

The war on Iraq

Kary Westphal

Seemingly, it all started on September 11, 2001. The terrorist attack on the US. The day when the safety of American citizens was questioned. The day when everyone realized how precious his or her freedom really is.

President Bush had not given the ok to go to war sooner because he was trying to consider all of the possibilities before taking action. There are several countries against war that were not willing to support the US if that decision was made. On February fifth, Secretary of State Colin Powell's address to the United Nations changed many views on going to war. During his speech Powell, revealed that Iraq broke Resolution 1441, which stated that if any weapons of mass destruction were found in Iraq by UN inspectors, the US would go to war. Powell gave evidence that proved Iraq was hiding lethal, chemical, and biological weapons. Every time the UN inspectors were due to arrive, the Iraqis evacuated everything overnight. Powell played tapes and showed satellite pictures proving that banned materials had been removed from a number of Iraqi weapons in mass destruction facilities. The Iraqis removed all items so that when the inspectors arrived at the facilities, they found nothing.

Saddam Hussein is the leader of the Iraq regime. Hussein and his regime are not only trying to conceal weapons; they are also trying to hide people. Saddam's regime has been experimenting on humans and animals to make their biological and chemical weapons more effective. Sixteen hundred death row prisoners were brought to a special unit in Iraq in 1995 for such experiments.

After Colin Powell's speech, the military took action, sending troops from all over the United States to Iraq. An estimated 140,000 military personal had reported to the Persian Gulf region as of February fourth. The number increased in the following weeks.

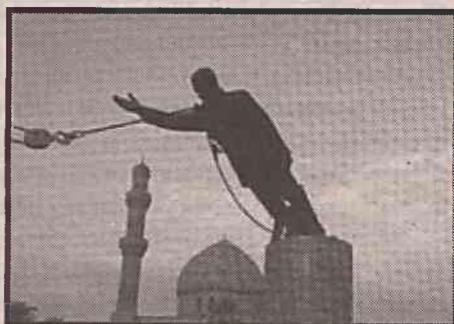


photo courtesy of cnn.com

On March 17, at 8:00 pm, President Bush made a speech telling Saddam Hussein that he had 48 hours to surrender himself and his sons or the war would begin. On Wednesday, March 19, at 8:00pm President Bush announced that the war would begin as soon as he said to take action.

At press time, war is in complete effect; the "Shock and Awe" campaign began Friday, March 21, at 1:00pm. The Military's main goal is to capture Saddam Hussein and take control of all lethal weapons. There are reports that Hussein was injured in the attacks. US troops bombed the building he was thought to have been hiding in. Satellite pictures from the UN show Saddam or his look alike being carried out on a stretcher. The Coalition Forces also bombed the place where his sons were.

Casualties thus far have been at a minimum, though they have not been non-existent. One Coalition helicopter crashed, killing eight British troops and four US marines. Also, one of our own soldiers, a Muslim, was so upset about going to war that he threw a grenade into a tent in Kuwait, killing two US leaders and severely injuring 20 of his own men.

There are many people who are against this war. There have been protests in several of the large cities all over the world. However, no matter how many people are for or against this war, fact remains: the Coalition forces are still at war with perhaps one of their most formidable opponents.

Induction held

Justin Oswalt

On March 25th, the National Honor Society inducted the first members of the class of 2004. The ceremony, held in the auditorium, began with an introduction by Assistant Principal Tracey Warren, followed by NHS President Ashley Hagans leading the traditional induction ceremony. Each new member was "tapped" in the time-honored tradition. The ceremony ended with the reading of the National Honor Society Pledge. The new members and their parents were then treated to refreshments provided by community sponsors and Ms. Mary Mooring's culinary classes.

These honored students are representative of RMSH's best. They will be called on for service projects around the city, to marshal and usher school events and ceremonies, to tutor other students, and for other valuable projects. It takes many hours of personal time to meet the requirements, but the students are willing to take the time to help others. Congratulations to the new inductees! Keep up the good work.

Writers awarded

Staff contributions

Two of our very own Gryphon writers were recognized for their efforts on The Gryphon. Sports writer Kareem "Remy" Gantt and news writer Caitlin Johnson were recognized by the North Carolina Press Club at an awards luncheon at Raleigh's Clariton Inn on April 5th. Gantt won an Honorable Mention in News Writing and Johnson won an Honorable Mention in the Opinion category. Numerous stories were entered from across the state; a school newspaper in Manteo brought home most of the awards. The award winners were also treated to a tour of the Governor's Mansion and a chance to see "Everest", a movie, in the IMAX Theater at Exploris Museum. Congratulations to Caitlin and Remy from the Gryphon staff!

RMSH webpage

Lindsey Battle

New teachers, principal and new students, with such addition to our school there is something even better added to the mix. Rocky Mount Senior High School is one of the first schools in Rocky Mount to have its own official web page, featuring School Schedules, Maps, the Nash-Rocky Mount Lunch menu (through PDF file), and Daily Announcements. Announcements will be current at all times between 2:30 pm and 2:35pm. There's a place for students, parents, faculty, and the community. Under the student section there's in season sports schedule, student awards, grade reports, scholarships and the student handbook. The parent section that includes faculty e-mail and teacher bullet board.

Other items included are Emails address of the principal the Vice principals and Guidance Guidelines. So check it out at www.nrms.k12.nc.us/schools/rmsh

Bus ride gone bad

Kimber Sikes

On the morning of April 7th, Bus 246 began its usual route. The ride, however, would not end exactly as planned. Instead of dropping students off safely in front of the Nash Street entrance, the bus driver, along with six students, was taken to the hospital after being hit by an automobile. Mr. Warren stated, "A witness said that the driver of the other automobile ran the red light at the intersection of Franklin and Western."

Rumors that several students were hospitalized as a result of the accident were proven false; however, some were taken to the hospital for the treatment of minor aches. Their parents were phoned and the students were taken home. Mr. Warren added that a routine police investigation is underway and the driver of the other vehicle received a citation for failing to stop at a red light.

Teen violence trends
are rising
page 3

What today's music
has done
page 4

From RMSH to the
Hall of Fame?
page 6

City on the Rise? Or
Comunidad?
page 7