

## WORLD BRIEFS

## Senate Democrats question administration's Iraq plan

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A top Democrat accused the Bush administration Wednesday of undertaking a massive effort to rebuild Iraq without the blessing of the American people as the White House's \$87 billion plan to resurrect that country hit more turbulence in Congress.

Republican lawmakers voiced their own doubts over the lack of foreign contributions. But generally, they rallied behind Vice President Dick Cheney and other administration officials who fanned out across Capitol Hill to seek support for the proposal.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld told the Senate Appropriations Committee on Wednesday that President Bush's proposal, which includes \$20.3 billion to rebuild Iraq's government and economy, was a prudent investment in international security.

No Democrat challenged that, and most are likely to support the final bill, which includes money for Afghanistan. But Democrats raised numerous questions about the Iraqi reconstruction portion of the plan.

In one exchange, the committee's top Democrat, Sen. Robert Byrd of West Virginia, repeatedly asked Rumsfeld when the administration had received a public mandate for the Iraqi reconstruction effort.

## Davis: Calif. will defy ruling on "do-not-call" registry

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — California will move forward with its own "do-not-call" list, despite a federal court ruling this week that favored telemarketers by striking down a national registry, Gov. Gray Davis said Wednesday.

In 2001, state lawmakers approved a bill to create a statewide "do-not-call" list, but the state has never compiled the list, waiting instead for the federal registry to go into effect.

That federal registry was struck down Tuesday by U.S. District Judge Lee R. West in Oklahoma City, who ruled that the Federal Trade Commission overstepped its authority in creating a national "do-not-call" list. The registry was challenged by the telemarketing industry.

More than 50 million people asked to be put on the list, which would have taken effect Oct. 1.

Davis was preparing to sign a bill that would have aligned California's "do-not-call" list with the federal registry but held off after the ruling. He said the state will begin creating its own registry immediately, which will be operated by the attorney general's office.

## Texas Senate adopts GOP-friendly redistricting map

AUSTIN, Texas — After four turbulent months, three special legislative sessions and two Democratic walkouts, both houses of the Republican-controlled Legislature have adopted redistricting plans that could give the GOP control of Texas' congressional delegation.

Some obstacles to final passage remain, but the worst of the squabbling among lawmakers in the Lone Star State appears to be over in what has amounted to a crushing defeat for Democrats.

The Senate gave final approval to its redistricting legislation Wednesday in an 18-12 vote mostly along party lines. The House adopted its own map last week.

Negotiators from both houses still have to work out their differences before the new map becomes a reality. And the Democrats have vowed to sue.

Nevertheless, the Senate's approval of the legislation removes a major hurdle in the GOP's effort to redraw Texas' congressional districts in their favor — a high-stakes battle with national implications.

## CALENDAR

## Today

7 p.m. — The Union of Students Speaking Russian will conduct its first meeting in 402 Dey Hall. The group is open to students interested in the Russian language and culture.

8 p.m. — A program addressing the impact of news coverage on the psyche of children and adolescents will take place at the Friday Center.

The program will begin with a live broadcast of Tom Brokaw from the 92nd Street Y in New York City, which will be followed by a local panel featuring professors in the UNC School of Journalism and Mass Communication. The program is free of charge.

Compiled from staff and wire reports.

## Council to rethink debate with UNC

## Many unhappy with recent talks

BY LAUREN SLOCUM AND JOHN FRANK

STAFF WRITERS

Almost a month has passed since the Chapel Hill Town Council approved UNC's controversial chiller plant addition to the Cobb parking deck.

While tensions have cooled, Town Council members are working to make sure they don't get put in a similar predicament again.

At Monday night's council meeting, members expressed dissatisfaction about the process for reviewing changes to the University's Development Plan.

Council members discussed a petition to give the town more information about changes and time to review them by extending

the 90-day review period and by redefining which projects go before the council for evaluation.

"The petition suggests that 90 days is insufficient," said Roger Waldon, town planning director.

He said the current period doesn't allow enough time to look at something that could have a major effect on the town.

The review period is set by the Office and Institutional 4 zoning ordinance, which was created in

July 2001 at the urging of the University during the negotiations about the Development Plan.

In some ways, UNC officials agree, the process needs to be streamlined, but not if the town just is looking for more authority.

"This was the first time we submitted changes," said Bruce Runberg, UNC associate vice chancellor for planning and construction.

"So there are some things that

the town and University need to address ... or 'tweak,' as Mayor Kevin Foy has put it."

The original zoning rules state that the University can make minor changes with approval from town staff and that the council only would be involved in major changes.

Runberg said that subjectivity purposely was built into the ordinance.

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"It's so much fun. ... (People) come together for just a wacky, zany, fun event." JOHN PAUL WOMBLE, ALLIANCE OF AIDS SERVICES-CAROLINA



Drag queens John Paul Womble (left) and Patrick Hawker run a '70s-themed drag bingo game Sept. 13, hosted by the Eno River Unitarian Fellowship. Below: Tom Pham ("Ho She Man") changes costumes.

## Drag queens dress up to take down disease

Money from event assists people living with HIV/AIDS

BY STEPHANIE M. HORVATH

SENIOR WRITER

DURHAM — About 230 people stood in the Eno River Unitarian Universalist Fellowship hall holding ink stamps high above their heads. They were taking the Drag Bingo Night pledge, led by Betty Ford, a blond drag queen in a mini-dress.

"I, state your name, do solemnly swear that I am here to help people living with HIV and AIDS," she said, the crowd repeating her words. "And I further swear that bingo is just a game, but I will continue to play drag bingo until this horrible epidemic is over. ... Play bingo!"

The crowd cheered, and another Drag Bingo Night began — run by drag queens and fueled by gay pride and light sexual innuendo.

Drag queens, otherwise known as BVDs, or Bingo Verifying Divas with names such as Tessa Osterone and Yoko Homo, roamed the room in tight dresses and platform shoes. Winners were asked their names, home-

towns and sexual orientations.

The event happens about eight Saturday nights per year. It benefits the Alliance of AIDS Services-Carolina, which sponsors the bingo nights and provides AIDS victims with resources.

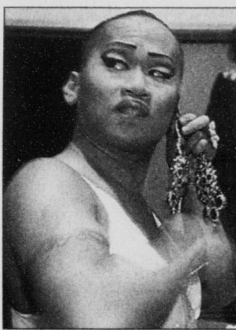
On Sept. 13, there were only a dozen empty seats in the 250-seat hall. Betty started the first game: "We're going to play straight bingo. Unlike me. Straight."

Some lesbians sitting together yelled out in protest.

"Girls, get over it," Betty said. "We know you're lesbians, and that's OK. If there was a lesbian bingo, then we'd play it."

Drag bingo attracts a diverse crowd. School-age children played alongside senior citizens, and Gene R. Schreengost, bingo committee chairman, estimated that 40 percent to 50 percent of the Sept. 13 audience was straight.

"It's so much fun. I mean, you get a great cross section of people," said John Paul Womble, the AIDS alliance's director of development. "And they come together for just a



wacky, zany, fun event."

At the start of the night, Betty established the crowd members' identities. "Who are my straight people?" A loud cheer went up from people scattered around the room. "My lesbians?" Another cheer. "My gay boys?" More cheers.

Robin Perron, a Raleigh resident, attended with 20 friends.

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## ANALYSIS

## Debate will test Clark's viability

Candidate needs to flesh out platform

BY KATHRYN ROEBUCK

STAFF WRITER

Although a recent poll showed retired Gen. Wesley Clark tied with President Bush and leading the nine other Democratic presidential candidates, experts say his growing popularity depends on his performance in the first full Democratic candidate debate.

Clark had not yet laid out a platform for the presidency before he topped Bush 49 percent to 46 percent in a CNN-USA Today-Gallup poll, conducted between Friday and Sunday and released Tuesday.

All 10 Democratic hopefuls will meet for the first time at 4 p.m. today in New York City to debate the issues live on CNBC. Clark will be in attendance and is expected to expound on his platform.

William Benoit, professor of communications at the University of Missouri-Columbia, said that although voters might be ready for a new face in the White House, they could change their minds after hearing Clark's stance on major issues.

"If people have been having doubts about Bush and his actions

with the United Nations, they may look at Clark as the four-star general, feel relieved and jump on his bandwagon," he said.

"But voters don't have a lot of knowledge about him. After the debate on Thursday, the people will learn some positives and negatives that may drop his support level."

Benoit said he would not be surprised if Clark fell to the middle of the Democratic field after voters hear his stances on controversial issues such as gun control and private school vouchers.

Bert Rockman, director of Ohio State University's School of Public Policy and Management, compared Clark to former President Dwight Eisenhower in the 1952 election.

"Clark has the similarities of Eisenhower in that his appeal has something to do with credibility, stature and personality," he said.

"His popularity will depend on whether or not he thinks quickly on his feet and if he says the right thing without alienating people."

The poll is not necessarily an accurate description of Clark's

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## Isabel squashes state's agriculture

BY AARON WALLACE

STAFF WRITER

Hurricane Isabel wreaked havoc on North Carolina's crops last week, causing more than \$125 million in damage, according to initial reports from 24 northeastern counties.

In a press release Tuesday, the N.C. Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services stated that eight of the state's top 10 cotton- and peanut-producing counties were in Isabel's path of destruction.

Corn, soybeans and tobacco were among the crops that sustained significant damage — a heavy burden heaped on a state already suffering from an ailing economy and the disastrous effects of two prior hurricanes and a drought.

The consequences are more severe in light of the fact that agriculture accounts for \$62.6 billion in state revenue annually.

The agriculture industry is North Carolina's leading enterprise, accounting for more than 20 percent of the state's work force.

Curtis Byrum, a farmer from Perquimans County, said he knows the ramifications of Isabel all too well. "This is going to put me out of the farming business," he said.

"Whatever yield potential I had is less than half what it was now. ... I suffered about a \$200,000 loss from (Hurricanes) Dennis, Floyd and Irene and last year (lost) \$150,000 in the drought. There's nothing for collateral anymore."

Dick Tunnell, who owns Tunnell Farms in Swan Quarter, said the flooding caused by Isabel was the worst he can remember.

"We had a tidal surge (that) exceeded anyone's memory, 2 to 5

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## Voting forms in short supply

State elections board blames printer

BY BRIAN HUDSON

STAFF WRITER

Student government's recent drive to register thousands of student voters has been stymied by a shortage of the most important element: the registration forms.

Since July, student government officials have been petitioning the state Board of Elections at least once a week for several thousand forms, said Student Body President Matt Tepper.

"Supposedly there is an error with their printer," he said. "It's been this constant, ridiculously difficult time to get these forms."

Linda Mathis, an administrative assistant with the state board, said the forms are not available because of problems with the printing company that is under state contract.

"Our office does not house the forms. They come from a printer in Roanoke, Virginia," she said. "Once the request comes here, it goes to the printer."

She said problems with a newly installed printer, difficulties with paper and a high demand for the forms have drained the board's supply of voter registration forms.

Although student government recently received 4,000 forms from the Orange County Board of Elections, Tepper said, the forms already have been distributed to members of the freshman class.

The boards in Durham County and Orange County are out of forms, but Tepper said the student voter registration effort still requires about 6,000 additional forms.

After weeks of petitioning the state elections board for more forms, Tepper contacted UNC's School of Law and the American Civil Liberties Union for help. "I made lots of calls ... to try to get advice on what to do, on what the next course of action should be," he said.

In response to the demand for voter registration forms, the state board sent to student government forms that usually are used for mailing purposes.

"They can be used equally," Mathis said.

But even though the mailing forms can be intermixed with voter registration forms, the identifying numbers on the forms must be

changed.

Because so many student groups are helping in the push to register student voters, Tepper said, correcting each form by hand could cause confusion.

The Residence Hall Association, the Black Student Movement and the Campus Y are three of the many groups participating in the drive.

Gene Nichol, dean of the law school, said that he is aware of the problem but that he has not yet been consulted for any legal advice.

Nichol, who has been involved with the drive to register students, said it is important to supply students who want to register to vote with the necessary forms.

"We have a huge problem in the United States with people not participating in the electoral process," he said.

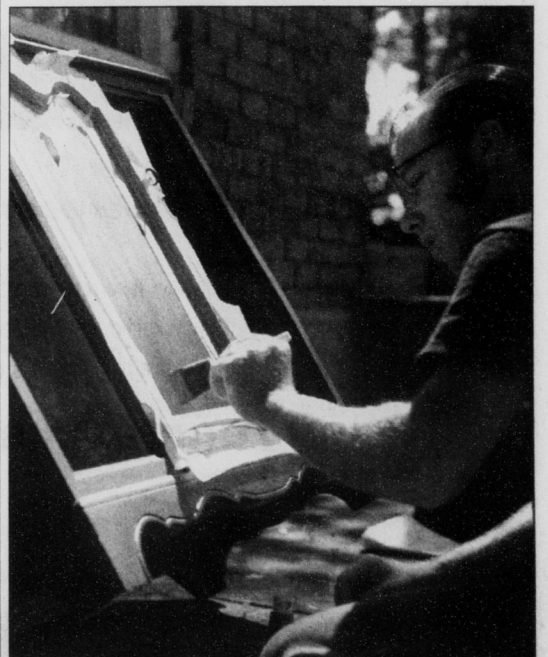
"Certainly, we should be presenting no barriers."

Tepper said student government officials will continue to seek proper voting forms.

"We are going to keep pressuring the Board of Elections until they fix the problem with their printer and send us the forms."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

## TRASHY TREASURES



DTH/KATHY SHUPING

Kevin Wolfe restores Wednesday a stereo cabinet from the 1950s he found in the trash. Wolfe worked on the cabinet outside his apartment on North Blount Street in Raleigh. A 2000 N.C. State University graduate, Wolfe is spending some down time while he looks for a job.