

The Daily Tar Heel

VOLUME 115, ISSUE 46

THURSDAY, JUNE 14, 2007

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BOUND FOR OMAHA

Tar Heels come back to beat USC, claim series

BY DAVID ELY SPORTS EDITOR

North Carolina closer Andrew Carignan stood alone on the mound looking down at South Carolina pinch hitter Drew Martin, just one strike away from a return trip to Omaha, Neb., and the College World Series.

BASEBALL

UNC 4
USC 9

INSIDE

He might have already thrown 68 pitches — easily his longest outing of the year — but with the stakes this high, there was no one any Tar Heel would rather have out there.

And he didn't disappoint.

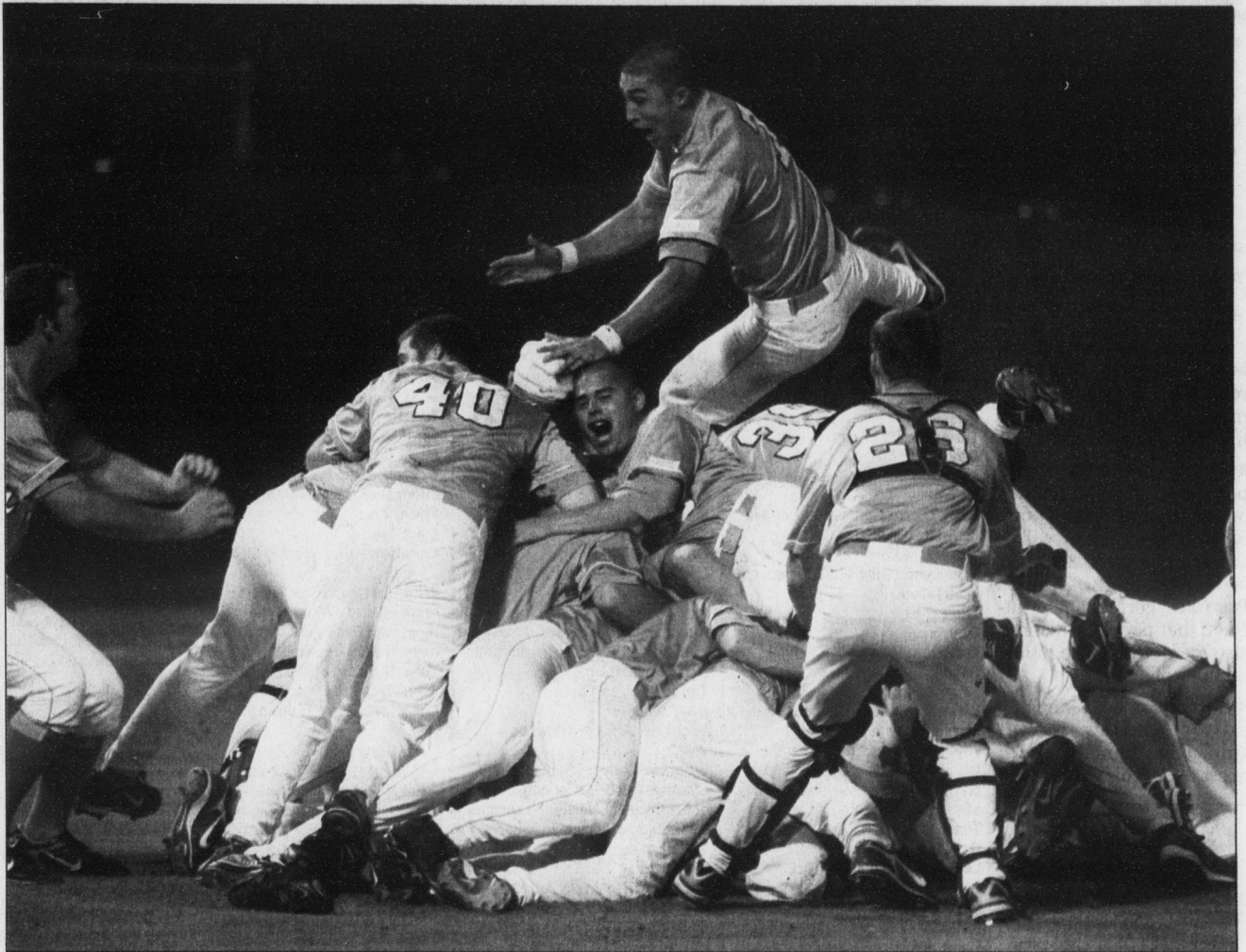
Carignan fanned Martin on his 69th pitch of the game to seal a 9-4 win against the Gamecocks and turned Boshamer Stadium into the biggest party Sunday night in Chapel Hill.

"It's kind of profound and prophetic that we play our last game at the old stadium and get one of the biggest wins in the program's history," North Carolina head coach Mike Fox said. "To see the look on their face when they win, for a coach, is priceless. You can't put it into words."

But it didn't always look like UNC (53-13) was going to send Boshamer Stadium out in style. For the third game of the series, the Tar Heels fell behind early to the Gamecocks (46-20), whose potent offense flexed its muscles with the game tied at one in the bottom of the fourth.

North Carolina starter Luke Putkonen gave up back-to-back singles before USC second baseman Travis Jones belted a one-out double to the left-center field gap to give the Gamecocks a 3-1 lead and bring right-hander Rob Wooten in to relieve

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North Carolina left fielder Reid Fronk leaps on top of his teammates as the Tar Heels celebrate their super regional clinching win against South Carolina on Sunday night at Boshamer Stadium. With the victory, UNC advanced to its second consecutive College World Series in Omaha, Neb., starting Friday against Mississippi State.

DTH/LARRY BAUM

Taheri-Azar apologizes in leaked letter

Pit driver asks for release to parent

BY TRACEY THERET CITY EDITOR

A letter in which the UNC alumnus charged with striking nine people in the Pit with a Jeep apologized to the University was supposed to remain sealed, District Attorney Jim Woodall said.

In the letter dated May 20, Iranian-born Mohammed Taheri-Azar wrote, "I am very sorry for the crimes which I committed in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, on March 3, 2006."

"I sincerely regret what I did on that day. Please release me from state custody so that I may pursue my goal of living a productive life in California."

Taheri-Azar, 23, wrote that he hopes to work with his father at his general contracting company in Anaheim, Calif., and "re-establish myself as a good, caring, and productive member of society."

The letter, which was sent to the Orange County Superior Courthouse, is under a court order and was placed in a file inaccurately, said the county's Clerk of Superior Court James Stanford, but the Associated Press reported on the letter Monday.

Taheri-Azar, 23, pleaded not



Mohammed Taheri-Azar, a UNC alumnus, is charged with nine felony and murder charges.

guilty in January to nine felony charges of assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury with an intent to kill and nine first-degree murder charges in connection with the day that left five victims seriously injured.

In letters to The Daily Tar Heel since the incident, he wrote that his actions were an effort to avenge the deaths of Muslims around the world.

In March, public defender James Williams requested a motion to require Taheri-Azar to undergo psychiatric evaluation at Dorothea Dix Hospital to determine his ability to participate in his defense.

Before the hearing was concluded, however, Taheri-Azar was thrown out of the court room after several outbursts, in which he repeatedly said he hated all Americans and Jews and that his attorney was a moron.

Taheri-Azar also apologized for the court incident in his letter, which was addressed, "Dear Sir or

SEE TAHERI LETTER, PAGE 4

Festival hails American opera

BY ALEXANDRIA SHEALY ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Think the absence of many UNC students during the summertime empties Chapel Hill of notable arts events?

The organizers of the Long Leaf Opera Festival, the first of its kind in the nation dedicated to opera written and performed in English, would beg to differ.

The festival will be held at UNC's Memorial Hall and other area locations from June 15 to July 1.

"During the summer, people think of Chapel Hill as a sleepy little town," said Randolph Umberger, artistic director for Long Leaf Opera.

"But there's great potential for an arts festival because the arts are so abundant here."

The Chapel Hill-based group will offer master classes, chamber music concerts and several world premiere performances. Many of these events feature nationally recognized names in opera today.

"This festival has been our goal for eight years," Umberger said.

"We wanted for American opera composers to be recognized and for everyone to see the beauty of these pieces."

"Strange Fruit," a world-premiere opera led by

SEE LONG LEAF, PAGE 4



The Long Leaf Opera Festival, the first of its kind, features only operas written and performed in English. "Strange Fruit" debuts tonight in Memorial Hall.

DTH/TIMOTHY REESE

ASG president's trial set for August

Judge declares conflict of interest, delays trial

BY ERIC JOHNSON SENIOR WRITER

NEW BERN — Cole Jones, president-elect of the UNC-system Association of Student Governments, will have to wait until at least August to find out whether pending criminal charges will affect his nascent administration.

Jones and his ASG colleagues had hoped the charges, which stem from a domestic dispute

in February, would be disposed of before Jones assumes office July 1.

But at a hearing June 11 in Craven County, Judge Walter Mills announced he had an unspecified conflict of interest relating to the case. The next proceeding will take place August 1st in front of a different judge.

"I was ready for this to be over," Jones said as he left the courthouse, flanked by his mother and girlfriend.

The legal wrangling between Jones and the maternal aunt of his two-year-old son is being closely monitored not only by ASG officials, but also by UNC-system President Erskine Bowles and his staff.



Cole Jones, president-elect of the ASG, is now in a legal dispute that may affect his position. Jones is charged with assault related to a Valentine's Day incident.

Once he assumes office, Jones will serve as the student member of the UNC-system Board of Governors, and university officials are concerned about the possibility of a sitting board

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CORRECTION

Last week's story, "Freshmen get feel for campus, fellow students," incorrectly states the number of orientation sessions for 2007.

There will be 15 new-student orientation sessions. The Daily Tar Heel apologizes for this error.

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Come to Omaha with us! Join the Tar Heels as they travel to Omaha, Neb., in search of their first national championship. Follow the action on our Web site, where we will be posting regular blog updates.



arts | page 10

Ocean's Thirteen

Director Steven Soderbergh's latest 'Oceans' movie isn't quite on par with previous installments — find out why in our review.

state | page 6

New tax on money wires

A new 5 percent tax on wire transfers would target illegal immigrants in N.C. The proposal is pending approval in the General Assembly.

dive blog

For more arts reviews, visit dive.dailytarheel.com

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