

# The Daily Tar Heel

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## U.S. REPELS IRAQI ATTACK



At least 150 Iraqis killed in fierce fighting 100 miles south of Baghdad

U.S. infantry troops fought off a desert attack by Iraqis on Tuesday, inflicting heavy casualties in a clash less than 100 miles from Baghdad.

Defense officials said between 150 and 500 Iraqis were killed in the battle near An Najaf, adding that there were no immediate reports of American casualties.

Iraqis launched their attack on a day of howling sandstorms — weather bad enough to slow the U.S.-led drive toward the Iraqi capital. After the sandstorm lifted in Baghdad, pre-dawn explosions struck the city.

Warplanes bombed targets in the northern part of the country and briefly knocked government television off the air in the capital. And U.S. troops in control of a vast Iraqi air base sealed 36 bunkers, designated as possible hiding places for weapons of mass destruction.

British forces also battled for control of Basra, a southern city of 1.3 million sliding toward chaos.

U.S. officials also issued fresh cautions about the possible use of chemical weapons by Iraqi troops, although none have yet been

used in the six-day-old war — or even found by the invading troops.

As the pace of combat quickened, U.S. and British officials sought to prepare the public for something less than a quick campaign and predicted difficult days to come.

Still, President Bush forecast victory. "The Iraqi regime will be ended ... and our world will be more secure and peaceful," he said.

Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein saw it differently. State television carried what it described as a message from him to tribal and clan leaders, saying, "Consider this to be the command of faith and jihad, and fight them."

If confirmed, the initial reports of fighting near An Najaf would make it the biggest ground clash of the war, as well as the first encounter between advancing U.S. infantry and the Iraqi units guarding the approach to Hussein's seat of power.

A senior military official said the U.S. troops had hunkered down against a sandstorm when Iraqis — either Republican Guard or paramilitary Iraqi troops traveling on foot — opened fire with rocket-propelled grenades.

Some of the 7th Cavalry's equipment was

damaged in the attack, the official said.

The unit is part of the Army force driving on Baghdad. Some elements of the force are farther north, near Karbala, with only the Medina armored division of the Republican Guard between them and Baghdad. Muslim clerics in Iran warned against military threats to shrines in Iraq. An Najaf is the burial place of Imam Ali, son-in-law of the Prophet Mohammed.

Details of the situation inside the southern city of Basra, Iraq's second largest, also were sketchy. British journalists reported that residents were staging an uprising against pro-Hussein forces and that Iraqi troops were firing mortars at them.

British forces staged a raid on a suburb of the city, captured a senior leader of the ruling Baath party and killed 20 of his bodyguards.

"He's sitting there in his little room thinking he's having a good morning and whap, we're in, whap, we're out," boasted Col. Chris Vernon, a British Army spokesman.

The Iraqis denied all of it. "The situation is stable," Information Minister Mohammed

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### War impacts study abroad experience

BY KIRSTEN FIELDS  
STAFF WRITER

While studying abroad in Sevilla, Spain, this semester, junior Adam Tindel was caught in a protest of thousands in the center of Madrid.

"At first, I found it interesting," Tindel said. "Then it got more and more crowded until we were hardly able to move — a very uncomfortable feeling."

Tindel said it took him and his friends more than an hour to walk several hundred feet.

With the United States at war with Iraq, UNC students studying abroad this semester are having dramatically different experiences than previous students have had. Wherever they go, students studying abroad are finding it difficult to avoid the war in some form or another.

Another UNC student studying abroad, sophomore Laura Fischer, experienced a "particularly disturbing" protest in Copenhagen, Denmark. As people were holding protest signs, a recording of "The Star-Spangled Banner" played on loudspeakers, with sounds of explosions and screams injected into the song.

Things turned violent when people hit and spit on a man holding a U.S. flag. The police had to step in to break up the fight. Fischer said this was one of the first times she truly felt scared.

"All of this does make me uneasy," Fischer said.

Junior Ben Garren has been studying in Sussex, England, since September and said the anti-war protests did not start with the United States' declaration of war.

"Before the war began, there was a good number of protests, including the largest ever in England, against the war," Garren said.

The UNC Study Abroad Office has been communicating regularly with students in other countries via e-mail to ease their concerns.

Garren said the e-mails have advised the students to "basically use common sense" by avoiding large demonstrations and areas, such as McDonald's, where Americans might congregate.

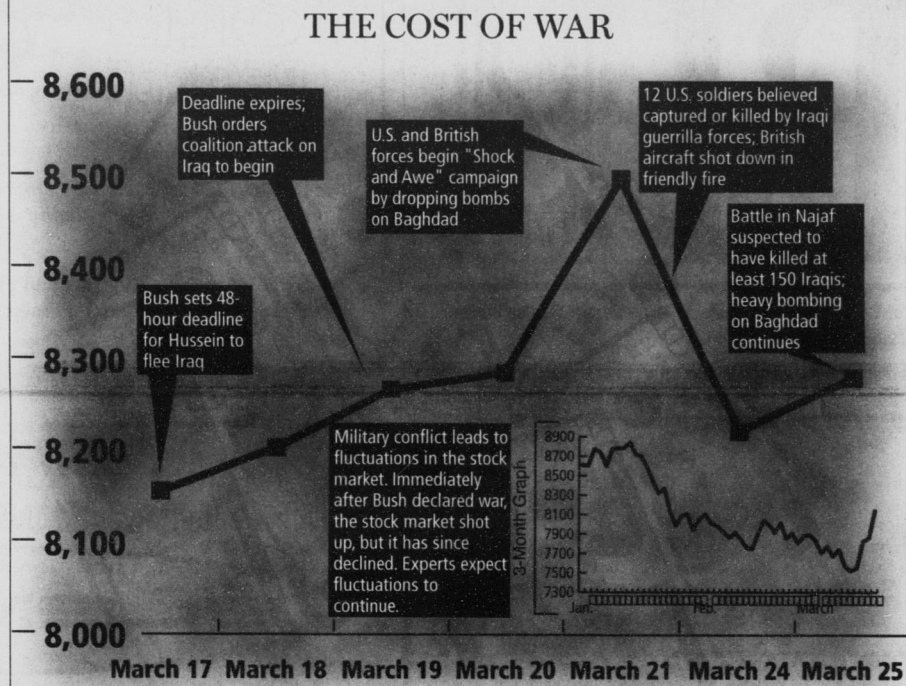
Study Abroad Director Bob Miles said students planning to study abroad attend an orientation before they leave the country during which safety and security issues are addressed.

Students are advised to register at the U.S. embassies in their respective countries so there is contact information available in the case of an emergency.

"We tell students to avoid behavior that will decrease their ability to keep safe," Miles said. The



Thousands of people in Sevilla, Spain, gather to protest the war in Iraq. The sign states, "Ban Bush — Drop Bush, not bombs."



### Uncertain war costs, length affect economy

Investors, business hold off on spending

BY MARGAUX ESCUTIN  
STAFF WRITER

The developments in the war with Iraq could bear a relationship to the volatility of the stock market as it becomes apparent that resolving the conflict might take longer — and cost more — than originally expected.

On Tuesday, President Bush submitted a formal request to Congress for \$74.7 billion to pay for the first installment of the war with Iraq.

The market reacts quickly to information changes, such as news from Iraq of the vacillating progress of U.S. troops, said William Reichenstein, professor of finance at Baylor University. "Prices reflect expectations. As new information reaches the market, it reacts to it."

Military setbacks during the weekend prompted realization that the war might be a prolonged endeavor and impacted the market negatively, he said.

The Dow Jones industrial average Monday dropped 307 points — the largest one-day drop since Sept. 3. The market rebounded slightly Tuesday, closing up 66 points. Many businesses put investment projects on hold because they do not know how the war will unfold, said UNC eco-



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE WHITE HOUSE  
President Bush said the money he requested will go toward fueling ships, tanks and aircraft, as well as airlifting supplies to Iraq.

nomics Professor Michael Salemi. Consumers, preoccupied with war news and wondering if oil prices will rise, will wait to see what happens. Because the economy depends on consumers, businesses are reluctant to take new employees and begin projects, Salemi said.

But Bush's appeal for almost \$75 billion did not affect the market so much as reaction to the weekend's events. "We knew that ... the war would probably cost us \$100 billion," Reichenstein said. "The price reaction on Monday was due to the negative events over the weekend."

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### \$75B will not cover war costs

BY GILLIAN BOLSOVER  
STAFF WRITER

President Bush delivered a price tag for the Iraqi war Tuesday, but some are wondering if nearly \$75 billion will suffice for the total cost of war.

Experts say that this value will cover the cost of military operations but that reconstruction is going to need additional funding. Iraqi oil revenues could form a significant part of these efforts.

Bush said in a speech Tuesday morning at the Pentagon that he is sending a \$74.7 billion wartime supplemental appropriations bill to Congress.

"This money will cover the current cost of fueling our ships and aircraft and tanks and of airlifting tons of supplies into the theater of operations," the president said. "My request includes funds for relief

SEE COST, PAGE 4

### Lejeune loses 11 Marines in Iraq

Jacksonville mourns deaths

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JACKSONVILLE — It was supposed to be a joyful week for Cpl. Jarred Pokora, with a brief leave to celebrate the birth of his daughter before a possible deployment to Iraq.

But news that at least 11 Marines from Camp Lejeune have been killed in Iraq has plunged this garrison town into mourning.

"You live, you work, you do everything with these guys," said Pokora, a 21-year-old member of the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force from Springfield, Ill.

He serves in the same regiment as 2nd Lt. Frederick Pokorney Jr., one of the nine Marines killed Sunday in fighting near An Nasiriyah, 230 miles southeast of Baghdad.

Pokorney's brother-in-law, Rick Schulgen, said the family was grieving for "a proud father, a proud husband and a proud Marine" whom they hope to bury in Arlington National Cemetery.

"His first love was his family. His second love was the Marines," Schulgen said. "Anyone that was blessed by knowing Fred has suffered an indescribable loss. We all hurt deeply."

Also among those killed was Lance Cpl. David Fribley, 26, of Fort Myers, Fla. His father said Fribley knew Americans could face tactics like those used by the Iraqis near An Nasiriyah.

"That's part of war," Garry Fribley said from the family's home in Atwood, Ind. "It's time to take the gloves off. We're so intent on being the nice guys, and (Iraqi soldiers) are not going to abide by anything."

Two other Camp Lejeune Marines have died in noncombat accidents.

The U.S. flag near the USO center flew at half-staff, and an enormous yellow bow was tied to a railing outside. Some 17,500 of the 30,000 Marines assigned to Camp Lejeune are overseas, and flags and signs in their support dot roadsides and businesses all over Jacksonville.

Matt Sutton, 35, a Marine cor-

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**WEATHER**  
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THURSDAY Sunny, High 65, Low 39  
FRIDAY Partly Cloudy, High 65, Low 44