

**WORLD BRIEFS**

**Slain American was warned to leave Iraq but remained**

BAGHDAD, Iraq — An American civilian who was beheaded in a grisly video posted on an al-Qaida-linked Web site had been warned to leave Iraq but refused, U.S. officials said Wednesday. The masked men who butchered him claimed they were angered by coalition abuses of Iraqi prisoners.

The American captive identified himself as Nick Berg, 26, of West Chester, Pa., a suburb of Philadelphia. His body was found near a highway overpass in Baghdad on Saturday, the same day he was beheaded, a U.S. official said. The video posted Tuesday bore the title "Abu Musab al-Zarqawi shown slaughtering an American," referring to an associate of Osama bin Laden believed behind a wave of suicide bombings in Iraq.

It was unclear whether al-Zarqawi was shown in the video or simply ordered the execution. He also is sought in the assassination of a U.S. diplomat in Jordan in 2002. The United States has offered a \$10 million reward for information leading to his capture or killing.

A U.S. official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Berg was in Iraq "of his own accord" and had been advised to leave Iraq but refused. The official refused to elaborate but promised more at a later time.

**North Korea offers nuclear freeze in exchange for aid**

BELJING — North Korea demanded aid in exchange for freezing its nuclear weapons program as it began low-level talks Wednesday with the United States and four other nations, a South Korean report said.

North Korean envoys said the success of the talks would depend on whether the United States agreed, the Yonhap News Agency reported, citing unidentified diplomatic sources. Also taking part are China, South Korea, Russia and Japan. The "working group" talks are meant to help produce an agenda for a third round of high-level talks on the North's nuclear ambitions, which host Beijing hopes takes place before July.

The United States and its allies say they are willing to provide aid if North Korea freezes its nuclear facilities and commits itself to dismantling them. Washington says such a freeze must be a short temporary step toward permanent dismantling.

North Korea has balked at making such a commitment, and insists on aid and a freeze taking place simultaneously.

**Roadside bombings prompt dual Israeli missile strikes**

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — An Israeli helicopter fired a missile in Gaza's Zeitoun neighborhood on Wednesday, killing at least one person, after three loud explosions rocked the area, Palestinian officials said.

The neighborhood has been the scene of intense fighting in recent days between Israeli troops and Palestinian militants. Palestinian residents said the missile strike, the second in less than two hours, had targeted a group of people outside a mosque. Hospital workers said one person was killed and at least eight were wounded.

Israel's Army Radio said the earlier explosions were apparently caused by roadside bombs detonated by Palestinian militants.

The army said militants had fired an anti-tank missile at Israeli vehicles, missing the target but landing close by. It had no word on casualties, but Palestinian witnesses said Israeli ambulances rushed to the scene.

**American forces continue to battle cleric's loyalists**

KARBALA, Iraq — U.S. soldiers backed by tanks and helicopters battled fighters loyal to radical cleric Muqtada al-Sadr near a mosque in the holy city of Karbala early Wednesday, hours after Iraqi leaders agreed on a proposal that would end al-Sadr's standoff with the U.S.-led forces. Up to 25 insurgents were killed, the coalition said.

U.S. soldiers raided houses Tuesday night in Sadr City, a Baghdad neighborhood where support for al-Sadr is strong, witnesses said. Three Iraqis were killed. At a funeral ceremony Wednesday for one of the slain men, mourners raised Iraqi flags and al-Sadr posters as they chanted: "Down, down U.S.A."

Much of the fighting in Karbala took place near the al-Mukhaiyam mosque, which has served as a base for al-Sadr's Al-Mahdi Army militia and is less than a mile from one of the holiest Shiite sites in the world, the Imam Hussein shrine.

Compiled from staff and wire reports.

# Officials could work around airport

## Alternate Carolina North plans exist

BY EMMA BURGIN AND JOSEPH R. SCHWARTZ  
SENIOR WRITERS

UNC's plan to break ground on a million dollar satellite campus appears to be experiencing some turbulence.

The Chapel Hill Town Council approved an ordinance last month that effectively halted all communication dealing with Carolina North until the fate of the Horace

Williams Airport is decided.

The N.C. General Assembly required the University to keep the airport open until Jan. 1, 2005, and is expected to extend the deadline to help relocate the Area Health Education Centers, which transports physicians across the state from the airport.

But the University met with the council May 5 for a presentation scheduled before the ordinance

passed. Officials presented the first revision of the plan since December to the council.

For more than three hours, the council questioned Tony Waldrop, UNC vice chancellor for research and economic development, and Doug Firtenberg, of Stonebridge Associates, on issues the plan does not address. Waldrop skirted the issue of the airport, continuously noting that he would address it in "the next couple of slides."

After a lengthy back and forth about the importance of parking

and the potential failure of the project, the council members quit asking questions and started demanding answers.

"I can't believe we've been here for three hours and we've acted like the airport isn't even there," council member Sally Greene said.

The airport was even equated to an elephant in the room by council member Jim Ward, who noted that any discussion about the plan as it stands could be irrelevant.

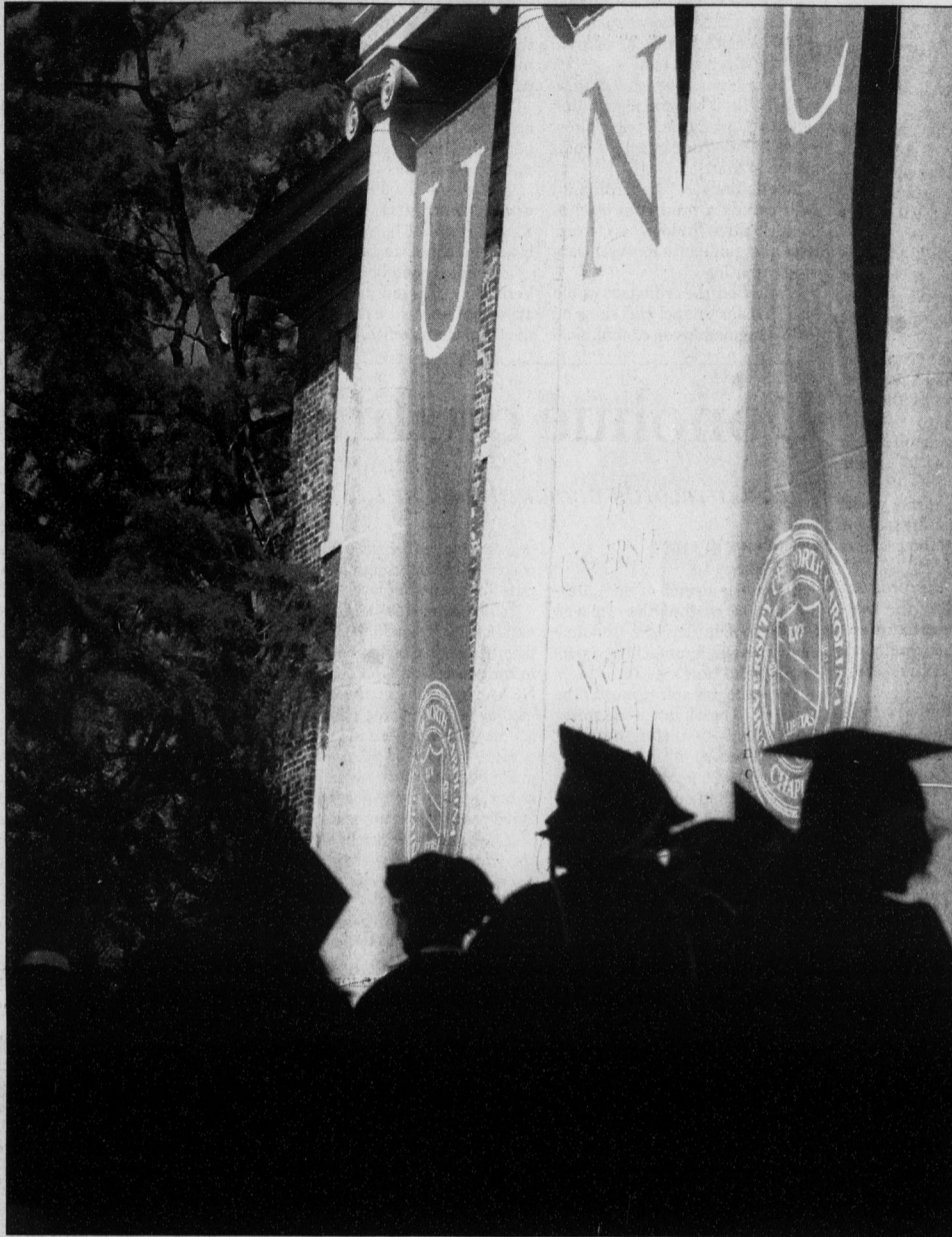
Waldrop then revealed several alternatives to the plan, including

a new starting point for the development. The plan, which assumes the airport will close Jan. 1, 2005, requires the University to break ground where the airport now sits.

Rep. Verla Insko, D-Orange, said Tuesday that the legislators that comprise the Joint Select Committee on the Horace Williams Airport will meet Thursday for the first time to discuss AHEC's future.

Insko said last month that legislators likely will keep the airport

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The second annual Doctoral Hooding Program featured an array of candidates from a wealth of departments, ranging from biostatistics to linguistics to social work. The lengthy procession of degree recipients also included the students' advisors.

# ONLY THE BEGINNING

BY PHILIP MCFEE SUMMER EDITOR

The tone Sunday at Commencement was one of exuberance — defined by signs, shouts and colorful celebration.

On the previous day, at the Doctoral Hooding Program, the atmosphere was markedly different. The degree recipients were reserved, taking in the event with a quiet gratitude. An exhausting project, a Ph.D. represents the culmination of a seemingly unfathomable amount of effort.

"(It's) a process that takes years of commitment, self-discipline and incredible support," said Linda Dykstra, dean of the Graduate School, in one of

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Provost Robert Shelton (left) assisted in the hooding of some of the 150 students, 20 more than the previous year.

# Bresciani successor recommended

BY CAROLINE KORNEGAY  
STAFF WRITER

Dean Bresciani, UNC's interim vice chancellor for student affairs, will leave the University in the coming months after accepting the post of vice president for student affairs at Texas A&M University and officials believe they are close to naming his replacement.

Texas A&M President Robert Gates named Bresciani as head of the Office of Student Affairs at the end of April.

In a statement released last month, Gates said, "Dr. Bresciani emerged during our national search as the top candidate to fill this position that is absolutely key to maintaining — and strengthening — the programs and services for our large and diverse student body."

He replaces Malon Southerland, who retired last year from Texas A&M. The post has been filled temporarily by Bill Kibler, who took a similar position at Mississippi State University after close to 24 years of service at Texas A&M.

Bresciani filled the UNC posi-



Interim VCSA Dean Bresciani was chosen for a similar position at Texas A&M University.

tion, which was vacated by Sue Kitchen in spring 2002, after serving as the associate vice chancellor for student services for five years.

Bresciani is out of town and could not be reached for comment. A recommendation has been made for the permanent replacement after a seven-month process by the search committee, said Steve Matson, chair of the committee.

"The search committee met, and we forwarded a recommendation to Provost (Robert) Shelton and Chancellor (James) Moeser, and at present, they're doing what they do with recommendations," Matson said.

The committee considered three candidates, but the recommendation has yet to be announced.

The candidates are Jody Harpster, vice president for student affairs at Shippensburg University in Pennsylvania, Margaret Jablonski, dean for campus life at Brown University and Edward Spencer, vice president for student affairs at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

Shelton and Moeser are deliberating and could be close to a final decision, Matson said. "I am hopeful that we will have some announcement by the end of May," Matson said. "I have no crystal ball."

Matson said he and the committee members think that the person to fill the post should be committed to working with students. All three candidates have visited UNC, and have met with administrators and students.

"(The candidates) were all extremely student-centered," Matson said. "The candidates were genuinely impressed with the students."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

# ASG taps Devore as new leader

Plans to lobby legislators along with new senior VP

BY CHRIS COLETTA  
STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

The UNC-system Association of Student Governments underwent a changing of the guard May 1, choosing N.C. State University master's student Amanda Devore as its new leader.

Devore, the ASG's 2003-04 vice president of legislative affairs, was accompanied on her ticket by Victor Landry, a Fayetteville State University master's student who will serve a second term as the group's senior vice president.

She takes over for Jonathan Ducote, a student at N.C. State who served two terms as ASG president. During that time, Devore said, the association — buoyed by a \$1 fee paid by all UNC-system students that amounts to about \$150,000 annually — grew by leaps and bounds.

"We're obviously becoming much more important players in the state," Devore said. She cited the group's "Personal Stories Project" book, increased presence at the UNC-system Board of Governors and lobbying of legislators as evidence of what the group has done to improve its effectiveness.

Still, Devore and Landry face a laundry list of issues that must be addressed, both internal and external.

First on that list is the General Assembly's summer session, which is meant primarily to re-examine the

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ANALYSIS

# Obtaining vote will be difficult

BY CHRIS COLETTA  
STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

When Amanda Devore heads to Chapel Hill this fall and takes her seat as a student member of the UNC-system Board of Governors, she'll likely find that her work is cut out for her.

As the new president of the UNC-system Association of Student Governments, Devore is granted a spot on the 32-member board, which is responsible for setting system policy. The position offers her valuable face time with the system's movers and shakers, but it lacks something the ASG has yet to secure: a vote.

That's something Devore would like to see changed.

"We're doing all we can," she said. "A lot of it just comes from bringing educated, rational arguments to the table."

As it stands, ASG presidents serve as ex officio members of the BOG who have the right to make motions and participate in debate but who can't cast ballots.

Efforts to change that status have been OK'd by both the BOG and the N.C. House on numerous occasions, but the situation isn't likely to change in the near future. That's largely due to the actions of one man: N.C. Senate Majority Leader Tony Rand, D-Cumberland.

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# Candidates For Upcoming Elections

Below is a list of candidates in this year's elections. Primaries will take place July 20; the general election will be held Nov. 2.

<b>President</b> John F. Kerry, Democrat George W. Bush, Republican Ralph Nader, independent	Republican Howard Mason, Republican James Powers, Republican	Moses Carey Jr., Democrat Valerie Foushee, Democrat Pam Hemminger, Democrat
<b>Governor</b> Mike Easley, Democrat Rickey Kipfer, Democrat Patrick Ballantine, Republican	N.C. Senate, District 23 Ellie Kinnaird, Democrat Kim James, Republican	Jack Lamb, Democrat Artie Franklin, Libertarian Jamie Daniel, Republican
<b>N.C. House, District 50</b> Bill Faison, Democrat Barry Jacobs, Democrat Joel F. Knight, Democrat Fern Shubert, Republican Richard Vinroot, Republican	<b>N.C. House, District 54</b> Joe Hackney, Democrat	<b>Orange County Board of Education</b> (nonpartisan election) Liz Brown Keith Cook Al Hartkopf James Hemminger Dennis Whiting
<b>U.S. Senate, North Carolina</b> Erskine Bowles, Democrat Tom Bailey, Libertarian Richard Burr, Republican John Hendrix, Republican Albert Wiley Jr., Republican	<b>N.C. House, District 56</b> Verla Insko, Democrat	<b>Orange County Board of Commissioners</b> (2 members to be elected) Margaret Brown, Democrat
<b>U.S. House, District 4</b> David Price, Democrat Todd Batchelor,		*incumbents in italics DTH/MARY JANE KATZ