

r
rec sports

ATTENTION! Rec Users

The Department is implementing cost cutting initiatives, beginning in May, in an effort to preserve our financial integrity until we have the opportunity to present another referendum in the Spring of 2004. The initiative that will affect students directly is the reduction in operating hours of the Student Rec Center and other recreational facilities. For a full list of all our new facility hours or if you have any questions relating to Department of Rec Sports budget issues, please refer to the New Facility Hours FAQ available at <http://recsports.tamu.edu>.

Student Rec Center Hours Effective May 9

SUMMER

Monday-Friday: 6:00am-10:00pm
Saturday: 10:00am-9:00pm
Sunday: Noon-10:00pm

FALL/SPRING

Monday-Friday: 6:00am-11:00pm
Saturday: 10:00am-10:00pm
Sunday: Noon-11:00pm

recsports.tamu.edu



Bush promotes Iraqi democracy

WASHINGTON (AP) — President George W. Bush is touting his administration's efforts to plant the seeds of democracy in the rubble of Saddam Hussein's toppled dictatorship, courting Michigan's Arab community with an eye on his re-election.

Bush traveled Monday to Dearborn, Mich., a Detroit suburb where about 30 percent of residents claimed Arab ancestry in the latest census.

He was not ready to declare combat in Iraq over yet, aides said Sunday. That is likely to come later this week.

But Bush was offering an "optimistic vision of a liberated Iraq, and how Iraq can live in peace with its neighbors and become representative of an Islamic democracy," White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said in previewing the trip.

Helping craft an "Islamic democracy" is dicey business, however. The United States has promised democracy for Iraq, but has ruled out the kind of Islamic government that democracy could yield.

With Shiite Muslims forming more than 60 percent of Iraq's population, a free vote could produce an Islamic-oriented government with close ties to the historically anti-American Shiite clerics who have governed Iran since the 1979 Islamic revolution.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said the United States will not allow a religious government like Iran's to take hold in Iraq.

Sen. Bob Graham, D-Fla., said Rumsfeld's position "demonstrates the kind of quagmire that we are potentially going to be in Iraq."

"If you talk about a democracy, which means that people vote and select the political leadership that they desire, then you can't say, 'But there are cer-



Iraqi-American supporters dance and sing Monday in Dearborn, Mich., where President George W. Bush delivered a speech on the rebuilding of Iraq.

tain segments of the population that are off-limits," the 2004 presidential hopeful said Sunday on ABC's "This Week."

A group of Iraqis in Michigan wrote a communique outlining their hopes for their native country, and planned to deliver it to Bush on Monday. The communique asks that "Iraqis be allowed to be the masters of their own destiny," said Jafar al-Musawi, a Dearborn-based Iraqi writer.

The administration has been trying to build bridges to Arab-Americans in Michigan.

Two months ago, during the run-up to war, Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz convened a town hall meeting of Iraqi-Americans in Dearborn, asking his audience to help the U.S. government oust Saddam.

Wolfowitz says about 150 Iraqis who have been living in the United States or Europe have volunteered to go back to help establish a democratic government, and some already have gone.

Among the exiles is Emad

Dhia, who left Friday. He is an engineer who has been living in Michigan and heads the Iraq Forum for Democracy, a political action group formed in the United States in 1998. Dhia will be the top Iraqi adviser to retiring U.S. Lt. Gen. Jay Garner, who is overseeing reconstruction efforts.

Others declined the offer, among them al-Musawi, who said the Pentagon asked him to accompany Dhia.

"What was I supposed to tell the people in Iraq? 'Listen to me, I've lived in America, I know?'" he asked. "No one would listen to me, or to the others, because we don't have the kind of clout the clergy do."

More than 18 months before the next presidential election, Bush is unabashedly making battleground states the focus of his travels.

Bush planned to meet with the chiefs of the Big Three U.S. automakers while near Detroit. The White House said the trip would endorse his push for a tax cut of \$550 billion over 10 years.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Kerry and Dean spar for votes

WASHINGTON (AP) — Divisions between rival Democratic presidential candidates John Kerry and Howard Dean over the strength of the nation's military broke out in the open Monday, signaling escalating tensions between the two campaigns in the party's race for the White House.

The debate began over Dean's comments in an article posted Monday on Time.com. "We have to take a different approach" to diplomacy, the former Vermont governor was quoted as saying during a campaign stop in New Hampshire. "We won't always have the strongest military."

Kerry spokesman Chris Lehane issued a statement expressing incredulity over Dean's remarks and saying that Kerry, a decorated Vietnam War veteran, would "guarantee that America has the strongest, best trained, most well-equipped military in history."

"Howard Dean's stated belief that the United States won't always have the strongest military raises serious questions about his capacity to serve as commander in chief," Lehane said. "No serious candidate for the presidency has ever before suggested that he would compromise or tolerate an erosion of America's military supremacy."

Future Perfect

SOUTH TEXAS COLLEGE OF LAW
Offering You A Better Future

- the best advocacy program in the United States for training outstanding trial lawyers
- a prime downtown Houston location near practicing attorneys, major corporations and governmental offices
- tuition rates among the lowest in the nation for private law schools, with financial aid available
- a new state-of-the-art law library
- a Career Resources Center affording a wide range of services for legal, business and governmental employers
- identical full- and part-time programs of study
- admissions for spring and fall semesters

SOUTH TEXAS COLLEGE OF LAW
<http://www.stcl.edu>
FOR YOUR PERFECT FUTURE

South Texas College of Law provides equal employment, admission and educational opportunities without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex or disability

LOUPOT'S
BOOKSTORES

AN AGGIE TRADITION OF FRIENDLY SERVICE SINCE 1932

RESERVE FOR
SUMMER - FALL

BUYBACK
TIME!

Mr. Loupot and
I were classmates!

Website: www.loupots.com

E-mail: info@loupots.com

NORTHGATE
338 University Dr.
College Station, TX 77843
(979) 846-8312
FAX: (979) 846-0748

WOLF PEN PLAZA
1907 Texas Ave. E.
College Station, TX 77840
(979) 852-8838
FAX: (979) 794-7335

SOUTHGATE
338 George Bush Dr.
College Station, TX 77843
(979) 852-2278
FAX: (979) 794-7273