

Local Color

Robbery-No leads have yet been discovered in the robbery of the Western Auto of Black Mountain. This robbery which took place during daylight hours, claimed approximately \$1500 of goods from this store.

S.A.D.D. Chapter Organized-A new chapter of Students Against Drunk Driving (S.A.D.D.) has been organized at Owen High School. Leslie Champion has been announced as President of this chapter. The organization sets forward two goals: to adhere to the laws of N.C. concerning alcohol (not responsible drinking for students under 21, but rather abstinence) and to promote the "contract for life."

Auditions-The Valley Community Theatre will be holding auditions for it's spring musical, "Working" by Studs Terkel. This play, directed by Peggie Boring musical direction by Chris Slay, will show various aspects of working classes in the United States. Auditions are at Owen Auditorium, February 10-14. Hopefuls should be prepared to perform a song of their choice and read from the script.

Presentation-"What is The Middle East" will be the topic of a presentation concerning the culture, history, religion etc. of the Middle East region. Bob Garzaneggn will open this presentation on February 20 at St. James Episcopal Church. There will be a presentation followed by an open forum for questions raised. For more info. call 669-7126.

Poetry Reading-Maria Flook, published author of *Reckless Wedding*, *Dancing With My Sister Jane*, and *Sea Room*, will be presenting a poetry reading Feb.16 at the Jubilee Center in Asheville from 2-5 p.m. Flook has also published poetic material in such magazines of repute as *The New Yorker*, *New Criterion*, and *American Poetry Review*.

Oil Idiocy

Shannon Hodgins
Assistant Editor

The fragile Persian Gulf ecosystem is again damaged in the spoils of war. Saddam Hussein has opened the pumps at the Kuwaiti Sea Island Terminal which regulates 100,000 barrels of crude oil per day. In addition to this horror, Hussein has unloaded the oil of 6 Kuwaiti tankers which were loaded with 3 million gallons of petroleum combined. Experts state that this oil spill is approximately twelve times larger than the Exxon Valdez spill. This act is similar to Hussein's actions in 1983, during the war between Iraq and Iran, which flooded the Gulf with 12 million barrels of crude oil.

President Bush has stated that Hussein's action as "environmental terrorism." The repercussions of this massive oil spill will undoubtedly show throughout upcoming years. Often feared for his use of chemical weapons, Hussein has damaged the ecosystem, animal life, and feeding grounds of many species before beginning to launch his attacks on the species of man. Analysts trying to explain Hussein's reason for committing such an act, believe this to be an attempt to block any "amphibious liberation" of Kuwait.

Effects of this massive oil spill are ones which are felt not only by animal life. This spill could hinder the Gulf economy, and contaminate many of the desalination units of many Gulf nations.

The spill will also cripple the shrimp and fishing industry of this area. Animal species which are in major danger are the bottle nose dolphin, the dugong (cousin of the manatee), the green turtle, and the Caspian tern. Seagrass beds, food for many marine life, have been contaminated, and tar from the spill will destroy coral reefs and marine dwellings.

The Gulf Region is highly vulnerable to oil spills in result of it's fragile ecosystem. The water depth of this region is only 110 feet deep, yet it will take approximately 200 years to flush out. Because of the lack of vitalic waves, oil and tar is left on the shores. American forces are unable to begin cleanup until Kuwait is once again secured.

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graphs. He came armed with the Federalist Papers and a copy of the American Constitution. Here is a quote from his presentation:

"The U.S. Constitution is a remarkable document - and a demanding one for those of us who choose to make our career in the military. We are required to pledge our sacred honor to a document that looks at the military as a necessary, but undesirable, institution useful in times of crisis; and to be watched carefully at all other times."

On top of everything else, Powell is the master politi-

Quotables

To be rendered blind,
first one must be
able to see.

-Unknown

Before one may fall
from grace,
there must be a ledge.

--Unknown

Night Light

(Then Jesus prayed)

As thou has given him power
over all flesh, that he should
give eternal life to as many as
thou has given him.

And this is life eternal, that
they might know thee the only
true God, and Jesus Christ,
whom you have sent.

I have glorified thee on earth: I
have finished the work which
thou gavest me to do.

--John 17:2-4

cian. The GOP is already thinking about presenting him as a Republican Presidential Nominee in 1996. He is well respected in political circles, to quote Senator John McCain (R-Ariz):

"He is the finest military officer this nation has produced since World War II."

Yet Powell seems removed from all of this, refusing to even publicly discuss it. His only concern is for his men in Saudi Arabia and the Persian Gulf. He is committed to ensuring that our troops achieve victory with a minimum loss of life. Colin Powell is truly America's Finest General.