



IN THE NEWS

Top stories from the state, nation and world.

Black farmers file lawsuit against USDA for racism

WASHINGTON — A group of black farmers, including one from North Carolina, filed a lawsuit seeking close to \$513 million in damages from the Agriculture Department for alleged delays in processing their loan applications because of their race.

The USDA also failed to investigate hundreds of discrimination complaints the plaintiffs lodged from January 1983 to January 1997, according to the lawsuit filed in District of Columbia district court.

"When the farmers filed complaints, the department willfully either avoided processing and resolving the complaint by stretching the review process out over many years or conducted meaningless, or ghost investigations, or failed to take action," the lawsuit alleged.

It lists three plaintiffs but seeks class-action status to represent 641 black farmers who claim they were victimized by racial discrimination.

One named plaintiff, Tim Pigford, a farmer in Riegelwood, N.C., claims local USDA officials handled his loan application differently from those turned in by white farmers. He said the delay caused him to lose his land and eventually to stop farming.

"Pigford has suffered frustration, humiliation, anxiety and other mental distress at his inability to obtain redress from USDA for the racial discrimination committed against him," the lawsuit said.

N. Korea breaks off talks after defections to U.S.

WASHINGTON — North Korea's grudging opening to the West was closed at least temporarily Wednesday after the United States took in a diplomatic defector from the communist country.

Sidetracked immediately were negotiations to curb the spread of North Korea's missile technology, most ominously to Iran.

So far, preliminary four-way peace talks that would include South Korea and China remain on schedule for next month. But North Korea's sudden and angry suspension of the missile negotiations just before midnight Tuesday may cast a long shadow.

In calling its negotiators home from New York, North Korea's reclusive government urged the Clinton administration to turn over Ambassador Chang Sung Gil, who defected from his post in Egypt, and his brother, Chang Sung Ho, a diplomat on a trade mission to Paris.

The State Department, which incorrectly granted asylum, nonetheless gave no ground.

The brothers and their families entered the United States under temporary arrangements that could be made permanent later.

Bosnian-Serb fight leaves soldier, civilians injured

BRCKO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — U.S. troops became more deeply embroiled Thursday in a violent power struggle among Bosnian Serbs, firing tear gas and warning shots to fend off rock-hurling Serb mobs. An American soldier was injured in the clash, one of the most serious involving NATO peacekeepers since the Bosnian war ended.

Several civilians also were wounded in the melee. Roving mobs smashed the cars of international officials and roughed up foreign reporters.

As NATO helicopters clattered overhead, U.S. soldiers in full battle gear — the main component of NATO forces in the region — tried to maintain calm.

Thursday's violence stemmed from the feud pitting Serb President Biljana Plavsic against supporters of Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serbs' wartime leader and now sought by an international tribunal as its No. 1 war crimes suspect.

Yasser Arafat displeased with new Israeli response

HEBRON, West Bank — Yasser Arafat said Thursday that Israel's conciliatory move to lift the monthlong siege of Bethlehem was too small a gesture.

The Palestinian leader, who toured a factory and met with professors at Hebron University, complained that Israel's broader closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip constituted collective punishment and cost his economy \$9 million a day in lost trade and wages.

"It's a good step, but it is not enough," Arafat said of Israel's move Wednesday.

An aide to Arafat, meanwhile, called for U.S. pressure on Israel to end the overall blockade of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israel imposed the closure after a July 30 suicide bombing by Islamic militants in a Jerusalem market that killed 16 people. The measure bars all Palestinians, including some 100,000 workers, from entering Israel.

FROM WIRE REPORTS

Rock slide cleanup continues to halt traffic

BY VALERIE BREZINA
STAFF WRITER

A lengthy trip awaits students planning to travel west of Asheville for Labor Day weekend.

Cleanup efforts to remove the debris from a rock slide on Interstate-40 West began July 1 and continued this week with no end in sight.

"When it first started in July, we thought it may be done in about a month," said Sgt. Brown of the N.C. Highway Patrol. "But now some say it may be finished as late as December."

The cleanup efforts block the interstate for close to 30 miles, forcing detours that might involve driving through other states.

Sara Kempin, a spokesperson for the N.C. Highway Patrol, said the detours would aid those who needed to travel west, if the drivers didn't mind a leisurely drive.

"If, for example, you want to travel to Tennessee, you can go north into Virginia and then take a western route," she said. "But it is hard to calculate how much time one loses in taking alternative routes," Kempin said.

Bill Jones, a spokesman for the N.C. Department of Transportation, said the road could not be opened until his department determined the interstate's safety.

"We are working as hard as we can, but it is very difficult to put a time limit on this," he said. "Safety is our primary concern, and the slopes are still very unstable," Jones said.

He added that the DOT is taking numerous measures to ensure safety, but these precautions take time.

"We are bolting rocks to the mountains to keep large boulders from break-

ing loose; we are expanding the catchment, and we are placing a screen between eastbound and westbound lanes," he said. "All this must be done before we can open the road."

Kempin said some merchants in the western part of the state complained the I-40 cleanup affected possible revenue during a busy tourist season.

"The merchants in Hayward and Madison counties have been complaining about loss of business," she said. "These businesses are eligible for small business administration loans from the federal government."

DEAN
FROM PAGE 1

never made the newspapers," Luse said. Kessler also pointed out Schroeder's dedication to his work. "(He is) selfless in the amount of time he spends here at the University," Kessler said.

Schroeder prefers to downplay his time commitment.

"It's simply a part of the job," he said. "It's never been inappropriate or burdensome."

Schroeder prefers to discuss the more positive aspects of his work, such as working with student government.

"Student government is a wonderful representation of what politics are all about," Schroeder said.

In particular, he has devoted his energy to the student judicial system, taking part in the recodification of the Honor Code in the early 1970's and running numerous training sessions for those involved in the judiciary.

Schroeder also takes particular pride in establishing and coordinating the Frances L. Phillips Travel Scholarships. The scholarships offer students up to \$5,000 to develop and embark on their own educational travel programs.

"It's been a joy to work with the 100 students receiving the scholarship over the past five years," Schroeder said.

Kessler described the scholarships as one of Schroeder's "constant glows."

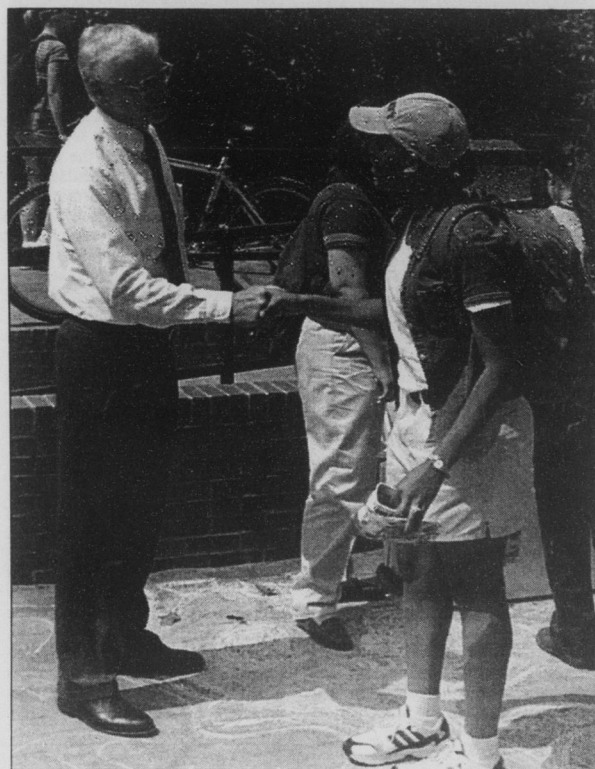
"It's a pleasure for him to see students take off and come back changed by their experiences," he said.

Schroeder also helped to coordinate many commencements.

"There is no happier a day out of the 365 days in the year, no more joyful an experience," he said of the ceremony.

Schroeder first came to UNC in 1964 to do postgraduate work in education administration. He then served as dean of men and director of the Department of Student Life and Student Activities. He became dean of students in 1984.

Schroeder said he wants to spend more time with his grandchildren dur-



Former Dean of Students Fred Schroeder shakes hands with Crystal Daniel, a sophomore from Winston-Salem, in the Pit on Thursday.

ing his retirement.

"After 33 years, it's time to do something different," he said. "I'm looking forward to that."

Though his colleagues understand, they agree he will be missed.

"Whoever comes in will never be like Fred," Kessler said.

FACULTY REWARDS
FROM PAGE 1

Award two years ago and the Johnston Teaching Excellence Award last spring.

He said salary rewards and recognition from peers are usually for research rather than teaching accomplishments.

But the teaching awards give him a greater sense of accomplishment.

"It's a different kind of recognition than you get from a book or an article," Kramer said. "These students are right there in the room with you, and it's a different kind of interaction."

The task force report suggests that the University reward professors who work hard advising students, work with student organizations, supervise student internships or promote student service, by giving them raises.

Faculty members would also try to identify new teaching methods and have informal contact with students as part of their regular evaluations.

Departments would be rewarded in their budgets if they find ways to reduce class sizes, sponsor intellectual student groups or offer more challenging courses.

And professors would get awards and grants for developing classes in public service.

Kramer said finding new ways to recognize teaching would change the focus of some professors from research.

"The teaching awards sort of balance the scales a little bit," he said.

Kramer does not hang his various degrees in his office. He used to keep his teaching awards off the walls, as well.

But he said he changed his mind about the awards.

"These are sort of symbolic of a long series of interchange with different people."

SCHROEDER
FROM PAGE 1

one of several speakers at the reception. "Fred's integrity is the hallmark of his character," he said, turning to Schroeder. "You have left very large footsteps for us to follow in. You have inspired us."

Carol Binzer, director of Student Services for the School of Nursing, attended the reception.

"Dean Schroeder is a very good mentor," Binzer said. "I can truly say he made a difference every single day."

Susan Kitchen, vice chancellor for student affairs, agreed.

"If you look around, it gives you a snapshot of all the lives Fred has touched over the years," she said.

Kitchen joined Associate Director of

Undergraduate Admissions Tony Strickland, in presenting a fly-fishing reel and pole to Schroeder.

"If there ever was a man who never went fishing and closed up shop on us, it was Fred Schroeder," Kitchen said.

Schroeder also received an autographed football and basketball from football coach Mack Brown and basketball coach Dean Smith, who were unable to attend the reception.

At the end of the ceremony, Richard Stevens, chairman of the Board of Trustees, presented a framed resolution of appreciation on behalf of the BOT.

When asked for his reaction to the reception and to all the people who came to wish him well, Schroeder simply said, "I'm overwhelmed, and I'm going to have to leave it at that."

"I'm overwhelmed."

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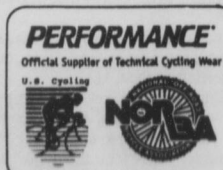
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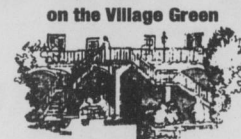
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SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION MEETING

Thursday, September 4, 1997 @ 4pm
Gerrard Hall