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## IN THE NEWS

Top stories from the state, nation and world

### Japanese Train Station Hit With Gas Attack; 260 Sick

YOKOHAMA, Japan — Pandemonium erupted at Yokohama's main train station Wednesday when a mysterious gas spread through an underground corridor, sickening at least 260 people. The attack came a month after nerve gas killed 12 people in the Tokyo subway, and police suggested that Wednesday's might be a copycat crime.

Thousands of commuters raced pell-mell out of the station, crowding sidewalks and streets. Sirens wailed, and at least 10 helicopters circled overhead.

Police, firefighters and chemical weapons experts — some in gas masks — checked the station for the source of the foul chemical odor. The National Public Safety Commission chief said the air smelled like sulfuric acid.

Yuka Takaoka, a college student, said she had seen firefighters clad in protective gear gingerly removing 20 or 30 small cardboard boxes from the station.

A military poison gas warfare unit was sent to the area to spray neutralizing chemicals. But officials said sarin, the nerve gas used in the Tokyo attack, was not suspected because the victims' symptoms were different.

Japan is still on edge over the March 20 Tokyo attack, in which 12 people died and 5,500 were sickened. Since then, daily revelations of terrifying discoveries at properties belonging to the main suspect — a religious cult — have kept the country on edge.

### Bomb Wounds Opposition Leader, 16 Others in Spain

MADRID, Spain — Basque separatists tried to assassinate the conservative opposition leader widely expected to be Spain's next prime minister, detonating a car bomb Wednesday that injured him and 16 others.

Jose Maria Aznar was en route to work when the parked car packed with 45 pounds of explosives was detonated by remote control. Aznar's car was heavily armored, so he suffered only minor injuries.

Aznar's Popular Party, Spain's second largest, has a strong chance of dislodging the ruling Socialists in general elections set for 1996 or 1997. The party supports a strong centralized state and rejects Basque demands for greater self-rule.

Justice and Interior Minister Juan Alberto Belloch said the attack had been an assassination attempt directed at Aznar.

### Gore Presses for Vote on Permanent Nuclear Curbs

UNITED NATIONS — Vice President Al Gore, pressing for permanent curbs on nuclear weapons technology, declared Wednesday that the United States ultimately wanted to eliminate its own arsenal.

With at least 90 votes, a majority, in hand, Gore took on the wavering and opposing nations with a detailed response to their arguments and concerns. Anything short of indefinite extension of the 25-year-old Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty would encourage states aspiring to obtain nuclear weapons "to hold their options in reserve," he said.

The knowledge and capacity to build nuclear weapons are increasing, and the few countries wishing to possess them "have an increasing possibility of succeeding," Gore said.

### 2nd U.N. Flight in 2 Days Forced Away by Serb Army

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — For the second time in two days, rebel Serbs mocked U.N. control of Sarajevo airport Wednesday, revoking promises not to shoot at planes and forcing a U.N. aircraft en route to the Bosnian capital to turn back.

U.N. officials closed the airport in protest. The United Nations said the flight Wednesday from Zagreb, Croatia, was a test of Bosnian Serb resolve to ban civilians from U.N. aircraft flying to and from Sarajevo.

Serbs are demanding that U.N. planes stop flying people who hold passports from Bosnia's Muslim-led government in return for promises not to shoot. The decision reflected the degree of desperation of the U.N. force in Bosnia, two of whose peacekeepers have been killed in the past week and whose work has been sabotaged.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### Weather

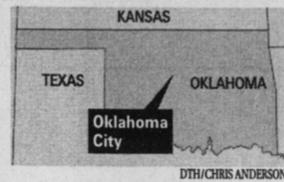
TODAY: Mostly cloudy, 20 percent chance of rain; high 80.

FRIDAY: Cloudy; high around 80.



A car bomb of about 1,000 pounds ripped apart all nine stories of downtown Oklahoma City's Alfred P. Murrah building.

## Bomb Ravages Federal Building



### Preliminary Counts Show:

- 26 Dead
- 300 Missing

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS  
OKLAHOMA CITY — A car bomb ripped deep into America's heartland Wednesday, killing more than 26 people and leaving 300 missing in a blast that gouged a nine-story hole in a federal office building. Twelve of the dead were said to be children whose parents had just dropped them off at a day-care center.

"We're sure that that number will go up because we've seen fatalities in the building," Fire Chief Gary Marrs said.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack, the deadliest U.S. bombing in 75 years.

At least 200 people were injured — 58 critically, Marrs said — and scores were feared trapped in the rubble of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building more than nine hours after the bombing.

"Our firefighters are having to crawl over corpses in areas to get to people that are still alive," Assistant Fire Chief Jon Hansen said.

Attorney General Janet Reno refused to comment on who might have been behind the attack. President Clinton called the bombers "evil cowards," and Reno said the government would seek the death penalty against them.

Their clothes torn off, victims covered in glass and plaster emerged bloodied and crying from the building, which looked as if a giant bite had been taken out of it, exposing its floors like a dollhouse.

Cables and other debris dangled from the floors like tangled streamers in a scene that brought to mind the car bombings at the U.S. Embassy and Marine barracks in Beirut in 1983.

"I dove under that table," said Brian Espe, a state veterinarian who was giving a slide presentation on the fifth floor. "When I came out, I could see daylight if I looked north and daylight if I looked west."

Mayor Ron Norick said the blast had been caused by a car bomb that left a crater 8 feet deep. He said the car had been outside, in front of the building.

"Obviously, no amateur did this," Gov. Frank Keating said. "Whoever did this was an animal."

Paramedic Heather Taylor said 17 children were dead at the scene, a figure that was later disputed by police. The children, all at the day-care center, ranged in age from 1 to 7, and some were burned beyond recognition, said Dr. Carl Spengler, one of the first doctors at the scene.

Reno said that 300 people were unaccounted for by late afternoon. About 20 of the 40 children in the day-care center were missing.

The explosion, similar to the terrorist car bombing that killed six people and injured 1,000 at New York's World Trade Center in 1993, occurred just after 9 a.m., when most of the more than 500 federal employees were in their offices.

The blast could be felt 30 miles away. Black smoke streamed across the skyline, and glass, bricks and other debris were spread over a wide area. The north side of the building was gone.

People frantically searched for loved ones, including parents whose children were in the building's day-care center.

Christopher Wright of the Coast Guard, one of those helping inside the building, said rescuers periodically turned off their chain saws and prying tools to listen for pleas for help. "but we didn't hear anything — just death."

"You're helpless really, when you see people two feet away, you can't do anything, they're just smashed," he said.

"We're talking to victims who are in there and reassuring them that we're doing everything within the good Lord's power to reach them and get to them," the fire department's Hansen said. "It's going to be a very slow process."

The building has offices of such federal agencies as the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Social Security, Veterans Affairs, the Drug Enforcement Ad-

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## Resident Agencies Assess Damages

BY JENNY HEINZEN  
STATE AND NATIONAL EDITOR

The car bomb explosion outside the Alfred P. Murrah Building in downtown Oklahoma City Wednesday left the several government agencies housed inside unsure of the casualties and fearing the worst.

The federal building housed offices of the departments of Housing and Urban Development; Veterans Affairs; Health and Human Services; Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms; and the Drug Enforcement Administration, as well as a day-care center and a military recruitment office.

"When you pick a place in the heartland of America, it shows that everyone is vulnerable," said David Paletz, professor of political science at Duke and editor and co-author of the book "Terrorism and the Media."

"We may protect the airports and Washington, D.C., but you can't protect everyone," he said.

All the federal offices in the building were affected by the blast, some more severely than others.

Michael Stegman, assistant secretary for policy research for HUD, said that as many as 90 HUD employees might have

See REACTION, Page 4



An Oklahoma City firefighter carries an injured child from the Murrah building. Officials say 12 children were killed.

Reacting to the proposed budget cuts of \$48 million, UNC students, faculty and staff rallied for a little ...

## R E S P E C T

### Protest Brings a Thousand To Steps of South Building

BY MARVA HINTON  
STAFF WRITER

A call for respect sounded from Polk Place on Wednesday afternoon as Jasme Kelly, a senior from Durham, led well over 1,000 University students, faculty and staff in a rousing rendition of the Aretha Franklin standard to protest the proposed budget cuts of \$48 million from the UNC system.

Faculty Chairwoman Jane Brown reminded the crowd how the University had survived in the past. "We need to say to the legislators, 'Thank you for all that you have done for us for 200 years. Now we are committed to continue that tradition for the next 200 years. We need your support,'" she said.

Brown went on to say how the proposed cuts would affect students in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, which is ranked among the top five in the country.

Fewer sections will be available because there will be fewer instructors and it will be difficult for students to take all the classes they need to graduate in four years, Brown said.

Rachel Windham, director of business and finance for the UNC School of Dentistry and chairwoman of the Employee Forum, said, "We should not have to stand together against them. They should be standing with us for the University."

Windham questioned the legislators' readiness to bear the consequences of their decision. "Do they really want to pull resources from this University so that they can take credit for reducing taxes that will return amounts so small that we cannot take our families out to dinner?" she said.

Windham encouraged all present to write their representatives and let them know that the University was truly the state's "priceless gem."

Student Body President Calvin Cunningham told the crowd why the rally had been scheduled. "We're here today to educate ourselves and our leaders in Raleigh as to what these cuts will mean for the University," Cunningham said.

Out-of-state students, graduate students and the University staff, particularly the housekeepers, would be hit hardest by the proposed cuts, he said.

He praised the University staff for the often

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The campus community gathered in Polk Place to teach legislators what cuts could mean to UNC.

### Results of the Proposed Cuts

The House Subcommittee on Education has proposed \$47.9 million in budget cuts and \$14 million in tuition increases. The money will go to the N.C. General Fund.

- 3.1 percent in-state tuition hike
- 10 percent out-of-state tuition hike
- \$4.1 million reduction in graduate tuition remissions
- \$400,000 in cuts to the Dean E. Smith Center
- All departments will cut classes. Eighteen political science courses alone will be cut.
- Libraries will freeze new book acquisitions and cut periodical selections.
- Cuts mean larger classes, no 24-hour study center, no Center for Dramatic Arts, no law school expansion and, for some, delays in graduation.

SOURCE: STUDENT BUDGET DEFENSE COALITION STAFF



Students cheer on their peers as campus leaders demanded respect for UNC's 200 years of excellence.

## HUD Official Works for Reinvention

BY BRONWEN CLARK  
ASSISTANT STATE AND NATIONAL EDITOR

Michael Stegman, a UNC professor of city and regional planning currently serving as the assistant secretary of policy research for the Department of Housing and Urban Development, visited Chapel Hill on Wednesday to discuss ways in which the Clinton administration is working to revitalize HUD.

Stegman said that progress had already been made in several areas that linked the University community to HUD but that these achievements were often forgotten.

"When I got to HUD, there was probably \$15 (million) to \$18 million in university grant programs scattered throughout the department. They were ignored and not very effective," he said. "The first thing (HUD Secretary Henry Cisneros) did was he asked me to pull the thing together, to create an office of university partnerships. This is a small effort paying huge dividends."

Stegman said the department tried to stimulate the relationship between universities and their communities by providing money to students who wanted to work with urban development.

"We look at universities as critical to the regeneration and revitalization of communities and of cities," he said. "We created a dissertation grant program which gives \$15,000 to 15 Ph.D. students per year to train the next generation of urban scholars who are going to care about ... the kind of work we're going to do."

Stegman said that programs such as the urban enterprise corps at UNC, which works with minority businesses, were the types of endeavors he hoped to encourage as part of a revitalized HUD but that the budget environment was hostile to the department.

"It is not the best environment to have budget driving policy. Budget and policy

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*United we stand; divided we fall; together we kick ass.*

Professor Chuck Stone at budget cut rally