

# The Daily Tar Heel

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## World awaits war as deadline nears

IRAQ: HUSSEIN ALLOWS  
CHEMICAL WEAPON USEBRITAIN: PARLIAMENT  
BACKS BLAIR'S STANCETURKEY: MAY GRANT  
U.S. USE OF AIRSPACE

A U.S. Marine from the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit (right) gives security to his colleagues moving on a truck around a camp in the desert of northern Kuwait on Tuesday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON

**I**N AN EDGY PRELUDE TO WAR, SADDAM HUSSEIN MOCKED A U.S. ULTIMATUM TUESDAY TO SURRENDER POWER, AND THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION CLAIMED PUBLIC SUPPORT FROM 30

nations for its international coalition supporting Iraq's disarmament.

The streets of Baghdad captured the moment — panic buying by residents bracing for a fearsome U.S.-led attack side by side with a government-prompted, mass demonstration in support of Hussein.

"This war, in short, is tantamount to genocide," charged Mohammed Al-Douri, Iraq's ambassador to the United Nations, in one of a string of insults the Iraqi high command hurled at Bush.

It was a day-long act of defiance in the face of an invasion force of more

than 250,000 troops ringing Iraq, a nation of more than 23 million that Hussein has ruled brutally for nearly a quarter century.

One day after President Bush set his deadline of 8 p.m. EST today, troops in the Kuwaiti desert loaded their ammunition and combat gear into fighting vehicles, ready to invade on short notice.

"I think I'd probably have a better chance of being elected pope than we have of Mr. Saddam Hussein leaving the country," Capt.

Thomas A. Parker said aboard the USS Kitty Hawk — an aircraft carrier preparing to take on a supply of 1,000-pound, satellite-guided bombs from a nearby munitions ship.

"So this is probably going to follow to its logical conclusion."

As the hours dwindled toward Bush's deadline, the White House worked to keep Hussein guessing. Presidential spokesman Ari Fleischer would not rule out a U.S. attack before Bush's 48-hour clock ran out. "Saddam Hussein has to figure out what this means," he said.

One official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Bush was leaving the door open in case Hussein makes a pre-emptive attack or U.S. intelligence warns that one is likely.

Underscoring what Bush said Monday night, Fleischer said U.S. troops would enter Iraq, either as an invading force or as part of an unmoled effort to locate weapons of mass destruction.

Turkey's government, meanwhile, said it would ask parliament to reverse an earlier decision and let U.S. troops into the country to open a northern front against Iraq.

At the same time the administration prepared for an invasion, it announced a series of steps at home to protect against terrorist

SEE IRAQ, PAGE 7

## Local life goes on despite war worries

Generation gap evident in opinions on invasion



Spencer Chambless (left) borrows money from his father, Rick, to purchase camouflage clothing at Surplus Sid's in Carrboro on Tuesday afternoon.

STAFF REPORT

As the United States creeps closer to a military conflict that many have been expecting for months, local residents say they accept the certainty of war but fear the uncertainty of its consequences.

On the eve of President Bush's deadline for Saddam Hussein to either flee Iraq or face a military invasion, the mood in downtown Chapel Hill was quiet but anxious.

Local residents and University students strolled along Franklin Street, running errands and chatting with friends. But those who spoke of the war expressed fear of what is to come.

The steps of the post office were empty, but in past months, they have been home to countless protests and demonstrations.

Those same steps will serve as a meeting place once the anticipated war begins. Area anti-war activists already have planned a 5 p.m. vigil and street takeover for whatever day the United States bombs or invades Iraq.

Down the street at Sutton's Drugstore, employee Diana McLennan said she's concerned about the imminent war and a possible terrorist attack that could be lodged against the United States.

"Maybe I'm just paranoid," says McLennan, a Chapel Hill resident

SEE ATMOSPHERE, PAGE 7

## State, nation step up security

BY GILLIAN BOLSOVER  
STAFF WRITER

Operation Liberty Shield, a national security plan that goes far beyond the government's previous responses to terrorist threats, set N.C. officials into action safeguarding the state Tuesday.

The nation's terror alert status was raised from "elevated" to "high" Monday night after President Bush said the U.S. military is ready to attack Iraq unless Saddam Hussein leaves the country by tonight.

Government officials believe war with Iraq increases the possibility of attacks on U.S. soil or against U.S. interests abroad.

When U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge outlined this new national security plan Tuesday morning, law enforcement officers, the Coast Guard and railway and airport officials in North Carolina sprang into action.

Much of the plan is geared toward protecting the nation's transportation system — random searches, restricted airspace, enhanced identification checks, escorts and guard duty.

Coast Guard officials, who oversee more than 300 miles of North Carolina's coastline, listened carefully to Bush's instructions to increase maritime border security.

Ports in Wilmington and Morehead City are international dispatch points for the military. Aircraft monitoring the Atlantic coastline fly out of Elizabeth City, and the port at Sunny Point is a military ammunition storage area.

"The (alert) upgrade means that there will be more vessels on patrol

SEE SECURITY, PAGE 7

### ANALYSIS



DTH FILE PHOTO/JOSHUA GREER

Bush is defining his presidency with an aggressive foreign policy.

## Presidency hinges on U.S. victory

BY CLEVE R. WOOTSON JR.  
SENIOR WRITER

For Lincoln, it was the Civil War. For Franklin D. Roosevelt, it was the New Deal and World War II.

For Lyndon Johnson, it was the Vietnam War.

And some say that for President Bush, a war with Iraq could be the defining moment of his presidency.

"You can sort of go through every president and come up with a one-liner for all of them," said Lee Edwards, a senior fellow at the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank.

The war on Iraq is many things, experts say. It represents the furtherance of the Bush doctrine. It is another test of the president's prowess in foreign policy.

And, some argue, it is a political gamble.

Since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, Edwards said, Bush has avidly sought to stop future attacks before they happen.

"Right now, George Bush was

SEE BUSH, PAGE 7

### ONLINE

Check out www.dailytarheel.com for a photo gallery of the Tar Heel's 83-72 victory over DePaul in the Smith Center in the first round of the NIT.



### SPORTS

#### STILL ALIVE

Tar Heels advance in NIT behind David Noel's first career double-double. **PAGE 9**

### INSIDE

#### BRAND NEW LOOK

Report urges town to improve business outlook. **PAGE 3**

### WEATHER

**TODAY P.M.** Showers, High 53, Low 45

**THURSDAY** Thunderstorms, High 67, Low 52

**FRIDAY** Few Showers, High 74, Low 45