

Marine sees other side of Iraq

Reprinted from: Our Voice

By Bethany Mallek

Our Voice contributor

Ryan Mallek is a 20 year-old welder and corporal in the Marines. He joined after he graduated from high school and has served one term in Iraq. He is going back shortly.

Ryan gained a new perspective on life during his time overseas. He realized that there is a world of difference between the typical life of an American and the life of an inhabitant of Iraq based on our different cultures and circumstances.

One example of this was when he was supervising the cleaning of some barracks by several Iraqi men. He walked away for a while and when he came back the men were fighting over some old and dirty socks. It turned out that these men could not afford socks. Ryan was so affected by this that he went out and bought new socks for all of them.

When asked his opinion about serving in Iraq, Ryan said he felt the media is one-sided when it reports that the forces overseas are not achieving much.

"We did a lot of good over there," he said. "They (the Iraqi people) love us."

In the near future, Ryan will go back to Iraq for more than seven months. Later, he plans to get of the Marines even though it changed his attitude toward life. He said there were certain aspects about his job that he did not like. Instead, he plans to go to college and study to be a teacher.

Ryan has learned a lot from this experience and will probably gain fore knowledge from future trips to Iraq. Whatever he does, I am sure he will be successful.

Continued from page 11

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Gery Schemel

Photos to qc-cruznews.com

Cover Bike

Tomahawk Dave's "swap meet" Iron Head Chopper.

With help from his buddy Ken at the Cycle Exchange (www.cycleexchange.net) and George. You said it was cover worthy before but it didn't make it. Now I stripped it down, rattle canned it and got swap meet parts. New seat, gas tank, sissy bar, pipes z bars. I'm poor, but man I love to ride this '73 Iron Head chopper has its own attitude, and it's screaming for a cover thanks FRP Tomahawk Dave Well here you go Brother. Persistence pays off. See you in the wind.



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