

# Death overshadows Iran's diplomatic effort in Iraq

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NAJAF, Iraq — Gunmen assassinated an Iranian diplomat in Baghdad on Thursday just as Iran, with tacit U.S. approval, attempted to mediate with a radical Shiite cleric defying U.S. forces in this southern Iraqi city.

The slaying of diplomat Khalil Naimi, shot in the head by unknown gunmen while he drove near his embassy, cast a shadow over Thursday's unusual negotiating mission to Najaf by the envoy from neighboring Iran, which fought an eight-year war with Iraq in the 1980s and does not have diplomatic relations with Washington.

Iranian Embassy officials were investigating whether there was a

link between the assassination and the envoy's visit. Naimi was not a member of the Iranian negotiating team.

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said, "It's probably premature to draw any conclusions about whether it reflects anything about the role that Iran has played one way or the other in Iraq."

The Iranian effort to mediate with anti-American cleric Muqtada al-Sadr was arranged by Britain and appeared to have the approval of the United States, reflecting an eagerness to find a solution that would avert a U.S. assault on Najaf — the holiest Shiite city — aimed at capturing al-Sadr.

## ASG

FROM PAGE 1

During his second term, Payne lobbied for the student fee that eventually allowed the ASG to expand its scope and increase the effectiveness of its lobbying and outreach efforts.

ASG President Jonathan Ducote said the fee was important because, among other things, it allowed more involvement and made the organization's work more representative of the system as a whole.

"One of the things that absolutely had to change was we needed to get more people to meetings," said Ducote, who was an ASG treasurer when the fee was approved. "We needed to get people to meetings more consistently, and we needed it to be more equitable."

Financial obstacles meant attendance at monthly meetings often varied, with anywhere from seven to 13 campuses represented each time, Payne said.

"It was very difficult because the ASG couldn't afford to pay for travel costs and neither could the student governments," he said.

The lack of finances made communication among universities difficult, Payne said, especially when the organization lacked funds for a long-distance phone line or postage.

Payne estimated that in his two-year tenure as president, he spent about \$10,000 of his own money on ASG-related costs.

The fee also has allowed the ASG to establish an office in Raleigh, complete with a full-time staff that frees up time for officers to focus on lobbying and other efforts.

Established in 1972, the ASG's purpose is to advocate student causes for the 16 state universities.

BOG Chairman Brad Wilson said it is harder for him, as a member of the board, to see the effects of the student fee. But he said he thinks the fee has facilitated better communication within the ASG and with its student constituency.

One example of change, he said, is the publication of "The Personal Stories Project: Faces, Not Numbers." The ASG project compiled about 800 stories of students and other people connected to the university system who have been affected by increasing tuition rates.

"Any time you put a face with an issue it helps you understand the issue, and it has an impact," Wilson said. "I know many members of the board read the book and learned from it." The book affected the board's decision to reduce the proposed tuition increases, he said.

Ducote, like past ASG presidents, serves as a nonvoting member of the BOG and has been heav-

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JONATHAN DUCOTE, ASG PRESIDENT

ily involved with board activities. But, Wilson said, the ASG has been more visible recently, particularly at the state level.

BOG member Ray Farris said he would like to see more board involvement with the ASG's budget.

Farris said he thinks the ASG has done a good job handling the fee, but he said that considering the large amount of student money allocated to the ASG, the two groups should have more dialogue about ASG lobbying efforts.

Farris said that he does not want to influence any positions the ASG takes but that he does want to make sure the money is well spent.

The ASG was audited for the first time last June and received a clean bill of health. The student group works with Jeff Davies, UNC-system vice president for finance, to make sure it is following state regulations.

Many involved say the ASG's change in direction has been positive in the last few years, with the group able to do more now than

ever. Payne said that though he is no longer directly involved, he is impressed with the fact that Ducote is able to travel to all 16 campuses, get media exposure and influence state legislation.

Kian Brown, student body president at N.C. Central University, said that at one point, meetings were scarcely attended by schools outside the Triangle. But the budget has enabled them to do more, he said.

As the ASG has acclimated itself to managing its budget, it has become more efficient and effective, he said.

Brown said that despite the most recent spate of tuition increases, he is proud of the work the ASG did in the debate and with encouraging student involvement.

"It may not be what we wanted right now, but it's going to pave the way for the people coming behind us."

Contact the State & National Editor at [stntdesk@unc.edu](mailto:stntdesk@unc.edu).

## HATE SPEECH

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al orientation, yet restrictions on speech contradict the First Amendment.

"There is no federal hate crime statute," U.S. Attorney John Bruce said. "The things that are actually called hate crimes are actually a conspiracy to violate someone's civil rights."

At the University, prosecution of intimidating speech by students falls under the jurisdiction of the Honor Court.

It is an Honor Code violation to engage in "harassment or intimidation that abuses, disparages or otherwise interferes with another so as to adversely affect their academic pursuits, opportunities for University employment, participation in University-sponsored extracurricular activities or opportunities to benefit from other aspects of University life."

But the definition of hate speech depends on many factors and is considered on a case-by-case basis.

"The determination of hate speech depends on whether a reasonable person would find someone responsible for harassing and intimidating someone else," Student Attorney General Carolina Chavez said.

The student attorney general makes the first determination about the probable truth of an accusation. Once it's determined that there is sufficient evidence that the incident occurred, the

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JOHN BRUCE, U.S. ATTORNEY

Honor Court considers whether the speech in question actually violated the Honor Code.

Many components go into the construction of a hate speech case, including the context and the words used. The Honor Court strives in all cases to respect the rights of students to express themselves.

The lack of guidelines for acceptable speech has provoked increased dialogue about the issue. The UNC Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender-Straight Alliance recently sponsored a "Hate Wall" outside Davis Library to raise awareness of hate speech.

The words and slogans painted on the wall ran the gamut of potential biases, from race to creed and sexual orientation.

Helen Dombalis, a student in Crystall's class, said hate speech defies easy definition. "It is not always easy to tell by what someone says how they feel," she said. "I've been struggling with it myself."

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## CAUCUS

FROM PAGE 1

until July 20, just six days before the Democratic National Convention.

As a result, the Democratic Party chose to hold county caucuses in order to have delegates chosen in time for the national convention.

Obviously, Kerry will be the presidential candidate, but the caucus is still important, said Tom Jensen, UNC sophomore and chairman of the Greenwood precinct, which includes several University dormitories.

"It gives North Carolina voters a chance to see that the Democratic Party is going to be really strong in

2004," he said.

Junior Justin Guillory, president of the UNC Young Democrats, said caucus turnout will be much lower than a regular primary, but because of the fundamental differences between the two, they should not be compared.

The caucuses will be funded and run by the Democratic Party rather than the Board of Elections and will be open for shorter hours and have fewer polling locations than a typical primary.

Jensen said that even though some people are upset that there will not be a primary, the caucus is important because it gives the Democratic Party an opportunity to pool volunteers.

Voter turnout is still vital

*"(Voter turnout) could make it more likely that Kerry would choose (Edwards) for the vice presidential nomination."*

JUSTIN GUILLORY, PRESIDENT OF UNC YOUNG DEMOCRATS

because delegates affect the party platforms, and a strong turnout for Edwards from his home state could be a symbolic gesture, Guillory said.

"It could make it more likely that Kerry would choose (Edwards) for the vice presidential nomination," he said.

The 4th District — including the counties of Orange, Durham, north Chatham and western Wake — is the only district in the state

allocated six delegates to the state convention.

In each congressional district, candidates receiving at least 15 percent of the district's vote will be proportionately allocated the district's four to six delegates.

To participate in the caucus, voters must have registered as Democrats by April 9.

Contact the City Editor at [citydesk@unc.edu](mailto:citydesk@unc.edu).

## TA TRAINING

FROM PAGE 1

The strategy creates examples of certain situations that can arise in classrooms and helps TAs learn how to respond to potentially controversial debates.

"Posing questions to yourself is what well-educated people do,"

Wegner said.

Both Bailey and Wegner stressed the importance of having a diversity of ideas within each classroom discussion. It is important that students feel comfortable expressing unpopular view points, they said.

"You can't avoid controversial topics," Wegner said. "You have to

embrace them and talk about them. That's what education is for."

The five-day training session, which will take place in early May, is a condensed version of the longer academic teaching classes that TAs already take.

Bailey said the summer course also will help teaching assistants

identify course objectives and create lesson plans to accomplish their goals.

Graduate students will have an opportunity to mingle with senior professors and learn from their expertise, she said.

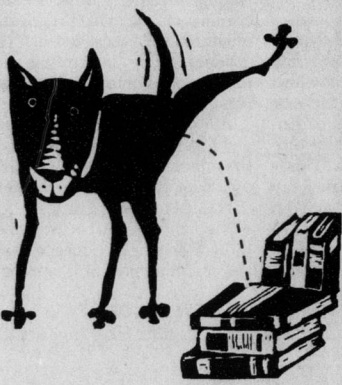
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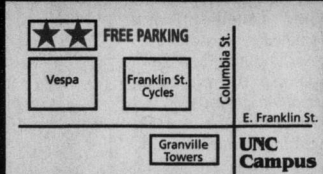
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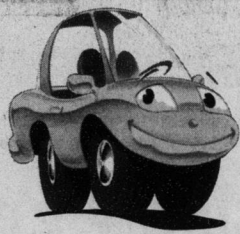
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