

# Washington-area Iraqis register to vote at home

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW CARROLLTON, Md. — Iraqis from the Washington area and surrounding states registered Monday to cast absentee ballots in their native country's national elections at the end of the month.

By midmorning, more than 100 people had gone to the registration center at a hotel about 15 miles outside of Washington, D.C. After providing evidence of Iraqi nationality, they were added to registration lists and given a receipt to present when they return to vote next week.

Yadullah Nasrullah, 71, left Baghdad 11 years ago with his family. The Kurd, who is from Clifton, Va., said the election is critical for the country as a sign that Saddam Hussein's dictatorship is over.

"We will be entering a new era — from dictatorship to freedom. Every Iraqi will have the right to say what is on their mind," he said.

The polling site at a Ramada Inn next to the Capital Beltway is the only place for Iraqis living in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic to vote. There are four other polling

places — in Los Angeles, Detroit, Chicago and Nashville.

Officials from the International Center for Migration, which is running the overseas voting for the Iraqi government, predict that roughly 22,000 Iraqis will vote at the Washington location. Busloads were expected to arrive over the next several days from Boston, Philadelphia and New York.

Security was tight. Those registering had to pass through a metal detector to get in. Prince George's County officials said local and state police were working with the ATF, FBI and Department of Homeland Security.

Once inside the hotel's conference center, people registering were sent to one of 15 stations. There they had to provide evidence of their nationality, either with Iraqi identity cards, passports or any other documents that showed their background.

In order to vote, a person has to either have been born in Iraq, hold citizenship or prove that their father was Iraqi. American citizens

are allowed to vote.

Roger Bryant, the head of country for the Iraqi elections in the United States, said that nationwide there are about 240,000 Iraqis eligible to vote. "The right to elect and be elected for Iraqis everywhere is indeed a historic occasion."

Many who came Monday said they had fled repression and violence in Iraq. Some had lost relatives; others had been imprisoned themselves.

Abdul Al-Haddad, 67, drove six hours from Raleigh with his family to register. He spent 13 years in prison in Iraq, only, he says, because he was falsely accused of being Iranian. Speaking Arabic, with his son translating, Al-Haddad said it was his duty to vote. "I feel I am responsible for my country, to build a free Iraq."

Nazar Mohammadali, 22, of Richmond, Va., came with his parents and siblings. His mother Afaf Alhariri, 41, said 18 of her family members, including five of her brothers, were killed by Hussein's regime.

# Districts enact high school reforms

BY BRIANNA BISHOP

ASSISTANT CITY EDITOR

While the debate over block scheduling has been resolved, other aspects of reform in local high schools continue to be addressed.

On Dec. 16, the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Board of Education passed a new schedule for the district's two high schools.

The approved seven-period hybrid schedule consists of seven 50-minute periods, some of which could be combined to 100-minute periods lasting for either a semester or the entire school year.

"The seven-period hybrid schedule isn't a pure block," board Chairwoman Lisa Stuckey said, referring to a previous option proposed by the board that met with much controversy.

Plans call for the new schedule to be implemented in the fall of 2006.

"Work will be done between now and the fall of 2006," Stuckey said. She said this time will allow students and teachers to understand how the new schedule will work.

For example, teachers can receive training on teaching for a 100-minute block, Stuckey said.

She added that the district's administrative staff will now be looking over the schedule.

Block scheduling is not the only reform under discussion for the district's two high schools.

The middle college program, a collaborative effort between a few local school districts, is aimed at housing a high school for juniors and seniors at Durham Technical Community College.

"For some students it creates a sense of independence," said Neil Pedersen, city schools' superintendent, adding that the program eventually will include 200 students, 100 from each grade level.

The middle college initiative is up for discussion at the board's Thursday meeting.

"In the past, the board has indicated support for moving forward with (middle college)," Stuckey said.

The Orange County Board of Education agreed to participate in the program on Jan. 3.

Another area of reform that might soon be addressed is the establishment of academies within the district's high schools.

The academies would be small

learning communities focused on one specific area of study.

Pedersen said the performing arts and science and technology are some of the subjects that have been discussed for potential academies.

Some of the local reform effort stems from state initiatives.

"The state is defining some exit criteria for seniors," Pedersen said.

These ideas include requiring all seniors to pass core end-of-course tests, as well as implementing a senior project — a final project required of seniors for graduation.

The district does not have such a requirement, Pedersen said.

"On a national scene (high school reform is) a major issue," Pedersen said, adding that overall, local high schools are high-achieving, but that the district's reforms aim to make the high school experience more meaningful.

More information on high school reform can be viewed on the city schools' Web site at <http://www.chccs.k12.nc.us/HighSchoolReform/index1.asp>.

Contact the City Editor at [citydesk@unc.edu](mailto:citydesk@unc.edu).

# WMD report will speculate about smuggled armaments

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The final U.S. intelligence report on weapons of mass destruction in Iraq is expected to address whether the banned armaments may have been smuggled out of the country before the war started.

Top Bush administration officials have speculated publicly that chemical, biological or radiological weapons may have been smuggled out, and the question is one of the unresolved issues on WMD. The report is due next month.

Intelligence and congressional officials say they have not seen any information indicating that WMD or significant amounts of components and equipment were transferred from Iraq to neighboring Syria, Jordan or elsewhere.

The administration acknowledged last week that the search for banned weapons is largely over. The Iraq Survey Group's chief, Charles Duelfer, is expected to submit the final installments of his report in February. A small number of the organization's experts will remain on the job.

But officials familiar with the search say U.S. authorities have found no evidence that former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein transferred WMD or related equipment out of Iraq.

A special adviser to the CIA director, Duelfer declined an interview request through an agency spokesman. In his last public statements, he told a Senate panel last October that it remained unclear whether banned weapons could

have been moved from Iraq.

"What I can tell you is that I believe we know a lot of materials left Iraq and went to Syria," he said. "But whether in fact in any of these trucks there was WMD-related materials, I cannot say."

Last week, a congressional official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said suggestions that weapons or components were sent from Iraq were based on speculation stemming from uncorroborated information.

President Bush and top-ranking officials in his administration used the existence of WMD in Iraq as the main justification for the March 2003 invasion, and throughout much of last year the White House continued to raise the possibility the weapons were transferred to another country.

## THE Daily Crossword

By Allan E. Parrish

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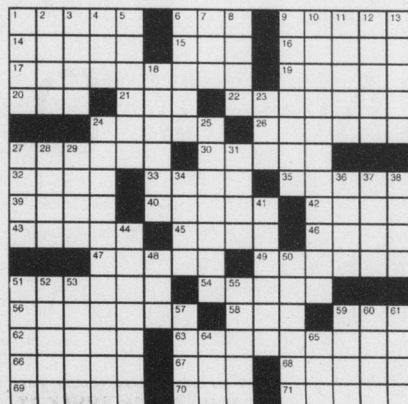
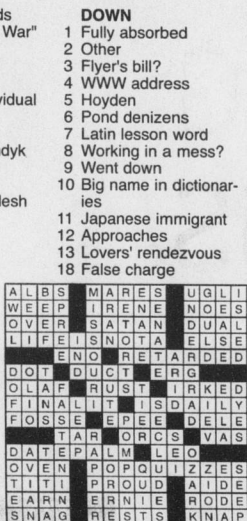
### ACROSS

- 1 Attempt to disprove
- 6 Schwarz (toy store)
- 9 News medium
- 14 Olds model
- 15 LBJ follower
- 16 Surgeon's cutter
- 17 Sunday text
- 19 Retract one's words
- 20 Shatner novel "\_\_\_ War"
- 21 Annoy
- 22 Muls over
- 24 Port on the Ob
- 26 Self-centered individual
- 27 Slight breeze
- 30 Actor Zimbalist
- 32 Indy-winner Luyendyk
- 33 Four-letter swear word?
- 35 Capital of Bangladesh
- 39 Physician's pellet
- 40 Hollow tubes
- 42 Type of exam
- 43 Scottish dagger
- 45 Presidential bill-killer
- 46 USC rival
- 47 U-boat detector
- 49 Whip strokes
- 51 Not consistent
- 54 Move along laterally
- 56 Elements of a strategy
- 58 Caribbean or Coral
- 59 Little white lie
- 62 Home web site?

- 63 Lincoln's eighty
- 66 Unifying idea
- 67 La \_\_\_, Bolivia
- 68 Destiny
- 69 Sen. Kefauver
- 70 Actress Joanne
- 71 Clio aspirant

- 23 "\_\_\_ the land..."
- 24 1965 Rolling Stones hit
- 25 Word to add on to 17A, 63A, 10D and 24D
- 27 Nukes
- 28 Composer Satie
- 29 Carpet feature
- 31 Banjo feature
- 34 Bounty rival
- 36 St. Louis landmark
- 37 Cabbage-like vegetable
- 38 "Woe is me"
- 41 Fusing material

- 44 Observes
- 48 MoMA location
- 50 Seward's folly
- 51 Mississippi or Ohio
- 52 Trodden tracks
- 53 Group of eight
- 55 Honda rival
- 57 Some CA cops
- 59 Fill-in sheet
- 60 "My Friend \_\_\_"
- 61 Three-\_\_\_ salad
- 64 Paddle's cousin
- 65 Philanderer



## CAMPUS RECREATION UPDATE

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**TEAM BOWLING :: 4 players**

**SIGN UP TO PLAY TODAY**  
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Sign up in 203 Woollen Gym.  
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