

## Middle East crisis hits home

by Libby Enloe  
Clarion Co-Editor  
and Sarah Fish  
Clarion Assistant Editor

As the crisis in the Middle East escalates, many Brevard College people -- students, faculty, administration -- have been affected by the military build-up.

### Two BC Reservists in a waiting game

BC students Craig Register and John Massie both belong to the U.S. Army Reserve unit here in Brevard. As of presstime, their unit was awaiting word as to possible call-up.

How do these two student-soldiers feel about the possibility of their being sent to the Gulf?

When BC cross country runner John Massie, a corporal, learned his unit might be activated, he says he was worried about losing his standing as a runner, "But if I have to go -- I'll go. John says he is also worried about his brother, Frank, a Marine who is already stationed on the front lines in the Gulf.

Craig Register, also a corporal, says, "I had mixed feelings when it all started." He was at Ft. Jackson, S.C., serving his planned 17-day Annual Training when he first heard about the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

"I wasn't sure whether I was going to get to come back to school," says Craig.

Craig and John's families also have been greatly affected by the Persian Gulf situation. Neither family is a stranger to the services. Craig's brother escorted tankers for six months. "So we've all been kind of used to it," says Craig. "It's different with me, though. He was on a ship. My job is infantry."

With both a husband and two sons in the military, John's mother worries alot. "I do too, because this is my brother's third combat," says John. "My brother said if it came down to it (combat), he wouldn't let me go," John says, referring to the service clause which exempts the last male in the household.

Craig's friends have been worried. He says, with an ironic grin, "A lot (of his friends) had the idea I was already overseas. I got a lot of letters of concern at camp and phone messages waiting for me at home when I returned."

How has the Middle East crisis affected his friends?

Craig says he is "more worried about my friends in full-time," naming a friend in the 82nd airborne in Italy.



The men behind the masks: Brevard College Reservists John Massie (left) and Craig Register say they're ready to go if called. (Clarion photos by Jock Lauterer)

"He's always on two hour stand-by,"

John says. "I'm sick of the rumors. Every day I hear new things that scare me. People don't know what they're talking about. They're not directly affected by it -- we are."

The seriousness hit home with many reservists. "A lot of us went ahead and made out wills," says Craig. I knew it (serving in time of war) was part of my obligation, no one made me sign the dotted line when I did in '86."

The threat of chemical and biological warfar is a major concern in this crisis. John says the M-17 protective masks are "used to protect a soldier from chemical and biological attacks." Craig adds, "We've practiced with them two or three times this year."

John says, "President Bush is doing the right thing. But Americans should be more eager to get their hostages back instead of playing these waiting games. If we did what Russia did and used aggressive force, we'd never have hostages taken again."

Craig concludes, "I hope we can get it resolved without going to war."

John says, until notification, "Me and Craig, we laugh -- and it keeps you from going nuts."

### Derek Bauer

#### Friends Who Escaped

Just before coming to Brevard College, freshman Derek Bauer and his family narrowly escaped becoming a part of Saddam Hussein's group of "foreign guests" in Kuwait.

Derek and his family had lived in Kuwait for two years and just happened to move out before Hussein's tanks rolled across what was the Bauer's residence of Jabryia (a suburb of Kuwait City).

On September 5, Derek talked with his parents, (who now live in Columbia, S.C.) concerning friends and acquaintances still stranded in Kuwait. "There is an underground movement going on now," says Derek. He explains, "Some really good friends of ours were in the convoy of American Embassy personnel that were sent to Baghdad." The convoy had an accident. Derek's friends, Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Higgins, suffered minor injuries. Derek continues, "They were sent back to Kuwait and put in a hospital. While they were in their hospital room, a Kuwaiti woman came in and said, 'I know you don't know me but if you want to get out, you'll just have to trust me.'"

Apparently, the woman was a part of a Kuwaiti underground network of people working to get Westerners out of the country. "They gave her their ID's," says Derek, "Mrs. Higgins was put in a body bag and her husband was wrapped in bloody bandages." They were put in an ambulance and with sirens blaring, driven across the border in Baghdad.

"This type of thing is happening a lot over there," he explains. "They are taking folks and disguising them as dead or injured to get out of Kuwait."

He also says that a resistance movement is going on. "During the daytime, Kuwait belongs to Iraq," he says "But at night, Kuwaiti people are in control." According to Derek, there is guerilla warfare in and around Kuwait City. "It's total chaos. Iraqi soldiers are going to Kuwaiti houses and taking the men. No one knows what happens to them." He has also heard about Kuwaiti citizens slitting the throats of Iraqi soldiers.

As far as buildings and structures in Kuwait City, Derek says, "The actual bridge I drove to school on has been blown up. Some places around my old apartment have been looted."

Turn to page 4