

National and World News

FROM THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

S.C. promising for Baptist Huckabee

(AP) — Propelled in Iowa by evangelicals' support, Mike Huckabee is trying for a repeat victory in South Carolina, where religion is woven even more tightly into the fabric of life. As in Iowa, where he won the Republican caucuses, the cash-strapped Huckabee is relying on pastors to help get out the vote. A win in the Jan. 19 primary would keep Huckabee in strong contention for the Republican presidential nomination, no matter how he does in the Michigan voting that comes first.

No endorsement from Richardson

SANTA FE (AP) — New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson ended his long-shot bid for the Democratic presidential nomination Thursday after poor finishes in the first two contests in Iowa and New Hampshire. He praised all of his Democratic rivals but endorsed no one. He encouraged voters to "take a long and thoughtful look" and elect one of them president. Richardson was never able to become a top-tier contender, trailing well behind Obama, Clinton and Edwards.

Election dispute in Kenya moves toward international mediation

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Former U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan agreed Thursday to take over talks to end the deadly turmoil linked to Kenya's presidential election, after days of international pressure resulted in nothing more than a fresh round of accusations from both sides. The Dec. 27 election returned President Mwai Kibaki to power for another five-year term, with his opponent, Raila Odinga, coming in a close second after a vote tally that foreign observers say was rigged. More than 500 people have been killed in the ensuing violence.

Both sides continued trading blame for the political deadlock. According to the government, Kibaki "offered dialogue," but Odinga was not responsive. Odinga, meanwhile, said Kibaki refused to sign an agreement to establish an interim coalition government and conduct an inquiry into the Electoral Commission of Kenya. Annan will not arrive in Nairobi to take over the talks before Jan. 15, his office in Geneva said. If his predecessor's experience was any indication, Annan will have a frustrating task ahead.

Colombian rebels free two hostages

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Colombian rebels freed two women held hostage for more than five years, handing them over Thursday to Venezuelan officials who flew them to Caracas where a triumphant President Hugo Chavez awaited. Colombian President Alvaro Uribe authorized Venezuela to lead the rescue mission despite a bitter clash with Chavez over his involvement in Colombia's half-century-old guerrilla conflict. The Caracas-based Telesur network showed the two women smiling as they were freed by rebels in fatigues.

Suicide bomb in Pakistan kills 24

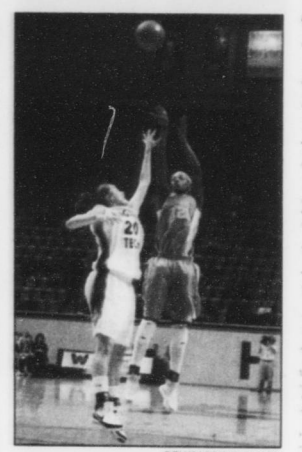
LAHORE, Pakistan (AP) — A suicide bomber blew himself up among police deployed outside a court in eastern Pakistan on Thursday, killing at least 24 people and wounding more than 70. The blast was the latest in a wave of attacks targeting politicians and security forces ahead of Feb. 18 parliamentary elections. There was no claim of responsibility, but suspicion will likely fall on Taliban and al-Qaida. Musharraf condemned the attack and reiterated his resolve "to continue the fight against terrorism and extremism and not to be deterred by such acts."

Visiting Tar Heels KO Hokies

BY POWELL LATIMER
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR
BLACKSBURG, Va. — As Virginia Tech's women's basketball team blared loud music and artificial fog filled the air for their grand entrance, the North Carolina women's basketball team stood around the foul line and calmly drained foul shot after foul shot. Such was the story of UNC's 79-59 victory against Va. Tech: The Hokies threw everything they had at the UNC 79 Tar Heels, but nothing could stop UNC from coolly dropping balls through the basket.

In stepped Rashanda McCants, UNC's stone-cold scorer. With seven seconds left in the first half, McCants took the ball from Cetera DeGraffenreid at the top of the key and, without so much as a blink, buried a 3-point dagger right into the heart of Va. Tech to even the score. It was a blow that the Hokies would not recover from. After throwing their best punches against the Tar Heels, Va. Tech could not maintain the same intensity that it had in the first half and sputtered down the stretch as UNC used a 12-0 run in the second half to break the game open and put the Hokies away.

UNC forward Rashanda McCants shoots over Va. Tech's Lindsay Biggs in the first half of UNC's 79-59 win Wednesday night in Blacksburg, Va.



DTH/SABRINA SHORT
UNC forward Rashanda McCants shoots over Va. Tech's Lindsay Biggs in the first half of UNC's 79-59 win Wednesday night in Blacksburg, Va.

UNC 79, Virginia Tech 59

North Carolina	37	42	79
Virginia Tech	37	22	59
North Carolina (79)			
	fg	ft	rb
Larkins	29 10-14	2-4	4-10
McCants	27 10-14	2-4	7 2 20
Pringle	26 6-12	0-0	6-10
Clayton	26 14 0-0	0-0	0 0 3
DeGraffenreid	21 2-10	0-0	1-2
Bursary	2 1-3	0-0	1-2
Buray	1 0-0	0-0	0-0
McFarland	16 0-1	0-0	0-2
Wood	2 0-3	0-0	2-0
Lucas	20 4-6	1-1	0 0 0
Breland	20 3-12	0-0	3-4
Total	200 36-60	9-18	24-44

"Well, that gave us some momentum," UNC head coach Sylvia Hatchell said. "I told them at halftime, it's 0-0, now we have to go out there and play 20 minutes of Carolina basketball." That is exactly what UNC proceeded to give a clinic on in the second half. McCants dumped in 20 points for the night — 13 after the break — and Erlana Larkins again showed what she could do with one arm, recording her second-straight double-double with 22 points and 10 rebounds in spite of a broken hand and bulky padding. "Yeah, it hurts," Larkins said after the game. "But I'm a senior, so I just have to play through it, I guess."

The Tar Heels also managed to lock down the Hokies. In the second half, it seemed as if there were three UNC hands in the face of every Va. Tech shooter. The Hokies only made eight shots in the second half, shooting 25.8 percent and logging only 22 points. Compare that with 37 first-half points, and that equals an increase in defensive intensity.

"Yeah, that was the halftime speech," McCants said with a coy smile after the game. Hatchell also was careful to note that she was less than enthusiastic about her team's performance to open the game.

"We did not play well," she said. "I think that was probably the worst half we've played all year." UNC made its living down in the low post again, as 56 of its 79 points came in the paint. In addition to Larkins' stellar night, senior Latoya Pringle also recorded 12 points and 10 rebounds. Va. Tech received a boost from freshman Andrea Barbour, playing with a shoulder injury. Barbour

RESEARCH

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other diseases, we're trying to fix the cells."

said. "Basically, we're showing that it can work."

Fake blood

Another project the lab has been working on is the creation of synthetic blood for medical purposes.

They have created particles that mimic the size and shape of blood cells, with slightly different properties.

Through experiments performed in the lab, researchers found that more pliable materials can circulate longer in the bloodstream.

Unlike normal blood cells, which become stiff over time and filter out of the body, the manufactured particles can retain their flexibility for much longer and stay in the body longer.

"The next question is can we load these cells with hemoglobin to treat people?" DeSimone said.

Production and efficiency

The lab also is working on ways to improve photovoltaic cells to make

more efficient solar-power devices.

By using the light-scattering properties of the nanoparticles, which can act like a prism, they are attempting to make organic solar panels.

Like many other projects at UNC, DeSimone's research and PRINT have produced a spin-off company named Liquidia, which was founded by DeSimone and three of the students vital in the development of PRINT.

Based in the Research Triangle Park, Liquidia is attempting to scale up the development of the nanoparticles to mass production and create a clean environment where the company can manufacture pharmaceuticals.

DeSimone said he hopes to advance this technology further to confront even larger problems.

"Hopefully, in 10 years, we'll be in a streamlined mode where we'll be able to continue to make a big difference on both third- and first-world problems."

Jambots!

The lab recently received a \$2.7 million grant from DARPA, the research branch of the Pentagon, to pursue a project in robotics.

DeSimone and his team are attempting to prove that a collection of the particles, manufactured through PRINT, can jam and unjam under different external conditions and controls.

This means they can disassemble to form entirely new or unrecognizable forms from their original form.

Researchers will work with robotics researchers in hopes of creating a prototype robot.

Ideally, they are trying to develop a prototype that can move like a worm, flow under a door and reassemble on the other side.

"We're responsible for developing proof of concept," DeSimone

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

GUN CONTROL

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incompetent or dangerous.

She said her store has a college-age customer base, particularly with some student organizations at N.C. State University.

Randy Young of the UNC Department of Public Safety said that although this particular aspect of gun control wasn't a focus before Va. Tech, the University was considering increasing campus security measures before the shootings in Blacksburg.

"I think that a lot of recommendations made by the task force are initiatives that are being enacted by many universities, and UNC is one of them," he said.

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

COMMISSION

FROM PAGE 1
mission's suggestions — "Maintain and increase the quality of a UNC education," for example — that promises to be an arduous undertaking.

There are some relatively specific steps outlined in the report, such as providing clearer information to high school guidance counselors.

How much involvement can a university system have in K-12 education? How can UNC affect the slide in male college enrollment? Can colleges increase online classes and open satellite campuses without sacrificing their core mission?

All of that is on the table as the board begins to formulate a response to the commission report.

"This is a big ship. To move it one degree or another is really hard," UNC-system President Erskine Bowles said, referring to the 17-campus system.

Bowles and his staff have set an ambitious timetable for such a difficult course change.

The board is set to deliberate on a response plan by May, with the first recommendations taking effect in January 2009.

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

Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship (FLAS)

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