

U.S. seeks answers in helicopter strike

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD, Iraq — U.S. troops hunted for anti-aircraft missiles along Iraq's trucking routes, digging through heaps of manure, mounds of hay or piles of pomegranates Monday. The U.S. Army retrieved the wreckage of a downed transport helicopter and searched for clues about who knocked it from the sky.

Attacks continued Monday — a blast near a Shiite Muslim shrine in the southern city of Karbala that witnesses said killed at least one person and a barrage of three mortar rounds in Baghdad that caused no reported casualties.

The explosion in Karbala, 65 miles south of Baghdad, apparently was caused by a bomb planted in a parked car on a busy street less than 100 yards from the gold-domed Imam Hussein shrine, said Mohammed Abu Jaffar al-Assadi, a Shiite cleric. Other witnesses said it might have been concealed in a bag left outside a hotel.

In addition to at least one dead, it was believed that 12 people were wounded, al-Assadi said. It was not immediately possible to get confirmation of the report from Iraqi

police or the U.S.-led coalition.

Here in the capital, U.S. occupation authorities said three mortar rounds were lobbed from a firing position somewhere in southwestern Baghdad late Monday. Two landed in unspecified locations in central Baghdad, and the third struck a camp of the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment. They said no injuries were immediately reported.

One clue in Sunday's helicopter shutdown might lie in Ramadi, west of the crash site, where an anti-U.S. leaflet warned two days before the shutdown that Iraq's insurgents would strike the Americans with modern and advanced methods.

The downing of the CH-47 Chinook, one of two carrying dozens of soldiers on their way to Baghdad Airport and home leave, killed 16 Americans and wounded 20 others. It was the heaviest U.S. death toll in any single action since the invasion of Iraq last March 20.

Hundreds of portable, shoulder-fired missiles are unaccounted for in Iraq, potential threats to a U.S. occupation army that relies heavily on the slow, low-flying CH-47 Chinook craft for troop transport. The U.S. command has offered Iraqis \$500 apiece for each portable missile turned in but has refused to say how many have been surrendered.

In one search operation Monday, U.S. military police stretched out razor wire and set up checkpoints along the main artery running north from Baghdad, now dubbed Highway 1, to look for weapons.

Health fees to boost CAPS

BY MEGAN SEROW
STAFF WRITER

When Dan Herman began campaigning for the position of Graduate and Professional Student Federation president, he was surprised that students responded most to the issue of waiting time at Counseling and Psychological Services.

With three student suicides last semester, concerns about CAPS are timely, although John Ederly, director of CAPS, said interest in improving service was present before last spring.

Officials expect that these issues will be resolved by a proposed \$16 student fee increase to provide added funding for CAPS. The increase will go into effect next year if approved by the UNC-system Board of Governors.

Ederly said the increase in the student health fee will accommo-

date the 40 percent of the CAPS budget now paid for by state funds. Those funds now will be used to enhance CAPS services by shortening waiting time, improving connections with the UNC School of Medicine's Department of Psychiatry and improving efforts in the area of preventative interventions for critical concerns.

Officials say the fee increase will have a huge impact because a consistent level of funding will be available.

Students' most pressing complaint about CAPS has been the long waiting time.

Many patients have been told that they have to wait two to three weeks, sometimes more, to be seen, especially during peak periods.

Early fall through the holidays and February through early spring have been the hardest times to get an appointment in the past.

With the extra funds from student fees, CAPS is hiring more part-time staff during these peak periods to alleviate waiting time.

The staff will be hired mostly from private practices.

"The extra funds will give increased flexibility for peak times and a more stable, steady source of income," Herman said.

Another major concern has been whether CAPS is capable of treating students in its facilities or if it needs to refer some students to outside help.

CAPS workers shoot for a maximum of eight sessions with each patient. If patients need more help, they usually are referred to a private practice. "We only make referrals for cases beyond what can be covered, but about 90 percent of students are helped in four to five sessions," Ederly said.

Accompanying the increased

number of staff, a new committee is in the works to keep improvement to CAPS continuing throughout the year.

The committee probably will comprise two undergraduate students, two graduate students and two faculty members to serve as advisers to Ederly.

Herman, who has helped organize the committee, said the group is planning a mental health awareness day and a grand reopening of CAPS for next semester.

If the committee becomes permanent, its purpose will be to re-evaluate the program consistently and suggest improvements.

"We'll monitor the program and see how it's working," Herman said. "It will always be continually re-evaluated, but it's a very good step."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

CORRECTION

A photo caption in SportsMonday should have said men's basketball guard Jackie Manuel scored 13 points in Sunday's Blue-White game.

To report corrections, contact Managing Editor Daniel Thigpen at dthigpen@email.unc.edu.

Economic surge may not aid Bush

BY BERNARD HOLLOWAY
STAFF WRITER

All might not be well for President Bush on the economic front, experts say, even in the wake of a 7 percent growth spurt in the economy during the third quarter of 2003.

Despite celebrations by a myriad of Bush administration officials, pundits say there is still a perilous road ahead that could jeopardize the president's chances for re-election in 2004.

But supporters such as Reed Dickens, press secretary for Bush's re-election campaign, remain upbeat. Dickens reiterated the president's call that supply-side economic policies do work if one gives them time.

"The president has continually

passed tax cuts to put money back in people's pockets, and it seems like that has worked," he said.

Bush's tax cuts might have been a significant reason for the recent economic uptick, according to a report issued by the Economic Policy Institute.

Though before-tax income increased by just 1 percent from July to September, after-tax income grew by more than 7 percent, creating a windfall of \$100 billion for consumers to spend on cars, appliances and other durable goods.

But some say the recent economic gains might not matter next November if the president is not able to back up large statistical gains with reductions to the unemployment rate.

"It's not that the economy grew,

it's a matter of who felt the growth," said Justin Smith, professor of political science at American University in Washington, D.C. "If you know someone who is out of work, talk of an economic recovery will be thrown out of the window come Election Day."

Terry McAuliffe, chairman of the Democratic National Committee, echoed Smith's sentiments in a Friday press release stating the party's official response to the president's claims of domestic success.

"If you're Halliburton, (an energy company formerly headed by Vice President Dick Cheney), you're doing great under the Bush economy, but if you're an American in need of a job, you're out of luck."

But in terms of the president's chances for re-election, the timing

of this good news could not have been better, said James Stimson, UNC professor of political science.

"It means a lot, because in my mind he was running up against the deadline of seeing the beginning stages of a recovery and not getting credit for it," he said.

Stimson said if public perception of a recovery does not begin to take hold by April, the president might be in trouble because economic issues could cloud his campaign.

"The numbers from the fourth quarter are crucial. ... If (growth is) more than 3.5 percent, then it will show that a recovery's under way. ... But if not it could mean that we're in for an interesting election season."

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Come join the students for a special awareness day on **Wednesday, November 5th from 11:30-1:30** at the Health Affairs Brick Beach or Student Commons Area (between Brinkhous-Bullitt Building and Berryhill Hall)

"Walking Tacos", drinks & cookies will be sold to benefit future allied health student activities.

Firefighters help contain remaining Calif. blazes

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BIG BEAR, Calif. — Exhausted firefighters were sent home Monday as remaining crews doused hot spots and watched for new ones — the vast wildfires that ravaged parts of Southern California all but surrounded.

More than 27,000 people remained displaced from their homes, but that number was down considerably from the 80,000 at the peak of the fires, said a spokesman for the state Office of Emergency Services.

All fires were expected to be surrounded by Tuesday, if not by Monday evening, said Andrea Tuttle, director of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

Cool, moist air smothered remnant flames after a front moved in off the Pacific on Halloween and brought rain to some areas and snow in the mountains.

The 91,000-acre Old Fire, the last of the blazes to threaten communities, was 83 percent contained in forests atop the San Bernardino Mountains east of Los Angeles.

The number of firefighters was almost halved from a peak of more than 16,000 brought in last week to battle the flames that swept across more than 743,000 acres, caused more than 20 deaths and destroyed more than 3,570 homes.

Efforts were turning rapidly to preventing mudslides and flooding.

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"Three Weeks in October" with
Charles Moose

Former Maryland police chief and spokesman during the D.C. sniper investigation

5:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 6
Carroll Hall Auditorium
UNC-Chapel Hill

Free and open to the public
Part of the Nelson Benton Lecture Series

Moose will sign copies of his new book, Three Weeks in October, at 6:30 p.m.
The book will also be available for sale.

Visit jomc.unc.edu/execed/ for more details.

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