on film, but [seeing it] on film is a little different than seeing it out on the court," said Crawford. "We're not really looking at the size coming in, we're going to do what we do. We have a quick team."

Of course, State also has something else, an asset that has come in handy time and time again during its up-and-down season: resiliency. The Pack, within a blade of grass

margin of an ACC title, will have to put its tough loss in the past.

"It's not about your size physically," said Hodge. "It's the size of your heart. And if you go out there and want it more than your opponent, you're going to come up victorious."

When Hodge talks heart, he means players stepping up in the biggest games. Like Josh Powell performance in the ACC tournament. State is hoping Powell, the Pack's up-and-down center, won't come down from his high-octane level of play last weekend.

"Some guys have kind of faded away toward the end of the season," said Crawford, "but Josh has gotten stronger in the post. He's upped his game, and we've been preaching to get the ball in the low post. Coming into the NCAA tournament, that's real big for us to have that post presence down low."

But heart, such an important factor, may cancel out in this one, as players from both teams spoke with passion about the task at hand. For

See BASKETBALL page 9

State excited, focused in Oklahoma City

N.C. State players have been busy playing basketball, playing playstation, and playing basketball on playstation in Oklahoma City.

Andrew B. Carter
Assistant Sports Editor

OKLAHOMA CITY — Julius Hodge sat at a table surrounded in microphones and in front of a throng of reporters Wednesday afternoon at the Ford Center. Hodge, fresh out of the team's practice, had been asked about everything — his rebounding, growing up in Harlem, how to guard California's Joe Shipp.

Then someone brought up the possibility, a very plausible one until Tuesday afternoon, of N.C. State being stuck in Oklahoma City if war was to break out in Iraq. Hodge's response was classic.

"At first we were a little concerned," he said. "We didn't want to be out here in Oklahoma any longer than we had to."

Laughter broke out, and an innocent smile crept across the sophomore star's lips.

Of course, Hodge the rest of Wolfpack wouldn't mind sticking around until Saturday. That would mean a victory today against California. But if the Pack is to advance to the second round, it's a good thing Scooter Sherrill, Cameron Bennerman and others packed their Playstation 2s.

Each player was given the video game system for participating in the Jimmy V Classic earlier in the season. And, as State is learning, video games are made for a place like Oklahoma City.

"Uh... it's nice," said Sherrill when asked how he liked Oklahoma. "I don't know, I haven't seen too much of it. It's kind of spread out, kind of flat."

First impressions?

"Terrible," he said, joking.

Truth is, Oklahoma City isn't bad at all. In fact, downtown is scenic, attractive and clean. The Ford Center, which seats about 15,000, is in its first year of existence and is a sort of smaller version of the RBC Center. The people are friendly and the sunset over the horizon is post card worthy. But still ...

"It's country," said freshman Cameron Bennerman. "It's definitely country. This is my first time coming out here, and I don't know too much about Oklahoma. I didn't know what to expect coming out here."

One likable aspect of State's new surroundings have to be the rims at the Ford Center. During its shoot-around, the rims almost seemed like they'd been doused with a bucket of Stick Um — the ball just wouldn't bounce out.

"I like soft rims," said Sherrill, who is also a big fans of the rims at Clemson's Littlejohn Coliseum. "And they felt good in warm-ups. I just can't wait for [today]."

In the pressure-packed atmosphere the NCAA tournament produces, relaxation is key. The team woke up Tuesday, had a nice breakfast, relaxed, came to the Ford Center, practiced some more at another location and

See OKLAHOMA page 9

State beats rain, UNC-Greensboro

The N.C. State men's tennis team dominated 5-0 before the match was cut short due to rain.

Austin Johnson
Staff Writer

The N.C. State men's tennis team got the job done just in time Wednesday afternoon at the Cary Tennis Center.

State got in five singles matches, all straight set victories, before rain shortened the match against UNC-Greensboro. The five singles wins ensured the Pack a victory, so the remaining singles match was called and the doubles point was not played. Normally teams begin with doubles matches, but both teams' coaches agreed to start with singles in hopes of getting the match decided quickly.

With the victory, State picked up its fourth win of the season, moving its overall record to 4-10. State is now 3-1 at the Cary Ten-

nis Center — its temporary home this season. Greensboro dropped to 1-10 on the season, their only victory coming against North Carolina A&T.

"It was nice to play well today," said head coach Jon Choboy. "Also, maybe [Greensboro] didn't play as well as they are capable."

In the No. 1 spot, sophomore R.J. Murray faced off against the Spartans' Julio Moran. Murray struggled to find a rhythm all afternoon but managed to win the first set 7-5. Murray fell behind in the second set, but rain cut the match short before it could be completed. Murray has had a solid season thus far, going 4-9 and playing almost all of his matches against the team's best player in the No. 1 match.

Freshman Val Banada dominated his No. 2 matchup, taking out Marc Ladouceur 6-0, 6-3. Banada has won two of his last three matches and has posted an 8-6 singles record. The win was his first in the number-

two slot, getting all seven previous wins in the No. 3 spot and going 0-6 at number two. Coach Choboy sees no difference in his play at either spot.

"Playing No. 2, No. 3 doesn't really matter," said Choboy. "He has been playing well; he's by far our hottest player."

A Miami native, the cold weather is something Val has had to adjust to in his first year a little farther north. Wednesday was just another day where he had to adjust.

"It's cold to me no matter what, so I have to stick it out anyway, but I played well today — I played the No. 2 and I won."

Freshman Will Shaw took care of his No. 3 opponent in time to collect a victory, beating Pieter Visser 6-4, 6-3. Junior Jon Davis beat Rohan Kronti in straight sets 6-0, 6-4. In the five spot, freshman Rehman Esmail took care of business 6-1, 6-3 against Kshitij Gujarati.

The most impressive victory of the day belonged to freshman



The men's tennis team won its third match of the year at the Cary Tennis Center. Staff Photo by Carl Hudson

walk-on Chris Mills. Mills grabbed his first win of the season in convincing fashion, dominating Eric Johnson 6-2, 6-0. Choboy was glad to see the significant progress in Mills' game pay off on the court.

"He's a far better tennis player than he was six or seven months ago," said Choboy. "He's

hitting the ball better but he's starting to put an identity to his game.

"He's played some tough ACC players this year, so it was nice for him to see progress in his game."

State will try to carry its momentum from Wednesday's match into its next game at East Carolina this Friday at 2:30 p.m.

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Iraqi soldiers surrender before conflict begins

At least 17 Iraqi soldiers surrender as U.S. troops moved into position for war.

Drew Brown and Martin Merzer
Knight Ridder Newspapers

KUWAIT-IRAQ BORDER — U.S. invasion forces rolled to within 100 yards of Iraq and 17 enemy soldiers surrendered preemptively Wednesday as a fearsome array of troops and weaponry stood ready to attack the regime of Saddam Hussein.

The 8 p.m. EST Wednesday deadline set by President Bush for Saddam's capitulation passed without any indication that he fled into exile. The second Gulf War did not immediately erupt, but it was just a matter of time — and not much of it.

"Welcome to the front line," Army Maj. Frank McClary told officers from the 3rd Infantry Division as they stood at a breach in the fence that separates Kuwait and Iraq.

No Iraqis were visible and a U.N. guard post about 500 yards across the flat, featureless border appeared abandoned. Dozens of Bradley fighting vehicles and Humvees idled nearby. Large American flags flapped in the desert wind.

A few miles away, soldiers of the 101st Airborne Division completed a pre-combat ritual: They shaved their heads. "That means they are locked, loaded and ready," said Army spokesman Max Blumenfeld. "This is their D-Day."

U.S. officers said Army engineers cutting holes in the border fence were started when two Iraqi soldiers surrendered well before hostilities began. The Pentagon reported that at least 17 Iraqis surrendered to allied forces rather than face what confronted them.

Poised in Kuwait, Qatar, the Persian Gulf, the Mediterranean and elsewhere: nearly 300,000 U.S. and British troops, more than 1,000 warplanes and 60 warships, thousands of tanks and other armored vehicles, scores of attack helicopters, countless missiles and bombs.

The USS John McCain, a destroyer, and other elements of the battle group led by the USS Kitty Hawk aircraft carrier advanced to within striking distance of Iraq in the Persian Gulf. The McCain, with a crew of 350, carries Tomahawk cruise missiles and other potent weaponry.

Throughout Kuwait U.S. troops stepped up preparations against early Iraqi attacks on staging areas, sabotage of Iraqi oilfields and possible terrorist attacks. At Camp Virginia, 45 miles from the border, concern grew over a possible attack by Iraqi missiles. Many of the 7,000 soldiers there became visibly tense.

"If we have a Scud attack tonight, we need to meet back here after," Col. John Gardner of the 7th Combat Support Group told his staff. "I need to know you're safe."

Beginning Thursday, Air Force personnel on bases in the region will be required to wear flak jackets and helmets whenever they are not inside secure buildings, according to Air Force Capt. John Sheets. They already were carrying gas masks, bio-chemical suits, field gear and antidotes for nerve agents.

In addition, 75 American oil-fire experts began arriving in northern Kuwait in case Saddam blows up the Rumailah oilfields in southern Iraq. In 1991, his forces torched 700 Kuwaiti oil wells.

President Bush did not appear in public Wednesday, but aides said he met twice with his war council — Vice President Dick Cheney, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, Secretary of State Colin Powell and others.

Shortly after the deadline passed, spokesman Ari Fleischer emerged from the White House and issued a 15-word statement that echoed Bush's words to the nation Monday: "The disarmament of the Iraqi regime will begin at a time of the president's choosing."

Bush also officially notified Congress that diplomacy had failed and war was

now justified to disarm and oust Saddam.

Spokesman Ari Fleischer spoke of the mission and its possible cost in stark terms. "Americans ought to be prepared for loss of life," he said.

In Baghdad, Saddam and his regime showed no signs of bowing to Bush's final ultimatum to flee into exile.

A towering sand storm blanketed the region Wednesday, but U.S. Marine officers said it would subside by mid-day Thursday. In any event, it was not likely to be a "showstopper" if Bush ordered war, one officer said.

Army Gen. Tommy Franks, the commander of all allied forces in the Persian Gulf region, returned Wednesday to his forward base in Qatar after a meeting in Saudi Arabia. Throughout the day, military planes roared north from Qatar's airfield, apparently bound on surveillance and training missions.

Commanders said they anticipated that the war would be heralded by a mammoth, vicious onslaught of missiles and bombs. In southern Iraq, a barrage of artillery was expected to further soften Iraqi positions before U.S. troops cross the border.

"I don't think our potential adversary has any idea what's coming," Col. Gary Crowder, chief of strategy for the Air Force's Air Combat Command, said in Washington.

Pre-invasion strikes on Iraqi artillery batteries in southern Iraq intensified Wednesday as U.S. planes used precision-guided bombs to attack 12 positions within range of allied forces.

About 10,000 armored and other vehicles were mustered to roll into Iraq from Kuwait, according to Maj. Gen. Buford Blount III, the 3rd Infantry Division's commander. Two hundred of those vehicles could be lost to the rough terrain, he said.

The Iraqi military has about 389,000 troops, but U.S. Army officials believe that only the 15,000 elite Republican Guard troops may be loyal enough to fight to the end.

U.S. officials believe thousands of others will defect during the first hours of bombing.

"Some will defect immediately and go to their homes," said one Army official, who requested anonymity. "Others will wait, knowing that if they turn themselves in as POWs, they'll get a good meal."

Officers with the 82nd Airborne Division reported that 15 Iraqis attempted to surrender at the Kuwaiti border early Wednesday but were refused. Senior Army officials said they could not categorize them as enemy prisoners of war (EPWs) because war had not yet begun.

"I guess they're pre-positioned EPWs," an Army official said.

Standing at the border, the 3rd Infantry Division's McClary said his 1st Brigade Combat Team would secure attack lanes. His soldiers also were equipped with bridging equipment, needed to cross two ditches dug on the Iraqi side of the border.

"Once we cross here, we're rolling," said McClary, 39, of Andrews, S.C. "Once we cross the international border, it's a fight from there."

Apache Company of his 1st Brigade Combat Team was assigned to push up to the border fence, establish a defensive screen and wait for the order.

"I don't know whether to be excited or nervous," Spec. David M. Beebe, 20, of Gadsden, Ala., said as he sat atop an M113 armored personnel carrier. He used binoculars to scan the other side of the border.

"Now, we are waiting for word from higher," said 1st Sgt. Michael "Todd" Hibbs, 36, of Boise, Idaho.

As darkness fell and sentries took to their posts, Hibbs sent a final message of the night to his troops. He told them to get some rest.

"You're going to need it tomorrow," he said. "We've got some long days coming up."

STUDENTS SPEAK OUT

How long do you think the war with Iraq could last?

TAMMY FISHER • SENIOR • ZOOLOGY

"I think the war will last about a couple of weeks, maybe longer if there is some difficulty in catching Hussein. I feel that many Iraqi soldiers will surrender and that will shorten the war the most."

NAOMI KELLER • JUNIOR • BIO-CHEMISTRY

"It will be short, but I feel that this war is leading up to something bigger, probably World War III. We've never had a modern war on our soil, and I feel that is a real possibility for future wars, not this one, but the next."

KERRY ALLIVATO • JUNIOR • ENGLISH

"It will last a couple of months. I think it will take as long as we need to get the job done, but with all the weapons that we have, not long."

PATRICK BOISSONNEAU • JUNIOR • POLITICAL SCIENCE

"It will be about a month, because there has already been two sets of Iraqi troops that have surrendered. At best, we will get bogged down when we near Baghdad. I'd say a month to a month and a half."

BRIAN DAVIS • SENIOR • COMPUTER ENGINEERING

"I do not think the war with Iraq will last very long. The immediate battle seems like it might take a month or two, but there are always going to be pockets of resistance that we will have to guard against down the road. We have a superior military, which if nothing else, can suffocate Iraq from incoming supplies. Add to that the fact that we will have constant air strikes, missile launches from subs and ground troops surrounding Iraq, it is just a matter on how long it takes us to collapse into the middle. But, what might happen after Iraq with other countries is still left to be determined."

In your opinion, how will the world change after the war?

"A lot more people in the Middle East and Europe will think less of the United States. Our country will be on high alert and could possibly be more susceptible to terrorist attacks."

"After this war, hopefully, people will look at the subject matter rather than the political party. I'm 100-percent pacifist, but I support this war."

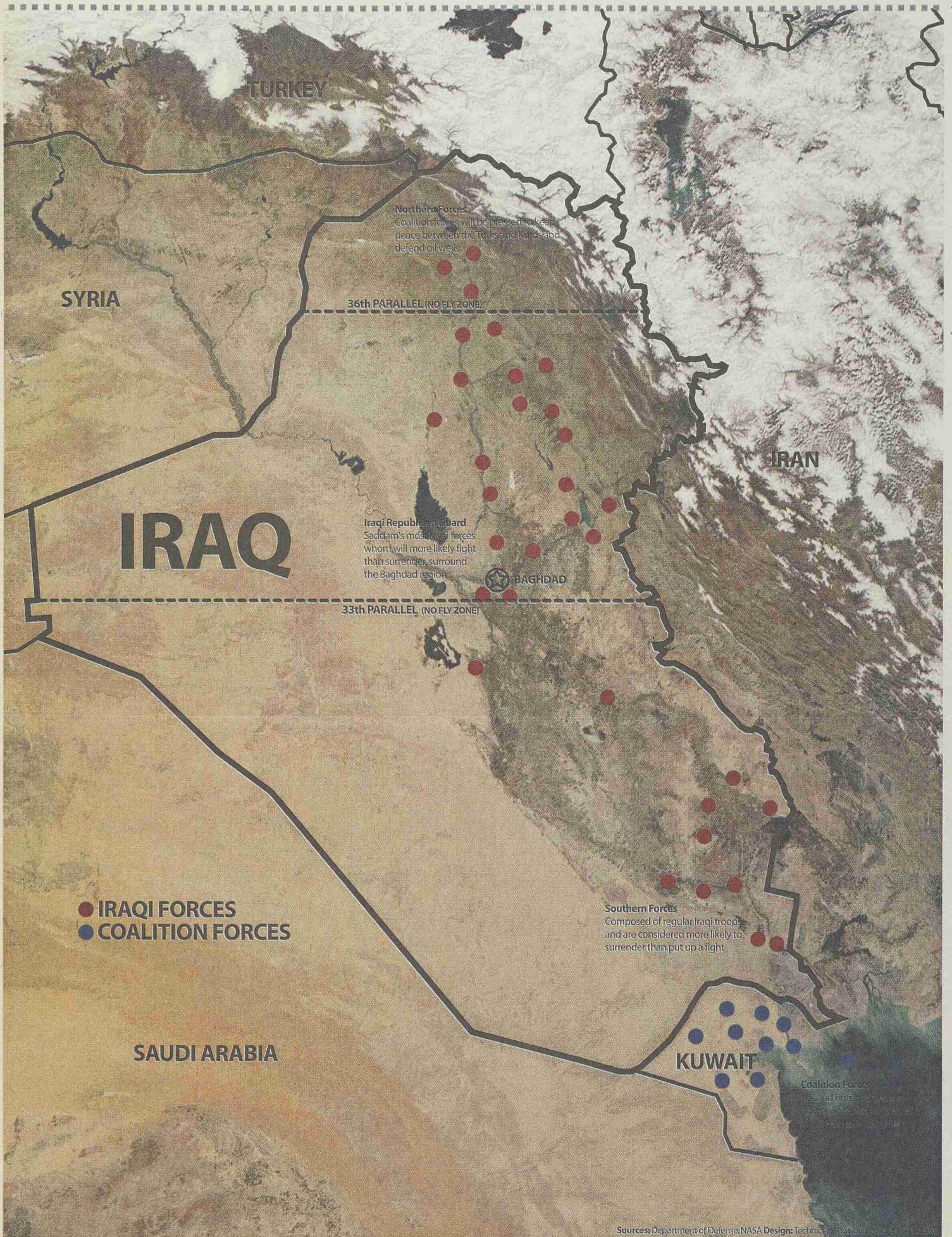
"I think other countries might look at America as a tyrant, and obviously, it will affect relationships with the United Nations, but in the long run, everything will turn out for the best. The short term effects are bad, but I feel the long term effect will be great."

"I don't think the situation will change. The reality of the situation is that it won't make a difference."

"I think there are always going to be the people who think the United States [uses its] power unjustly, unless Iraq uses chemical and biological weapons. Personally, I think the world will be better because we will have to research alternative forms of energy, remove an evil man out of power and any want-to-be terrorist or hostile countries know that we will walk instead of just talk when it comes to getting them serious."

IRAQ

I N ★ F O C U S



STRIKE

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