

Iraq unsteady in wake of American troop withdrawal

BY: MOLLY BRUCE

A majority of Americans are in agreement that the Iraq war was a mistake. With the recent withdrawal of American troops from Iraq, the country is unsteady and could be at risk of civil war.

Opposition arguments of American troop withdrawal from Iraq cited the violent consequences that might ensue.

Former Vice President Dick Cheney, in reference to the deployment of troops to the Middle East, stated, "My belief is that we will, in fact, be greeted as liberators."

However, over the course of the 8½ years the United States spent fighting in Iraq, it became clear that the Iraqi people deeply opposed American occupation of the country.

And now, without the American military to take the brunt of religiously sparked violence, conflict between the Sunni and Shia Muslim communities is escalating.

Many Sunnis take umbrage with the Shia Muslims that not only account for a majority of the population in Iraq and Iran, but also a majority in the Governments of these two countries. But only now, after the American troop withdrawal,

are we starting to see this tension become more tangible.

Many protesters in Iraq cite Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki as using his power to minimize

ranking Shia government officials.

However, the Sunni community is not standing idly by. Sunni extremists retaliated,

outside forces. Shia Iran and Sunni Saudi Arabia are both vying for more influence in significantly weakened Iraq. The implications of this conflict



Obama announces withdrawal of troops from Iraq.

Courtesy of News One

the influence of Sunni Muslims in the area. For instance, al-Maliki's government executed over a dozen high-ranking Shia officials in the first two months of this year, and put to death over 50 more, a death toll that nearly equals that of all of 2011.

Al-Maliki also called Sunni official Vice President Tariq al-Hashemi a terrorist after accusing him of organizing assassination attempts on high-

killing hundreds of Iraqi citizens and wounding many more. Sunni officials have been boycotting their cabinet and parliament sessions, and only recently returned to work despite the persisting conflicts.

Across the nation of Iraq and around the world, onlookers fear the possibility of civil war. Not only is Iraq experiencing internal turmoil, but the country is also feeling the pressure of

could very well extend beyond the borders of this region and once again draw in the aid of foreign governments such as the United States.

As Syrian commentator Sami Moubayed warned, "A sectarian conflict in Iraq with one side backed by Iran and the other by Saudi Arabia will be extraordinarily difficult to contain within the borders of Iraq."

Giffords resigns from congress

BY: MIA MADDURI

Gabrielle Giffords, former US Representative from Arizona, resigned her seat in Congress on Jan. 25 due to injuries resulting from an assassination attempt on her life last year. Giffords chose to submit a video of her resignation to Congress.

"I will recover and will return," Giffords mentioned in her letter, which she gave to close friend, Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, to read aloud on the house floor.

On Jan. 8, 2011, the Congresswoman was attending her first 'Congress on your Corner' in Casas Adobes, AZ

when Jared Lee Loughner shot former Rep. Giffords in the head, killing 6 people and wounding 19 others at the

credited with saving the former Congresswoman's life.

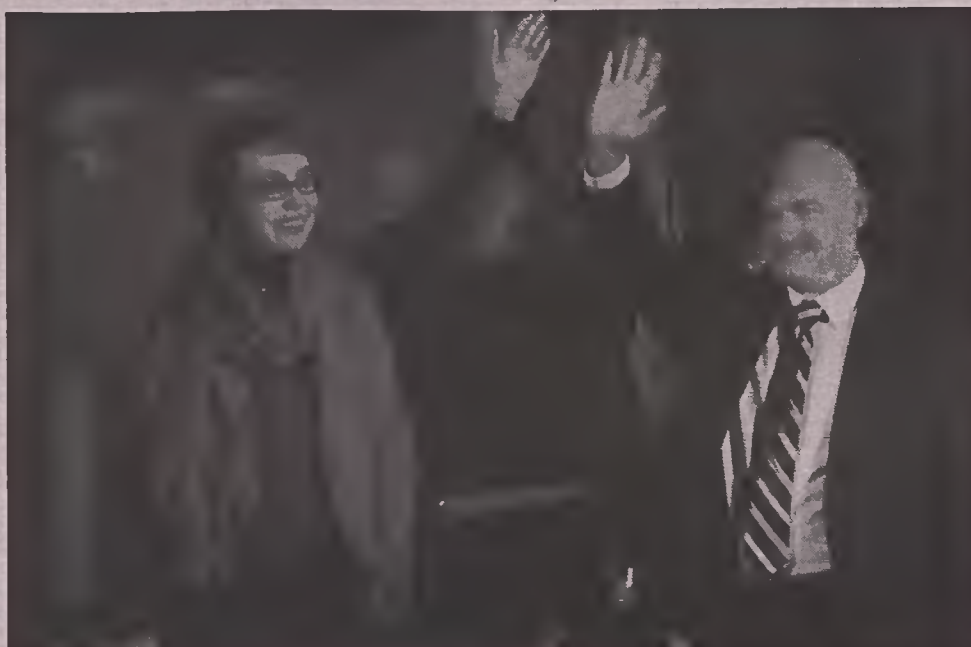
The bullet passed through the representative's head

Giffords into an induced coma in order to let her brain rest.

Geoffrey Ling, head neurologist, stated, "Her prognosis for maintaining the function that she has is very good. It's over 50 percent." Giffords began physical therapy and her doctors gave her medical clearance to travel to Florida to watch the last space shuttle launch of her husband, astronaut Mark Kelly.

She also appeared on the House floor to vote for the bill to raise the debt limit ceiling.

Although she has regained many of her bodily functions since the shooting in 2011, Giffords has decided to focus on her recovery and submitted her resignation the day after



Gifford waving farewell as she resigns from Congress.

Courtesy of The Blaze

same event. Gifford's assistant, Daniel Hernandez, immediately provided first aid and was later

without damaging the midline of her brain, where most fatal injuries occur. Still, doctors put

attending President Obama's State of the Union Address on Jan. 24.

Paterno leaves legacy

BY: STEVEN PHILIPS

When people look back at the legacy of Joe Paterno, some see the NCAA Division I's all-time winningest coach. Some see him as someone who won two national championships and 409 games in 46 seasons at Penn State. And some see him as a good man who made a catastrophic mistake.

But, there are also many things people didn't know about Paterno. In 2000, Penn State freshman defensive back Adam Taliaferro had his spine crushed when tackling an Ohio State player. He lay on that September field paralyzed and panicked.

The first person he saw when he opened his eyes was Paterno. Taliaferro wound up in a hospital bed in Philadelphia, everything frozen solid below the neck. Doctors said he had about a 3 percent chance of walking again.

Every other week, Paterno would fly to Philly to see him. One midnight, Taliaferro moved a toe and the first person his dad called was Paterno. From then on, every visit, Paterno wanted to see Taliaferro move something new.

Eventually, Taliaferro regained full movement in his body, but Paterno didn't stop there. Since Taliaferro would never play football again, Paterno got him a summer internship with the NFLPA in New York and, before you knew it, he was a corporate lawyer in Cherry Hill, NJ. He successfully ran for local office there and is now running for the Penn State board of trustees.

You can look at Paterno's legacy and see that he had five undefeated seasons. You can look at the recent events that shook the world of collegiate sports and say that he should have done more.

But there is this parting question. If we're so able to vividly remember the worst a man did, can't we also remember the best?

Chinese teacher visits

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Academic Programs, about the possibilities of pursuing global study proposals.

Sungwon Hwang, a junior in Louie's Introductory Chinese course said, "Her visit was a great experience for us to get an aspect of foreign culture, especially the school system of China. She was also able to get a portion of American culture, too, so overall it was a two-sided beneficial experience."