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50 CENTS

Mostly sunny
82°/56°, B8

SCORES

Hawks 100
Magic 84

INSIDE TODAY

Human genome decoded

Fifty years after the discovery of the structure of DNA, scientists announce they have deciphered the 3.1 billion units that make up the human genome. **A12**

New Orleans school shooting

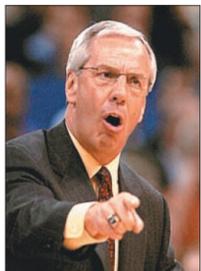
A 15-year-old boy is killed and three teenage girls are wounded in a spray of gunfire in a New Orleans high school. Police question four teenage suspects. **A12**

AOL Time Warner sued by investors

A lawsuit claims AOL Time Warner executives misled investors before the stock plunged. **Business, D1**

Second Delta bonus in peril

Federal airline aid may cost Delta's No. 2 exec his bonus, too. **Business, D1**



Kansas coach heads to UNC

After 15 seasons at Kansas, Roy Williams (above) decides to become the head basketball coach at the University of North Carolina. **Sports, C1**

Youth sports coaches go pro

Some metro Atlanta youth teams are turning to professional coaches for higher-quality instruction. **Sports, C1**

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'Major combat' over

iPlay béisbol!



Photos by MARC SEROTA / Reuters

In Major League Baseball's newest cultural exchange, fans at Estadio Hiram Bithorn in San Juan, Puerto Rico, show U.S. support during Sunday's game between the Montreal Expos and New York Mets. The Braves play there today.

Braves this week's 'visitors' in San Juan

By THOMAS STINSON
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San Juan, Puerto Rico — The outfield walls at Estadio Hiram Bithorn are a little closer, and the artificial turf is a little springier. The weather is a little hotter, the men's voices are a little louder, and the women's dresses tend to be a half-size smaller.

But the baseball remains the same — at least until any player from the Caribbean basin does something. Then the little park reverberates like a big tuning fork.

When the Montreal Expos' Jose Vidro, who grew up in the mountain village of Sabana Grande on Puerto Rico's southwestern side, hit a home run Friday night against the New York Mets, his eyes filled with tears before he could hit second base.

As major leaguers will find this season, it matters a little more here. That home run out of this park gave the 28-year-old veteran player something he had never felt, a feeling shared by his countrymen who stood and filled the place with a joyful noise.



Expos pitcher **Livan Hernandez** (right) from Cuba and **Scott Stewart** warm up before a backdrop in the San Juan stadium honoring Puerto Rican Hall of Fame forefathers of baseball: Roberto Clemente, Orlando Cepeda and Ruben Gomez.

"I had thought about what it would be like to hit a home run in front of my mother, in front of my family," Vidro said. "For it to happen . . . it's hard to explain."

When the Atlanta Braves get off the team bus here today to take part

in Major League Baseball's newest cultural exchange, they will walk straight into a different time and place, too. Baseball has been played on the island for more than 100 years, but this season's Serie De Los Expos De Montreal, as they are calling the 22 games the Expos play here, marks the Major Leagues' first serious tryst with Latin America.

In part, this innovation reflects Commissioner Bud Selig's campaign to take baseball around the

world. Part of it stems from the Expos' financial desperation. But for the most part, as the teams who visit will find, it just feels good.

"I think it's a good idea from the sense that we've been able to generate more revenue," Montreal General Manager Omar Minaya said. "It's been a good idea for the goodwill of the game, a way of giving back to a market that has an appetite for baseball, the fact that you have grandfa-

► Please see **BRAVES, A14**

Iraq secured; goal now is to make it safe

By MIKE WILLIAMS
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Tikrit, Iraq — Saddam Hussein's hometown fell Monday with just a few bangs, and even fewer whimpers for its deposed native son. Marines who braced for fight-to-the-death resistance from Saddam loyalists instead met residents who gave them pink flowers.

In what was expected to be the final major battle of the Iraqi war, U.S. troops pressed into Tikrit from the south, north and west. They met only scattered resistance.

By Monday afternoon, Marines shared the streets with Tikrit residents, enjoying a beautiful spring afternoon and telling themselves the big fights were done.

"There is nothing beyond Tikrit," said Marine Lt. Col. Doug Hardison. "That is it. It's now just a function of when to call the win."

Tikrit's fall on the 26th day of the Iraqi war clearly signaled the conflict was in a new phase.

"I would anticipate that the major combat operations are over," Maj. Gen. Stanley McChrystal said at the

► Please see **IRAQ, A6**



ANJA NIEDRINGHAUS / Associated Press
U.S. Army Capt. **Phillip Wolford** briefs an Iraqi policeman before a joint patrol in Baghdad. The effort to restore order has a high priority.

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► **Tikrit takeover:** Hometown folks express no love for Saddam Hussein, but they worry about U.S. intentions. **A7**

► **POW reunion:** Kaye and Ronald Young Sr. hope to meet their freed son, Ronald Jr., in Washington this week. **A8**

U.S. turns up the heat on Syria

By SHELLEY EMLING
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The Bush administration warned Syria on Monday it could face punitive measures if it does not show greater cooperation with the United States' campaign to rid the region of weapons of mass destruction.

Top-ranking officials charged Syria was developing chemical weapons, helping key Iraqi officials escape and sending volunteers and equipment to fight coalition forces in Iraq.

"We are concerned that Syria has been participating in the development of weapons of mass destruction," Secretary of State Colin Powell said.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said evidence suggests chemical weapons tests have been performed there over the last 12 to 15 months. Rumsfeld also said intelligence "shows Syria has allowed Syrians and others to go across the border into Iraq — people armed

► Please see **SYRIA, A6**

Virus worries China's leaders

Concern rises as disease found in more areas

By M.A.J. McKENNA
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In a striking change of tone Monday, Chinese leaders expressed "grave" concerns as substantial new cases of

unexplained pneumonia were found in widely distant parts of the country.

The disease, severe acute respiratory syndrome, continued to hammer Southeast Asia, with Singapore instituting severe new quarantine procedures and Hong Kong reporting the largest number of deaths in a day since the outbreak flared there in February.

And in the United States, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta announced it has unraveled the complete

genetic sequence of the virus suspected of causing SARS, but cautioned that treatments and a vaccine will not be achieved quickly.

In the month since the CDC joined the fight against SARS, there have been 193 suspected cases in 32 states, the agency said. Most Americans with the disease caught it during travel to Asia, but 15 acquired SARS from family members or close contacts, and five are health care workers

► Please see **VIRUS, A16**



Chinese President **Hu Jintao** is "very worried" about SARS' spread.

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