

CAMPUS FEELING

North Carolina Central University

February 26, 1991

An Eagle writes Home

The following letter was written by Craig Benton on Feb. 14. Benton took Freshman Composition in the spring of 1989 and is now in Saudi Arabia, as a part of Operation Desert Storm.

A Letter Home

As I walk through the desert sand,
I think of the oasis I enjoyed in my homeland.
Here, my only source of enjoyment
Is watching the cobras and scorpions fight,
While the sounds of artillery fire
Fill the night.

The reality of Desert Storm
Is at hand;

Many of us wonder
Why we are fighting this man.
Is it for money,

Oil, or political ambition?
But its's too late, now, to contemplate;

Our weapons are loaded with ammunition.
Everyday people ask

Why this fate has come to me.

The only answer I can give
Is so that Kuwait might be set free.

-Compliments of the Lonely Boys
Club
of Saudi Arabia.
Craig M. Benton
former student of English 1200
Spring Semester, 1989

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NCCU students march for peace in a Jan. demonstration.

Air Attacks Prepare for Ground War

From the *Durham Morning Herald* --

DHAHRAN, Saudi Arabia - Allied jets are paving the way for a ground war by bombing thousands of Iraqi artillery pieces, including some capable of hurling chemical and conventional shells much farther than allied cannon.

Allied commanders say knocking out the artillery will be decisive in stripping away the last layer of protection for front-line Iraqi positions and clearing the way for ground assaults through mine fields and revetments.

"He is heavily dependent on his artillery forces, and he positions them in such a way as to complement his forward line of troops, more specifically to complement his obstacle barrier," said a U.S. military officer.

"Battlefield preparation is hitting the barrier system, hit-

ting the forces that complement that barrier system and, most importantly, hitting the artillery that is going to service that barrier system," said the officer, who spoke on condition that his name not be used, at a briefing in Saudi Arabia.

U.S. commanders claim to have destroyed 1,200 of the estimated 3,200 Iraqi artillery pieces of 100mm or more, plus large numbers of ground-to-ground rocket launchers in Kuwait and southern Iraq. But they offered no breakdown on whether the "kills" included any of the 300-400 Iraqi "super cannon" in the region - south African-made G-5 and Austrian GH-N45 guns that hurl rocket-assisted shells to a range of 25 miles.

Although less accurate at such long ranges and packing relatively weak explosive wallops, those guns can rain shell on areas far behind the front

lines. They can be used to fire chemical or biological shells.

The top U.S. cannon, a 155mm gun, has a range of 18 miles when firing rocket-assisted M-864 shells that cost \$8,000 each. U.S. Multiple Rocket Launcher Systems, which fire 12-round salvos of 600-pound rockets, have a range of 19 miles, but lack the accuracy of artillery.

U.S. artillery men boast they would be the hands-down winners of the deadly duel of artillery fire certain to erupt in any allied ground assault.

With a higher percentage of self-propelled artillery, much better targeting "eyes," well-trained crews and radars that compute the origin of incoming rounds, U.S. crews hope to "shoot and scoot" before the Iraqis react.

Allied air supremacy will give attacking jets a virtually free hand in bombing and strafing Iraqi artillery positions.