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

Sunday:

Saturday: 10:00am-10:00pm

Noon-11:00pm

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Tuesday, April 29, 2003

THE BATTALION

NATION

Bush promotes Iraqi democraci

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, Michael Monday in Dearbor where President George W. Bush delivered a speech on the rebuilding

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, 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 engineer who has been living Michigan and heads the Forum for Democracy, a po cal action group formed in United States in 1998. Dhia be the top Iraqi adviser to reti U.S. Lt. Gen. Jay Garner, wh overseeing reconstructi efforts.

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

"What was I supposed to the people in Iraq: 'Listen ton the clergy do.'

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

I've lived in America, I know he asked. "No one would list to me, or to the others, becau we don't have the kind of cloud

Bush planned to meet with

chiefs of the Big Three U automakers while near Detro The White House said the thr would endorse his push for all cut of \$550 billion over 10 years

NEWS IN BRIEF

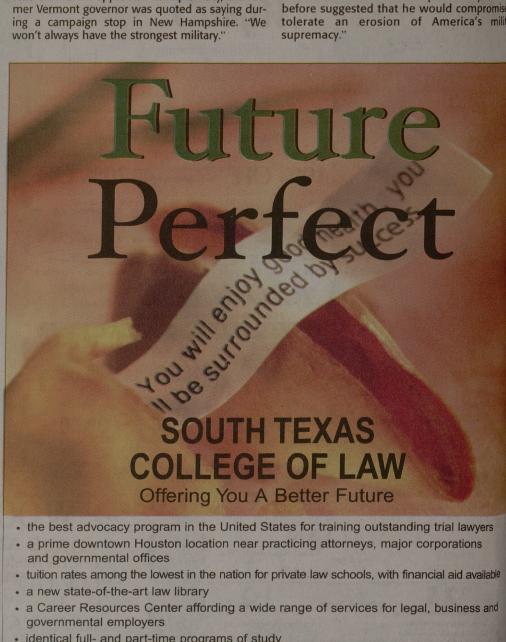
Kerry and Dean spar for votes

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 forcampaign sto won't always have the strongest military."

Kerry spokesman Chris Lehane issued a stat ment expressing incredulity over Dean's rema and saying that Kerry, a decorated Vietnam W veteran, would "guarantee that America has the strongest, best trained, most well-equipped m

"Howard Dean's stated belief that the Unite States won't always have the strongest militar raises serious questions about his capacity serve as commander in chief," Lehane said. " serious candidate for the presidency has evel before suggested that he would compromised



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