

# The Daily Tar Heel

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## Arafat dies in French hospital

Leader, 75, leaves no apparent heir

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PARIS — Yasser Arafat, who triumphantly forced his people's plight into the world spotlight but failed to achieve his lifelong quest for Palestinian statehood, died Thursday at age 75.

He was, to the end, a man of many mysteries and paradoxes — terrorist, statesman, autocrat and peacemaker.

Palestinian Cabinet minister Saeb Erekat confirmed to The Associated Press that Arafat had died. The Palestinian leader spent his final days in a coma at a French military hospital outside Paris.

Tayeb Abdel Rahim, a top Arafat aide, confirmed that Arafat died at 4:30 a.m. Paris time. He spoke to reporters at Arafat's headquarters in the West Bank city of Ramallah.

Arafat's last days were as murky and dramatic as his life. Flown to France on Oct. 29 after nearly three years of being penned in his West Bank headquarters by Israeli tanks, he initially improved but then sharply deteriorated as rumors swirled about his illness.

Dead leader Yasser Arafat left a wealth of power, money and mystery.

Top Palestinian officials flew in to check on their leader while Arafat's 41-year-old wife, Suha, publicly accused them of trying to usurp his powers. Ordinary Palestinians prayed for him but expressed deep frustration over his failure to improve their lives.

Arafat's failure to groom a successor complicated his passing, raising the danger of factional conflict among Palestinians.

A visual constant in his checkered keffiyeh headdress, Arafat kept the Palestinians' cause at the center of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

But he fell short of creating a Palestinian state, and, along with other secular Arab leaders of his generation, he saw his influence weakened by the rise of radical Islam in recent years.

Revered by his own people, Arafat was reviled by others. He was accused of secretly fomenting attacks on Israelis while proclaiming brotherhood and claiming to have put terrorism aside. Many Israelis felt the paunchy 5-foot, 2-inch Palestinian's real goal remained the destruction of the Jewish state.

A resilient survivor of war with Israel, assassination attempts and even a plane crash, Arafat was born Rahman Abdel-Raouf Arafat Al-Qudwa on Aug. 4, 1929, the fifth of seven children of a Palestinian merchant killed in the 1948 war over Israel's creation.

There is disagreement whether he was born in Gaza or in Cairo, Egypt.

Educated as an engineer in Egypt, Arafat served in the Egyptian army and then started a contracting firm in Kuwait. It was there that he founded the Fatah movement, which became the core of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

After the Arabs' humbling defeat by Israel in the six-day war of 1967, the PLO thrust itself on the world's front pages by sending its gunmen out to hijack airplanes, machine gun airports and seize Israeli athletes at the 1972 Summer Olympics.

"As long as the world saw Palestinians as no more than refugees standing in line for U.N. rations, it was not likely to respect them. Now that the Palestinians carry rifles the situation has changed," Arafat explained.

## Tuition panel to end work

GROUP'S RECOMMENDATION TO FOCUS ON PHILOSOPHIES

BY JENNY RUBY  
STAFF WRITER

Last year, the Tuition Task Force met just once before recommending hikes of \$300 per year for three years to the University's governing board.

Members of UNC's Board of Trustees later disregarded the proposal in favor of a market-based tuition hike that drew a divide between increases for in-state and out-of-state students.

This year, the task force has met regularly since August to tackle the established philosophy and to draft a more comprehensive proposal.

But as members of the task force sit down at their final meet-

ing today, they have yet to settle on any specific numbers.

"We're not going to come out with a concrete proposal," said Jen Bushman, a member of the task force and president of the Graduate and Professional Student Federation.

"That happened last year, but that's not the most efficient way for having a tuition task force. We really did try to focus on what the priorities should be."

The group has determined four top priorities for spending tuition revenue: need-based aid, teaching assistant salaries, faculty salaries and new faculty positions. It also has concluded that about \$9.2 million must be generated to

support these priorities.

Student Body President Matt Calabria, co-chairman of the task force, said members are looking at the needs of the campus and the benefits of potential increases as well as the effects of changing tuition on future enrollment.

"We'll be presenting a few different scenarios of what keeping tuition the same or tuition increases will bring," Calabria said. "We're looking at both positive and negative effects."

According to the findings of a price-sensitivity study released during last Thursday's meeting, the University has room to increase tuition rates to the level of its competitors without consequence. Tuition at UNC now costs in-state students \$3,205 and out-of-state students \$16,303.

Provost Robert Shelton, co-chairman of the task force, said

members think certain needs make a reasonable increase necessary but that the Board of Trustees might have to break down the \$9.2 million into specific increases.

The task force recommended last week that about 40 percent of the total yield be devoted to need-based financial aid, with the remaining \$5.5 million equally divided among faculty salaries, teaching assistant salaries and the size of the faculty.

While specific details about the proposal are not available, Calabria said students should expect a reasonable increase and a thorough examination of both graduate and undergraduate tuition.

"Our proposals and advisory committee don't have very much force," Calabria said. "We're going

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## Gonzales up to be attorney general

Would be 1st-ever Hispanic in post

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — President Bush nominated White House counsel Alberto Gonzales, who helped shape the administration's controversial legal strategy in the war on terror, to be attorney general Wednesday.

He would be the first Hispanic ever to serve as the nation's top law enforcement officer.

"He is a calm and steady voice in times of crisis," Bush said, his eyes glistening with emotion as he stood next to Gonzales. "He has an unwavering principle of respect for the law."

After complaints about civil rights abuses in the name of fighting terror, Gonzales said, "There should be no question regarding the department's commitment to justice for every American. On this principle there can be no compromise."

A Harvard-educated attorney whose parents were migrant workers, the soft-spoken Gonzales would succeed Attorney General John Ashcroft, one of the most powerful and polarizing members of Bush's Cabinet.

"Just give me a chance to prove myself" — that is a common prayer for those in my community," said Gonzales. "Mr. President, thank you for that chance."

Some of Ashcroft's harshest critics welcomed his selection, while others voiced doubts.

"It's encouraging that the president has chosen someone less polarizing," said Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y. "We will have to review his record very carefully, but I can tell you already he's a better candidate than John Ashcroft." Another Democrat, Sen. Byron

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## RAMADAN



DTH/CARTER MURPHY

Senior chemistry major Nashua Oraby (left), a member of UNC's Muslim Students Association, participates in the Maghrib prayer, one of five prayers Muslims perform each day. During Ramadan, the ninth month of the Muslim calendar, Muslims fast from sun-

rise to sunset and often come together with family and friends at sunset to break their fast. Fasting is one of the Five Pillars (duties) of Islam. Ramadan, a time of worship and contemplation, ends this weekend with Eid al-Fitr, the Festival of the Feast. For the full story, see page 11.

"I would rather remember... the man... that was my son." GEORGE GATES, FATHER

## Emotions run high in hit-and-run trial

BY EREN TATARAGASI  
STAFF WRITER

It was an emotional day in court Wednesday as the defense presented evidence and witnesses in the case of North Carolina v. Samara.

"On October 4, 2003, two worlds collided," said District Attorney Carl Fox in his opening statement Wednesday, which he followed with a brief recap of the events surrounding the death of UNC alumnus Stephen Gates.

Gates, also a reporter for the Tar Heel Sports Network, was killed near the split of interstates 40 and 85 last year.

Rabah Samara is facing one felony charge of hit-and-run and a misdemeanor charge of hit-and-run in relation to the incident.

Samara's trial began Tuesday, but was cut short when Fox had a family emergency.

Samara's attorney, Duncan McMillan, reiterated throughout the day Wednesday that it was N.C. State University senior Emily Caveness who was driving the car when Gates was hit.

But Caveness made a deal with the district attorney's office to testify against Samara, and she has, in exchange, had the charges leveled against her reduced.

The prosecution submitted 16 pieces of evidence, including photographs of the vehicles and documents from witnesses, and called seven witnesses.

Bruce Cottrell and Patricia Sawyer were in the car behind the white Cadillac Escalade that Samara and Caveness were driving. The couple made 911 calls after witnessing the accident.

"This is the worst thing I have ever seen," Sawyer testified.

Both Cottrell and Sawyer said they never saw brake lights or any signs that showed that the Escalade was slowing down following the incident. The couple followed the car, honking their horn and flashing their lights, both witnesses said.

When the SUV finally pulled over, Cottrell got out of his car to let the driver of the Escalade know that the SUV had hit someone, he said. He testified that he saw Samara walk out of the car and get into the driver's seat.

Caveness, who was arrested along with Samara in relation to the incident, was also called to the stand. She reiterated that she did not know what had happened.

On the night of the accident,

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## TAKING THE REINS

Keyes speaks on judicial restraint

BY ERIC JOHNSON  
STAFF WRITER

Speaking in the packed Rotunda of UNC's School of Law, Alan Keyes told his audience that "the guild of lawyers and judges constitute the pool from which the dictators of our society will be chosen."

With law students and guests looking on all the way from the upper balcony, the former senatorial and presidential candidate declared that the courts in America have overstepped their authority and need to be reined in.

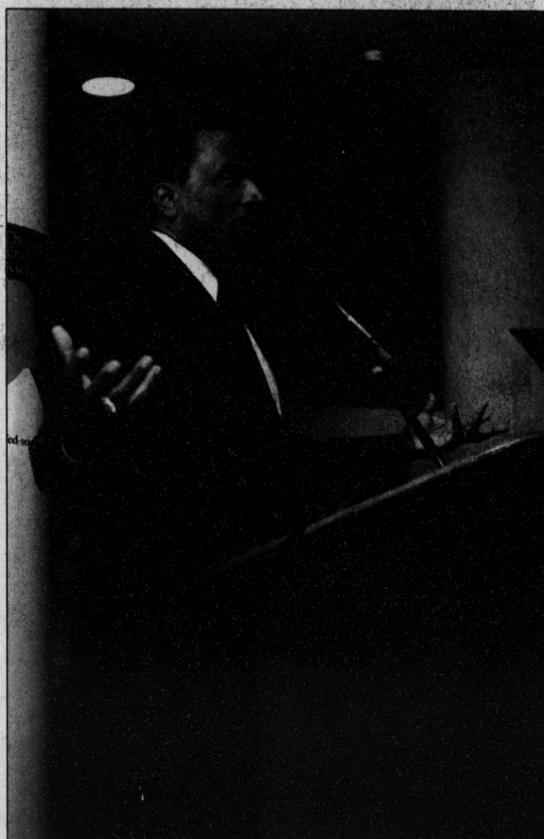
"The people of this country ratified the Constitution," he said. "It was not approved on the arcane views of judges and lawyers."

Keyes argued that federal courts have fundamentally misconstrued their own power, particularly on the issue of religion. He spoke at length about the meaning of the First Amendment's "establishment clause," asserting that it prohibits the federal government from passing laws concerning religion but leaves individual states free to do so.

"Contrary to what seems to be the superficial understanding of our times, you don't avoid religious wars by trying to drive religion out of society," he said.

"I believe that the courts are waging war on the moral identity of the American people."

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DTH/MIKE RAABE

Former presidential and senatorial candidate Alan Keyes speaks to a packed crowd at the UNC School of Law on Wednesday evening.

### ONLINE

■ Revamped SAT raises questions, takes more time  
■ Group meets to discuss four more years of Bush  
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### WEATHER

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SATURDAY Mostly sunny, H 53, L 26

