

# Israel, Iraq Focuses Of Cheney's Visits

The Associated Press

Vice President Dick Cheney, nearing an end of his tour of Arab countries, acknowledged Sunday that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has become "a pre-occupation for everyone" in the region.

The crisis has blunted Cheney's effort to build a case for a tougher stance against Iraq.

With Cheney ready to head to Israel, Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Abdullah — author of a peace initiative drawing support — accepted an invitation to visit President Bush at his Texas ranch.

Cheney delivered the invitation in person on Saturday night in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

The vice president was to meet Monday with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon. Cheney has left time on his schedule for meetings with Palestinian leaders, a senior U.S. official said Sunday. The official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said there were no plans for Cheney to see Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat but would not rule out the possibility.

Cheney has said he will confer with U.S. envoy Anthony Zinni upon his arrival in Israel. "I hope he'll have something positive to report," Cheney said.

The vice president has denied any linkage between the Israeli-Palestinian crisis and his search for Arab-world support for a wider war on terrorism. But on Sunday, he said the crisis had overshadowed other items on his tour of the region.

The conflict "is a preoccupation for everybody in this part of the world," he said at a news conference in the presidential guest palace in Manama after a

meeting with Bahrain's king, Sheikh Hamad bin Isa al-Khalifa.

Cheney visited the Bahrain headquarters of the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet. Later, he flew to Qatar for meetings with that Gulf state's leaders. Cheney also greeted U.S. troops stationed at Al-Udeid air base on the outskirts of Doha, the capital of Qatar. He was stopping in Kuwait, the ninth and final Arab state on his trip, before arriving in Israel.

One Arab leader after another has counseled Cheney against opening an Iraqi campaign in the war on terrorism. Bahrain's crown prince, Sheikh Salman bin Hamad al-Khalifa, said Arabs are more concerned about what they see as "Israeli violence" against Palestinians than about the Iraq issue.

Joining Cheney at the palace news conference, he said he shares U.S. concerns about Saddam Hussein's efforts to obtain weapons of mass destruction.

But, the crown prince added, "I don't think that the strike on Iraq has been decided yet." He said his country prefers pressuring Iraq to comply with U.N. resolutions, including accepting a return of weapons inspectors.

Cheney complained about a "speculative bubble (over) whether or not the United States might use military force" against Iraq. "It would be a mistake to assume there is only one issue on my agenda," he said.

Cheney told reporters that he had extended Bush's invitation to visit the United States in his meeting Saturday with Abdullah in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

At that session, Abdullah reportedly told Cheney that Saudi Arabia remains opposed to attacking Iraq and would not allow the United States to use Saudi bases for such an operation.

## ABROAD

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the University, classes around the globe continued. "Life in Spain momentarily paused, but it did not come to a complete stop," Diana said.

Catherine Jones, a senior history and Spanish major from Chicago, also experienced the tragedy from an outside perspective while studying in Spain. Like many, she instantly contacted her family. Both her father and her sister worked in downtown Chicago and she worried about their safety.

The same confusion and anxiety about future attacks that crossed the minds of many Americans had also crossed the Atlantic.

"It was probably a couple of weeks before I settled down and felt comfortable staying in Spain," Jones said.

Officials in the UNC Study Abroad Office did their best to ease students' feelings of apprehension. "They offered as much support as they could," Diana said. Students had the opportunity to discuss their fears with a counselor, and Diana said a guest came to one of her classes to speak about Islam.

E-mails from UNC Study Abroad Program Director Robert Miles warned the students not to travel and to guard their identity as Americans.

At a time when patriotism was at its highest in the United States, Jones said she felt the need to downplay the fact that she was American.

Still, Diana said she felt safer in

Sevilla, Spain, than she would have felt if she were at home. America was under attack, not Spain. Diana said that because her appearance did not reveal her nationality, she did not feel she was a target for aggression.

Most people who discovered Diana was American offered condolences. "It was good to know that most of the world supported us," Diana said. Jones echoed this feeling. "We were more embraced than we were threatened," she said.

Before returning to the United States, the students had a re-entry preparation meeting where they discussed the changes at home.

The patriotic flag displays and increased airport security were popular topics of conversation.

Jones said her mother's description

of the new patriotism prepared her for what she saw when she returned.

Neither she nor Diana were shocked. "I thought everything would be different," Diana said. "Obviously seeing all the flags everywhere was different, and airport security was grueling."

But, she added that the changes were not as drastic as she expected.

These travelers say they, like other members of their generation, will never forget the events or the effects of Sept. 11. But Jones said her experience of the tragedy was worlds away from the average American's.

She said, "I felt fortunate in a way, I had a unique story to tell."

The Features Editor can be reached at [features@unc.edu](mailto:features@unc.edu).

## TOWN BUDGET

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Current tax rates of 50.4 cents per \$100 valuation mean an owner of \$200,000 in property pays \$1,008 each year to the town. The 4.7 cent increase would boost that bill by \$94.

But now that the state is threatening to add to the town's budget stress, Horton said the council will be forced to make a decision regarding the increase in taxes once the staff creates a report.

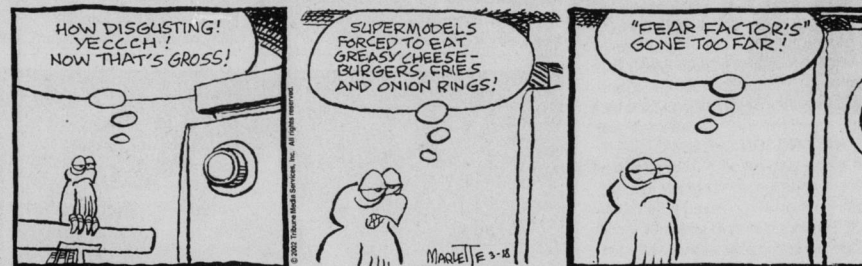
The council plans to meet with the town staff soon.

Wiggins said adjusting the budget for the next fiscal year is going to be a challenge that she hopes will put some capital projects on hold but most likely won't include layoffs. "The manager has been updating us periodically on the financial situation, and we are awaiting his next budget presentation where he will present his recommendation on how to deal with that," she said. "As the budget picture changes he has to adjust (his recommendations)."

"Right now we're just awaiting the specifics."

The City Editor can be reached at [citydesk@unc.edu](mailto:citydesk@unc.edu).

## Kudzu

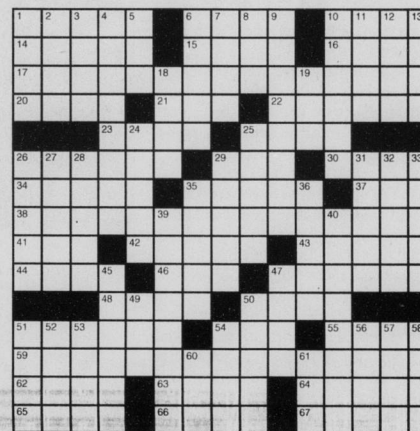


## THE Daily Crossword

By Gerald R. Ferguson

- ACROSS**
- 1 Kind of release or box
  - 6 Bacon quantity
  - 10 Funny fall
  - 14 Flinch or start
  - 15 Contender
  - 16 Yorkshire river
  - 17 Where to get your kicks?
  - 20 Whipping scar
  - 21 Chow down
  - 22 Inspect
  - 23 Tick's partner
  - 25 Head-to-head contest
  - 26 Clumsy
  - 29 Weekday abbr.
  - 30 Scads
  - 34 Stomachs of ruminants
  - 35 Ponderosa or Reata, e.g.
  - 37 First name in honesty
  - 38 Landon series
  - 41 112.5 degrees from S
  - 42 Rot-resistant wood
  - 43 Elite social category
  - 44 Presley hit of 1958
  - 46 Brown with a band
  - 47 Jets and gliders
- DOWN**
- 1 Bow on a liner
  - 2 Lacoste of the courts
  - 3 British peer
  - 4 Kind of ferrier or reel
  - 5 R-V hookup
  - 6 Move furtively
  - 7 Irretrievable
  - 8 The Greatest
  - 9 Picnic parcel
  - 10 Money under the table?
  - 11 Chance taken
  - 12 Opera song
  - 13 Written part
  - 18 Part of M.I.T.
  - 19 Sock end
  - 24 Conductor Seiji
  - 25 Contributor
  - 26 Voiced wonder

- 27 Kind of acid
- 28 Steely Dan's singer
- 29 Australian pals
- 31 "Alice" star
- 32 More than 20% overweight
- 33 Pitched shelters
- 35 "Death on a Pale Horse"
- 36 Cures
- 39 On the whole
- 40 Skagway populace
- 45 Wept
- 47 Utter breathlessly
- 49 "O sole ..."
- 50 Timely benefits
- 51 \$\$ dispensers
- 52 Friend's noun
- 53 Shore bird
- 54 Hitch
- 56 Kans. neighbor
- 57 Regan's father
- 58 Black cuckoos
- 60 Morgue letters
- 61 Hanoi holiday



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**AN OPEN LETTER TO THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN**

Kim Gandy, President,  
National Organization for Women  
733 15th St NW, 2nd floor  
Washington, D.C. 20005

February 1, 2002

Dear Ms. Gandy:

Please consider two hypothetical scenarios: 1) A male employer informs a 25-year-old female employee that she will not be considered for promotion unless she allows him to massage her buttocks. 2) A male school principal informs a 15-year-old schoolgirl that she will be suspended from classes for the next three days, therefore receiving zero grades on all missed tests and assignments, unless she submits to his spanking her on the buttocks with a wooden board. What are the essential differences between these two cases? Which of the two would you consider to be a more egregious violation of a defenseless victim? If you had to choose, which victim is in more urgent need of protection?

Bear in mind that the beating is more painful and more dangerous than the massage, that the schoolgirl is probably more dependent on the adults in her world and less resourceful in defending her own interests, and that the psychological consequences to her are more apt to be long-term, setting her up for future victimization by other presumed authority figures, e.g., boyfriend, husband, employer—anyone with the power to demand her compliance and to hurt her if she resists.

At this time, thanks largely to the efforts of such organizations as yours, nowhere in the U.S. are employers legally permitted to demand sexual favors in exchange for job security or advancement. In the public school systems of 23 states, however, thinly disguised sexual favors can be, and are being, coerced from students with impunity. According to the most conservative estimates, legal beatings of schoolchildren number about 1/3 million incidents per year, and many of those beatings are inflicted by adult males on underage females (though even 18-year-old women are not exempt from being paddled). It is often with threats to these girls' academic standing—and by extension, their prospects for college admission—that these men prevail on them to "assume the position."

The purpose here is not to make a moral distinction between the mistreatment of girls and that of boys. We consider any deliberate aversive stimulation to the pelvic area of a non-consenting, underage person, irrespective of gender, to be a sexual violation. The purpose is rather to present the issue in terms of your particular mission: the protection of women.

Ironically and tragically, to date no major women's rights advocacy group that we are aware of has addressed this issue (excepting a 1992 resolution by the Florida chapter of NOW and a story published in *Women's Enews* last September). It seems clear to us that one way—arguably the best way—to empower grown women would be to stop systematically disempowering young girls. That could be achieved with relative ease and speed. Virtually every other advanced nation, and more than a few developing nations, have already given schoolchildren statutory protection from disciplinary beatings. Ten European nations and Israel have now extended that protection to children in their homes. Posted on our Web site is "Rape: Lesson No. 1," a young woman's account of her experience with corporal punishment while a student at a Florida public high school. It speaks eloquently to this issue and should be read by everyone concerned about violence against women. You may read and make copies of that document at [www.nospank.net/s-rape.htm](http://www.nospank.net/s-rape.htm). You can also see typical paddling-related injuries at [www.nospank.net/whacked3.htm](http://www.nospank.net/whacked3.htm).

In closing, we invite you to share this letter with board members, staff and the membership of your organization. We hope that you will decide that now is the time to protect schoolgirls from sexual violence disguised as discipline. To ignore their plight is to do a gross disservice to all women and to all society. Please keep us apprised of your plans in this regard. You may count on our cooperation in every way.

Sincerely,  
Jordan Riak, Executive Director  
Parents and Teachers Against Violence in Education (PTAVE)

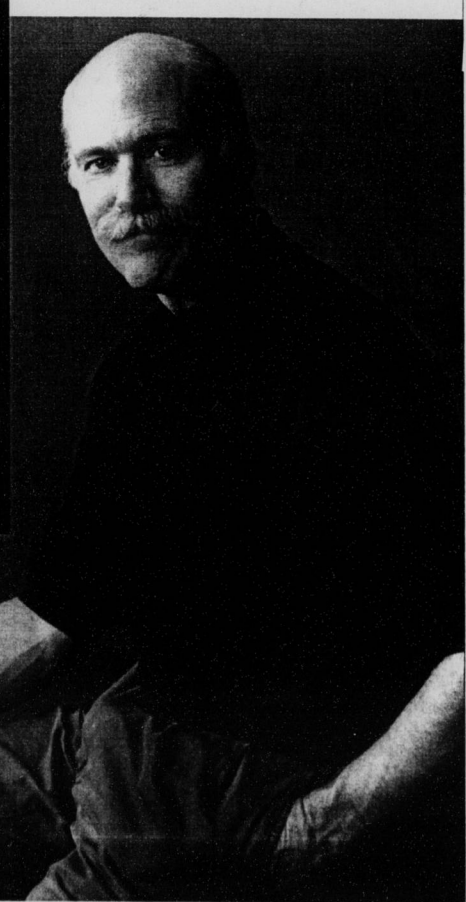
Parents and Teachers Against Violence in Education is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.  
P.O. Box 1033, Alamo, CA 94507-7033. Tel.: (925) 831-1661 Web site: [www.nospank.net](http://www.nospank.net)

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