

Experts: Hate, edicts spur terror

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MANILA, Philippines — Religious edicts from al-Qaida leaders and anger over the U.S. occupation of Iraq are more likely behind a rash of bombings around the world than direct orders from Osama bin Laden's organization, government officials and terrorism experts say.

And the blasts — from Madrid to Tashkent to Manila — may be fueling momentum for more attacks from like-minded terror groups, raising concerns for the U.S. handover in Iraq, the Athens Olympics and upcoming elections in Europe, Asia and the United States.

Officials said they likely averted

major bombings with arrests and confiscations of TNT in Manila and 1,000 pounds of ammonium nitrate, a fertilizer compound frequently used as a bomb ingredient, in London.

There's no evidence of a worldwide terror organization or that al-Qaida is calling the shots, perhaps even setting off the wave of violence with key words or phrases in messages from the network's top leaders, officials and terrorism experts told The Associated Press.

"If only it were that simple," said Magnus Ranstorp, director for the Centre for the Study of Terrorism and Political Violence at the

University of St. Andrews in Scotland. "There is still a belief that all of these activities are coordinated by an omnipresence of al-Qaida from above, and that is simply not the case."

Al-Qaida is thought to be decentralized now with bin Laden and other leaders on the run since 2001. While it may be working on a big operation like another Sept. 11, "you have a second tier of local atomized cells working away on their own time scale and their own initiative, carrying out different activities," Ranstorp said. "Sometimes they are linked, but often they are not."

A U.S. counterterrorism official

said that if there is a trigger, it's anti-American, anti-Western sentiments among militant Muslims.

In addition to the occupation of Iraq, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has fueled anger against Washington, seen as pro-Israel. And religious edicts, called fatwas, from bin Laden and other al-Qaida officials have encouraged attacks on Americans and their allies.

Four jailed Malaysians said Friday that attacks against churches and other targets in Southeast Asia — including bombings in Bali that killed 202 people in 2002 — were inspired by a fatwa issued by bin Laden.

of everyone but that he was always very prepared. "It is just who he was, his personality," he said.

But Faculty Council Chairwoman Judith Wegner and Williams said Tepper's personality didn't prevent things from getting done.

"Some people thought Matt was soft-spoken, but it was not a weakness because he was always heard," Williams said.

By working with the BOT on tuition increases among many other issues, Shelton said Tepper created credible relationships and gained respect from the trustees.

"He is very personable, which is one of the reasons he was elected," Shelton said. "The way he connects with people is a real asset."

That ability to communicate also aided Tepper in accomplishing his goal of increasing student involvement with student government. Tepper initiated numerous ways for students to have their voices heard. "There isn't one event that we've put on that has totally flopped," he said.

The first ever weekly radio show for student government was created by Tepper on WXYC 89.3 FM. The program is broadcast Sunday afternoons and addresses student issues. The show has featured prominent guests such as former men's basketball coach Dean Smith and UNC Soccer All-American Catherine Reddick.

"No one has ever done this before," Tepper said. "It is a unique and innovative way to step up dialogue within the University."

Tepper also held lunch office hours in the Pit at least once a week,

and each month student government held its office hours in the Pit.

Now that the Carolina Computing Initiative is in full swing, the majority of UNC students retrieve information on the Web. Tepper addressed the problem of student government's outdated Web site and formed a committee to keep it constantly updated.

"Matt and his officers did an excellent job getting student input," Dubose said.

According to student government's March Report, all but five of Tepper's dozens of platform goals were completed during his term, and Tepper said these incomplete goals weren't ignored. Those goals might not have been realized this year, but Tepper has set up the initiative for Calabria to see them to completion as his term begins.

"I am coming to the end of a long race," he said. "I am ready to be finished and proud of what we've done."

Tepper's appointed officers have received a lot of praise for their accomplishments as well.

"(Student Body Vice President) Rebekah Burford was phenomenal," Wegner said. "She and Matt worked so well together and kept a focus on what needed to get done."

Burford said she and Tepper have known each other for a very long time, which helped shape their working relationship.

"He focused on the good feeling from action, and I focused on the nitty-gritty aspects of getting things done," she said. "Our different personalities worked pretty well together, and it made things interesting."

But Burford said Tepper some-

times needed to step back and let the work get done by the capable, intelligent people he appointed.

"He had trouble delegating responsibility and trusting those people to get the job done," Burford said. "He wants to have his hand in everything."

Wegner noted one of Tepper's strengths was building coalitions.

Dan Herman, president of the Graduate and Professional Student Federation, worked with Tepper in many different issues.

"No one can see eye-to-eye of every issue, but we had success on various topics," Herman said.

Tepper created a cohesive voice of student leaders and faculty, he said, and the one unified voice was important for building bridges.

"They all have different styles," Shelton said of the different student body presidents with which he's worked. "Matt may have been most effective with tuition, budget decisions and searching for academic leaders. He had an impact."

As Tepper looked back on his year as student body president, he concluded that it was an exciting and challenging year, during which nothing went exactly as planned.

"I am proud of all the work the committees have done," he said. "The strong leaders in Cabinet positions helped us tackle things that weren't anticipated."

Tepper said he is looking forward to becoming a student again and being able to relax. "I want to enjoy the last month of fun, what everyone has been having all year."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

CAROLINAS

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Observer and Elon University, suggest that Bush would win in a similar fashion if the election were held today, despite key differences between this year's election and the millennial race.

The failing textile and furniture industries, the outsourcing of high-tech jobs and the specter of terrorist attacks will not be enough to alienate North Carolina's electorate, Guillory said, adding that Bush's true strength here lies in attracting those who share his conservative cultural beliefs.

"The Democrats want this election fought on economic issues," he said. "Republicans still try to win the South on value-laden issues."

Judging by the president's campaign stop Monday, Bush seems to be having some degree of success in doing just that.

The visit to Charlotte, during which Bush spent a large amount of time focusing on his domestic agenda, was expected to net him about \$1.5 million. It was one final boon for the incumbent's fund-raising juggernaut, which now is estimated to have topped \$175 million.

That amount gives him an advantage of almost \$100 million over Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., his November opponent.

And while Bush might not be looking to raise much more money, his support in a fertile fund-raising area could prove invaluable to North Carolinians looking to join him on Capitol Hill.

Among those who could benefit most from Bush's help is U.S. Rep. Richard Burr, who attended the president's speech Monday. Burr is running for the Senate spot being vacated by John Edwards, who ran unsuccessfully for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Burr, a near lock for the GOP's senatorial nod, likely will face Democrat Erskine Bowles, a

Charlotte businessman who was defeated by Elizabeth Dole in the 2002 campaign to fill the seat vacated by former Sen. Jesse Helms.

Merle Black, an Emory University professor who specializes in Southern politics, said the president's popularity could provide Burr with invaluable name recognition and the votes that come with it, particularly in a race that's expected to come down to the wire.

"A popular president, especially in a close campaign, can increase turnout and also visibility toward the other candidates on the ticket," Black said, adding that any future Tar Heel visits by Bush likely would be geared toward helping Burr.

On the other hand, Black said, the state's political picture could grow more complicated given the fruition of a scenario many rank-and-file Democrats are eager to accept: Kerry's choice of Edwards as his running mate.

Though most experts agree that the president's support is strong enough to carry him to victory, even with a North Carolinian on the opposing ballot, Edwards' selection would put a chink into Republicans' armor by increasing Democrats' turnout and their level of support for other candidates.

It's a situation, Guillory said, party officials would love to face.

"The Democrats would certainly like Edwards to be on the ticket," he said. "It would bolster Bowles, and it would bolster (Gov. Mike) Easley (in his bid for re-election)."

At the same time, Black said, something catastrophic would have to happen for Bush to slip up.

"I think the Bush campaign does not want to spend a lot of money in the Carolinas. If you see (the president) back a lot in the state, that would mean a much tighter race than one would think at this point."

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BUSH

FROM PAGE 1

there are people who hurt here," Bush said North Carolina has a lot to be proud of, namely the transformation of its economy at a time when its key industries were in peril. North Carolina lost 162,800 jobs in the past three years in the textile industry.

"Six years ago, the largest export of this state was tobacco, and now, it's computer equipment," Bush said. "For an economy that was

based on tobacco and to a lesser extent textiles, North Carolina is on the leading edge of technological change."

A lot of that change comes from retraining workers in fields that are viable, a goal the president said is exemplified by Central Piedmont.

"Technology is changing," Bush said. "Can the workforce change with it? And that's the challenge."

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

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CAMPUS RECREATION UPDATE

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- GINGHOUL GARDEN GALLOP**
2-mile fun run
Event day: April 14, 4pm
Sign up: April 5-13
- SPLASH N' DASH TRIATHLON**
individual or team relay
Sign up: March 22-April 21
Event day: April 25

Sign up for ALL Intramural Sports in 203 Woolen Gym 2s: 843 PLAY

CAROLINA WATERPOLO

Tar Heel Invitational Tournament
April 10th and 11th
Koury Natatorium

Over 25 teams will be competing in the premier waterpolo tournament on the East Coast. For more information, visit www.uncpolo.com. Come out and support the Carolina men's and women's waterpolo teams!

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Beginning an Exercise Program
- April 8, noon**
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