



U.S.: Strikes downtown Baghdad

Saddam palaces: Taken by U.S.

Warplane: Bombs 'leadership target'

A blow to the heart



U.S. Marines from the 3rd Battalion yell to urge infantrymen to rush across a damaged highway bridge in Baghdad on Monday. They moved forward into the city while under fire from the southeastern outskirts of the Iraqi capital.

Building hit; Iraqi leader's fate unknown

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — American troops and tanks bore down on Baghdad with unstoppable force Monday, seizing two of Saddam Hussein's opulent palaces and bombing a building where the Iraqi leader and other regime officials were believed to be staying.

A lone B-1B bomber carried out the strike on what U.S. officials described as a "leadership target" — senior Iraqi officials possibly including Saddam and his two sons. It was not immediately clear whether any of them were killed or wounded.

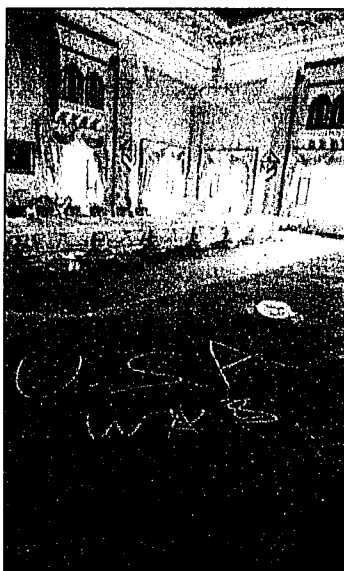
Earlier Monday, U.S. and British officials said they believed Saddam's top commander in southern Iraq had been killed in a U.S. airstrike.

The attacks came as American forces maneuvered through the capital with near impunity.

Some Iraqi soldiers jumped into the Tigris River to flee the advancing column of more than 100 armored vehicles. A dozen others were captured and placed inside a hastily erected POW pen on the grounds of the bombed-out, blue-and-gold-domed New Presidential Palace.

An estimated 600 to 1,000 Iraqi troops were killed during the operation, said Col.

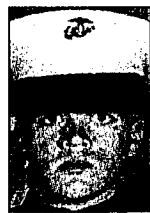
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A U.S. soldier scribbled "U.S.A. was here!" on a table inside one of Saddam Hussein's presidential palaces on Monday.

Davenport Marine eulogized as a hero

DAVENPORT (AP) — Scores of people, some waving flags, stood in a wet heavy snow Monday along the funeral route for Marine Reserve Sgt. Bradley Korthaus, one of the first American casualties in Iraq.



Sgt. Bradley Korthaus
Drowned in Iraq

Some saluted and others held their hands over their hearts as the procession of more than 200 vehicles wound its way slowly through the city in a spring snowstorm. Police closed off intersections along the route to the national cemetery at Rock Island Arsenal, where Korthaus was buried with full military honors.

Korthaus, 28, of Davenport, drowned March 24 while crossing a canal in south-

east Iraq. He was a member of the 6th Engineers Support Battalion, based in Peoria, Ill.



Sgt. Bradley Korthaus' mother, Marilyn, and fiancée, Barbi Schneckloth, both of Davenport, watch as Marines remove his casket from a hearse at his funeral Monday in Davenport.

Korthaus, the first Iowan to die in Iraq, was eulogized as a man devoted to his country and friends and a lover

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DEVELOPMENTS

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

U.S. tanks: Rumble through downtown Baghdad

U.S. Marines: Surge across shattered Baghdad bridge

Baghdad toll: 600 to 1,000 Iraqis killed during U.S. operation

Allied casualties: 4 soldiers, 2 journalists killed

Chemical weapons: Samples being tested

Postwar government: U.S. to begin setting up interim government today, 3A

Inside a palace: What U.S. forces found, 3A

Hunkering down at I.C. Peace Camp

Cold, snow, harassment don't lessen commitment

By Tom Owen
The Gazette

IOWA CITY — Seth Weese and Cianan Russell sat swaddled in sleeping bags and blankets at the University of Iowa's Peace Camp just after midnight Saturday.

As the wind chill dipped to 19 degrees, the men covered virtually their entire bodies except their eyes.

Russell, 20, a chemistry major, shivered non-stop, but he kept a stiff upper lip. He noted that the weather the week before had been cold but more rainy. "That was wretched," he said.

Weese, 19, of 327 N. Johnson St., Iowa City, and Russell, are two of the more dedicated residents of the Peace Camp. It's a collection of tents set up on the UI Pentacrest in late March after the administration agreed to provide them a public place for engaging others in dialogue about the war in Iraq.

Between six and 25 people have been

► PEACE CAMP, PAGE 4A

Inside

■ Drowning ruled accidental, 4A

C.R. mother tried in vain to rescue girl from burning home



Jaymie Grahlman
Trapped by fire

6-year-old dies; was taken off life support

By Christoph Trappe
The Gazette

CEDAR RAPIDS — A mother rescued two of her children from her burning home. She pulled her husband to safety during the weekend fire, and rescued another

child as the flames grew. But one child was still missing.

Vickie Reed-Grahlman, 32, again entered the home — now filled with flames and smoke — a last time, looking for her remaining child, 6-year-old Jaymie. She looked under a bunk bed. She broke out a window and moved furniture. But she could not find

the missing girl.

"I couldn't breathe anymore," said Reed-Grahlman.

Firefighters early Sunday found Jaymie in the bathtub after being told she was still inside.

But it was too late. Jaymie Grahlman died Sunday night at University Hospitals in Iowa

City.

Reed-Grahlman said she thought Jaymie had gotten up and tried to wake her.

"She was a beautiful little girl," Reed-Grahlman said. "She loved to dance and ride her bike. She had beautiful red hair. She was funny and smart and always singing. She wanted to become a

kitty doctor."

Reed-Grahlman saved her daughters Kylie Reed, 9, and Ida Mae Grahlman, 3. She then found her husband on the living room floor and saved him. She went back in and rescued her daughter Nicole Reed, 7.

Jaymie's father, Jay Grahlman, ► FIRE, PAGE 4A

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HAM, I YAM

Look inside for a selection of ham, yam and nut recipes to set a unique Easter table, Accent, 1E



CALENDAR SAYS SPRING, BUT IT STILL TASTES LIKE WINTER

Monday's unusual snowstorm is nothing compared with the April blizzard East Iowa saw 30 years ago, Community, 1D

Mike Deupree remembers what else was happening in the world during that 1973 blizzard, Iowa Today, 1B

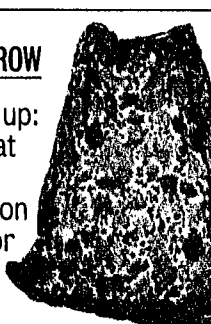


FOOTBALL INJURY

The Hawkeyes' Jermelle Lewis is out for the season after hurting his knee last week, Sports, 1C

TOMORROW

Lighten up: A look at the top 10 fashion picks for spring, Accent



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Marines rule drowning deaths accidental

Commanders cleared; investigators classify environment as hostile

DAVENPORT (AP) — The deaths of two Marines who drowned while crossing a canal in southeast Iraq have been ruled accidental, a spokesman for their Peoria,

Ill.-based reserve unit confirmed Monday.

Gunnery Sgt. James Howard said the probe also found there was no negligence by commanding officers in the deaths of Cpl. Sgt. Bradley Korthaus of Davenport and Evan James of La Harpe, Ill., who were among the first American casualties in Iraq.

The investigation reclassified the deaths as occurring in a hostile rather than non-hostile environment, indicating the Marines were under threat of war when they disappeared in the Saddam Canal on March 24, said Howard, of the 6th Engineer Support Battalion Company in Peoria.

No further details were immediately available on the findings, based on an investigation by two Marine lieutenant colonels.

Korthaus, 28, and James, 20, were among four Marines assigned to cross the 30-yard waterway to set up armed cover for a water purification team. The other Marines

made it safely to the other side.

The military investigation was launched to determine whether the Marines needed to cross the canal immediately or if they could have waited for a boat or taken additional safety precautions, said 1st Sgt. Michael Berg of the Peoria reserve unit.

He said the men crossed the waterway in full gear with no safety lines.

Korthaus was buried Monday in the national cemetery at the Rock Island Arsenal after a funeral Mass that drew more than 450 people.

James' funeral will be Thursday at La Harpe High School.

War: Regime denies incursion

■ From page 1A

David Perkins. "We had a lot of suicide attackers today," he said. "These guys are going to die in droves . . . They keep trying to ram the tanks with car bombs."

U.S. troops toppled a 40-foot statue of Saddam and seized another of his many palaces, the Sojoud. Tank-killing A-10 Warthog planes and pilotless drones provided air cover as Americans briefly surrounded another prominent symbol of Saddam's power, the Information Ministry, as well as the Al-Rashid hotel.

The attack on the leadership target — reminiscent of the opening volley of the war on March 19 aimed at Saddam — occurred in Baghdad's upscale Mansour neighborhood. U.S. officials said American intelligence learned Monday morning of a high-level meeting in Baghdad between senior Iraqi intelligence officials and, possibly, Saddam and his two sons, Qusai and Odai.

The bombardment left a huge hole where the building had been and reduced three adjoining houses to a heap of concrete, mangled iron rods and furniture.

A B-1B bomber dropped four 2,000-pound bunker-penetrating bombs on a residential building. "We are confirming that a leadership target was indeed hit very hard," said Marine Maj. Brad Bartelt, a spokesman for U.S. Central Command in Qatar. He had no information of the results of the attack.

It was the third straight day the Army penetrated Saddam's seat of power. This time, though, there were plans to stay. Rather than withdrawing at nightfall, as units did over the weekend, members of the 2nd Brigade of the 3rd Infantry Division hunkered down for the night at the sprawling, splendorous New Presidential Palace where Saddam once slept.

Several miles away, two soldiers and two journalists were killed in a rocket attack on the 3rd Infantry Division south of Baghdad, the U.S. Central Command reported. Another 15 soldiers were injured in the attack on an infantry position south of the city.

On the other side of town, Marines encountered tough fighting as they entered Bag-

dad for the first time, coming under machine gun fire. Lt. Col. B.P. McCoy said two Marines were killed and two were injured after an artillery shell hit their armored personnel carrier.

Marines crossed into Baghdad from the east, their engineers deploying a temporary pontoon bridge over a canal at the southern edge of the city after Iraqis rendered the permanent structure unsafe for heavy, armored vehicles.

Hours later, the sound of occasional American artillery split the night air.

The regime, its brutal hold on a country of 24 million slipping away, denied all of it. "There is no presence of American infidels in the city of Baghdad, at all," insisted Iraqi Information Minister Mohammed Saeed al-Sahhaf.

The Iraqi government maintained its hold over state-run television and radio — arguably its most important remaining levers of control over the country — and broadcast emotional appeals to resist U.S. forces. Also shown were images of Saddam meeting with key advisers.

The American military flexed its muscle in downtown Baghdad while British officials said one of the regime's most brutal leaders, Ali Hassan al-Majid, had apparently been killed in a weekend airstrike in the southern city of Basra.

A cousin of Saddam, al-Majid was dubbed "Chemical Ali" for ordering a poison gas attack that killed thousands of Kurds in 1988.

Defense officials also said testing was under way on samples taken from a site where soldiers found metal drums possibly containing nerve gas or another type of chemical weapon. A local commander said it was possible the substance was a pesticide, since it was found at an agricultural site near Hindiyah, south of Baghdad.

After a two-week siege, British forces claimed control over Basra, a city of 1.3 million. Hundreds of civilians, women in chadors and barefoot children among them, poured into the street to welcome the invaders. Some handed pink carnations to the British troops in appreciation.



Joe Root (left) of Coralville and Seth Weese of Iowa City try to get some rest while braving the cold weather Saturday at the Peace Camp set up on the University of Iowa campus in Iowa City. War protesters have camped at the site since late March.

Peace Camp: Open debate can defuse heated opposition, activists find

■ From page 1A

living at the camp. Most, but not all, are students. They generally eat food donated by well-wishers, attend classes and do errands by day. Then late in the day, they hunker down for an evening of conversation with passers-by, most of it focusing on the war in Iraq.

Periodically, they also play cards, do homework, or find themselves in confrontations over their actions. They said that when disputes arise, they calmly discuss the issues. Their opponents, while not always agreeing with them, often drop their dismissive attitude. Toward 1 a.m. Sunday, Chris Hansen, 21, of 522 N. Dodge, walked up Jefferson Street, stopping to shout at the campers. The residents engaged him in some spirited debate. After 30 minutes or so, he was sharing some laughs with the former targets of his wrath.

Why the initial anger, he was asked.

He said he had misunderstood the protesters.

"As long as they aren't against the troops, there's nothing wrong with them," he said.

Another student nearby, Erik McFerran, 21, was a third-year ROTC cadet. Like Hansen and many others, he questioned whether the protesters support the troops.

"If you support someone, don't you support their cause, too?" he asked the protesters.

Stepping aside to talk with a reporter, he emphasized that he supported the students' right to protest.

"Freedom of speech, that's what we are about in America," he said.

Later, Karen Pease, 22, of 810 Benton Dr., parked her car and walked up to the protesters bearing dishes including Spanish rice "with six pounds of tomatoes" and black beans.

"They are sticking up for us by being out here in this



weather. The least I could do would be to cook the dinner," she said.

Interviewed Sunday afternoon, the protesters became animated in discussing another skirmish that happened early that morning.

About 5 a.m., a group of five men walked up to the Peace Camp from the southwest. As two other men engaged the protesters in conversation, the five men threw a volley of eggs at the tents. The eggs stained at least one tent and hit three people but didn't splatter on anyone.

Hearing the tale, Weese bemoaned his luck. "I'm always asleep for all the good things," he said. "A good boxing match keeps me in tune with Mother Nature."

"This is more important to me than sleep"

Seth Weese
Peace Camp resident



University of Iowa junior Daniel Bell (left) of Iowa City and Michael Christoffersen (right) of Iowa City speak to Jason Goodchild, a UI junior from Spencer, as he walks by the Peace Camp on his way to class Monday. The participants at the Peace Camp encourage students and others walking or driving by to stop and listen to why they are doing what they are doing.

Later Sunday afternoon, the youth group from First Presbyterian Church in Iowa City came by for a tour of the camp.

Beth Gier, one of the leaders, told a reporter the visit was well worth it.

"I think it's always good for these guys to see the things they can do if they feel powerless, like most of us do. There are ways to speak out," she said.

Not long after the group's visit, Weese was wearily contemplating the heavy snowfall forecast for the night ahead. He vowed to get through the night but planned to go home to sleep in a real bed Monday night. But on Monday, he changed his mind and decided to stay that night, too.

"This is more important to me than sleep," he said.

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Marine: Friend lauds 'American hero'

■ From page 1A

of country music, fishing and his old dog, Bosco.

"If anybody could protect this wonderful country . . . it would be Brad," Kelly Holland, a childhood friend and prom date, said during the funeral at Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church. "Thank you for being a Marine, my own private American hero."

Korthaus, known as "Cruiser" to his friends, was one of two men who drowned in the Saddam Canal while crossing the 30-yard waterway to set up armed cover for a water purification team.

Cpl. Evan James, 20, of La Harpe, Ill., also drowned during the mission. Military officials on Monday said an investigation had determined

the deaths were accidental. (See story at top of page.)

The church was packed with more than 1,000 people for Korthaus' funeral Mass. Sobbing was audible.

Monsignor Michael Morrissey said Korthaus was devoted to his country and fellow Marines, and that his death is a reminder that life can be beautiful, mysterious and fleeting.

"Today we face the frailty of life . . . and yet recognize the grandeur of life," Morrissey said.

At the cemetery, Marines honored Korthaus with a 21-gun salute and the playing of "Taps" with one bugler playing lead and a second echoing in the distance.

Fire: 'Family got to say goodbye' before brain-injured child was taken off life support

■ From page 1A

38, remained in critical condition at University Hospitals. His wife said he suffered burns to 40 percent of his body.

Reed-Grahman spent a night at Gracy Medical Center after inhaling smoke.

It was a terrible ending to what had been a fun family evening.

The family of six had stayed up until just after 10 p.m. Saturday, playing cards and enjoying each other's company before heading to

bed in their home at 3755 H Ave. NE.

"About an hour later, I heard a crash and smelled smoke," Reed-Grahman said. "The whole bedroom, hallway and house was filled with smoke."

No cause has been found yet for the fire which was reported around 11:55 p.m. Saturday.

Jaymie's family decided to take her off life support on Sunday night.

"She had severe brain dam-

age, and she was never going to be Jaymie again," said Reed-Grahman, 32. "The family got to say goodbye."

Jaymie was a kindergartner at Kenwood Elementary School.

The school is taking up a

collection for the Grahman family.

For information, call the school at 558-2273.

The school's address is 3700 E Ave. NE 52402.

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