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Car bombing kills 10, hurts as many as 45

Explosion at police station targets Shiite Muslim enclave in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — A suicide car bomber crashed a white Oldsmobile into a police station in Iraq's largest Shiite Muslim enclave Thursday, killing himself, nine others and wounding as many as 45. Earlier, gunmen — one dressed as a Shiite cleric — shot and killed a Spanish military attaché.

The violence, six months to the day after Baghdad fell to American forces, underscored the predicament of a capital whose deliverance from Saddam Hussein's tyranny has been repeatedly undermined by terrorism, attacks on U.S. forces and sectarian unrest.

The ancient city's landscape is now lined with massive concrete blast barriers and coils of barbed wire outside hotels, government departments and along stretches of road near U.S. military bases.

As in previous attacks, there was no claim of responsibility for the 8:30 a.m. bombing in Ai Sadr City, a Baghdad district with an estimated 2 million Shiites.

"It was a huge blast and everything became dark from the debris and sand. I was thrown to the ground," said Mohammed Adnan, who sells watermelons opposite the police station.

Vegetable seller Fakhriya Jarallah said two of her sons were repairing the outside wall of the compound.

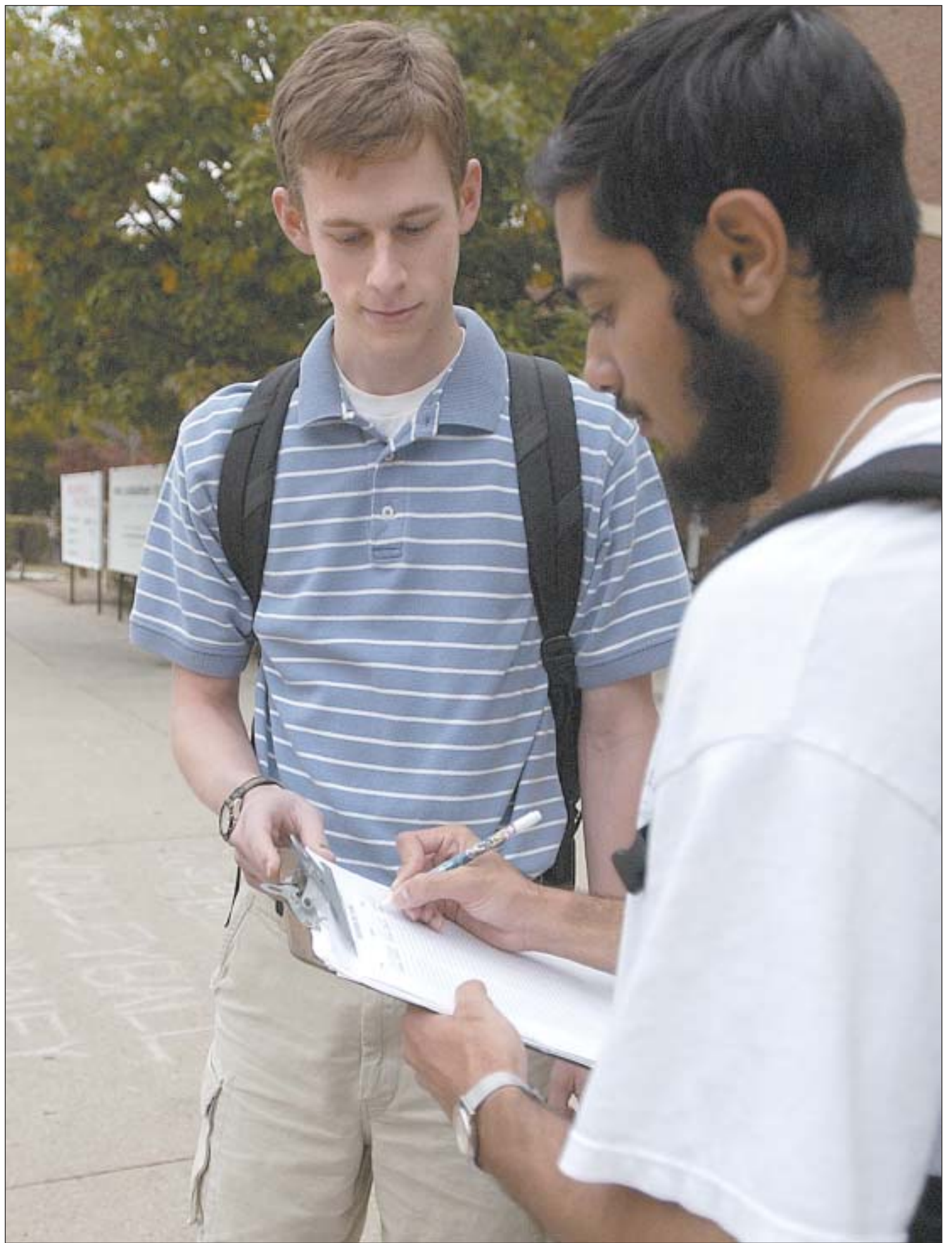
"I ran across the road like a madwoman to find out what happened to my sons. But thanks to God they are both safe," she said.

Policemen and some in the crowd that gathered outside the police station after the explosion offered an assortment of possible culprits that ranged from non-Iraqi Arab militants to Saddam loyalists and Shiite radicals angry about a cleric's arrest.

The killing of the Spanish military attaché happened across town in the upscale Mansour area about 30 minutes before the car bombing.

Jose Antonio Bernal Gomez, an air force sergeant attached to Spain's National Intelligence Center, was shot to death after four men, one dressed as a Shiite cleric, knocked on the door of his home, according to a Spanish diplomat in Baghdad who spoke on condition of anonymity. Shiite clerics generally wear black cloaks and white headaddresses; Sunnis favor lighter-colored garb.

See BOMBING on Page A-6



ADRIANA D'ONOFRIO The Daily Illini

Chris Mullen (left), senior in engineering, has Aliasgar Chinwala, junior in LAS, sign a petition by the registered student organization Reform ISG to change the structure of Illinois Student Government.

ISG future could be up for vote

Reform group, ISG itself working to get separate proposals on a referendum

BY JEREMY PELZER
Staff writer

Students might have to decide next month whether the Illinois Student Government, an organization seen by some as ineffective and corrupt, should be drastically reformed or abolished altogether.

Two parallel movements — by the registered student organization "Reform ISG" and ISG itself — are currently working to submit proposals for a November referendum. ISG officials will hold the second of two constitutional conventions on Sunday to create a reform proposal. Reform ISG, a group founded

last semester by former ISG officials — including two former student body presidents — is gathering signatures to abolish ISG.

In order to place a proposal on a referendum, ISG must approve the placement or petitions from 10 percent of the student body (currently about 3,800 students) must be submitted.

Reform ISG members and ISG officials are in basic agreement as to what's wrong with ISG: they say the group is ineffective and not accountable to students. However, Reform ISG members, as well as Student Body President Marcia Fuentes, tend to blame the

structure of ISG, while some ISG assembly members blame individuals within the organization.

Vilas Dhar, former vice president of Student Senate Caucus, said the way Student Government elections are held make the body ineffective.

Currently candidates run on "slates" — similar to political parties, Dhar said. Most slates consist of a group of people with a common bond — such as Greeks or political science majors, he said. When one slate is elected, it takes over ISG, he said.

"The electoral process for ISG is skewed," Dhar said. "It doesn't

create a representative body."

During the past election, the Reform NOW slate won many executive positions, while Students First candidates won most ISG assembly seats, leading to political infighting.

ISG Committee on Effectiveness chair Andrew Erskine said public anger over existing ISG members results in candidates with little student government experience being elected.

"People came in whose intent might have been great, but had no experience running this organization," he said.

See ISG on Page A-6

KICK UP YOUR HEELS



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Beverly Madridejos (right), senior in LAS, and Erwin Paderanga, freshman in LAS, both members of the Philippine Student Association, perform dance moves at the University YMCA on Thursday evening. They were trying out for the association's spring fashion show.

Lawyers argue insanity for accused D.C. sniper

FAIRFAX, Va. (AP) — Lee Boyd Malvo's lawyers said Thursday they will mount an insanity defense at his murder trial in the Washington sniper case, arguing that the teenager was a victim of "indoctrination" by the older John Allen Muhammad.

Defense attorney Craig Cooley said the basis for the insanity defense comes from mental health experts not appointed by the court.

"This case is so bizarre in its facts, and the degree of indoctrination is so severe, that we would be remiss if we failed" to put the sanity issue before a jury, Cooley said.

Cooley said that indoctrination is a form of mental illness and that it will ultimately be up to a jury to decide if it amounts to insanity.

A court-appointed psychiatrist has met with Malvo more than a dozen times, and the prosecutor in the case, Fairfax County Commonwealth Attorney Robert F. Horan Jr., said Thursday there is nothing in that expert's report that points to insanity.

"It says absolutely nothing

(The court-appointed psychiatrist report) says absolutely nothing about insanity. Apparently it's a late-blooming insanity.

ROBERT F. HORAN, JR.
Fairfax County Commonwealth attorney

about insanity," Horan said. "Apparently it's a late-blooming insanity."

Malvo, 18, is set to go on trial Nov. 10 in the slaying of FBI analyst Linda Franklin outside a Home Depot store. She was among 13 people who were shot, 10 fatally, during a three-week spree in the Washington, D.C., area last fall.

Muhammad, 42, goes on trial Tuesday in the slaying of man who was pumping gas near Manassas.

Both trials were moved 200 miles to southeastern Virginia. Muhammad's lawyers have argued that Malvo was the triggerman, while Malvo's defense team has contended that the teenager was acting under the influence of the older man.

College goes back to the drawing board

College of Engineering hit by budget crunch, consolidates and reevaluates internal structure

BY MOLLY STEPHEY
Staff writer

The College of Engineering, while often considered one of the University's premiere programs, faces possible reorganization after a \$9 million loss in state funding this year.

To improve efficiency, college officials are mulling over structural changes, including eliminating an entire department.

"This is not the first time these matters have been raised," engineering dean David Daniel said. "Right now we're looking at them because of the very real budget constraints we're facing."

The options are merging the Theoretical and Applied Mechan-

ics (TAM) department with the Mechanical and Industrial Engineering (M&IE) department; separating Mechanical from Industrial Engineering (IE) and merging IE with General Engineering (GE); or dissolving the Nuclear, Plasma and Radiological Engineering (NPRE) department.

One faculty committee has been tasked to review each proposal, looking for redundancy or ways to reduce costs, Daniel said. An executive committee is overseeing the review and will give final recommendations to Daniel to approve.

Reports from the faculty committees are expected by the end of the semester. See ENGINEERING on Page A-8

Uncertain future for NPRE department

BY MOLLY STEPHEY
Staff writer

The College of Engineering is considering discontinuing the Nuclear, Plasma, and Radiological Engineering (NPRE) department as part of restructuring efforts to save money.

A committee of faculty members is examining the future of the NPRE department, said David Daniel, dean of the College of Engineering. Options are still vague, but enrollment in the NPRE department has been low, leading administrators to question the department's future, said Mark Kushner, coordinator for the committee.

However, Jim Stubbins, head of the NPRE department, believes that enrollment is not a fundamental issue.

"We're twice the enrollment this year as we were two years ago," Stubbins said. "It's not as if we don't have a quality program here."

The University's NPRE department is ranked 3rd in the nation for graduate studies and 5th in the nation for undergraduate studies by U.S. News and World Report. Some faculty and students say eliminating the department will hurt college's quality and prestige.

"In Illinois, we're the only nuclear program there is," See NPRE on Page A-8