

Gloria days
Partly cloudy today with a
chance of rain. Highs
around 76.

The Daily Tar Heel

Serving the students and the University community since 1893

Volume 93, Issue 70

Friday, September 27, 1985

Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Hurricane
Gloria spreads gloom in
North Carolina. See news
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DWI law growing old, losing impact

By KATHY NANNEY

Staff Writer

While there was a notable decrease in the number of drunk drivers immediately after the Safe Roads Act went into effect, the long range effects are more dubious, said Robert Jones, special assistant to the commissioner of the N.C. Department of Motor Vehicles.

"We do know that shortly after the act went into effect, there was a rather dramatic and immediate decline, which is typical of any new law," Jones said. "But the immediate results are not the same as long range results, and we're beginning to get signs that the statistics are rising again."

The Safe Roads Act, which went into effect in October 1983, was passed to try to reduce the high number of alcohol-related traffic deaths and fatalities. It raised the drinking age to 19 for beer and wine and imposed stricter, mandatory sentences for convictions of driving under the influence.

Under the current law, a 16 of 17 year old caught drinking and driving loses his license until he is 18. A person convicted of a DWI charge faces a mandatory loss of his license, with a possible jail sentence and fine.

"... (The Safe Roads Act) has clearly had an impact

on people's attitudes," said James Drennan, counsel for the N.C. Administrative Office of the Courts. "The question we can't answer is how effective it is. Enough time just hasn't passed."

Drennan said the general pattern in states with drunk driving legislation is that immediately after the law goes into effect, there is a reduction in the number of people who drink and drive. But the number soon begins to rise, he said.

"There is a common perception, with all the publicity and hype when a law is passed, that they will be caught and convicted if they drive drunk," he said. "Later, when the publicity dies, they don't think it is as likely that they will be caught."

According to DMV statistics, in 1982, the year before the Safe Roads Act went into effect, 29 percent of motor vehicle fatalities in North Carolina were alcohol-related. The following year, 27 percent of motor vehicle fatalities were alcohol-related. That percentage dropped to 25 in 1984.

Despite the drop in the percentage of alcohol-related vehicle deaths, the total number of motor vehicle deaths

— and the number of alcohol-related deaths — increased last year. In 1983, 334 people died on N.C. highways as a result of alcohol. In 1984, there were 356 such deaths.

In 1982, there were over 18,500 injuries in traffic accidents which were alcohol-related. That number dropped to just over 14,500 in 1984, but rose again in 1984 to over 15,400, according to DMV statistics.

"I have heard from authorities such as the highway patrol that the Safe Roads Act was effective for a while, but now people are going back to their old habits," Jones said. "The statistics since the act was passed are not really enough to depend on, but they seem to bear that out."

According to a DMV alcohol test and evaluation report, the number of charges for driving while impaired in North Carolina has dropped since the Safe Roads Act went into effect. In 1984, there were 12,000 fewer DWI charges than in the previous year, and more than 22,000 fewer than in 1982. The lower number of charges is a good sign, Jones said.

"Certainly that was a result of the implementation of the Safe Roads Act," he said.

In Orange County last year, there were 859 DWI charges, about 350 fewer than in 1983, the same report said.

Sgt. R.E. Evans, of the Durham County highway patrol, said he believed the Safe Roads Act had been very beneficial, but that more law enforcement personnel would make it more effective.

"I think it is getting ... (drunk drivers) out from behind the wheel," he said. "It is effective in that it has made people very aware of the dangers of drunk driving and the consequences if they're caught."

"But of course we need more troopers to better enforce it. We haven't had an increase in personnel since around 1975."

Jones said increasing the number of law enforcement officers would be the best way of making the Safe Roads Act more effective.

"When you're driving down the road, going the speed limit, obeying the laws, and you see a state trooper, you lift your foot a little off the accelerator," he said. "It's an instinctive reaction. The visible presence of law enforcement officers on our highways is the best enforcement there is."

Cultural center plans near end

By DENISE MOULTRIE

Staff Writer

The Black Cultural Center steering committee will come closer to defining the center and its purposes at a meeting today in the Student Union, said Edith Wiggins, associate vice chancellor and associate dean of student affairs.

Wiggins, who is a member of the steering committee, said the center had one mission — to create an appreciation and understanding of the diversity of the campus.

"There is a need for a multi-cultural environment," she said. "The center will be able to help develop that."

The center will be a division of student affairs, said Sibby Anderson, Black Student Movement president. "... (It) will seek to enhance as well as promote the already multi-cultural environment at the University through its various programs and services," she said. "The center hopes to improve minority recruitment and retention as well as educate the entire University."

Student Body President Patricia Wallace said students must understand that the center was not a black issue. "A black cultural center would benefit the whole University."

"Many white students don't understand that black students come from a different culture and have a different perspective and have different needs than the average white student," she said.

"I find that just understanding the black perspective helps me to better interact with black students," Wallace said. "Without knowing the whole story of a person, you can't treat them completely as a person."

A center would help educate white students about black culture, she said. "The center is needed so that all students would understand the black culture more clearly."

"I strongly support the idea and concept of a black cultural center," Wallace said.

Wiggins said the office of student affairs supported the concept of a black cultural center. "This office has not received the proposal. ... In terms of the specifics and the details, we (at student affairs) have not had to react to it."

Anderson said support for the center came from the Black Faculty Caucus, the BSM General Body, the Black Greek Council, Student Government and the office of student counseling.

"We (the steering committee) haven't really sought additional support, though people have offered verbal support," she said.

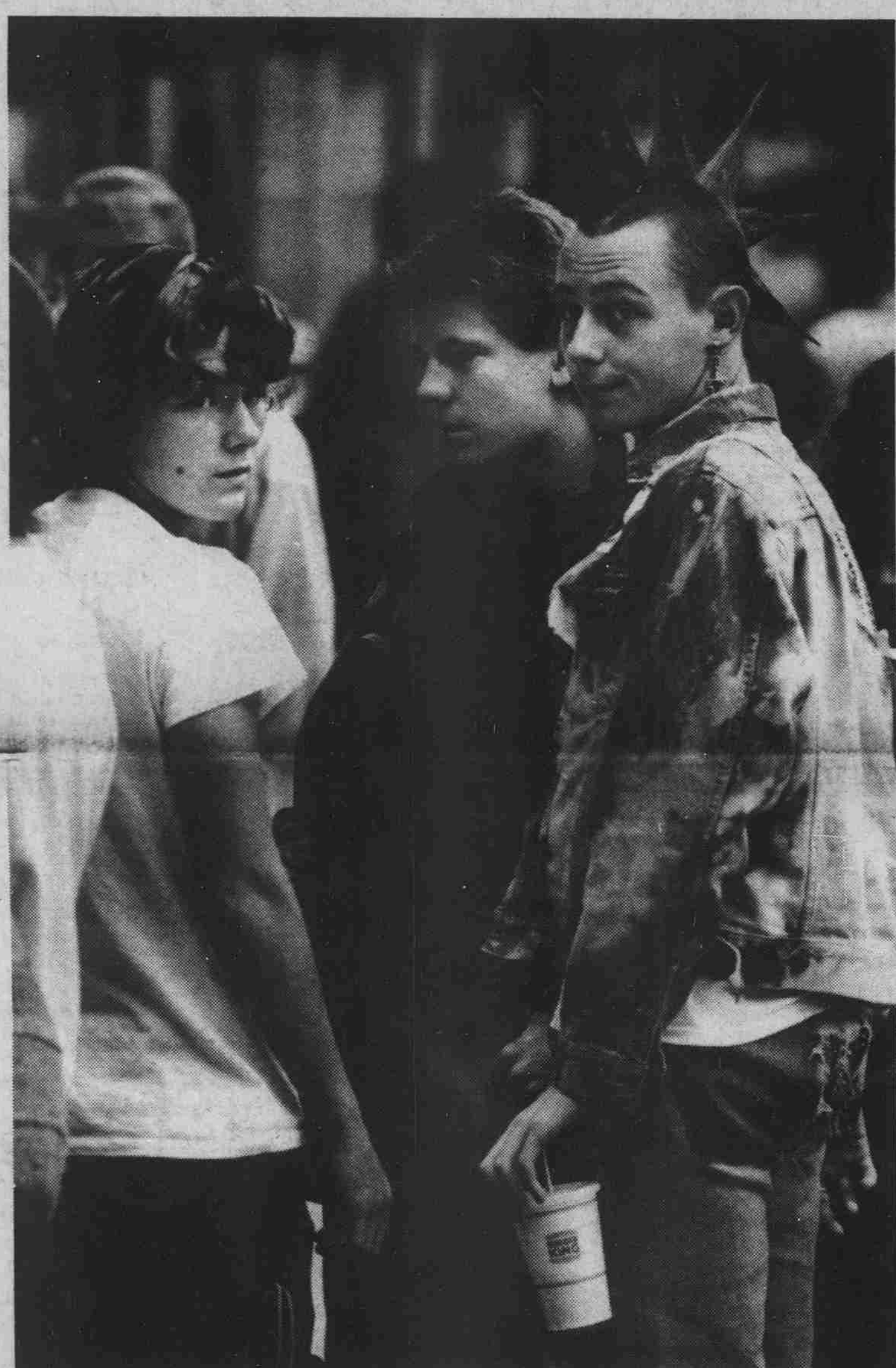
"Though the final decision will be made by Donald A. Boulton (vice chancellor and dean of student affairs), it will not be without co-operation with the Black Cultural Center steering committee."

"The decision will be based on a final statement submitted by the steering committee," she said. "It will be an agreement that both will accept."

Anderson said space allocation was one obstacle. Last week, Anderson said the center would be in the vending machine area on the main floor of the Student Union. But neither Wallace nor Anderson would confirm that information Thursday.

"The final statement of the center's steering committee and space go hand-in-hand," she said. "I don't think we

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DTH/Larry Childress

From Chapel Hill High School to Franklin Street, punkers are a common sight

Punkers seeking fringes of society

By HEATHER FREY

Staff Writer

In *The Return of the Living Dead*, they were wild, rebellious and dressed like members of Hell's Angels. The punkers, that is — not the corpses.

Chapel Hill has its own version of these untamable teenagers. They hang out on Franklin Street and talk about how much they hate school or when the next punk concert is scheduled. They buy clothes at the thrift shop and style each other's hair.

And, because they are different, they are harassed, laughed at or — occasionally — beaten.

The punkers say they don't deserve this treatment.

Fifteen-year-old Chris "Rat" Williams, a ninth-grader at Grey Culbreth Junior High School, said punkers dressed the way they did because: "We like it. It expresses the real us."

Rat, another ninth-grader at Culbreth nicknamed "Otto" and UNC freshman "Toby" Pendleton laughingly agreed that "the real us" was "a bum."

But 18-year-old Toby, who calls himself a hard-core punker, said he didn't dress the part as much as he did at Chapel Hill High School.

"Back when I was trying to look more punk, I felt like I was putting on too much of an image," he said. "I decided to just go to shows and hang out with whoever I wanted to."

Rat, however, said he really liked his Mohawk haircut and Army boots. To him, it's not an image; it's how he likes to dress.

"I've wanted a Mohawk ever since I was really young," he said. His mother and stepfather, he said, supported his decision to dress punk. Both help him keep his head shaved and helped pierce his ear.

But Otto's father dislikes the fashion and called the ear-piercing fad "self-mutilation," Otto said.

"There's nothing he can do to stop me dressing this way, though," he said, "unless he just physically keeps me from doing it."

The three said being a punker was a way of rebelling against society's rules.

Is this the '60s flower child ideal all over again? Will they grow out of it? Rat said that was possible.

Otto added: "During that period, all the flower children were saying, 'We're never going to grow out of this.' ... Now they're all Yuppies making \$80,000 and driving Porsches."

Unlike the hippies of the '60s, punkers have cultivated a reputation for starting trouble and being violent. Yet Otto said he couldn't recall one instance of punkers on Franklin Street instigating violence.

He said one or two group members tended to antagonize UNC students but added that they were exceptions. These people, he said, aren't popular with the other punkers, or anybody else.

But one faction defends the other. "We're all the same group," Otto said. "We stick together, but we may not necessarily love each other."

Unity is an important strength of the punkers, considering how they are treated at school and on the street. At Culbreth, Rat said, "the black people just mock us and criticize us. The preppies criticize us. It's like, if they know they can kick your ass, they'll criticize you to your face. Most of the kids at our school keep criticizing till you prove you can kick their asses."

If a punker loses a fight but stands up for himself, Rat said, the other students eventually leave him alone.

Why do the punkers put themselves through this abuse? Rat, Otto and Toby each said he wanted to be different and wanted to stand up for this right. They said that they realized differences were tolerated more easily in America than in other countries and that they appreciated their freedom of expression.

"There are a lot of people that say they hate the United States and would welcome the communists attacking, but I'm not like that," Otto said. "If somebody attacked the United States and I was 18, I would more than likely go to war."

"But there are punks in East Germany that get arrested for wearing a pen that has a banned name on it."

Toby said punkers wouldn't be misunderstood if people tried to be open-minded.

"Since students are here for a liberal arts education, part of that is being exposed to a lot of different things," he said.

Marching Tar Heels: no lines, no march

By RANDY FARMER

Staff Writer

The trumpets will blare and the drums will pound but the Marching Tar Heels won't march in Saturday's game.

The lines are so faded on the band's practice field that the members cannot rehearse the steps for their show, so band Director Maj. John Yesulaitis said he had refused to let them march for Saturday's halftime show.

"It's impossible to practice for a show without a lined field," Yesulaitis said. "We've made every effort to practice on that field. It just wasn't working."

The band will play the pre-game show and then sit in the end zone and continue playing their regular set.

Paul Hoolahan, assistant athletic director, said lining the band field definitely was something the Athletic Department had on its list to do.

"Projects have to be prioritized," Hoolahan said. "We had to postpone the band field until we finished other projects."

Yesulaitis told band members at a meeting Wednesday that he didn't want them to march at Saturday's game, and the members agreed.

Yesulaitis said he had filed two requests — one in July and another in August — to the Athletic Department for the field to be lined.

Hoolahan said he did not learn about

the band's request until a few days ago.

The band practices on the Astroturf field near Boshamer Stadium. The lines on the field fade mainly because of sunlight, Hoolahan said, and the last time they were painted was several years ago.

"Someone has to establish priorities," Hoolahan said. "I can sympathize with the band and all parties involved. It's a matter of giving priorities because we have limited workers, time and resources."

Some band members said they were upset with the situation.

"There are no lines on that field," said Leslie Marlow, a band member. "It's no big deal to paint lines. It's just hard to practice in the conditions of that field and then try to do a show in the perfect conditions of Kenan Stadium."

Joe Stewart, another band member, said: "Here's a college that compares to Harvard. It would seem that the Harvard standard would go all the way down the line."

"It's just not going to carry us anymore," Stewart said. "These are legitimate gripes. We've been good on too little for too long."

Yesulaitis said: "We're not cry babies. We play for all kinds of events. The kids play on a voluntary basis and always give their best. We'll do our best for the pre-game show."

Trial to begin for Harris in Golkho murder case

By MIKE GUNZENHAUSER

Staff Writer

The trial begins Tuesday for Alton Eugene Harris Jr., the Chapel Hill man charged with first-degree murder and attempted rape in connection with the stabbing death of UNC sophomore Fresheteh Golkho.

Police arrested Harris, 20, of 801 Estes Drive, on March 17. He was denied bond and has been held in the Orange County Jail in Hillsborough since his arrest.

Harris pleaded not guilty to the charges in the last session of superior court, Harris' attorney, Public Defender Kirk Osborn, said.

The trial may be over in a week, Osborn said, depending on the difficulty of jury selection.

"It's a harder case to try because of what's been going around here lately," Osborn said, alluding to the abduction and murder of UNC graduate student Sharon Lynn Stewart.

District Attorney Carl Fox, who is prosecuting the case, said jury selection would take two to three days.

Golkho was found dead at 7:15 p.m. on March 16 with 18 stab wounds to the chest. Keith Bowles II, a neighbor, called police after he heard screams coming from Golkho's apartment.

Police found a wallet belonging to Harris and an 18-inch butcher knife

near Golkho's body. Harris' fingerprints were found on the apartment window.

Harris had been dating one of Golkho's roommates at the time of the murder, and Golkho's sister, Faiba Golkho-Homesley, has said that Golkho had objected to Harris spending too many nights in the apartment.

Blood matching Golkho's blood type was found by police on Harris' shoes and clothing.

Golkho-Homesley said she planned to attend the trial.

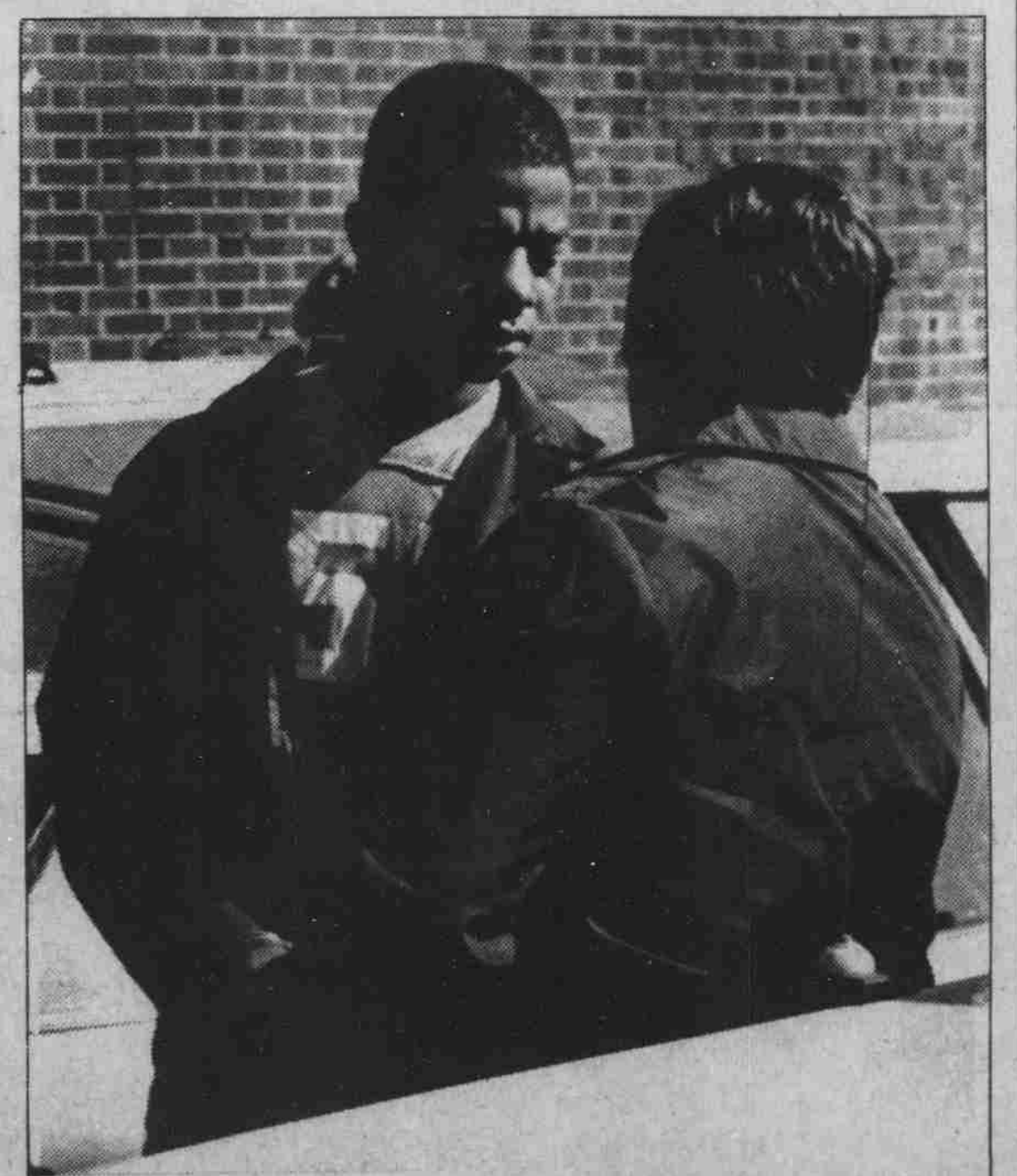
"I'd go through it a hundred times over for her," she said.

She added that she hoped the trial would make people more aware "of the terrible criminal trend we've been having here lately."

"Indirectly, it affects all of us," she said, calling for "a gesture of protest against the rash of violence against students."

"A lot of things need to be corrected," she said. "I'd hate to think Fresheteh died in vain."

Golkho, a native of Tehran, Iran, lived in Jacksonville with her family for about 10 years. She attended Jacksonville High School and lived in Hinton James dormitory as a freshman. After taking a year off from school, Golkho had returned in the fall of 1984 as a sophomore.



DTH/rue Photo

Alton Harris goes to trial Tuesday

Individuality of expression is the beginning and end of all art — Goethe