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Bush: Iraqis better off without Saddam

By Scott Lindlaw
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FORT HOOD, Texas — President Bush said Sunday that Iraqis will have better lives with Saddam Hussein out of power and he advised the Iraqi leader, if alive, to watch out.

"I would suggest he not pop his head up," Bush told reporters after meeting at an Army base with two helicopter pilots who were held as prisoners of war in Iraq.

Saddam's fate is not clear and Bush was asked for the latest update. "Yes, Saddam Hussein is no longer in power. That's for certain. He was in power, and now he is not. And therefore, the Iraqi people's lives will be much better off," Bush said.

The president said "the liberation of Iraq will make the world more peaceful."

He visited the pilots and their families, saying he had "a good talk with them. Good, strong men."

One of the pilots, Chief Warrant Officer David S. Williams, said the meeting "was an absolute honor."

Added Chief Warrant Officer Ronald D. Young Jr.: "We stand 100 percent behind whatever our president decides to do. We're honored to serve him. And this is definitely one of the highlights of my life, absolutely."

Bush said he was not worried that anti-U.S. demonstrations led by religious leaders in Iraq might hurt rebuilding efforts.

"Freedom is beautiful, and when people are

free, they express their opinions. And, you know they couldn't express their opinions before it came. Now they can," Bush said.

"I've always said democracy is going to be hard. It's not easy to go from being enslaved to being free. But it's going to happen, because basic instincts of mankind is to be free. They want to be free."

Bush came to Fort Hood to attend Easter church services and then see the pilots.

He attended services at the Infantry Division Memorial Chapel. Joining him were Williams, 30, of Orlando, Fla., and Young, 26, of Lithia Springs, Ga., and their families.

The Apache helicopter pilots were forced down in Iraq on March 24. They were rescued with five other American POWs on April 13 in northern Iraq after Iraqi captors abandoned the posts ahead of advancing American troops.

The pilots, with the Army's Cavalry Division, returned to Fort Hood late Saturday.

Bush is taking an Easter vacation at his 1,800-acre ranch outside the central Texas town of Crawford.

His parents, former President George H.W. Bush and his wife, Barbara, joined the president and his lady Laura Bush at the base.

After the Easter break, White House aides said Bush will return to a heavy travel schedule to promote his domestic policies, primarily his proposed tax cuts.

"It's not easy to go from being enslaved to being free. But...the basic instincts of mankind is to be free."

— George W. Bush
president

NEWS IN BRIEF

Environmentalists protest power plant

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Environmentalists are objecting to the city-owned utility's possible construction of its first new coal-fired power plant in more than a decade.

City Public Service directors could decide this summer whether to build the coal plant,

potentially its largest. It might cost up to \$750 million.

"Right now, that looks like one of our best options," Jim Nesrsta, CPS director of generation planning, said in Sunday editions of the San Antonio Express-News.

Some environmentalists said they are astounded that CPS would even consider building another such facility.

"Coal is an outdated technology," said Karen Hadden, coordinator of the Sustainable Energy for Economic Development Coalition. "It's burning dirt. It's filthy."

Growth of the region is playing a role in the consideration, said Joe Fulton, CPS research director.

A new coal plant could generate up to 750 megawatts of electricity — enough power to meet the average energy needs of about 470,000 homes.

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Join the Lifeguard Training or CPR-Rescuer Challenge Program. Courses are designed to renew certifications for existing lifeguards.

Program	Registration	Cost
Lifeguard Training	Jan. 13-April 21	\$110/\$130
CPR-Pro Rescuer Challenge	Jan. 13-April 24	\$25/\$35
AED/PDT/OA Training	Jan. 13-May 3	\$50/\$75
Water Babies	Jan. 13-May 12	\$25/\$35
Lifeguard Training	Jan. 13-May 19	\$110/\$130
Master Swimming	All semester	\$50
Polar Bear Club	All semester	FREE

GET A JOB WITH REC SPORTS

- Lifeguards—Make a difference today in the Student Rec Center Natatorium. Now hiring lifeguards for the summer. Interested? Apply today in room 202, on-line at <http://recsports.tamu.edu> or call Elizabeth at 862-4968.
- Photographers—We need qualified action photographers to capture the excitement that is Rec Sports. Color 35mm and digital photography experience preferred. Be prepared to show samples of your work. Apply in room 202.
- Graphic Layout Assistant—Are you creative and interested in getting practical on-the-job experience? Join the Rec Sports Marketing team. Experience with Photoshop, Pagemaker and Quark necessary. Apply in room 202 and be prepared to show samples of your work.

GET FIT-FITNESS & CLASSES

- Group Exercise Instructor Auditions! Get ready to show your stuff Saturday, April 26th from 10:00a.m.-2:00p.m. Sign up at the second floor reception desk before April 24th. Audition information packet available when you sign up, call DeAun Woosley at 862-3995 or email dwoosley@rec.tamu.edu.
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LIVE THE EXCITEMENT WITH SPORTS CLUBS

- Archery, Texas Shootout, April 24-27, all day @ Penberthy 788
- TEXAS A&M ICE HOCKEY RECRUITMENT—Meeting for 2003-2004 season is Tuesday, April 22 at 8:00 p.m., Rec Center Rm. 272. Call Brian Masterson 281-935-8721 or Nick Verzosa 693-2247 for more information.

GET GOING WITH TAMU OUTDOORS

Upcoming Events	Registration	Event Date
Kayak Roll Instructional Clinic	Jan. 21-April 21	April 22
7th Annual Aggie Pumpfest	March 17-April 18 (early reg.) March 19-April 26	April 26

AUGUST BREAK TRIP

- SAIL & SCUBA the Bahamas—Sail on Blackbeard's cruise and trace the historic route of pirate ships and treasure galleons. Registration ends June 9. \$819

REC SPORTS ON-LINE

- RECSports.TAMU.EDU—Find everything at our site from Rec Center news, operating hours, job listings, our exclusive Intramural Headlines link, Fitness & Classes schedules, Natatorium hours, Golf prices, Walk of Champions information and much more!

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