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**Dean criticizes Bush in front of Texas crowds**

By T.A. Badger  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN ANTONIO — If Howard Dean has anything good to say about the job George W. Bush is doing as president, he's not sharing it with Texans.

The former Vermont governor and Democratic presidential hopeful spent much of Monday lashing the president in his home state, first in Austin and later before a crowd topping 1,000 in San Antonio.

He criticized Bush for starting what he called an ill-advised war in Iraq, for not doing enough to fuel up a sputtering economy, for ignoring the basic health-care needs of millions of people and for enacting a deficit-bloating tax cut that mostly helps the wealthy.

"This president has forgotten ordinary Americans," Dean told hundreds of cheering supporters packed into a sweltering Austin coffee house. "We're going to take this country back. This is our country, not his country."

He said Bush the administration used a series of lies to pump up the threat posed by Saddam Hussein to persuade Americans to invade.

"I will never send your brothers and sisters, sons and daughters to die in a foreign country without telling the American people the truth about why they're going there," said Dean.

He also said U.N. troops should be deployed to Iraq to spread the peacekeeping burden, and that U.S. reservists and National Guard forces should be sent home promptly.

Dean flew to Austin from Spokane, Wash., on the third day of his eight-city Sleepless

Summer tour, which wraps up Tuesday.

Afterward, he and three loads of supporters and reporters rode an hour south to San Antonio for another rally, Austin and San Antonio are a pair of Democratic strongholds in an increasingly Republican state.

Among those waiting in San Antonio was Matt Glazer, a Trinity University senior whose rental house is Dean country.

Glazer is the Bexar County coordinator for the Howard Dean for President campaign. He's already won others over to the Democratic hopeful's cause, including the three fraternity brothers he shares the house with.

"We've kind of adopted him," said Glazer.

Through his savvy use of the Internet, Dean has established footholds around Texas and taken in tens of thousands of dollars from small donors.

"I wake up every day and ask, 'What can I do today to make sure George W. Bush is a one-term president,'" said Sue Wenninger, a retired secretary in Lubbock.

Two days a week, Wenninger and some friends give away Dean literature and bumper stickers from a booth at Lubbock's airport.

"Everybody who goes through that airport, if they're going on a plane, they have to walk within 20 feet of it," she said.

A former Bush spokesman said a number of Dean's positions run counter to the Texas mainstream.

"He's worked hard to stake out the most liberal positions and the angriest rhetoric of any of the candidates," said Ray Sullivan, now a Republican consultant in Austin.

*"This president has forgotten ordinary people. We're going to take this country back."*

— Howard Dean  
Democratic presidential hopeful

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