



Pauline Lubens San Jose Mercury News

Iraqi civilians loaded into a truck wait to cross the Az Zubair bridge, heading south from Basra in southern Iraq.

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Today's crossword solution

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R	H	I	N	E	E	V	I	L	A	R	T	Y					
A	O	R	T	A	R	A	T	A	L	O	O	P					
N	E	A	R	U	N	I	O	N	T	O	L	E					
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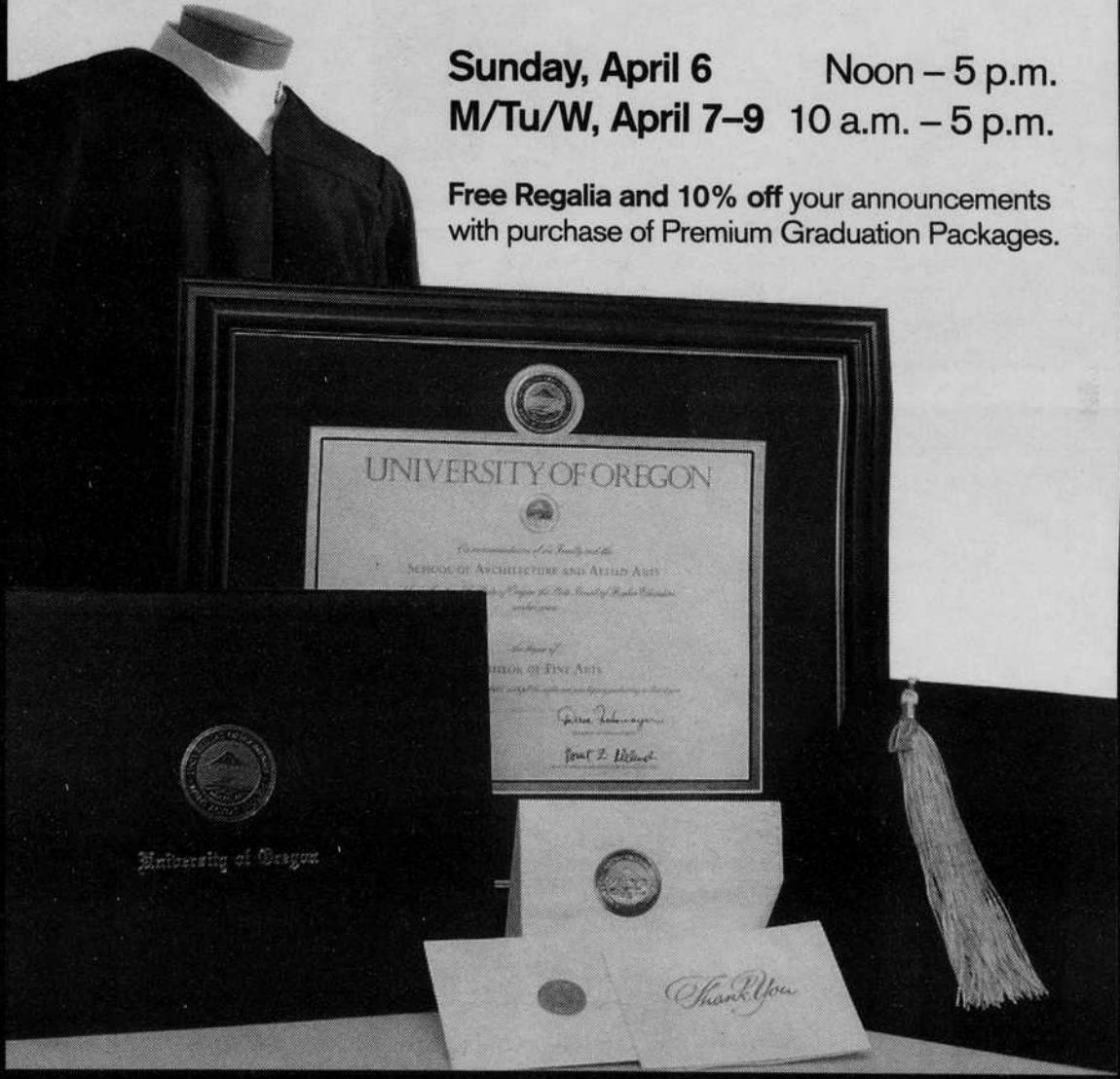
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Troops

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three brigades of the Army's 3rd Infantry Division drove toward a Republican Guard division southwest of Baghdad while a large force of Marines lunged for a Republican Guard division southeast of the capital.

In the largest U.S. military assault since the Persian Gulf War in 1991, the invasion moved along two fronts and marked the beginning of what was expected to be a key battle of this second Gulf War — the struggle to breach Republican Guard lines and reach the seat of Saddam Hussein's power about 50 miles away.

If successful, the double-barreled advance — which followed a four-day halt in large-scale movement — could strip away the outer layer of Baghdad's defenses and leave only two other Guard divisions standing between U.S. forces and Hussein.

On the western front, rockets illuminated an already starlit sky over Karbala, a city of 400,000 residents. U.S. tanks rumbled north and east. Ground soldiers prepared for combat with Hussein's most loyal fighters.

The Army's advance occurred near a region called the Karbala Gap, a 20- to 25-mile wide sliver of land about 50 miles south of Baghdad. The Army and Republican Guard have been positioned in that area, opposite each other, for days.

Hours earlier, the Marines began their offensive on the eastern front, moving north from Nasiriyah to Kut, also a city of 400,000 people. They expected to engage the Republican Guard's Baghdad division near that city, which sits astride the Tigris River and a second southern route to Baghdad.

The Marines reported destroying three T-55 tanks and finding abandoned military vehicles. But another part of the advance stopped at a bridge that would not bear the 70-ton weight of their Abrams tanks. That attack was to resume before dawn Wednesday.

In Baghdad, Iraqi officials ap-

peared to foreshadow the importance of the battle, issuing what they said was a personal plea by Hussein that Iraqis lay down their lives for his regime and their country.

The message had a stronger-than-usual religious component, and Hussein did not appear. Instead, the statement was read by Information Minister Mohammed Saeed al-Sahhaf. Some U.S. analysts believe Hussein was killed or incapacitated by the missile strike that opened the war nearly two weeks ago.

"Those who are martyred will be rewarded in heaven," the statement said. "Seize the opportunity, my brothers. Strike at them, fight them. They are aggressors, evil, accursed by God. You shall be victorious and they shall be vanquished."

At the White House, President Bush conducted a teleconference with Army Gen. Tommy Franks, who commands all allied forces in the Persian Gulf, and was briefed on the conduct of the war and the coming action, according to senior U.S. officials, who requested anonymity.

© 2003, Knight Ridder/Tribune Information Services. Harper is with the 3rd Infantry Division near Karbala; Tamayo is with the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force in Iraq; and Merzer anchored from Washington. Also contributing were Knight Ridder Newspapers correspondents Drew Brown with the 3rd Infantry Division near Karbala; Andrea Gerlin with the Marines in central Iraq; Jessica Guynn at the Pentagon; Mark Johnson in Samawah, Iraq; Mark MacDonald in Kalak, northern Iraq; Tony Pugh at the Pentagon; and Peter Smolowitz at allied headquarters in Qatar.

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GER 204 Intensive 2nd year German >1
06 credits, CRN 41959, 9:00-11:50 MUWHF, 214 FR, prerequisites GER 105

GER 205 Intensive 2nd Year German >1
06 credits, CRN 41960, 9:00-11:50 MUWHF, 214 FR, prerequisites GER 204 or equivalent



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04 credits, CRN 41955, 2:00-3:50 MUWH, 154 STB, Saskia Hintz.
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GER 355 GERMAN CINEMA
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