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BATTLE MOVES NORTH

Last stand might happen at Tikrit

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Opposition forces crumbled in northern Iraq on Thursday as U.S. and Kurdish troops seized oil-rich Kirkuk without a fight and held a second city within their grasp.

U.S. commanders said signs point to a last stand by Iraqis in Saddam Hussein's birthplace of

Tikrit.

Despite the gains, one Marine was killed and 22 injured in a seven-hour battle in the Iraqi capital. Four more were wounded in a suicide bombing. "Baghdad's still an ugly place," said Maj. Gen. Gene Renuart.

Widespread looting persisted 24 hours after the city celebrated

the government's fall.

Striking anew at government leadership, coalition aircraft dropped six satellite-guided bombs on a building where Hussein's half-brother, Barzan Ibrahim Hasan al-Tikriti, was believed to be.

The half-brother once headed the Iraqi intelligence service, and the building in Ar Ramadi, 60 miles west of Baghdad, served as an intelligence service operations

site, said Marine Maj. Brad Bartelt, a spokesman for the U.S. Central Command in the Persian Gulf. It was not known immediately whether al-Tikriti was hit.

Increasingly, the U.S. military focus is away from the capital. Kurdish troops set off celebrations in Kirkuk when they moved in, and there were hopes that Iraqis will surrender today in Mosul, another northern city.

Nearly 100 miles to the north

of Baghdad, U.S. commanders said Tikrit is the likely site of a last stand by Iraqi forces — if there is to be one.

Iraqi defenders are believed to have moved there from other parts of the country.

U.S. commandos were in the region, and warplanes were attacking.

United States-led fighters and

SEE WAR, PAGE 4

ANALYSIS

U.N. role in Iraq recovery debated

BY KATHRYN ROEBUCK
STAFF WRITER

United Nations involvement in the reconstruction of postwar Iraq will include a minimal humanitarian role due to the Bush administration's "our war, our peace" mind-set, experts say.

Because the United States did not have backing from most countries represented at the United Nations, there is internal dissension among top officials as to whether countries not directly involved in the war should be allowed to assist in Iraq's reconstruction.

U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell, among others, is pushing for more European involvement to bridge the gap between the United States and other countries, including France and Germany.

But others are holding out, saying that some countries not in support of the United States now want an unbalanced amount of control in the peacekeeping procedure.

The Bush administration has expressed little faith in the U.N. Security Council, saying it hasn't lived up to its responsibilities. U.S. officials, therefore, are regulating the council's input in establishing a democracy.

"U.N. involvement will mostly include relief in providing food, medicine and basic tasks for the short-term reconstruction," said Michael Tierney, an expert on

SEE UNITED NATIONS, PAGE 4

Officials pin hopes on budget close to Easley's

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
STAFF WRITER

Although the N.C. budget is far from set in stone, the \$28 million systemwide tuition increase proposed by N.C. House subcommittees has some UNC-Chapel Hill officials wondering how the University will be affected.

The systemwide 5 percent increase is being considered in addition to several million dollars in budget cuts to the UNC system. The reductions would supplement the \$82 million in cuts already proposed by Gov. Mike Easley.

The proposals have come shortly after the UNC-system Board of Governors placed a moratorium in January on all tuition increases.

While many UNC-CH officials believe a tuition increase and cuts are inevitable, they hope the funds from the increase will benefit the University rather than the system as a whole.

SEE BUDGET, PAGE 4



DTH FILE PHOTO/BRIAN CASSELLA

Erskine Bowles (left) said Thursday that he might run for U.S. Sen. John Edwards' seat.

Bowles to run for Senate if Edwards won't

BY GILLIAN BOLSOVER
STAFF WRITER

While U.S. Sen. John Edwards, D-N.C., campaigns nationwide for the White House in 2004, some familiar faces are gearing up for a tight Senate race in the state.

Erskine Bowles, who served as chief of staff under President Clinton, announced he will run for the Senate if Edwards chooses to concentrate solely on his presidential bid.

Presidential candidates legally are allowed to run for two seats, but many think candidates need to make a choice.

Former N.C. House Speaker Dan Blue and U.S. Rep. Bob Etheridge also have been earmarked as possible 2004 Democratic Senate candidates.

But Bowles, who lost to Sen. Elizabeth Dole, R-N.C., in the 2002 race, is more prepared than any of the other candidates because of his proven fund-raising skills, said Mac McCorkle, who consulted Bowles during the 2002 elections.

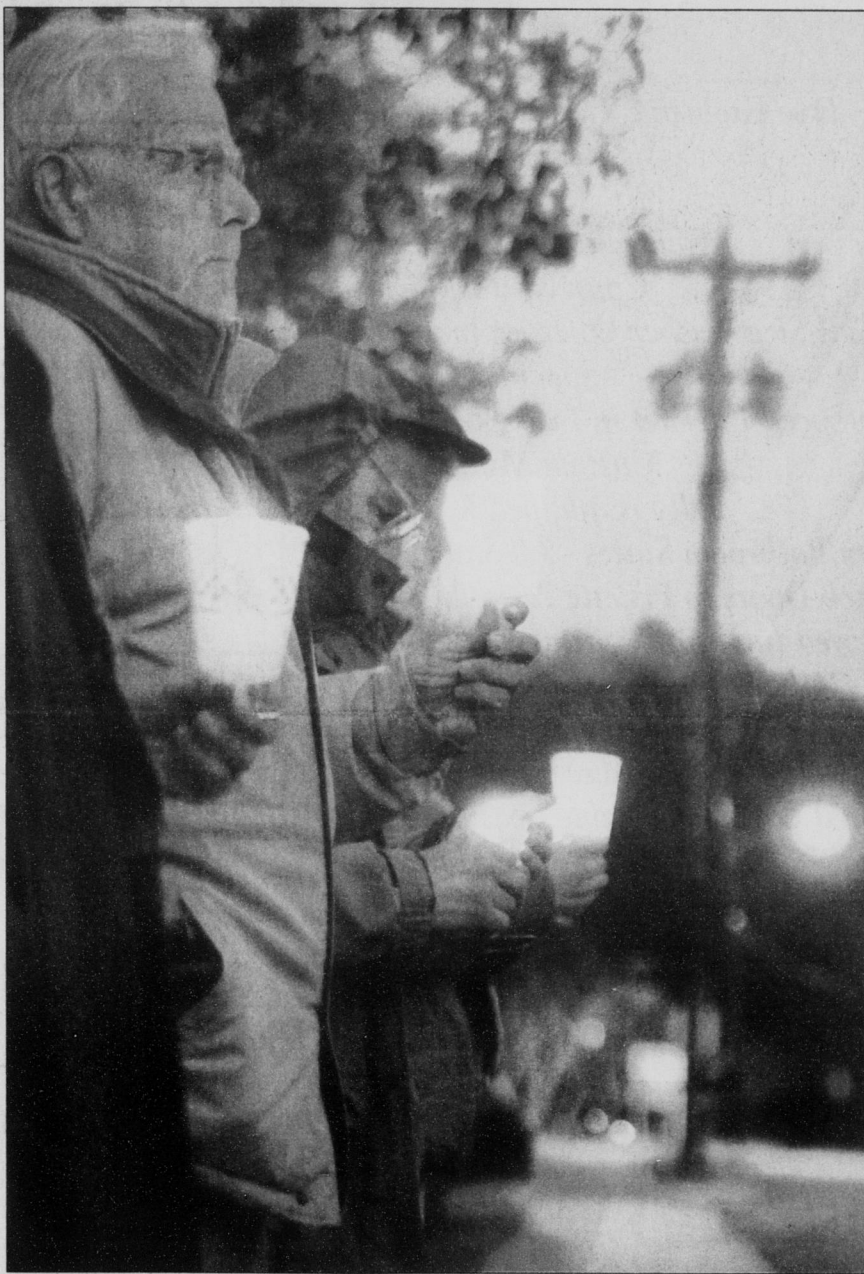
"That campaign experience is going to hold him in good stead," McCorkle said. "He came out stronger for it. It will be easier this time because he has been around North Carolina."

Barbara Allen, chairwoman of the N.C. Democratic Party, said Bowles' previous Senate race will prove to be good experience in 2004.

"A well-known candidate like Bowles who has run before will certainly have an edge," she said.

Experts say Bowles also might have an edge in appealing to Edwards' constituency.

SEE BOWLES, PAGE 4



DTH/JON KIRBY

David Young (above) and Savannah Crites (below), members of the Chapel Hill Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, a Quaker congregation, participate in an anti-war candlelight vigil after their service Wednesday night.

Local Quakers gather to protest, lament war



BY KIRSTEN VALLE
STAFF WRITER

Inside a small building just off Raleigh Road and nearly hidden behind blooming trees, a steady stream of people passes tables full of anti-war pamphlets and bulletin boards covered with photographs and fliers.

Some come dressed in their best clothes — old women in thick, knit skirts and pantyhose, clinging to their suit-and-tie-clad husbands; some appear in T-shirts and tennis shoes.

At promptly 11:15 a.m., the people, members of the Chapel Hill Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, take their spots in wooden pews.

The Chapel Hill meeting, or congregation, was established in the mid-1960s and is typical of the Quaker religion.

Called unprogrammed meetings, Sunday services exhibit the Quaker

belief that everyone is equal. Instead of being led through discussion by a leader, members sit in silence and anyone who feels enlightened may stand up and speak.

Carolyn Stuart, clerk of the Chapel Hill meeting, said that the messages differ but that they typically are about spiritual insight or political opinion.

"It's what a person feels the whole group can benefit from," Stuart said.

Lately, Quakers across the country have been seeking comfort in the insight, struggling with another major Quaker belief — pacifism.

"War is wrong, but (that view) isn't based on partisan politics," said Joe Volk, a member of the Friends Committee on National Legislation, a national organization of Quakers located

SEE QUAKERS, PAGE 4

"(Quakers) want to come to a place where the conversation is about peace."

CAROLYN STUART, MEETING CLERK

Talks with Williams, others continue

Baddour: No offers made yet

FROM STAFF REPORTS

North Carolina Director of Athletics Dick Baddour released the following statement Thursday regarding conversations between Kansas men's basketball coach Roy Williams and Baddour:

"I have had several very good conversations with Roy Williams over the last two days," Baddour said. "Those talks will continue through the weekend."

"The Final Four ended just a few days ago. Coach Williams and I feel the timing is too near the end of the Final Four and there is too much going on in Lawrence (Kan.) at this time for us to conclude our talks. I have not offered the job to Coach Williams, but we have had good conversations that will continue over the next few days. He understands we will continue to proceed with other candidates, as well."

"Typically I do not comment on job searches. However, this is obviously not a typical situation. "Coach Williams and I both felt there was so much misinformation out there that an update to confirm our talks was both responsible and necessary."

The talks might have been put on hold so Williams could attend the Wooden Award ceremony with Jayhawk senior Nick Collison today in Los Angeles.



Kansas coach Roy Williams is a prominent candidate in the search.

ONLINE

Michael Jordan's 23 closes doors for good
N.C. Student Legislature holds mock session
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INSIDE

THE SHOW GOES ON
Eve Ensler's Vagina Monologues makes 3rd campus debut PAGE 5



INSIDE

NEOCLASSIC
UNC officials celebrate rededication of Murphey Hall after renovations PAGE 7

WEATHER

TODAY Showers, High 53, Low 39
SATURDAY Sunny, High 69, Low 42
SUNDAY Sunny, High 64, Low 39

