

## Suicide bombers kill U.S. soldier at base

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Three suicide bombers in a furniture truck blew themselves up at the gates of a U.S. Army base Thursday, killing one soldier and wounding 14. It was the third suicide attack on American troops in Iraq this week.

Three wounded soldiers were evacuated from the headquarters of the 82nd Airborne Division west of Baghdad to a combat hospital and the other 11 wounded were treated and re-

turned to duty, the U.S. military reported.

There were no U.S. fatalities in the previous two suicide attacks this week, indicating defenses erected at American facilities were paying off. Early Friday, three loud explosions boomed in the "Green Zone," the compound housing the headquarters of the U.S.-led coalition, in central Baghdad. There were no reports of injuries.

If the explosions in Baghdad

on Friday occurred inside the "Green Zone," it would be the first time in several weeks that the seat of power of the U.S.-led coalition power was hit.

Charles Krohn, a Pentagon press official, said by telephone from his room inside the compound that he heard the explosions.

"I heard what appeared to be incoming mortar rounds," Krohn said. "I was shaken and I heard a couple of thumps. I felt the vibrations."

Three Iraqis were killed in the truck that exploded Thursday at Champion Base in Ramadi, 60 miles west of Baghdad.

The region around Ramadi and the nearby city of Fallujah is one of the most dangerous for coalition troops and sits in the so-called Sunni Triangle, where the majority of U.S. deaths in hostile action have occurred since President Bush declared an end to major combat May 1.

On Tuesday, suicide bombers,

**I heard what appeared to be incoming mortar rounds. I was shaken and I heard a couple of thumps. I felt the vibrations.**

CHARLES KROHN

Pentagon press official who was in a compound attacked Friday

one in a car and another on foot, blew themselves up at the gates of two U.S. military bases, wounding at least 61 American soldiers but failing to inflict deadly casualties on the scale of re-

cent attacks in Iraq. Most of the soldiers were slightly hurt by debris and flying glass, indicating the defenses around U.S. facilities — sand bar-

See IRAQ on Page A-8

## Parents source of UI support

Mothers, Dads Associations instrumental in legislation, fund-raising for University

BY AGNES JASINSKI  
Staff writer

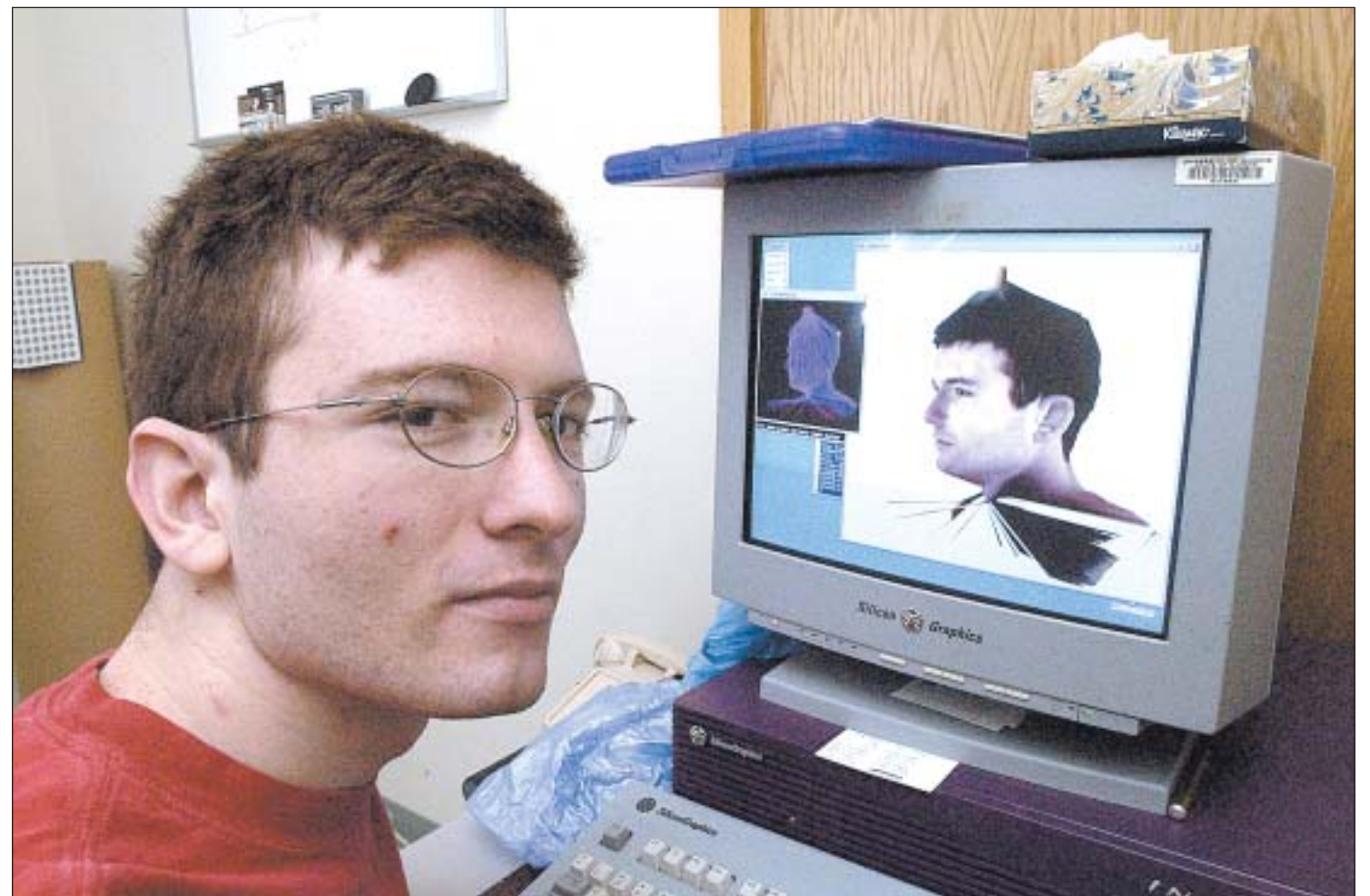
Everything from thermal imaging cameras that see through smoke in fires to band uniforms to scholarships has been donated to the University by its Mothers and Dads Associations, the oldest parents organizations in the country.

And now, with over 9,000 members and \$65,209 raised for scholarships, the associations are part of a nationwide trend showing an increase in parents' involvement on campuses. The organizations have been even busier in recent years as they continue their mission of communicating parents' and students' goals independently to the University and promoting the idea of family.

"My personal feeling is that (parents) have been supportive all their lives and should continue to be supportive," said Nancy Rotzoll, former executive director of the Moms Association. "It's necessary for them to recognize that their students are making a lot of decisions on their own and should respect that and work with them."

The associations at the University are different than parent groups on other campuses because most groups are run by representatives from the University. Here, the mothers, fathers and other family members of the students are part of a separate group that is not guided by the University and chooses where money will be spent and which issues

See PARENTS on Page A-8



ALI SAJJADI The Daily Illini

Colin Breen, senior in LAS, demonstrates how the face recognition database works at the cyberscanning lab in Beckman Hall on Thursday.

## Researchers unwrap face database

3D technology helps Beckman project to collect diverse information on faces

BY MOLLY STEPHEY  
Staff writer

A student sits in a raised chair as a large machine rotates around his body. A small red laser scans his entire head. Next, a high-resolution digital camera is used to take 10 pictures of his head at various angles. When the process is complete, he leaves with \$15 in his pocket.

More than 40 students, faculty members and community members have volunteered to take part in this type of research being conducted at the Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology. The research involves creating a large database of human faces.

"Right now the only available 3-D database of faces is in Germany," said Dr. Jesse Spencer-Smith, a Beckman fellow and principal investigator of the research. "They have a total of 300 faces and all but two of them are white."

Spencer-Smith said a similar system in Germany, which does not contain a wide range of facial skin tones and features, will inevitably contain errors in its applications. He hopes to create a multiracial database that will represent an accurate cross-

**Right now the only available 3-D database of faces is in Germany. They have a total of 300 faces and all but two of them are white.**

DR. JESSE SPENCER-SMITH  
Beckman research principal investigator

tion of the general population. The diversity of the campus community makes that task much easier, Spencer-Smith said.

The research will provide experiment data for future research related to 3-D face imaging, said Zhenqiu Zhang, graduate student and one of Spencer-Smith's assistants.

Its information can be used in a variety of areas, including access control, credit card security, anthropology and even psychology. With the help of this research, computers will be able to recognize users as soon as they sit down in front of the screen. It might also assist police investigators in the search for missing children by constructing accurate facial images of the child years later. Doctors will be able to use this technology in facial reconstruc-



Submitted photo

A 3-D facial image displays what a face looks like unwrapped.

tion surgery. The possibilities are endless, Spencer-Smith said.

The project began in 2001 and people ranging in age from 18 to 80 have participated so far. The opportunity to participate is open to all legal adults. Even Spencer-Smith's mother-in-law has had her face scanned.

Several new technologies are being used in the research. One

device, called the Shapecam, is a product of EyeTronics. This company specializes in 3-D scanning technology. Spencer-Smith and his research team have an agreement with EyeTronics to openly exchange any new ideas and developments.

"We take their technology and adapt it to our needs while im-

See SCANNING on Page A-8



The Associated Press

Shoppers run with their packages while crossing a street in the shopping district Nov. 28 near Union Square in San Francisco. The nation's shoppers descended on stores with a fresh burst of energy last month, propelling retail sales by 0.9 percent. The open-wallet mind-set raised new hope that the overall economic recovery will be durable.

## Holiday shoppers spark sales surge

WASHINGTON (AP) — Holiday shoppers catapulted sales at the nation's retailers higher in November, raising hopes that the rest of the year will see more Santas than Scrooges. That cheered Wall Street and helped lift the Dow Jones industrial average past 10,000.

The Commerce Department reported Thursday that merchants' sales rose 0.9 percent last month as shoppers got into the holiday spirit. That ended two straight months of belt tightening, which caused retail sales to drop by 0.3 percent in September and be flat in October.

"Holiday shopping appears to have gotten off to a strong start," Wachovia economist Mark Vitter said.

The increase in retail sales in November — the largest since August — represented a better showing than economists expected. They forecast a 0.7 percent rise.

"Any doubts about consumers spending this holiday can be laid to rest," said Ken Mayland, president of ClearView Economics.

"After seeing a tax cut-related summer surge of consumer

**Any doubts about consumers spending this holiday can be laid to rest.**

KEN MAYLAND  
ClearView Economics president

spending, there was an understandable pause, but it was the pause that refreshed," he said. "We are rebuilding spending momentum and with a late Thanksgiving plus a last-minute surge of buying anticipated before Christmas, December is shaping up as a banner month."

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrials closed above 10,000, a milestone not seen in 18 months. The index gained 86.30 points to close at 10,008.16.

The report not only held out hope that retailers' holiday sales could turn out to be brighter than some analysts thought, but also suggested that consumers are still keeping their pocketbooks and wallets sufficiently open to keep the economic recovery rolling along.

See SALES on Page A-8



ALI SAJJADI The Daily Illini

A notice hanging outside McKinley Health Center's office at the Illini Union on Thursday afternoon indicates that the University has joined the ranks of the many medical organizations around the nation that have run out of flu vaccines. According to McKinley's Web site, the center has administered 12,500 doses already and is waiting for more to arrive in January.

## McKinley flu vaccine supply comes up short

BY DAN FARNHAM  
Staff writer  
with wire reports

A shortage of flu vaccines has forced McKinley Health Center, as well as other vaccine providers, to try an alternative method for the rest of this year.

McKinley has run out of the injectable form of the vaccine, so it has ordered 500 doses of a new nasal flu vaccine, expected to arrive by Tuesday, said McKinley Director Robert Palinkas.

Health care providers administer the vaccine by spraying it into each nostril.

Unlike the injectable vaccine, which contains a dead virus, the

nasal vaccine is made up of a live influenza virus.

"The side effect of the injection is a sore arm," Palinkas said. "But the side effect of the nasal vaccination is a runny nose for a couple of days."

This is because the vaccination puts a weakened form of the virus in the nose.

For people with a normal immune system, the virus will be attacked and defeated by the immune system, Palinkas said. But those with a weak immune system might not be able to fend off the virus, he said.

McKinley has given a record 12,500 vaccinations this year, due

See VACCINE on Page A-8