

700 WALK IN MEMORY OF DR. STIDHAM
Tucson/Region

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Sports, Page C9



TABLE-SETTING SENSATIONS
Home

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TMC's chief of surgery calls his two months in a Baghdad trauma center 'the most rewarding experience of my life'



'DR. JIMMY' COMES HOME

By **Carla McClain**
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

When the young soldiers died, the surgeon would look at them zipped in their body bags, and wonder if they were cold, if they would be lonely on their long journey home.

"I know it sounds crazy — it's weird, but I worried about that," Dr. James Balsarak said. "And then, I was just glad their families would never see them the way I had seen them, so torn up. I wanted the families to know they had died with the love of all of us around them."

And so Balsarak, the chief of surgery at Tucson Medical Center, has returned safe and whole from the war in Iraq, where he voluntarily spent two months working to save the lives of U.S. soldiers during some of the heaviest fighting of the 20-month conflict.

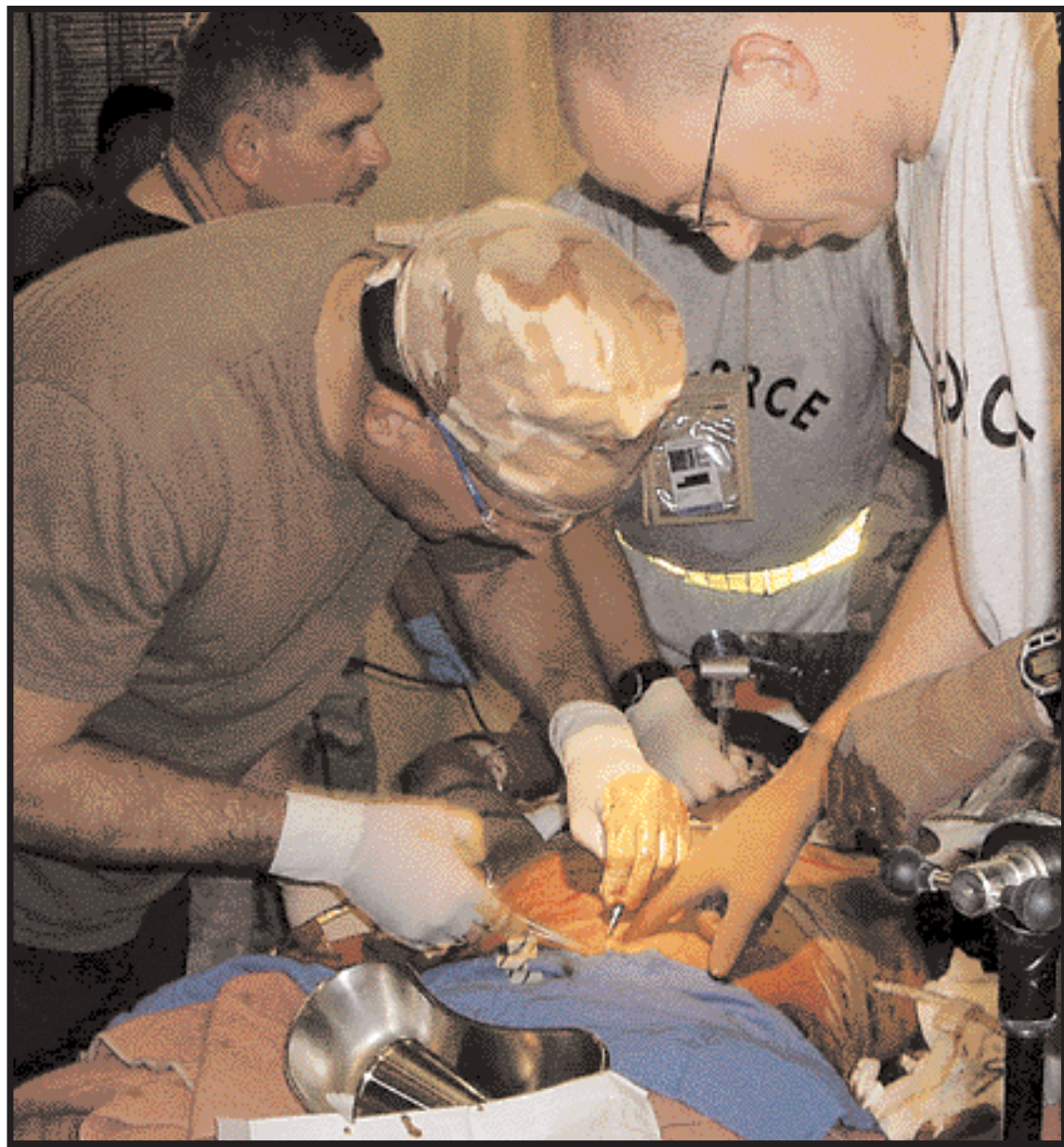
On Monday, he re-entered the pristine, state-of-the-art operating rooms at TMC undisturbed by the bombs of war, yet badly missing the dusty battlefield MASH unit where he stitched soldiers back together.

"Even though I wasn't there very long, it was the most rewarding experience of my life — more so than I ever thought it would be," he said. "I was sad to leave."

Although he holds the rank of

SEE **BALSERAK** / A17

A 'very bad day' had rewards
PAGE A17



Dr. James Balsarak, center left in camouflage cap, operates on a wounded soldier in his Baghdad trauma unit, which treated about 1,000 patients during the TMC surgeon's two-month tour of duty.

Courtesy of James Balsarak

McCain: Doping in baseball must stop

Says he'll bring legislation if game fails to fix itself now

By **William C. Mann**
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Sen. John McCain on Saturday demanded immediate action by representatives of Major League Baseball's players and owners to tighten the sport's drug-testing policy "to restore the integrity of baseball" or face possible congressional action.

"I warned them a long time ago that we needed to fix this problem," McCain told reporters after attending the Army-Navy football game with President Bush. "It's time for them to sit down together and act. And that's what they should do. If not, clearly, we have to act legislatively, which we don't want to do."

Expressing dismay over recurring reports of steroid abuse by some of the game's top stars, the Arizona Republican threatened to legislate stricter rules if the sport fails to police itself.

"I'll introduce legislation in January, but I hope I don't have to do that," he said, speaking to reporters at Andrews Air Force Base.

The long-simmering steroid allegations hit the headlines last week with reports of grand-jury testimony in San Francisco that linked to steroid abuse such stars as

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► *Sports columnist Greg Hansen weighs in / C1*



John McCain

Internet generation riding technological wave into the future

By **Martha Irvine**
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO — Even when he's asleep, Scott Kearnan is hooked into the Internet. He just turns down the volume on his computer so he's not awakened by the "brrring" of a late-night instant message.

"It's become something for me that's almost like a telephone. I may not use it, but it could ring anytime," says the 22-year-old from Mendon, Mass., who works for a search-engine marketing company. "If I don't have it, I feel cut off."

It's one small indication of just how far the Internet has come — and how its existence is taken for granted by a generation of young Americans who "have not known life without it," says Malcolm Bird, head of America Online's services for kids and teens.

Young people are now the savviest of the tech-savvy, as likely to demand a speedy broadband connection as to download music onto an iPod, or upload digital photos to their Web logs.

The Internet has shaped the

ALWAYS ONLINE

A look at the new Internet generation

► This is the first in a five-part series looking at a generation of young people who've grown up with the Internet and how it has influenced them.

• **Today:** Younger generation can't imagine life without the Net

• **Monday:** The life and times of an online gamer

• **Tuesday:** When three days without a word is an eternity

• **Wednesday:** When information access is easy, truth can be elusive

• **Thursday:** Setting limits with technology is vital in a wired world

Medicare may not meet needs in nursing homes

By **Robert Pear**
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — A wide variety of experts on long-term care have expressed serious concern that the new Medicare law will be unworkable for most of the 1.5 million Americans who live in nursing homes.

Nursing-home residents take large numbers of prescription drugs, an average of eight a day. But many have physical disabilities and brain disorders that impair their memory and judgment. So they cannot easily shop around for insurance plans to find the best bargains on their drugs, as other Medicare beneficiaries are supposed to do.

Federal and state officials, pharmacists and nursing-home directors said they had no idea how these patients would obtain their medicines under the new program, which begins in January 2006.

"Nobody knows where they're going to get their drugs from," said Stanton G. Ades, senior vice president of NeighborCare, a company in Baltimore that supplies drugs to more than 1,500 nursing homes and assisted-living centers in 32 states. The role of such long-term care pharmacies under the new law is unclear.

SEE **MEDICARE** / A16

IN TODAY'S STAR

ARIZONA & THE WEST	A4
BOOKS	E11
BUSINESS	D1-8
DR. HEINS	E3
EDITORIALS	B9-11
HOME	H1-10
HOROSCOPE	E3
LOTTERY	A17
MOVIES	E6
NEIGHBORS	B3
OBITUARIES	B4
PUBLIC RECORDS	B4
PUZZLE	E10
SPORTS	C1-18
TRAVEL	G1-4



Weather

TODAY'S FORECAST

30% chance of getting wet.
High 60 / Low 37

Saturday: High 51 / Low 43

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