

Partly cloudy

High in mid-50s

Weekend: Rain
High in 40s

The Daily Tar Heel

UNC vs. N.C. State
basketball ticket
distribution
Sunday, 6-9 p.m., Smith Center

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Saddam approves release of all hostages

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Saddam Hussein told his parliament Thursday to free all foreign hostages in response to "positive changes" in the Persian Gulf crisis, and he said Iraq should apologize to the thousands who were held.

Saddam said the reason for holding foreigners — to deter an attack — had diminished. He also said Iraqi troops had been given the time to become battle-ready.

The Iraqi leader also noted the growing U.S. movement opposing President Bush's efforts to form a consensus on using military action to dislodge Iraq from Kuwait.

The 250-seat National Assembly, which routinely supports the ruling Baath party leader, scheduled a meeting for 11 a.m., Friday.

If the Assembly approves Saddam's proposal as expected, it would be the first time Iraq has agreed to abide by a U.N. Security Council resolution on the crisis sparked by Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait.

Iraq holds thousands of foreigners, whom it refers to as "guests." Some 600 of them have been moved to strategic sites to serve as human shields to ward off military action.

Ershad resigns, swears in new leader

DHAKA, Bangladesh — President Hussain Muhammad Ershad resigned Thursday after ruling the country for eight years, handing power to an interim leader chosen by the opposition.

Ershad, a former army general who took power in a 1982 coup, had faced seven weeks of often violent, nationwide protests against his government. On Tuesday, he promised to step down as soon as a replacement was named.

Earlier Thursday, Ershad lifted the state of emergency in effect since Nov. 27.

Later, he administered the oath of office to Shahabuddin Ahmed, a political independent nominated by the country's opposition parties as caretaker vice president. He then signed a letter of resignation, making Ahmed acting president.

"Allah bless you," Ershad told Ahmed after the 15-minute ceremony. "You have our blessings. I want peace to return to society."

Aide's testimony aids Noriega prosecution

MIAMI — Manuel Noriega's former aide gave prosecutors a big boost Thursday, pleading guilty to charges he delivered hundreds of thousands of dollars in drug money to the deposed Panamanian leader.

The plea bargain by Luis del Cid shores up a government case that in recent months had bogged down in disputes over frozen bank accounts, lawyers' fees and leaked tapes of Noriega's prison phone calls.

"The admission is significant," U.S. attorney's office spokeswoman Diane Cossin said. "The defense attorney has asserted that his client is very knowledgeable."

However, Noriega defense attorney Jon May said del Cid was simply one more in a growing list of witnesses whose testimony was bought with promises of reduced sentences.

— From Associated Press reports

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State approves new grievance policy

By LEE WEEKS
Staff Writer

The State Personnel Commission made short work of UNC's controversial grievance procedure Thursday by unanimously approving a revised policy at a state hearing in Raleigh.

After the vote, UNC administrators and personnel expressed both pleasure

and discontent.

Chancellor Paul Hardin said he was sure the revised policy would work for employees. "It's a superb procedure and the other one was not," he said.

The new procedure gives the University more time to respond to a Step 2 grievance. The University now has 30 days to respond instead of five.

The new policy also requires employees to file complaints seven days after the incident about which they are filing occurs. Under the old policy, employees had 15 days to file.

The new procedure will allow employees to have a lawyer in Step 3. University employees have asked that lawyers be allowed at all steps of the

process.

Many University employees said they disagreed with the approved policy because they felt some of the stipulations would hinder employees with grievances.

Keith Edwards, a UNC police officer who has filed four grievances against the University for sexual and racial

discrimination, said the University was asking for trouble by adopting the policy.

"I really feel the University is going to see more lawsuits as a result, because right now tension in some departments is at the point where people are at each other's throats," she said. "We may

See POLICY, page 5

Investigation begins into cause of Brooks Hall fire

Initial \$500,000 damage estimate may increase

By MATTHEW MIELKE
Staff Writer

The fire at University Press Wednesday night in Brooks Hall left extensive property damage and many unanswered questions for investigators at the scene Thursday morning.

Capt. Rodney Murray of the Chapel Hill fire department said Thursday that 80 percent of the building was burned. The upper level was destroyed by fire, but the basement was not as severely damaged, he said.

"Some stuff downstairs could be salvaged," he said.

Matthew Hodgson, University Press director, said the blaze also destroyed a collection housing every book the company had published since its opening in 1922.

Representatives of the State Bureau of Investigation, the Chapel Hill Fire Department and the University Police are conducting an investigation into the fire, but they have not determined the cause.

"It is going to take a couple of days," Murray said.

Fire Chief Daniel Jones said the initial damage estimate was \$500,000, but that figure probably would increase.

A nearby family first alerted the fire department about the fire, Jones said. When the call was dispatched, the fire already had burned through the roof.

"The basement is fairly intact," he said. "We have got a lot of materials covered with salvage covers."

The main cause of damage in the basement was fallen debris, Jones said.

Four firefighters received minor injuries while combating the fire, he said. Two firefighters stepped on nails in the building, and the other two suffered muscle injuries.

Officials examined the central section of the building Thursday afternoon. Jones said investigators allowed University Press employees to salvage computers and layout materials.

Hodgson said he was able to salvage computers and layout materials.

He also said University Press would look for a location to rebuild.

UNC-system President C.D. Spangler said he thought the University system should help the University Press find a temporary location. "I would

See COST, page 6

Alarm systems worry town, University officials

By PETER F. WALLSTEN
City Editor

As University Press employees stood by and watched a three-alarm fire engulf their workplace, some expressed dismay that most of the building had already burned before the fire department was notified.

Several town officials also expressed concern about the alarm system in Brooks Hall, the home of the University Press. The building, which was built in 1980 and was UNC-system property, was equipped with a manual alarm system.

The fire department was notified of the blaze at 6:15 p.m. Wednesday, and the blaze was extinguished by 7:15 p.m. The cause of the fire remains unknown,

and representatives of the State Bureau of Investigation are assisting town and campus officials in the investigation.

Brooks Hall, located on the corner of Boundary Street and Hooper Lane, was built before the adoption of state codes requiring the installation of sprinklers and smoke detectors, said Chapel Hill Mayor Jonathan Howes. The town administers the codes, he said.

Certain buildings, like Brooks Hall, which were built before the code was adopted should be changed to meet its requirements, Howes said.

"Clearly the code needs to include things like automatic fire alarms, smoke detectors and sprinklers," he said. "(But) it doesn't go as far as it should. (Brooks Hall) is a building where they would be

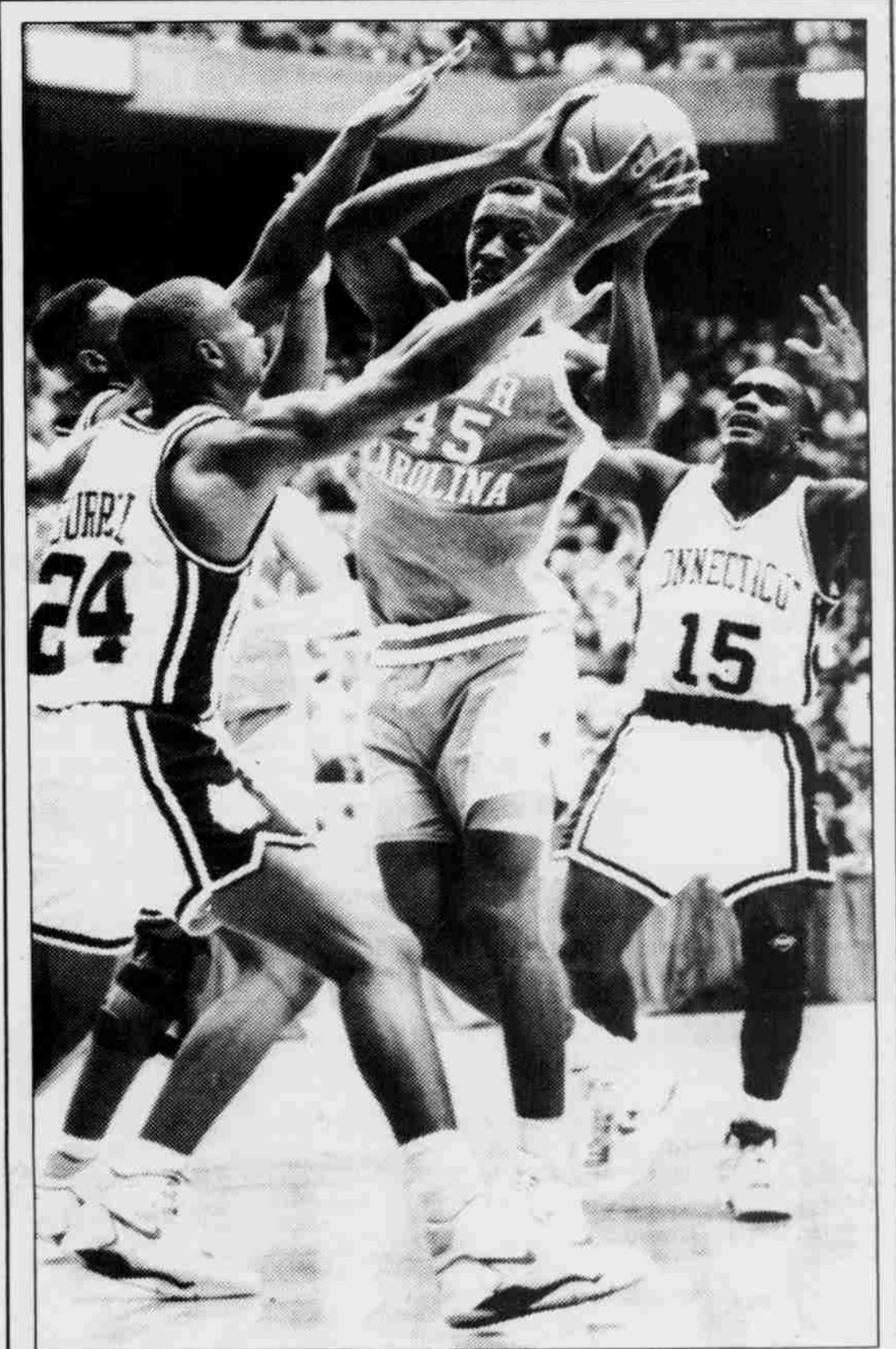
quite appropriate."

University officials are concerned about the swiftness of the spread of Wednesday's fire, and the dangers it implies for other campus buildings without sprinklers.

"That's concerned all of us," said Gene Swecker, associate vice chancellor for facilities management. "It's highly unusual for a building (fire) to get out of control that quickly."

UNC-system President C.D. Spangler said the alarm system in Brooks Hall had not performed adequately and that the fire department should have had earlier warning. Richard Hendel, associate director of the UNC Press, was in

See ALARMS, page 6



DTH/Kathy Michel

Basket bound

UNC's Clifford Rozier slices through a Husky sandwich of John Gwynn (15) and Scott Burrell (24) Thursday night at the Smith Center. See story, page 7.

Edwards: Associate attorney general plays 'unfairly'

By ELIZABETH BYRD
Senior Writer

The "jury" will be out for at least a week on the University's appeal of Keith Edwards' grievance claiming that she was a victim of racial and sexual discrimination.

The State Personnel Commission (SPC) heard arguments Thursday from Alan McSurely, who represented Edwards, and State Associate Attorney General Lars Nance, who represented UNC.

The SPC also heard the University

appeal of the discrimination grievance of Helen Iverson, a UNC Physicians and Associates employee.

McSurely said he thought the fact that the two cases came at the same time made an impact on the committee. "I think the Personnel Commission was struck by the fact of the Edwards case and the Iverson case back to back," he said. "On the whole, the hearing went very well."

Edwards said she thought Nance played unfairly. He presented the facts in a misleading manner and waged a

personal attack on administrative law Judge Delores Nesnow, she said. Nesnow decided in favor of Edwards in a July 19 hearing.

In her decision Nesnow awarded Edwards reasonable attorney's fees and ordered the University to promote her to lieutenant in the campus police department for four months.

"Lars Nance twisted around a lot of the facts to benefit the University's side," Edwards said. "He questioned (Nesnow's) integrity, qualifications and her ability as a judge. He said she was

more or less incompetent. The whole time (during his argument) he just talked about her decision."

McSurely said he was surprised at Nance's tactics. "I thought it was unusual to be so personally critical of a judge,"

he said. "Lawyers don't do that often." Edwards said she hoped Nance's rhetoric would not confuse the panel or prevent it from examining the real issue

See EDWARDS, page 5

Foundation to give UNC \$3.5 million campaign gift

By SHANNON O'GRADY
Staff Writer

The Educational Foundation (Rams Club) will make a \$3.5 million gift to the University for the 1993 Bicentennial Campaign, Chancellor Paul Hardin said Wednesday.

About \$2.3 million of the gift will be used to build a new complex for the Graduate School of Business. The remaining \$1.2 million will be used to fulfill other University needs at Hardin's discretion.

Ben Tuchi, vice chancellor for business and finance, said the Educational Foundation made the decision to apply part of the gift toward the new business school complex.

"It is unusual that some of it (the gift)

is left for the chancellor's discretion," he said. "Between 80 and 90 percent of the gifts to the University, depending on the year, are designated for a certain area or institution."

Robert Sweeney, Bicentennial Campaign director, said the gift was one of the largest donations to an academic fund-raising drive the University had ever received from a campus athletic association.

The Educational Foundation usually raises funds for student-athlete scholarships.

Hardin said the gift was an important symbol of the University's commitment to education. "The Foundation has a

See DONATE, page 5

Police release composite of kidnap suspect

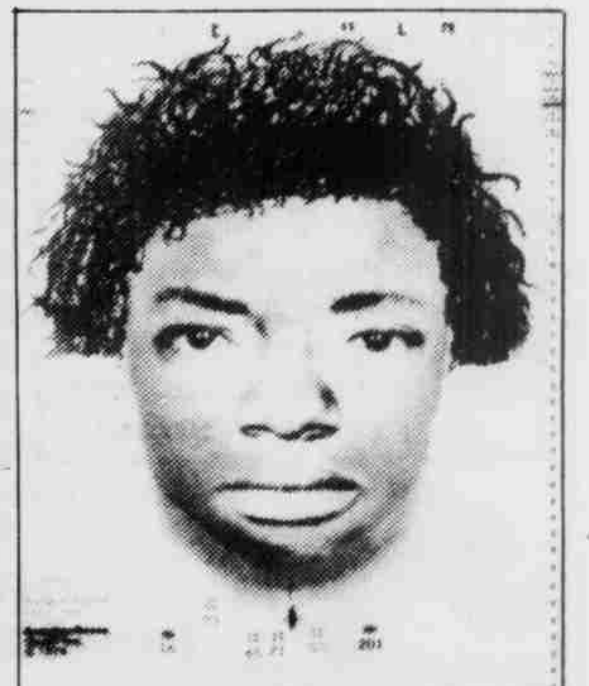
From staff reports

A composite drawing of the abductor in a kidnapping incident that occurred Monday afternoon was made available by Chapel Hill police Thursday.

Around 4:15 p.m., a woman in the parking lot of University Mall was approached by a man with a gun. The man forced the woman into her car and made her drive to an unknown residence off Manns Chapel Road in Chatham County.

The woman was forced into the residence and ordered to stay in a front room.

See KIDNAP, page 5



Composite of alleged abductor



DTH/Sarah King

A peeling cause

Roland Giduz, director of public affairs for Village Companies, and Bill Bayliss, a local attorney, ring bells

for Salvation Army donations in front of the post office on Franklin Street Thursday afternoon.

I wasn't kissing her, I was whispering in her mouth. — Chico Marx