

# CIRILLO PUTS A'S AWAY

Third baseman's 2-run shot is the difference in 4-3 win

SPORTS, D 1



# WNBA DECIDES TO POSTPONE DRAFT

SPORTS, D 1

EASTSIDE EDITION

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# The Seattle Times

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## Under fire, Olchefske steps down



ROD MAR / THE SEATTLE TIMES

**Joseph Olchefske:** "I saw all this divisiveness as being very distracting for what we wanted to accomplish for kids."

## Seattle school superintendent quits amid financial upheaval

BY LINDA SHAW AND KEITH ERVIN  
Seattle Times staff reporters

Less than two weeks ago, Seattle School District Superintendent Joseph Olchefske repeated what he had been saying since he first came under fire after announcing that the district had overspent its budget by tens of millions of dollars: He had no plans to resign.

But in private about the same time, he was already discussing that possibility with School Board members and others. It had become clear to them that Olchefske had become a liability for the district and that his continued presence might sink the district's next levy election.

Yesterday, Olchefske made it official, resigning after four years as superintendent. He said the decision was his, although he had consulted with friends and several board members.

But there was also plenty of pressure on him. The

PLEASE SEE **Olchefske** ON A 13

# U.S. puts heat on Syria as combat wanes in Iraq



JEAN-MARC BOUJU / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Iraqi children greet a soldier from the 3rd Battalion of the 187th Regiment of the 101st Airborne Division yesterday in Baghdad.

## Fall of Tikrit signals end to major battles

BY JONATHAN S. LANDAY, SARA OLKON AND MARTIN MERZER  
Knight Ridder Newspapers

TIKRIT, Iraq — The Pentagon declared the end of significant fighting in Iraq yesterday as Marines stormed the heart of Tikrit, suppressed hard-core resistance there and captured the last stronghold of Saddam Hussein.

"The major combat operations are over," Maj. Gen. Stanley McChrystal said in Washington, D.C., after more than 3,000 Marines fought their way to the center of Saddam's ancestral hometown.

Marines seized an opulent presidential palace in Tikrit and rolled their armored vehicles along the city's broad boulevards. They watched white flags flutter from taxicabs, concrete homes and mud huts. They accepted roses from a few grateful residents — and stayed

PLEASE SEE **Iraq** ON A 2

## THE IRAQ WAR



THOMAS JAMES HURST / THE SEATTLE TIMES

**Ty Michael Shaw, 20, arrives at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport last night. The Marine from Longview received shrapnel wounds March 26 when his unit was attacked near Nasiriyah, Iraq. His mother, Maurine Hamer, is at right. Story, A 6**

**Restoring order:** Rebuilding process faces setbacks, A 4

**New authority:** Religious leaders grabbing power, A 5

**Seattle resolution:** Council finally agrees on statement backing troops, B 1

For the latest news updates: [www.seattletimes.com/iraq](http://www.seattletimes.com/iraq)

## Accusations fly; sanctions threatened

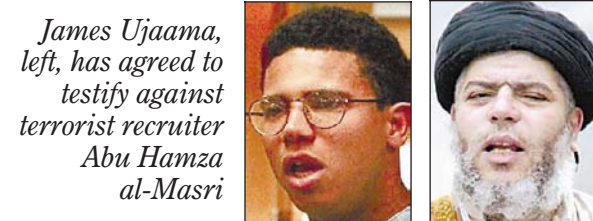
BY DANA MILBANK  
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration escalated its sharp diplomatic warnings to Syria yesterday, accusing Iraq's neighbor of developing chemical weapons, harboring former Iraqi leaders and allowing foreign fighters to enter Iraq to attack U.S. troops.

White House press secretary Ari Fleischer, at his morning briefing, said repeatedly that "Syria needs to cooperate." He read from a CIA report to Congress last year that Syria had stockpiles of the nerve agent sarin, that it was "trying to develop more toxic and persistent nerve elements," and that it was "highly probable" that Syria was pursuing biological weapons. Fleischer described the document as "authoritative" and said the charge is "well corroborated."

Fleischer declined to dispel the impression that the administration was tar-

PLEASE SEE **Syria** ON A 3



James Ujaama, left, has agreed to testify against terrorist recruiter Abu Hamza al-Masri

## Ujaama's guilty plea part of deal to testify against radical cleric

BY MIKE CARTER AND STEVE MILETICH  
Seattle Times staff reporters

James Ujaama, the Ingraham High School graduate accused of supporting al-Qaida, has cut a deal with the Justice Department that gives him a two-year prison sentence in exchange for testimony against a London imam considered one of Europe's key terrorism recruiters, according to federal sources as well as a person close to Ujaama.

Ujaama, 37, pleaded guilty yesterday in Seattle to one count of conspiring to provide cash, computers and fighters to the Taliban. Other counts against Ujaama were dropped, including one charging him with plotting to set up a terrorist camp in Bly, Ore., and conspiring to kill Americans abroad.

Federal sources confirmed that U.S. Attorney Gen-

PLEASE SEE **Ujaama** ON A 11

## MORNING NEWSLINE

A quick look at today's news

**President Bush** will refocus attention on the sluggish economy in a speech today. A 8

**Researchers** say they've refined their map of the human genetic code to 99.99 percent accuracy, laying the foundation for a new era in medicine. A 8

**Income-tax** procrastinators face a midnight filing deadline but can pay an estimated tax and opt for an extension. A 8

**Four teens** are accused of killing a boy and wounding three girls in gang-related gunfire at a New Orleans high school. A 9

**A chemical** used in Teflon, Gore-Tex and numerous other products might pose health risks, federal officials say. A 9

**The SARS epidemic** is spreading in China, but genetics work in Canada and the U.S. could lead to a vaccine. A 10

**Quebec separatists** appeared to lose yesterday's election in Canada. A 14

**Information on doctors'** credentials and disciplinary records will be available to their patients on a new state Web site. Local, B 1

**King County Councilman** Kent Pullen died yesterday, an aide confirmed. The 60-year-old Republican represented southeast King County. Local, B 1

**A Puget Sound delegation's** trip to China has prompted SARS concerns — and also a prank on Redmond's mayor. Local, B 1

**Philip Morris** has avoided possible bankruptcy in a legal fight over the risks of smoking. Business, C 1

**Airlines earnings** reports this week could signal the

industry's worst quarter ever. Business, C 1

**The Sonics'** 15-year streak of non-losing seasons ended last night. Sports, D 1

**Roy Williams** is leaving Kansas to coach basketball at North Carolina, his alma mater. Sports, D 3



**Weather**  
Partial clearing with scattered showers today. High 56, low 43. D 12

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