

Al-Qaida charged with strike

11 killed, 120 hurt in suicide attacks

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia — Saudis blamed al-Qaida militants Sunday for the suicide car bombing of a Riyadh housing complex that killed 17 people, declaring it proof of the terror network's willingness to shed Muslim blood in its zeal to bring down the U.S.-linked Saudi monarchy.

The attack late Saturday at an upscale compound for foreign workers, where mostly Arabs lived, also wounded 122 people. The blast, not far from diplomatic quarters and the king's main palace, left piles of rubble, hunks of twisted metal, broken glass and a large crater.

"It's no longer an issue of terrorism for them," said Dawood al-Shirian, a Saudi analyst. "It's become a war on the regime, a war to turn the country into a new

Afghanistan ruled by a Saudi-style Taliban."

An Interior Ministry official told the official Saudi news agency late Sunday that the death toll rose to 17 — including five children — after search crews pulled six more bodies from the rubble. At least 13 were Arabs, with the others as yet unidentified, the official said.

U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage said he was "personally quite sure" al-Qaida was behind the Saturday night attack "because this attack bears the hallmark of them."

Such attacks appear to be directed "against the government of Saudi Arabia and the people of Saudi Arabia," he said, adding that he expected more to follow.

Al-Qaida "will prefer to have many such attacks to appear bigger than they are," he told a news conference shortly after arriving in the Saudi capital. Such attacks showed that "all of us have to work together."

Gunmen, possibly disguised as police, shot their way into the 200-house compound, trading fire with security guards. The attackers, believed to be in a police car, then drove into the compound and blew themselves up.

It still wasn't clear late Sunday how many attackers there were or if they were listed as among the dead.

The victims included Lebanese, Egyptian, Sudanese and Saudis. The Interior Ministry said most of the wounded were Arabs as well. Most of the compound's residents were Lebanese, but some Saudis, German, French and Italian families also lived there.

Four U.S. citizens were among the wounded, the ministry said. In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Amanda Batt said, "Some Americans were treated for minor injuries and released."

In comments published Sunday on the Web site of Saudi daily Okaz newspaper, Interior Minister

Prince Nayef said he could not rule out a connection to suspected al-Qaida terrorist cells targeted in recent sweeps, as a number of suspects from those cells were still at large.

Adding to the al-Qaida connection was the similarity between Saturday's bombing and attacks also blamed on the terror network, particularly the May 12 suicide car bombings of other Riyadh compounds housing foreigners, which killed 26 bystanders. Nine attackers also died.

Led by Saudi-born dissident Osama bin Laden, al-Qaida long has opposed the Saudi royal family, accusing it of being insufficiently Islamic and too close to the West, particularly the United States.

On Sunday in London, the Saudi ambassador to Britain, Prince Turki al-Faisal, condemned Saturday's attack as the work of an "evil cult" whose "sole aim is the destruction of the kingdom."

PAGEANT

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her dental training into her new responsibilities. Puleo plans to ask Crest to donate toothbrushes and toothpaste to aid her efforts to promote good oral hygiene among the young people she will meet in the coming year.

Though she won the title, Puleo's path to victory had a high price. For candidates in a pageant, preparing and paying for the event are not easy tasks.

In addition to putting together and buying their own wardrobes, women have to raise \$900 in sponsorship funds in order to be eligible to compete.

To lower her personal fees, Samira Fazel, a second-year graduate student in the School of Information and Library Science, asked a local radio station and the restaurant Red Hot and Blue to sponsor her. "You can get about \$50 to \$100 from businesses, and the rest will usually come from family and friends," said Fazel, who is originally from Virginia.

Sponsorship fees are not the only necessary funds. A \$200 entry fee as well as the cost of entrants' wardrobes add to the financial burden of pageantry.

Eboni Williams, a senior communications and African-American studies major from Charlotte, estimated that her wardrobe cost about \$1,000, but she said the experience of the pageant made it worth the cost.

"The best part was meeting all of the girls," Williams said. "While you still do meet some catty ones, most are very warm and bright."

Fazel shares this sentiment and

"I had a bad image of pageant girls beforehand. ... I ... wanted to combat that stereotype."

SAMIRA FAZEL, CONTESTANT

said it was one of the main reasons she decided to give pageants a try. "I had a bad image of pageant girls beforehand, and I really wanted to combat that stereotype," she said.

Stancil, a senior dramatic arts and philosophy major with career aspirations of acting, said her favorite part of the experience was the interview.

"The interview helped me improve my speaking and improv skills, which are important for an acting career," Stancil said.

Coordinating pageant activities and the duties of an involved student can make the process tough for some women.

Stancil, who frequently performs with the Department of Dramatic Art and is a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority, said the key is just to strike a balancing act.

"I just don't let it overconsume my life," she said. "I didn't let (the pageant) overwhelm me."

The key is being able to do two things at once, Puleo said. "I'm in class from 8 to 5 every day, and then I have to start studying, so you'll see me in the gym riding the bike and reading my notes."

"I've had to become the best multitasker ever."

Contact the Features Editor at features@unc.edu.

FIRE-WALKING

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It's a big step.

At 1,250 degrees Fahrenheit, the heat of the coal bed is intense enough to obliterate a beer can in less than 30 seconds. In comparison, engine blocks of cars are poured at 1,100 degrees.

Without even knowing the exact temperatures at play, the visuals Saturday were intimidating enough: a 10-foot stretch of coal, burning red. The coals were hot enough to keep people at a distance and hiding in the shadows of trees around the perimeter of the fire pit.

The fire-walk was held at The Last Unicorn, a Chapel Hill business owned by Gaines Steer, a location that added to the atmosphere.

With Steer's iron and stonework pieces leaning against trees, lighted candles in old, wrought-iron lamps and fanciful signs leading the way, it seemed like a moment out of a book of children's stories — a mismatched fairy tale with a side of fire-walking.

The hot coals waiting were to be the culmination of the evening, and Anderson had plans before anybody attempted the walk.

Under a partially eclipsed moon,

half red and half silvery white, Anderson began a round of board-breaking, followed by glass-walking.

Reassuring the group, Anderson said, "It's all about paying attention." His daughter, Claire, a freshman at East Chapel Hill High School, went first. With practiced ease, she made her way across the multicolored shards. When John Anderson asked how many cuts she'd garnered, "none" was the answer.

The last trial before the coals was arrow-breaking. "This is terrifying," Anderson admitted.

As the group looked on, Anderson demonstrated by putting the tip of a standard, 35-pound target arrow at the hollow of his throat and pushing it against a wall until the arrow snapped. Despite knowledge that the human trachea can take 75 pounds of pressure, Elsa Mondou, a friend of Jane Anderson, commented, "I must be out of my mind."

One by one, Anderson, his wife, his daughter, his daughter's teammate on the East Chapel Hill High School volleyball team, Mondou and Steer all succeeded. Their efforts left colorful arrows halved and scattered on the ground while the logs burned hotter by the minute.

As if the moon were counting down, the lunar eclipse reached its peak just as the fire was ready.

Cuing tribal music, Anderson spread the bonfire into a bed of glowing coals with a long-handled rake, saying, "(The fire) is 1,200 degrees; you don't want to get your face in this."

Feet, however, were perfectly fine.

Anderson offered a few last words of advice about the coals, saying, "Do not walk through with your shoulders hunched. Do not run through it. Do not jump through it." Observing the general reticence, he added, "What you focus on and what you believe about it determines your reality."

That night, everybody believed in the power of Anderson's going first. He talked to each of the participants as they walked over the bed of coals, and he waited with open arms as they made it across.

At the end of the night, with new believers gathered around the dying embers, Anderson looked satisfied. "When you walk over your fear, you've made it a servant to your will."

Contact the Features Editor at features@unc.edu.

PROTEST

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was 6 1/2 feet tall, with anti-wall posters lamenting the conflict. Banners read, "Stop U.S.-tax funded support for Israel's Berlin Wall," and "Occupation Starves and Kills Palestinians."

Attendees heard from activist Rania Masri, who works at the Institute for Southern Studies and has engaged in Arab-related, progressive work worldwide about the state of the Middle East. They also listened to visiting Palestinian journalist Rouman Haddad, Justin Podur and Fateh Mansour.

Netta van Vliet, a Duke University graduate student in cultural anthropology, lived in the West Bank village of Mas'ha for two months. She said that despite efforts from Israelis, Palestinians and people of other nationalities to prevent the wall from running through the village, the army arrested those who impeded its progress. She added that the wall destroys the infrastructure of the land and makes it difficult for Palestinian-Israeli collaboration.

Contact the State & National Editor at stntdesk@unc.edu.

INTERSECTION

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A re-evaluation by NCDOT will help local officials find a solution for this potentially hazardous intersection.

The department will conduct an investigation in which it will track the amount of vehicular and pedestrian activity.

"Any information we can gather will help us make a decision," said Vance Barham, an NCDOT official at the division office in Greensboro. "If we determine that a traffic signal is necessary, it would be considered a high priority."

If NCDOT approves a traffic signal for the intersection, it will undertake the process of having

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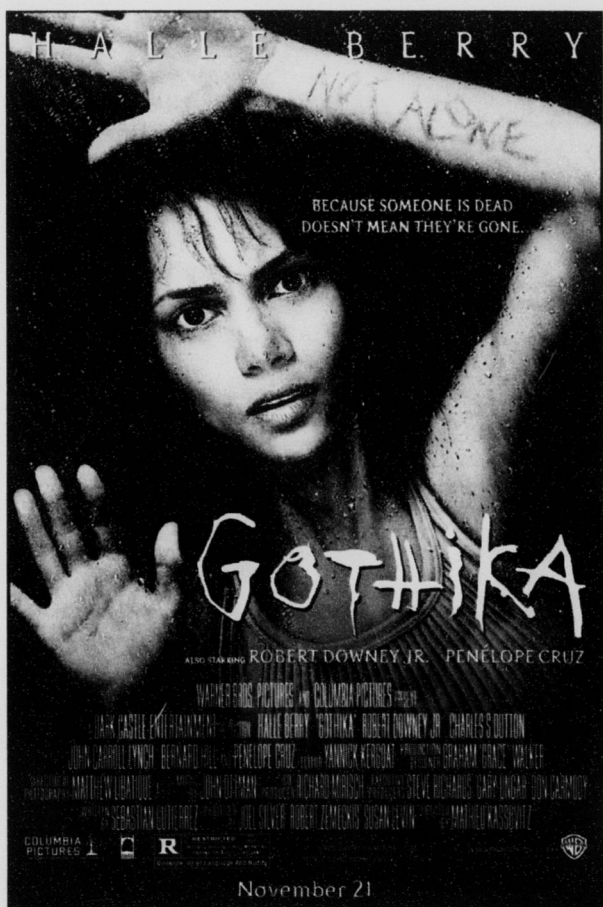
VANCE BARHAM, N.C. DOT

the project approved and securing \$70,000 in funding for it. No definitive timeline for such a project has been determined.

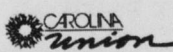
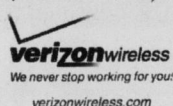
Barham said the study should be completed within four to six weeks.

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

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The Wendy P. & Dean E. Painter Jr. Career Center **CAREER CORNER** For the week of Nov. 10-Nov. 17 219 Hanes Hall 919-962-6507 ucs@unc.edu

WALK-IN HOURS: Answers to career questions and resume reviews— Mon-Fri, 10 — 3p

PROGRAMS

TAKING TIME OFF:

OPTIONS FOR SENIORS AFTER GRADUATION

Are you not ready for a "real job" yet, or are you planning to take time off before grad school? If so, come learn about short-term possibilities such as teaching English abroad, residential treatment camps, or jobs at a ski resort or dude ranch. Tue. Nov. 11 4:00p 239B Hanes

HOW TO PLAN FOR CAREER SUCCESS: A series on (1) How to use UCS and all its many values, (2) How to write a resume, (3) How to interview effectively. Attend all three sessions, or just the one you need help with. Workshop is from 5:30-8:30p on Tues. Nov. 11 in 239 Hanes—Session 1 (5:30), Session 2 (6:30), Session 3 (7:30)

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HOW TO WRITE AN EFFECTIVE RESUME Construct the first draft of your resume with tips from a UCS counselor. Bring your laptop. Tue. Nov. 11 6:30p 239 Hanes

HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR INTERVIEWING SKILLS: Learn the secrets of interviewing effectively. Tue. Nov. 11 7:30p 239 Hanes

HOW TO FIND AN INTERNSHIP: Learn how to find internships and how to decide which one is best for you in this interactive session. Please bring your laptop! Wed. Nov. 12 7:00p 239B Hanes

PHD CAREER FAIR: Talk with representatives from 20 organizations seeking PhD's. Thu. Nov. 13 1:00—4:30p The Friday Center

CAREER CLINICS: Get an overview of the career decision-making process and help with choosing a major or career path to follow. Take an online interest inventory. Sign up at http://careers.unc.edu/career_explore.html. Mon. and Wed. 3:15-4:45p 239A Hanes

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