

Oregon DAILY EMERALD

Monday, October 22, 1990

Eugene, Oregon

Volume 92, Issue 39

Middle East students clash on crisis

Kuwaitis charge Iraq with aggression, Iraqis claim rightful action

By Daralyn Trappe
Emerald Reporter

University students from Kuwait and Iraq are watching developments in the Middle East while they wonder about the fate of their families and the future of their countries.

The students from the two countries are struggling financially because of a sudden lack of government scholarship money. In addition, they have been unable to contact family members for several weeks.

Iraqi and Kuwaiti students have little else in common. They have very different perceptions and beliefs about what happened Aug. 2, why it happened and what should be done now.

"I used to call my family at least twice or three times a week and now I haven't talked to them for almost three months," said Al-Taei Al-Delaimi, who was born and raised in Kuwait and has been studying at the University since 1985.

Most of his family is still in Kuwait, but Al-Delaimi said one of his brothers has been taken hostage and is being detained in Iraq.

"My other brother escaped through the Saudi borders, and he's the only contact I have," Al-Delaimi said. "It's been a month and he hasn't called because he hasn't heard any news from (our family)."

Khaled Al-Jassim, who has been here since 1984, also has a brother who is being detained.

"The last time I talked to him was on the day of the aggression (Aug. 2)," Al-Jassim said. The rest of his family is in Kuwait and "word of mouth" is currently the only way he has of finding out what's happened to them.

Ali Mubarak, who has also been at the University since 1984, said most of his family is now in Saudi Arabia, but one brother is still in Kuwait.

"Every minute you think you might hear



Photo by Sean Poston

Kuwaiti students Ali Mubarak, Al-Taei Al-Delaimi and Khaled Al-Jassim claim Iraq invaded their country for its oil and to strike against the Kuwaiti royal family.

that something wrong happened to one of the members of your family. It's very frightening," Mubarak said.

The students from Kuwait came to the University through government scholarship money. The crisis has cut off that money.

Mubarak is not taking classes this term because he cannot afford tuition. He has also been unable to obtain a work visa.

Ziyad Abdessalam is another University student who is unable to contact his family and who is also without government scholarship money. He arrived from Iraq on Sept. 5 to begin work on his Ph.D. in physics. Because Iraqi assets have been frozen, he has not received tuition money, he said.

The desire for control of the oil field that Kuwait and Iraq share, economic problems in Iraq and a personal vendetta against the Kuwaiti royal family are the reasons Al-Delaimi, Al-Jassim and Mubarak give for the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait.

"We are having the largest mafia in the world active — led by Saddam Hussein,"

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Photo by Mia Bertelsen

Iraqi student Ziyad Abdessalam says his country was reclaiming its own territory when it invaded Kuwait Aug. 2.

Rally calls for peace through renewable energy

By June Russell
Emerald Reporter

If the United States' dependence on oil is leading the nation into war, then renewable energy leads to peace, activists told listeners at a peace rally on the Saturday Market stage this weekend.

"Our message is that we wouldn't be facing war in the Middle East if it weren't for oil," said peace activist Randy Prince. "We're dependent on non-renewable energy sources like oil. But there is a way out of this that will resolve all of our concerns about oil."

"If you start using renewable energy, we can have peace," he said.

The rally, which included activists from Eugene Peaceworks and the Renewable Energy Project, was a continuation of the weekly peace rallies at Eugene's Federal Building and the petitioning for peace drive

Activists encourage participants to achieve peace by writing Congress

that started Sept. 5. The petitions call for Oregon's congressional delegation to speak and vote for renewable energy sources and peace in the Middle East.

The peace group plans to submit signatures on the petition to Sen. Bob Packwood Wednesday at his office in Portland. Prince, one of the organizers of the petition drive, said they will also join the weekly noon peace rally at Pioneer Courthouse Square.

Citizens for Peace and Rational Energy Policy, organizers of the Portland rallies, estimate the rallies draw an average of 100 participants.

"Sometimes people forget about the simplest things, like petitioning your grievances," Prince said. "The point is that if people want something, like

peace, people have to speak out and express themselves."

About 800 signatures on a "Petition for Peace" were submitted to 4th District Rep. Peter DeFazio in early August. The petitions expressed concern over DeFazio's announced support for the deployment of U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf.

Since the group began the petition campaign, DeFazio has spoken in the House in support of renewable energy policy and joined 28 other congressional delegates in voting against a resolution supporting President Bush's actions.

"America wants peace," Prince said. "What we're saying is that if you want peace, you want renewable energy."

Solar energy, alcohol to replace gasoline as fuel, and electricity to operate mass transit

systems were among the alternatives to non-renewable energy sources and oil that Prince suggested.

"We should look on the crisis as an opportunity to protect the environment and work for peace at the same time," Prince said. "We want to unite people to work for renewable energy."

"Gas and oil prices are going to continue to rise," he added. "If we're going to pay more for energy, let's make it renewable energy."

Peace activist Peter Wooten spoke at the rally, placing the recent developments in the Middle East in historical perspective. Wooten, 69, works in telemarketing for Sage Advance, a local company which manufactures solar water heaters and hosts the "Elderberry Wine" radio show weekly on KLCC.

"For those of you that remember Daddy Warbucks, let

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Briefly

Al Smith, a 70-year-old Native American, spoke about his battle with alcoholism and his experiences with American culture and society Friday night as part of a weekend workshop called "Soar Like an Eagle."

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Students seeking a social atmosphere or a place to meet that special someone have another option to offset the singles bars and coffee houses.

The concept is social laundry, and the nationwide trend has come to Eugene in the form of Club Wash.

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Of the 43 passenger elevators on campus, it seems the most memorable are the two elevators in PLC.

Most people who ride the elevator remember the long wait for it, the sudden lurch as it stops and starts, the failure of the elevator to stop before the door opens, the lack of Braille button indicators, and a button panel that is too high for people in wheelchairs.

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Almanac

Pick up class schedule printouts today at the registrar's office in Oregon Hall. Photo ID is required.

Sports

Oregon's football team had two rare occurrences happen in Saturday night's game with Arizona State at Autzen Stadium.

The Ducks returned both a punt and an interception for touchdowns to lead the way in a 27-7 Pacific-10 Conference win against the Sun Devils.

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Oregon's volleyball squad used the power of Dawnn Charroin and the flawless setting of Molly McGrath to breeze by Portland State in three straight games Friday night.

The 15-11, 15-3, 15-13, victory over the Division II Vikings pushed Oregon's record to 14-7 and allowed Duck Coach Gerry Gregory to breathe a sigh of relief.

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