

The latest list of foods that heal
8 things that are good for you ... at least for now, 1E



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The Charlotte Observer

MONDAY, MARCH 29, 2004

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NCAA Tournament

ACC sends 2 to Final Four

Saturday,
6:07 p.m.

Both games on CBS, WBTV (Ch. 3)

Saturday,
8:47 p.m.



Blue Devils keep dancing



PATRICK SCHNEIDER - STAFF PHOTO

Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski celebrates after his team beat Xavier 66-63 Sunday in the men's regional finals. The Blue Devils now face Connecticut in the national semifinals Saturday. Georgia Tech, which beat Kansas 79-71 in overtime, will face Oklahoma State in the other semifinal. In women's basketball, Duke is one win away from the Final Four after beating Louisiana Tech 63-49 Sunday. The team faces Minnesota Tuesday. Sports, 1C.

RECOLLECTIONS CHANGE

Rice: Bush did ask for Iraq link to 9-11

Talk was in Situation Room the day after the attacks, as Clarke said

BY ERIC LICHTBLAU
New York Times

WASHINGTON — The White House acknowledged Sunday that on the day after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, President Bush asked his top counterterrorism adviser, Richard Clarke, to find out whether Iraq was involved.



Clarke

Bush wanted to know, "Did Iraq have anything to do with this? Were they complicit in it?" Condoleezza Rice, the national security adviser, recounted in an interview on CBS' "60 Minutes."

Bush was not trying to intimidate anyone to "produce information," she said. Rather, given the United States' "actively hos-

tile relationship" with Iraq, he was asking Clarke "a perfectly logical question," she said.

The conversation — which the White House suggested last week never took place — centers on perhaps the most volatile charge that Clarke has made public in recent days: that the Bush White House became fixated on Iraq and Saddam Hussein at the expense of focusing on al-Qaida's role in terrorism.

In his new book, "Against All Enemies," Clarke recounts that the president pulled him and several other aides into the White House Situation Room on the evening of Sept. 12, 2001, and instructed them "to go back over everything, everything. See if Saddam did this. See if he's linked in any way."

Clarke was incredulous, he said in the book. "But, Mr. President, al Qaeda did this."

"I know, I know, but ... see if Saddam was involved. Just look. I want to know any shred," Bush answered, according to Clarke.

Last week, the White House said it had no record that Bush said it had no record that Bush

SEE TERRORISM | 5A

CAMP LEJEUNE MARINES



JOE RAEDLE - GETTY IMAGES PHOTO

U.S. Marines carry a wounded comrade during a gun battle on March 23, 2003, in the southern Iraqi city of Nasiriyah.

Friendly fire may have killed 10, report says

BY HECTOR BECERRA,
ROBERT J. LOPEZ
AND RICH CONNELL
Los Angeles Times

As many as 10 Camp Lejeune Marines may have been killed by friendly fire in the midst of the deadliest battle of the Iraq war when a Marine air controller mistakenly cleared Air Force A-10 jets to shoot on U.S. positions, according to a long-awaited military investigation.

The report, portions of which were obtained Saturday by the Los Angeles Times, paints a chaotic picture of the March 23, 2003, battle in the southern Iraqi city of Nasiriyah, as Marines fought to seize two bridges crucial to the American advance on Baghdad.

When Marine units around the city lost communication, commanders became confused about the location of U.S. troops. Two

SEE IRAQ | 5A

Observer Exclusive

Plows left trail of questions in snow

WHAT'S AT ISSUE | Uneven city attention to snow-covered neighborhoods raises concern: Did affluent areas get preferential treatment?

BY PETER SMOLOWITZ,
RICHARD RUBIN
AND TED MELLNIK
Staff writers

If you live near uptown or in a wealthy wedge of south Charlotte, chances are your street was plowed during last month's snowstorm.

If you live in southwest Charlotte or close to the outerbelt, you probably waited for the sun.

An Observer analysis of the city's unprecedented effort to clear neighborhood streets shows most plowing occurred within two miles of the Interstate 277 loop. Farther from uptown, the analysis showed, crews cleaned a disproportionate number of neighborhoods between Providence and Park roads, a section that includes

many high-income communities. Areas southwest of Dilworth received little plowing.

City staffers say that pattern was unintentional, because their decision to plow side streets was made on the fly during a storm that eventually matched Charlotte's third worst. But several City Council members say the pattern looks bad.

"This is totally unacceptable," Councilwoman Susan Burgess said after reviewing an Observer map of streets plowed. "This map shows us that we need a policy or guidelines to make decisions of who gets plowed. And

SEE STORM | 9A

WHO GOT PLOWED?

9A | Map shows which streets were cleaned

PHONE NUMBER FOR CITY, COUNTY SERVICES

Got a question? 311 to the rescue

BY MICHELLE CROUCH
Staff Writer

In a radio interview earlier this month, Charlotte Mayor Pat McCrory was asked what number citizens should call to report a pothole.

After an awkward silence, McCrory told the hosts he would have to get back to them.

If the city's catch-all information line — (704) 336-7600 — can slip the mind of even its top politician, how are the rest of us supposed to remember it?

Under a new customer service plan for Charlotte and Mecklenburg county, we won't have to.

Next year, the city will unveil a new three-digit phone number — 311 — that will connect residents to a one-stop complaint center for everything from potholes to barking dogs. The goal is to give citizens an easy-to-

SEE 311 | 7A

Three-Digit Dialing

Numbers in place or planned for the Charlotte area:

- 211 Social services (Mecklenburg, Cabarrus and Union)
- 311 City and county services (proposed)
- 411 Directory assistance
- 511 Traffic information (debut statewide in May)
- 611 Often used by phone companies for customer service
- 711 Connecting line for speech- or hearing-impaired people from residential phones
- 911 Emergencies

Today's Observer

Lack of rain brings region close to drought levels

LOCAL | 1B The Charlotte region and much of the Southeast are perilously close to another drought. And it's causing eyes to water and noses to run all over town.

- ▶ Kurt Busch tames Bristol for third-straight time | 1C
- ▶ Is gas pump ripping you off? Here's what to do | 1D

Weather

COOLER: High: 62. Low: 46. Overcast afternoon. Rain possible overnight. Full forecast, 16B

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