

The world worries about instability from Iraq war

By Paul Haven
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — War to remove Saddam Hussein would rid Washington of a longtime nemesis. But from Pakistan's tribal frontier to the streets of Gaza, there are fears a conflict would unleash rage in a world already swimming in it, as people struggling regional economies and endanger crucial U.S. allies.






The Bush administration hopes a regime change in Iraq would make the world a safer place, snuffing out a dangerous rivalry between Saddam Hussein's weapons of mass destruction and Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terrorists.

Critics answer that the consequences of war might be steep, causing new instability and triggering more conflict. Similar predictions preceded the U.S.-led attack on Afghanistan's Taliban regime, and didn't come to pass, but many feel this time it will be different. Popular opposition is far greater, and the sympathy felt toward the United States in the wake of the Sept. 11 tragedy has all but disintegrated. More importantly, Iraq's fortunes are far more intertwined in those of its neighbors than were Afghanistan's.

Views differ on use of force in Iraq

U.N. Security Council members have vastly different views about military force in Iraq. Three of the five permanent members want inspections to continue.

Five permanent members with veto power

-  **United States** Iraq is developing weapons of mass destruction and failing to cooperate with inspectors; says it already has Security Council authorization to use military force
-  **Russia** Says there is no evidence Iraq is rearming; says inspections are working and should continue
-  **China** Believes inspections should continue and Iraq can be disarmed peacefully
-  **Britain** Prefers a second resolution authorizing force, but is expected to join U.S.-led action without one
-  **France** Inspections are starting to work and hinted it could use its veto to block authorization of force

The 10 elected members without veto power

-  **Angola** Inspections should continue in order to peacefully disarm Iraq
-  **Bulgaria** Backs a peaceful resolution; could support U.S.-led military intervention without authorization
-  **Cameroon** Supports continued inspections
-  **Chile** Inspections should continue in order to peacefully disarm Iraq
-  **Germany** Insists Iraq must be disarmed peacefully; will not participate in force even if U.N. authorizes action
-  **Guinea** Supports continued inspections; no position regarding military action
-  **Mexico** Supports continued inspections; could support military action if authorized
-  **Pakistan** Supports continued weapons inspections and a diplomatic resolution
-  **Spain** Supports Bush administration's stance; believes action could start without authorization
-  **Syria** Iraq is cooperating and sanctions should be lifted

SOURCE: Associated Press

Gas

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The EIA reported the reason for the increase as low crude oil inventories due to 2002 OPEC production levels, the Venezuelan worker strike and worries about the possible war with Iraq.

Scott Flowers, a freshman general studies major, said his support of the possible war remains positive despite being added to rising gas prices.

Flowers said if prices remain high some of his travel plans will change and he may cancel his monthly trips home.

John Sommers, a senior finance major, said the higher prices may prevent him from visiting his girlfriend, who lives in New Orleans.

"I won't be going on any spur-of-the-moment trips, but nothing is going to keep me from Mardi Gras," he said.

Sommers said that while his view on a possible war with Iraq remain unchanged, his view on his Dodge Durango has changed and in the future he will buy a more fuel-efficient vehicle.

"Next time I buy a car I am definitely going to take into account gas mileage," he said.

Jim Polukis, a salesman at Sewell Lexus in Dallas, said that while he hasn't seen a change in sport utility vehicle sales, the question of gas mileage has come up more.

"There seems to be a unanimous opinion (among customers) that gas prices will go down. We saw this same thing 12 years ago during the Gulf

War," he said.

Polukis said that SUV sales will be affected if gas prices remain high for much longer.

"SUV sales would be affected if prices stay high for a year or more," he said.

Texas Gov. Rick Perry issued a warning on Feb. 14 to Texas businesses accused of taking advantage of the present energy crisis to raise gas prices to unfair levels.

Perry said that while gas prices are experiencing drastic increases, the state attorney general's office has received reports of prices set at more than \$2.

"We encourage (competition). But we will not tolerate underhanded business dealings intended to reap big profits by exploiting the national mood of uncertainty," Perry said.

War

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voiced by these cultures." The urgencies against war by France and Germany have been met with no definite alternatives from the United Nations.

Some students think hesitation by these countries are due to a lack of convincing on Bush's part.

"He's making threats and sending troops, but one feels his urgency is credible," said Trey Moore, a junior civil engineering major.

Bush and his administration have been adamant in persevering a swift disarmament of Saddam Hussein and his military forces in Iraq since Jan. 1. Diplomats around the world have voiced concerns for their respective countries in several meetings held by NATO and the European Union.

The alliance of the United States and 15 other nations finally reached an agreement late Sunday after a month of heated debate, according to The Associated Press. NATO agreed to end a damage

ing split over U.S. plans for war on Iraq that created the West's biggest rift since the Cold War, but the European Union still faces a bruising summit today that will call for a common position on Iraq and end the deep division in the bloc.

NATO had been frozen by opposition from France, Germany and Belgium to a U.S.-backed plan to begin planning for possible military aid to Turkey in the event of war with Iraq. Diplomats predicted the summit would, at best, produce a bland statement of unity without solving the split.

"We continue to support efforts in the United Nations to find a peaceful solution to the crisis," the NATO statement said.

For the EU, the dispute over Iraq goes beyond a need for credible evidence of terror. It also masks a more vital debate over its future identity and global role. While many EU members are determined to retain strong ties with the United States, others continue to push for a policy that will counter the United States on the world stage. The summit today among EU members will be seen as a crucial test to forge a united front on foreign policy and security issues.



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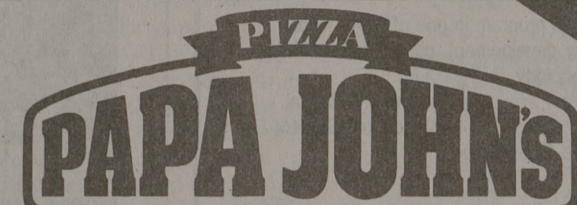
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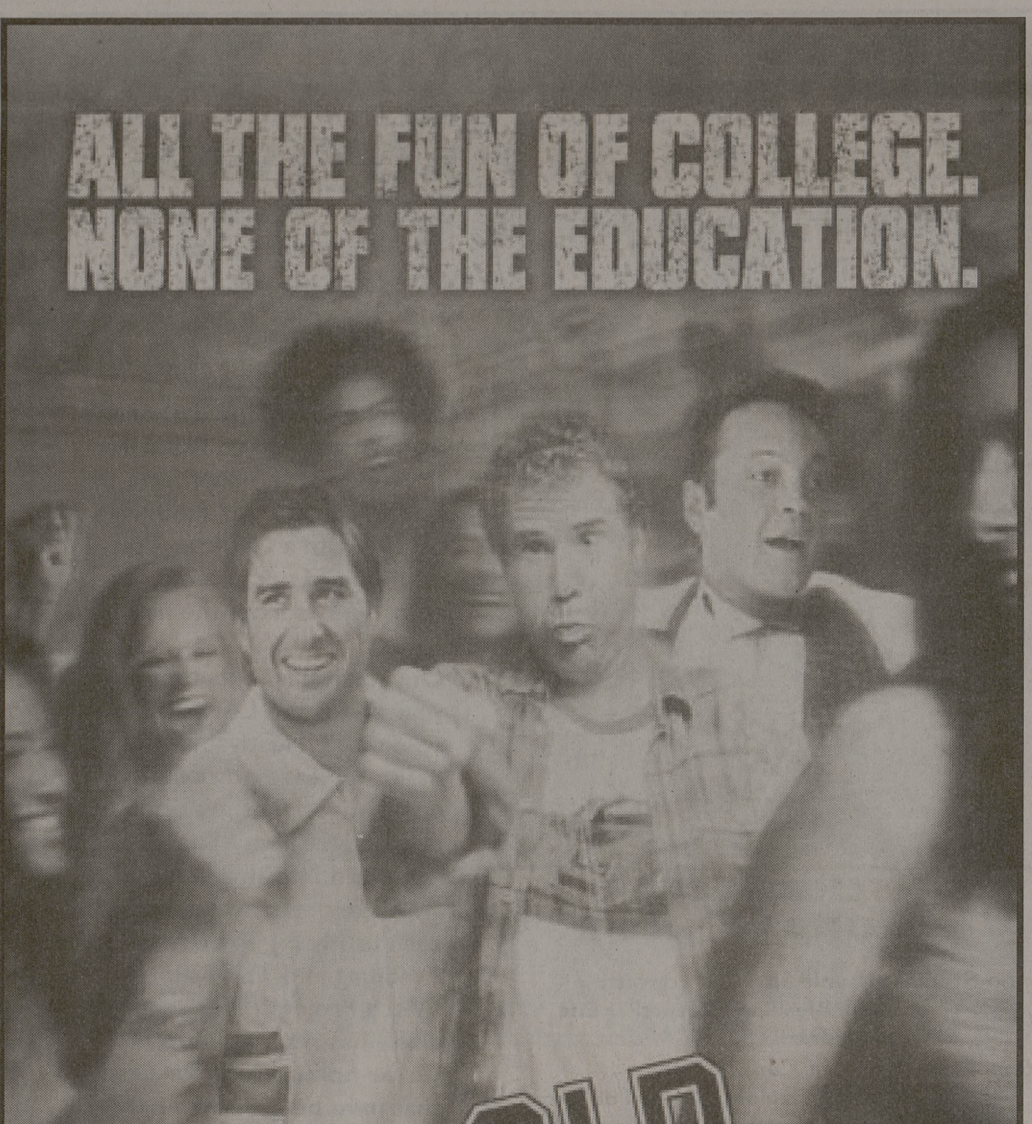
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