

Hurricane Elena strikes shore; 2 dead, 31 injured in its wake

From wire reports

Hurricane Elena powered ashore Monday, hitting the resort town of Biloxi, Miss. The hurricane, with 125-mph winds, caused two deaths and 31 injuries in Florida, and has left 100,000 Mississippians without power.

Elena reportedly tossed cars as if they were toys, snapped off trees and power lines and touched off uncounted fires blazing in the rubble left behind.

Mississippi Gov. Bill Allain has asked President Reagan to declare the state's resort coast a disaster area. Allain urged residents of the area to "do a lot praying."

Qaddafi overthrow attempted

CAIRO, Egypt — Libyan army and air force units reportedly attempted to overthrow Libyan leader Col. Muammar el Qaddafi Saturday after getting orders to invade the African nation of Tunisia.

The government-controlled Al Ahram newspaper said that the Libyan leader's personal guard arrested 13 senior air force officials and 30 army officers.

The alleged rebellion came on the 16th anniversary of Qaddafi's rise to power.

Ecuadorian banker held hostage

GUAYAQUIL, Ecuador — Alleged members of the Ecuadoran guerrilla group Alfaro Vive and the Colombian group, The April 19th Movement, are holding Ecuador's top banker for a \$5 million ransom.

Nahin Isaias, president of the Philanthropic Bank in Ecuador, along with several other hostages are being held in the slums of Guayaquil. As many as six hostages were released on Sunday.

It has been two days since the banker was last seen.

news in brief

Wage strike in South Africa

EAST LONDON, South Africa — Over 60,000 black miners in South Africa began striking Sunday over wages.

Cyril Ramaphosa, the general secretary for the National Union of Mine Workers, called the strike after three South African companies refused to negotiate a pay percentage increase.

Union leaders say they fear employers will break the strike, but leaders warn that the strike will expand to a wider area if that occurs.

Escape attempt unsuccessful

CORK, Ireland — By using a bulldozer and setting a fire to dormitory blocks, 70 inmates of Spike Island Prison broke out of the Cork Harbor facility Sunday.

Officials said 100 police reinforcements along with 200 soldiers stopped the prisoners' escape off the island.

The inmates surrendered peacefully 19 hours after the rebellion began. No injuries were reported.

Missing part forces 737 return

CHANTILLY, Va. — A Boeing 737-100 jetliner was forced to return to Dulles International Airport minutes after taking off for Newark, N.J., when a passenger observed that part of an engine casing was missing, officials said Sunday.

People Express Flight 183 returned to Dulles without incident, with 115 passengers and a crew of five aboard. The missing part of the engine was a cowling, an outer shell near the rear of the engine. The plane will be grounded until repaired or inspected by the FAA, said airline spokesman Ed Stukane.

Drug, alcohol program seeking counselors

By GRANT PARSONS
Staff Writer

The UNC-CH Drug and alcohol Outreach Program is looking for students to act as peer counselors so it can become fully operational this semester.

The program now is operating with a minimal staff and shortened hours, said Thomas Mills, who co-founded the Outreach Program with his brother Fetzter last spring.

"Right now, I don't know if we can handle an overload of students," Thomas Mills said. "But right now I'm more worried about a student coming in here and not getting the counseling he needs."

Students interested in becoming peer counselors would have to complete a training seminar given by Orange-Person-Chatham Mental Health Center, and would have to devote about 10 hours per month to the program, Mills said.

"We would have to ask for a commitment from

anyone who decided to go through the training," he said. "It's training that would otherwise cost money."

The Outreach Program now is open from 1 until 7 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and from 1 until 4 p.m. Fridays in Room 228 of the Student Union, but Mills said he hoped to operate 24 hours per day with the new counselors.

There will be a meeting for all interested students in the Frank Porter Graham Lounge on the second floor of the Student Union Thursday Sept. 5, at 7:30 p.m. Students can call 962-1400 for additional information.

The Outreach Program, started in an effort to give students with drug problems a place to turn for help, originally was staffed by doctors from OPC and students, but the doctors are not involved in counseling this semester.

"I'm not sure where they went," Mills said. "This summer was an organizational period, and at the end

of the summer nobody offered (professional) volunteer help."

The center still will provide outpatient therapy, and if needed, inpatient therapy, Mills said.

"If we can get enough counselors with proper training to staff the office, it will be better (than with doctors)," he said. "Students are more willing to talk to other students than with professionals."

At the end of the spring semester, the Outreach Program was averaging one phone call or student walk-in per day, Mills said.

"If one person calls in a day, at least I feel that you are reaching out to someone. It probably means that there are many more out there who need help. It shows a real need for a program like this."

"We're not in the business of telling people what they are doing is wrong," Mills said. "We're here to help them define their problem, and help them find the answers."

Grace period may make Oct. 1 buckle up less painful

By CRYSTAL BAITY
Staff Writer

It's downright uncomfortable at times, but wearing a seat belt may save your life.

On Oct. 1, wearing a seat belt means abiding by the law.

That's the day a mandatory seat belt law will most likely take effect in North Carolina, for drivers and their passengers under 12. The bill has already won approval by a Senate Judiciary I committee and goes before the full Senate this week.

The bill allows a 15-month grace period, leaving time for motorists to accustom themselves with the straps. The \$25 fine for breaking the law would become effective Jan. 1, 1987.

Officers will probably be giving verbal warnings during the grace period since it will take the officers themselves

some time to get used to looking for violators, said Keith Lohmann, police planner with the Chapel Hill Police Dept.

"The first thing we will do is check at accident scenes," he said. "The second thing is we will have officers checking while they are on routine patrol, the same way as when they check for speeders or red light offenders."

Seat belt infractions will be considered an equipment violation, resulting in some type of fine, said Lohmann. He said it would take people a few months to get adjusted to wearing seat belts and that he believed a grace period was fair.

"I sincerely hope they do provide a grace period, because it will take a while to get used to," Lohmann said. "We will certainly not go out on Oct. 1 and set up roadblocks on Airport Road to

see who is wearing their seat belt."

Lohmann said Chapel Hill already has a high percentage of residents buckling up and statistics by the Highway Safety Research Center show the same.

Fifty-two percent of all Chapel Hill-Carrboro drivers are wearing their seat belts, according to Bill Hunter, program manager for engineering studies at the Center.

Part of the credit goes to a successful "Seat Belts Pay Off" campaign conducted by the Center between April and October of 1983. "It (seat belt usage) increased from 24 percent to 41 percent by October of 1983," said Hunter.

"It fluctuated after that from 37 percent to 40 percent until recently while legislature debated over the law," he said.

The Center's staff members spot checked motorists and gave them coupons for wearing their seat belts.

The campaign was copied in several areas, including Waynesville and Winston-Salem, Hunter said.

"I expect to see a large public information program set into affect if the bill becomes law," he said. "We will continue looking at usage rates across the state to determine who is wearing their seat belt."

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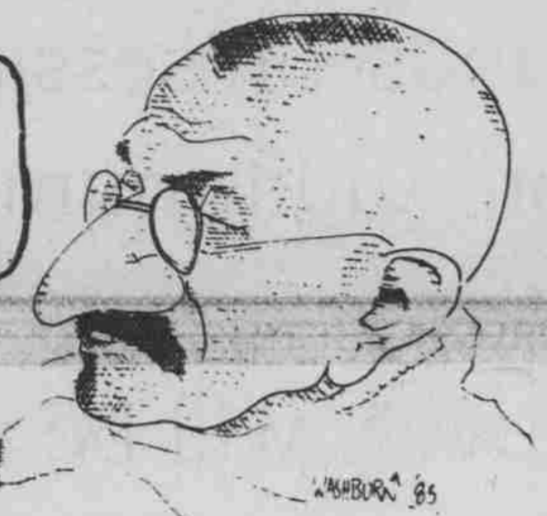
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