

The atmosphere in the Baghdad courtroom was tense as photojournalist Karen Ballard '94 CIS awaited the arrival of Saddam Hussein for his first day of trial for crimes against humanity.

As the only photographer permitted at the hearing, Ballard had a job to do — capture a pivotal moment in history.

“My biggest fear was making sure I nailed the focus as he walked through the door for a split second. This was the ultimate perp-walk,” Ballard says when asked about the pressure she felt that day.

Then, the moment arrived. Ballard snapped the first and only shot of Saddam Hussein's entrance to the history-making event.



Former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein enters a courthouse near Baghdad where he appears in front of an Iraqi judge on July 1, 2004, to hear charges against him and to be made aware of his rights. Iraqi guard photos are pixelated for security purposes.