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LIFE & TIMES

HE'LL BRIGHTEN YOUR DAY

Off-maligned Carrot Top (right) isn't such a bad guy PAGE E1



SPORTS

Magic lose 100-84 in Atlanta

Defeat means no better than 7th seed in playoffs PAGE D1

COLUMBIA INVESTIGATION

Design 'solution' created problem

Foam sprayed on shuttles' fuel tanks was meant to fix an early design dilemma.

By ANTHONY COLAROSSO and MARY SHANKLIN
SENTINEL STAFF WRITERS

Like all NASA engineers of his generation, Jim Odom welcomed a challenge. A ranking manager in the earliest days of America's space-shuttle program, he embodied NASA's "can do" attitude.

Back then, in 1972 and 1973, Odom was in charge of developing a 154-foot external fuel tank; his was one of four projects that were simultaneously designing the major components of what would ultimately come together to launch NASA's first shuttle — Columbia.

Under Odom's oversight, engineers had designed a huge aluminum vessel to be filled with 535,277 gallons of super-cold liquid hydrogen and oxygen that would power the shuttle into orbit. It looked good — until the designers of the orbiter noticed a problem.

Because the fuel tank was largely bare metal, they said, it would immediately ice up when it was filled with propellant. At liftoff, that ice would cascade off the tank — and shred the delicate, silicon-based tiles the orbiter's de-

PLEASE SEE SHUTTLE, A6

2003 LEGISLATURE

Budget full of 'turkeys' — even in lean times

House leaders steered \$350 million in pork-barrel spending into the budget, critics said.

By LINDA KLEINDIENST and JOHN KENNEDY
TALLAHASSEE BUREAU

TALLAHASSEE — House leaders have quietly tucked into their budget more than \$350 million for hometown programs and projects, even as they slash state spending for severely ill Floridians, low-income housing and universities.

House Democrats attacked the spending Monday, saying the ruling Republicans are using the state budget as "their own personal checkbook" for pork-barrel programs.

"The lives of some Floridians are at stake in this budget, yet leadership decided to fund millions in member pork," said House Democratic Leader Doug Wiles of St. Au-

PLEASE SEE SPENDING, A7

Combat phase of war ends; rebuilding next

SADDAM'S HOMETOWN FALLS WITHOUT A STRUGGLE



KEVIN FRAYER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fall of Tikrit. U.S. Marines break into a building Monday in former President Saddam Hussein's hometown while looking for resistance.

But the Pentagon said dangerous pockets of resistance remain in Iraq.

By TONY PERRY and JOHN DANISZEWSKI
FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS

TIKRIT, Iraq — U.S. Marines on Monday captured Tikrit, the last big target of the war and the center of power for Saddam Hussein's Baath Party, as Pentagon officials declared that large-scale combat in Iraq was over.

In an overall assessment of the war, Army Maj. Gen. Stanley McChrystal, vice chairman of the Pentagon's Joint Chiefs of Staff, declared: "The major combat operations are over."

But he said it was too soon to declare the war over. Allied troops, he said, still face dangers from renegade paramilitary fighters, remnants of the Republican Guard and terrorists.

In London, British Prime Minister Tony Blair told Parliament that "the cause was just, the victory right."

While sniper fire and mortar attacks in Tikrit persisted into the night, the Marines said Saddam's Republican Guard fled. Brig. Gen. John Kelly, assistant commander of the 1st Marine Division, said the Guard no longer existed

PLEASE SEE IRAQ, A10

'A ROGUE NATION'

Syria harbors Iraqis, weapons, U.S. says

The Bush administration accused Iraq's neighbor of sheltering officials who fled the fallen regime.

By PETER HERMANN
FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

AMMAN, Jordan — The Bush administration scolded Syria for a second day Monday, accusing its leaders of giving re-

fuge to senior Iraqi officials and possessing chemical weapons — allegations Syria denied.

U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell for the first time raised the possibility of imposing sanctions on Syria, noting the "new environment" created by the fall of Iraq and advising that Syria's leaders "should review their actions and their behavior."

White House Press Secretary Ari Fleischer was even more critical, calling Syria "a rogue nation" and warned that it

needs to adopt its actions to the region's radically changed environment.

"I think that what's next is Syria needs to seriously ponder the implications of their actions in terms of harboring Iraqis who need not and should not be harbored," Fleischer said. "They should think seriously about their program to develop and to have chemical weapons. I think it's time to think through where they want their place to

PLEASE SEE SYRIA, A12

GUARD DUTY

Soldiers at makeshift prison camp keep watchful eyes on the enemy

The Army's 3rd Military Police Company soon will be relieved of the responsibility of caring for the prisoners.

By HILDA M. PEREZ
SENTINEL STAFF WRITER

BAGHDAD, Iraq — "I love Bush. I love America. I will die for Bush," an Iraqi prisoner of war yells, brandishing a fist in his prison cell.

Every 15 minutes the man repeats the chant. After about an hour, guards from the Army's 3rd Military Police Company have had enough.

They order an interpreter to tell the

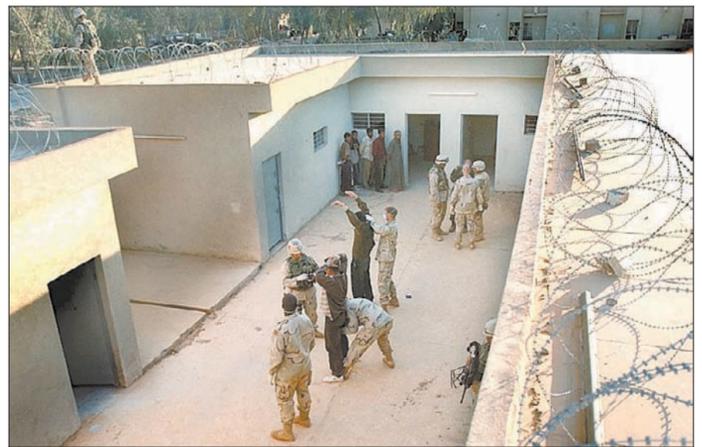
prisoner to shut up.

But the man keeps pleading to be released because he is a "civilian and will kill for Bush."

Sgt. 1st Class Terry Ford of Lakeland isn't impressed. Like other soldiers manning the makeshift prison camp at Baghdad International Airport, he has heard it all before.

"Most of them have the same sto-

PLEASE SEE PRISONERS, A11



HILDA M. PEREZ/ORLANDO SENTINEL

At Baghdad International Airport. Enemy prisoners of war, also called EPWs, are processed by U.S. Army soldiers in the courtyard of a small prison camp.

AMERICA AT WAR

For updates, go to News in a Minute at OrlandoSentinel.com

War divides Arabs

Fear and frustration prevail among nations in the region, A12

Rebuilding Iraq

Retired U.S. general from Win-dermere has crucial test today, A12

POW's wife ecstatic

Michelle Williams tells about coping with anxiety, A13

WEATHER



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