

# THE NEWS & OBSERVER

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TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 2003

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## Williams rejoins the UNC family



New UNC basketball coach Roy Williams tells his team that a fist is stronger than five individual fingers.

STAFF PHOTO BY SCOTT SHARPE

BY BARRY SVRLUGA  
STAFF WRITER

**CHAPEL HILL** — It took nearly three years. It was the toughest decision of his life — twice.

But Roy Williams is finally North Carolina's basketball coach.

In a late-night conclusion to an emotional trek, Williams, the 52-year-old UNC alumnus who coached for 15 years at Kansas, returned Monday to take over the Tar Heels.

The decision was a dramatic and difficult reversal of the choice Williams made three years ago, when he remained at Kansas rather than accepting an offer to succeed Bill Guthridge at UNC. Williams was introduced at a 10 p.m. news conference in the practice gym at the Smith Center, the building named for his mentor, legendary Carolina coach Dean Smith.

*'I was a Tar Heel born. When I die, I'll be a Tar Heel dead. But in the middle, I have been Tar Heel and Jayhawk bred ...'*

**ROY WILLIAMS**

UNC HEAD BASKETBALL COACH

Williams, who was born in Spruce Pine and grew up in Asheville, made no secret of the fact that his decision to return to UNC, where he was an assistant to Smith for 10 years, was excruciating.

"I wanted to coach both," Williams said. "But you can't. Last time, I decided to stay because it was the right

thing. This time, I decided to leave because it was the right thing."

The quest to land Williams was difficult for Carolina, which needed a replacement for Matt Doherty, who was forced to resign April 1.

Twice — once Friday morning, once again Sunday — Williams said he nearly picked up a phone to call UNC athletics director Dick Baddour and tell him he couldn't leave Kansas. The pull of the entire Lawrence community — Williams named each of his players and several of his friends Monday night — weighed on him.

"I was a Tar Heel born," Williams said, borrowing a few lines from UNC's fight song. "When I die, I'll be a Tar Heel dead. But in the middle, I have been Tar Heel and Jayhawk bred, and I'm so

**IN SPORTS**

**'WE'RE GOING TO RUN':** The Tar Heels will be a team that uses speed as its foundation. **►1C**

**CAULTON TUDOR:** The price of poker goes up in ACC basketball. **►1C**

**KANSAS REACTION:** Some Jayhawk fans are supportive of Williams' decision; others nurse wounded pride. **►1C**

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## House panel approves budget

BY DAN KANE AND TIM SIMMONS  
STAFF WRITERS

The House Appropriations Committee late Monday approved a \$15 billion spending plan that raises college tuition, cuts services for the poor and provides a modest pay increase for state workers.

The budget proposal has moved at an unusually quick pace for the General Assembly, but it could come to a grinding halt today in the House Finance Committee, where members are haggling over how to pay for it.

"The co-chairs have got to get together and agree on something, and then we'll present that to the full committee," said Rep. Gordon Allen, a Roxboro Democrat and one of six finance chairmen.

The spending plan is about \$65 million less than what Gov. Mike Easley proposed. It would raise tuition for UNC system students by 5 percent, spend about \$40 million less on clean water trust fund projects than the governor wants and cut an additional \$30 million in health and human service programs. It has a 1.6 percent pay increase for most state workers, while community college instructors would get an ad-

SEE BUDGET, PAGE 6A

## Driver aims 'to honor' her victim

BY ANDREA WEIGL  
STAFF WRITER

**RALEIGH** — For an hour and a half Monday, the Browns and the Robinsons sat on either end of a bench in a Wake County courtroom as Jennifer Camille Robinson pleaded guilty to involuntary manslaughter in Scott Warren Brown's death.

Robinson, 24, was given a chance to rebuild her life. But she'll spend Mother's Day, Father's Day, Christmas Day and Brown's birthday in jail for the next three years, and she will spend those three years on probation for driving drunk and taking Brown's life.

Afterward, the families exchanged hugs. Sobbing, Robinson clutched Brown's mother, Kay, and told her: "I'm so sorry."

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## Major fighting over in Iraq

SADDAM'S HOMETOWN FALLS WITH SCANT RESISTANCE



A U.S. Marine stops an Iraqi family at a checkpoint in Tikrit. American forces captured the city, Saddam Hussein's hometown, on Monday. The move prompted the Pentagon to announce that 'major combat operations are over.'

AP PHOTO BY KEVIN FRAYER

**Looting subsides in Baghdad, although the city is still a dangerous place: As many as 17 are killed in an explosion.**

BY JONATHAN S. LANDAY, SARA OLKON  
AND MARTIN MERZER  
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

**TIKRIT, Iraq** — The Pentagon declared the end of significant fighting in Iraq on Monday as Marines stormed the heart of Tikrit, suppressed hard-core resistance there and captured the last stronghold of Saddam Hussein.

"The major combat operations are over," Maj. Gen. Stanley McChrystal said after more than 3,000 Marines fought their way to the center of Saddam's hometown.

In Washington, the White House's attention shifted toward postwar concerns.

U.S. officials also looked forward to a meeting today in Nasiriyah, where they hoped to begin forging an interim government for post-Saddam Iraq by welding together ethnic, religious and exile factions.

The military action, however, focused on the Marines' success in securing Tikrit. They seized an opulent presidential palace and rolled their armored vehicles along the city's broad boulevards. They watched white flags flutter from taxicabs, cement homes and mud huts. They accepted roses from a few grateful residents — and stayed alert for suicide attacks by the remnants of pro-Saddam militias.

Tikrit was the last important center of Saddam's regime, and now it had fallen — much like Basrah, Nasiriyah, Najaf, Karbala, Kut, Kirkuk, Arbil, Mosul and Baghdad. "There is nothing beyond Tikrit," said Marine Lt. Col. Doug Hardison. "That is it. It's now just a function of when to call the win."

Said McChrystal: "Tikrit was the last area where we anticipated seeing major combat formations."

Iraqi forces once again evaporated and large concentrations of Iraqi troops no longer existed anywhere, McChrystal and others said, though they cautioned that small-scale battles remained likely.

The war began March 20. Saddam's fate remained unknown. No confirmed discoveries have been made of chemical or biological weapons — the primary justification President Bush cited for resorting to war.

In Baghdad, a measure of calm returned as 2,000 Iraqi officers, working with U.S. Marines, patrolled the capital's streets for the first time since the city fell last week — and collapsed into chaos.

Looting diminished — but did not disappear — in Baghdad as Iraqis formed neighborhood watches. U.S. military engineers began working with Iraqis to restore water and power to the city.

Electricity also remained out in Basrah, Iraq's second-largest city, but hospitals and many citizens there have generators. British engineers plan to arrive within a few weeks to repair the southern city's

SEE WAR, PAGE 9A

## U.S. sternly warns Syria against harboring Iraqis

BY DAVID WESTPHAL  
NEWS & OBSERVER WASHINGTON BUREAU

**WASHINGTON** — The Bush administration Monday sharply intensified its pressure on Syria, saying the government must quit harboring Iraqi leaders, end sponsorship of terrorist organizations and jettison chemical weapons programs.

Officials at the White House, Pentagon and State Department stopped short of threatening military action, but they did not rule it out.

"We always leave options on tables, but our course of action with Syria is focused on reminding Syria that this is a good time for them to re-examine their support of terrorism," said White House spokesman Ari Fleischer.

"And a good place to begin is with their harboring of these Iraqi leaders who have fled to Syria."

Secretary of State Colin Powell said the United States would examine diplomatic, economic and other measures with an eye toward pressuring Syria. In the meantime, he said, the Iraq war has created a "new situation in the region" that should cause Syria and other Middle East countries to review their policies.

Syria denied giving safe haven to former Iraqi leaders and said it had no chemical weapons. The country in the region with weapons of mass destruction is Israel, not Syria, said Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Bouthayna Shaaban.

Numerous senior Iraqi officials have fled into Syria over the past two weeks, with some moving on to other countries and "a handful" still in Syria, a senior Bush administration official said.

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**MARINE MOURNED**

Lt. Frederick Pokorney of Camp Lejeune becomes the first Marine from Operation Iraqi Freedom to be buried at the cemetery in Arlington, Va. — hallowed ground for the nation's war dead. His 2-year-old daughter's simple question: 'Where's Daddy?'

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**THE NEXT PHASE**

The retired U.S. general who will run postwar Iraq for the Bush administration is on a mission to remake the country's politics, a process he predicts will be messy and contentious.

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**Powell says diplomatic, economic measures possible.**

**WEATHER**

**Today:** Pleasant, plenty of sunshine. High 80, low 56.

**Wednesday:** Mix of clouds, sun. High 82, low 56.

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**NATION & WORLD**

Police secure a New Orleans high school after wild shooting there leaves a teenager dead and three others injured. Students blamed gang violence and said the young man, 15, had been targeted.

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**SPORTS**

On what he called an ordinary day, the extraordinary but soon-to-retire Michael Jordan plays his last home game with the Wizards.

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**BUSINESS**

SAS Institute turns up the heat on its developers and other employees in the race to finish a new version of its complex flagship software.

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**LIFE, ETC.**

The two-step and the Electric Slide send high school seniors and aged retirees gliding across the generation gap at the Senior-Senior Prom.

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