## **Opinion Kurdish people sacrificed** Page 6

## by Chad Clouse Opinion Editor

from the border to Turkey. The town itself sits on a piece of land the size of the Millcreek mall. The city streets are dirt and the dust from the few cars and trucks settles the Middle East should be happy. Iraq has met the Kurdish leaders on a few occasions heavy on everything and hangs precariously in the air. It's not the town that is so important but the check point on the one major highway to the west of town. There on the edge of the town, running past the mud brick homes, a four lane highway appears and runs south and north promising those who can cross the check point a chance at a new life in Turkey.

The fleeing masses are Kurds. They are hunted by the Iraqi government as a nuisance; the Kurds want a free Kurdish state

Fleeing to Turkey is not always a legitimate escape for these people. The Turkish government hates the Kurds as much as the Iraqi government and uses every opportunity they have to bomb known Kurdish settlements in Iraq and southern Turkey. They are our allies in protecting the no-fly zone. It gives them every opportunity to fly in northern Iraq.

Also important in the town is an old cement pad that the U.S. Army uses to land its UH-60 Blackhawks on. These helicopters are the main supply line for the American Colonel and British officers staying in Zakhu. The helicopters are also their main transportation.

This operation is called "Provide Comfort." The mission of the U.S. soldiers in northern Iraq is to set up talks with the Kurdish leaders.

The question is, "As Americans where do our loyalties lie?'

Zakhu is held by the KDP (Kurdish Democratic Party). However, the KDP is now backed by Sadam Hussien. The Democratic tendencies proclaimed in their name is lost when they choose to affiliate themselves which the Dictator. Yet we must understand their frustration. The U.S. government has in the past refused to help. Even now the U.S. is refusing to arm the other faction of Kurds fighting the KDP and Iraqi soldiers. The faction, PKK, can only depend on Iran for arms.

How are we protecting out interests in "Provide Comfort." In that year I dropped Iraq when we have done nothing but shoot flour and sugar from helicopters like bombs

off a few missiles in the defense of these into the dirt near shanty towns; I helped in

peoples. We have forced one side to affiliate disaster relief when the cold snow in the itself with the most prominent power in mountain broke loose and covered those Zakhu, Iraq, sits in the north a mile the region in hopes of protecting their towns; I pulled the blued and stiffened people. In the process they have moved bodies out of the snow and wrapped them with Iraqi forces against their own. The with care in the thick black plastic of a Kurds are now killing Kurds. Everyone in body bag so reminiscent of a trash bag; I've



in the near future in an attempt to finish I've tried at night to block out the faces. the job.

ass in Zakhu, sipping imported coffees and is no endgame in the Middle East. We are eating well in a town owned by our supposed enemy. This is a town where young of our country will set foot on Iraqi children in the street bare the scares of the soil to take part in something they can not nation. A young boy no more then five believe in. "Who cares about the Kurds?" wears heavy white scars across his face and they'll ask and be right in their assumption chest. It seems that his body is melting that no one does. away. When asked what happened an adult near him replies that a grenade blew up in economic. We are not humanitarians; we his face.

The President has sanctioned military action against Iraq. The coincidence that this is an election year seems minor. The this article. That's me in the middle of a sea claims from the White House remain the of children. They came to gawk at the same. "We are protecting our interests in helicopters that sit out of frame to the the Middle East.

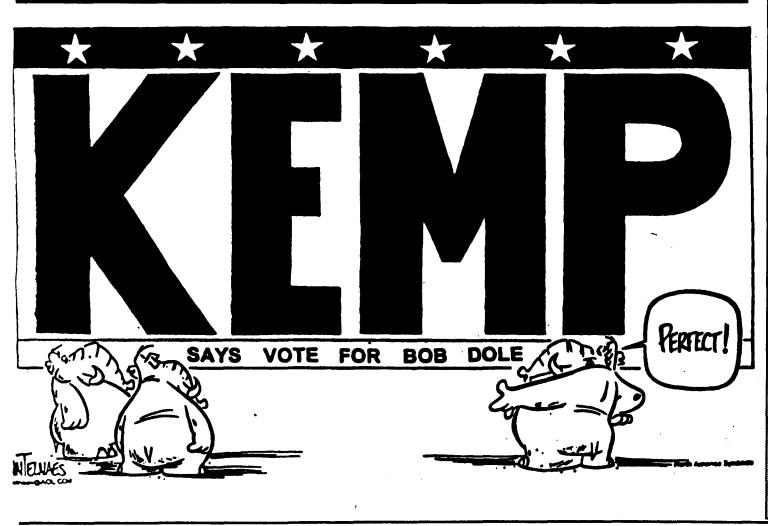
I spent six months in southern Turkey and northern Iraqi as part of operation while and see if you care.

armed a faction to kill half of his enemy. and found them fat and well clothed while Do not be surprised if Iraq attacks the KDP the children around them are dressed in rags;

I am no longer prepared for war. Going Through all this our Colonel sits on his back to Iraq is not an option for me. There there and will remain there. Again the

> Our interests in the Middle East are all are pirates. Oil is money. We are protecting our oil trade.

> There is a photo that goes along with photographer's rear. These are the faces I see when I close my eyes. Stare at them a



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