

**News
Briefs**

compiled by Addie Tschamler

• Susan Smith, who admitted to drowning her two sons last year, will face the death penalty if she is convicted of murder, her prosecutor said Monday. Courtroom spectators were shocked when Solicitor Tommy Pope said he would seek to have her electrocuted. Smith's attorney said Smith claims she wants to die.

• The Japan earthquake, with a magnitude of 7.2, killed about 600 people as it slammed across the western half of the country Tuesday morning. More than 2,000 people were injured and hundreds more were trapped in collapsed building after the quake struck. 200 buildings were damaged or destroyed, police said.

• The Secret Service said that they would like to review an unaired television interview with an abortion foe who said that the assassination of President Clinton and Supreme Court justices could be justified for the cause. Roy McMillan, head of the Christian Action Group in Mississippi, said Monday that he was misquoted in a transcript of the interview. A written transcript was released Saturday by Fox Broadcasting Co.

• A state highway patrol officer shot and paralyzed a suicidal man in North Raleigh after the man led police through two counties and then reportedly pointed a hunting rifle at the officers. Jamie Rayford Ross, a 25-year-old man, said he would not be taken alive as he escaped from Raleigh police at about 7:30 p.m. Ross is in serious condition at Duke University Medical Center in Durham, said a hospital spokesman.

History professor intrigues students

contributed by Sara White

Room 105 is quiet as the morning sunshine gleams through the windows of the Joyner classroom. Students' feet are flat on the floor. Their hands are gripping pencils, and their eyes are eagerly waiting for Dr. Michael Novak's ancient history lecture. Highly respected by students and faculty, Novak has won the hearts of the Meredith community.

He enjoys teaching at the small women's college because he says it provides an atmosphere where faculty and students can form relationships outside the classroom. Having gone to a small Baptist co-ed school in Ohio, Novak values the atmosphere here and says, "In fact, I still correspond with my old faculty."

After his schooling in Ohio, Novak travelled to Massachusetts to Harvard University. There, he says he received the education needed to be a successful professor. This was a big change for him because he had never lived in a city with a population over 5,000. Nevertheless, he says he was able to adjust to this Cambridge lifestyle and play several intramural sports.

Novak's energy and love of fun make him a good teacher not only in the classroom, but also in the home.

himself and the world around him." Novak also says that Matthew does not know the meaning of the word "no."



photo by Jetson

Dr. Michael Novak contemplates the deeper subjects in history with his good friend the gargoyle. (It is also rumored that the gargoyles keep the demons out of Novak's office when he is trying to work.)

He is the proud father of a 1-year-old boy named Matthew. If you ever get the chance to ask him about his son, you will see the wealth of happiness that surrounds him.

"It is hard not to be happy when my boy is," Novak explains. "He is at the age where he is trying to figure out

But just like in his classroom, Novak's patience is a positive influence when

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WINGS president relies on support of family

contributed by Lisa Alexander

Alyce Turner is a recognizable face to many after this past registration and drop/add because she is employed at Meredith in the office of the registrar. She is tall, graceful woman with reddish-blond hair, smooth skin and a soft voice. But while the beauty of her skin belies her age, Turner's journey to this point in her life has not been easy. A high school graduate with no prior college experience, Turner married at sixteen, raised four children, and then, after 23 years of marriage, found herself divorced and in



need of a job.

Turner found employment in retail positions to support herself and one son still at home and eventually took a typing course at a community college. For eight years before she came to the Raleigh area, she worked as a chiropractor's assistant. But all the while, Turner's dissatisfaction with her life grew: "I was just so tired of being a victim, of being a nothing, of being bored." She paused, deep in thought. "I was so depressed in Florida. I had to do something for my sanity."

Turner's children had been very supportive, encouraging their mother to go back to school and realize her

dream of obtaining a college degree. but it wasn't until her sister called and invited her to Raleigh that things clicked into place. "She said move here and go to school. In a month's time I was packing." She smiles remembering that winter of 1991-92. "I drove up here and was in school before I knew it."

Her brother-in law recommended Meredith to Turner. "I arrived in town January first," she explains, "had an appointment with Sandra [Close] on the second, and began school on the sixth. I was so excited not to have to take the SAT. Instead, I would be judged on my first fifteen hours of classwork." The reassurance that she could prove her worth in the classroom, as well as the support she received from the re-entry program, gave Turner the confi-

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