

National and World News



Know more on today's top story:

> A suburban, containing the two agents who were shot, was at one point pinned in between two vehicles full of armed gunmen: <http://bit.ly/fHZLKV> (via CBS News)
 > The attackers of the two federal agents are believed to be gang members of drug cartels: <http://exm.nr/eWZ6sP> (via Examiner.com)
 > Travel experts say that expected college students' plans for spring break travel to Mexico remain high, despite near-daily reported drug violence in the area: <http://bit.ly/eAPiwS> (via Google News)

Go to dailytarheel.com/index.php/section/state to discuss the developments in Egypt.

U.S. immigration agent who was shot and killed has been identified

MEXICO CITY (MCT) — A U.S. immigration agent who was killed Tuesday in a part of central Mexico increasingly under the influence of drug traffickers has been identified as Jaime J. Zapata. Zapata was shot to death and another special agent was wounded when they were apparently ambushed by gunmen at a fake roadblock, the type often used by traffickers and their henchmen.

U.S. Immigration and Customs officials said Wednesday that Zapata was a native of Brownsville, Texas, and a four-year veteran of the department on loan from the Laredo, Texas, ICE office.

He and the second agent, whose name was not released, were attached temporarily to the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City.

The pair were driving from

Mexico City toward the northern city of Monterrey when they were attacked in the state of San Luis Potosi, U.S. authorities said.

The agents "were shot in the line of duty while driving between Mexico City and Monterrey, Mexico, by unknown assailants," ICE said in a statement.

"ICE is working with the U.S. State Department, Mexican authorities and other U.S. law enforcement partners to investigate the shooting," the agency added.

Although the agents were reported initially to have survived the attack, ICE Director John Morton announced later that one of the men had succumbed to his wounds.

"This is a difficult time for ICE and especially for the families and loved ones of our agents," Morton said in a statement.

India's PM tries to defend scandals

BHAVNAGAR, India (MCT) — In a rare news conference Wednesday, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh sought to regain momentum after a string of corruption scandals that have paralyzed parliament, put off foreign investors and angered voters.

Analysts, however, said the attempt may have backfired.

A rash of alleged irregularities connected to sports, telecommunications and real estate deals — potentially involving tens of billions of dollars — has contributed to a perception that the Congress Party-led government is adrift and the prime minister increasingly ineffectual.

Singh, 78, an economist by training and understated by nature, has only given a handful of extended public news conferences in his seven years as national leader. But few analysts seemed impressed when he stepped forward Wednesday to defend his administration.

Guantanamo Bay might stay open

WASHINGTON (MCT)— If the U.S. captured Osama bin Laden or other senior al-Qaida leaders, they would likely be imprisoned at Guantanamo Bay, CIA Director Leon Panetta said in his first public acknowledgment that the controversial U.S. military prison in Cuba might be used to hold future detainees.

Bin Laden and al-Qaida No. 2 leader Ayman al-Zawahiri, both of whom are believed to be hiding in Pakistan, would likely be moved quickly to the U.S. airbase at Bagram, Afghanistan, for questioning and eventually moved, "probably to Guantanamo," Panetta said Wednesday.

Panetta's comments appeared to describe a scenario the administration is considering in the event they or other senior al-Qaida leaders are taken into custody.

After Panetta's comments, other administration officials rushed to reaffirm that Obama is still committed to closing the prison, a campaign promise that has been blocked in Congress.

Survey finds most teens say no to sex

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (MCT) — A new survey shows that 61 percent of American teens want to be virgins at marriage, yet 34 percent have little problem with sex before marriage.

Even among those who valued virginity, 20 percent had tried "sexual touching" and 15 percent said they'd already had sex, says the national survey by OneHope, a Pompano Beach, Fla.,-based Christian mission organization.

"My reading is, 'Being a virgin until marriage is right for me, but it may not be right for everyone,'" OneHope's Chad Causey said. "It's the categorical rightness that has gone."

That gibes with another finding: 65 percent of teens said truth is relative.

Teens showed ambivalence toward traditional families as well: 82 percent believe God intended marriage to last a lifetime, yet 76 approve divorce when children are involved. Half consider an unmarried man and woman a family.

FISHNETS AND FEMINISM



DTH/CAROLYN VAN HOUTEN

Award-winning author, blogger and feministing.com editor Courtney E. Martin gives a talk titled "Fag Jokes, Fishnets, and Fiances: How Narrow Gender Roles Compromise Quality of Life and How to Get Liberated" in Chapman Hall on Wednesday night. Topics she covered included contemporary feminism, activism, beauty and romantic relationships. To read the whole story, visit dailytarheel.com.

Perdue creates budget game

BY EMILY BOOKER
STAFF WRITER

If students have opinions on correcting the state's budget deficit, they might get their chance to put them to test — in an online game.

N.C. Gov. Bev Perdue will release her budget proposal today, but not before she's given residents the chance to try balancing it themselves.

The online program, called "Balance the Budget Challenge With Charlie," is an interactive site featuring Charlie, an animated Plott hound — North Carolina's state dog.

The program leads its participants through a series of programs to eliminate or amend their funding, such as raising tuition for

UNC-system schools, releasing state prisoners or laying off state employees. If the user succeeds in balancing the budget, he or she is rewarded with a bone.

The participant is also told how much revenue is raised and how many jobs were cut with each proposal.

Ben Niolet, the director of new media for Perdue, said the governor wants to present the budget to residents in an accessible way as well as let them know what programs are at stake.

"Getting the deficit down to zero is a big part of the budget, but the reality of it is, and I know Governor Perdue is very aware of this, that every number, every choice affects something," Niolet said.

The governor recently announced that the state's budget shortfall, originally predicted to be \$3.7 billion, is actually expected to be \$2.4 billion.

In the introduction text to her budget game, Perdue says there are still tough decisions to be made, and invites users to help her make these choices.

Virginia Gray, a political science professor at UNC, said she has her

students use a similar program to learn more about state budgetary processes.

Tools like these allow students to see just how difficult balancing a budget is, Gray said.

"It's interesting that students think they can balance a budget by whittling off something here, or zapping something there, but we have to tell them, 'No, you can't cut that; that's an entitlement,' and then they see how hard it really is," Gray said.

Jason Windett, a political science graduate student, said the program is an important tool for government transparency though it may not be fully utilized.

"Most North Carolinians aren't going to use it, but it will be a good tool for schools, for kids to get a close look at government," Windett said.

"It's the budget process with training wheels. This is a thing a lot of states are using to increase visibility of the budgetary process and show there's lots of tough choices to be made."

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- 26 Yasmin Levy
- 28 Nicola Benedetti, violin

March

- 1-2 *iD* - Cirque Éloize
- 3 Leon Fleisher, piano
- 17-18 *The Andersen Project* - Ex Machina
- 22 Phil Kline's *John the Revelator* - ETHEL and Lionheart
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