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IN THE NEWS

Top stories from the state, nation and world

Middle East Peace Talks Reopen Amid High Hopes

WASHINGTON — Emotion-charged Middle East peace talks reopened Tuesday with confident Palestinian and Israeli predictions that a historic agreement to establish Palestinian self-rule would be concluded within days.

Moreover, Nabil Shaath, chief political adviser to Palestine Liberation Organization chairman Yasser Arafat, said, "We hope to hear very soon—tomorrow or the day after" statements of "full mutual recognition" by Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Israeli sources confirmed that Arafat and Rabin would move toward an accommodation but said the announcement might be several days off.

The sources, declining to be identified, also said the PLO had agreed that 3,300 Jewish settlers would remain in Gaza with Israel responsible for their security.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher, praising the accord that will put the PLO in charge of day-to-day life in Gaza and in the West Bank city of Jericho as "a conceptual breakthrough," said the United States was prepared to provide financial assistance.

Yeltsin Attempts to Create New Legislative Council

MOSCOW — After failing to defeat his opponents head-on, President Boris Yeltsin is trying a new tactic: circumvent them with plans for a new legislative body and state treasury.

The strategy, however, might only intensify his power struggle with the Russian parliament and heighten the risk of "dual government" paralysis. The parliament is led by Yeltsin's main political rival, speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov.

Yeltsin had promised a battle to end the feud with hard-line lawmakers, who had assailed his political and economic reforms over the past two years, claiming they are impoverishing and dividing Russia.

Yeltsin's chief of staff, Sergei Filatov, told the ITAR-Tass news agency that a new 176-seat legislative body, called the Federation Council, would be created next week.

Jackson Accuser's Father Made Threats on Phone

SINGAPORE — Michael Jackson's doctor pronounced him fit after a brain scan Tuesday and said the entertainer could continue his concert tour.

Jackson's publicists and his doctor have insisted the cancellations had no connection to allegations that he sexually abused a 13-year-old Los Angeles area boy.

On Monday, KCBS-TV in Los Angeles and CBS News broadcast excerpts of a tape recording on which a man, purportedly the father of the boy Jackson is accused of molesting, threatened to ruin Jackson's reputation.

On the tape, a telephone conversation allegedly between the boy's father and stepfather, the voice identified as the father is heard making a threat involving Jackson and the boy's mother. The parents recently were involved in a custody dispute over the boy.

"Certain things are going to have to come out, and those two are not going to have any defense against me whatsoever," said the voice on the tape, allegedly recorded in July. "It's going to be a massacre if I don't get what I want," he added without elaborating.

Witness: Beating Suspect Declared Violent Intent

LOS ANGELES — A man accused of beating trucker Reginald Denny at the outset of last year's riot had declared earlier that "today I'm going to hit and kill people," another victim of the rioting testified Tuesday.

Gabriel Quintana, a gas station attendant working at the corner of Florence and Normandie avenues on April 29, 1992, said defendant Damian Williams approached him that afternoon and made the threat.

Later, during the riot, Williams dragged him out of a bathroom where he was hiding, pushed his head through the glass cashier's window, beat him and demanded money, Quintana testified.

The witness also identified Williams as one of Denny's attackers.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Weather

TODAY: Partly cloudy, hot, humid; high low 90s

THURSDAY: 30-percent chance of afternoon showers; high 90-95

Emily Brushes N.C. Coast, Veers Toward Northeast

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS
ATLANTIC BEACH — Coastal North Carolina was deserted Tuesday evening as residents breathed a sigh of relief that Hurricane Emily had left the N.C. coast unscathed, save a few minor scratches.

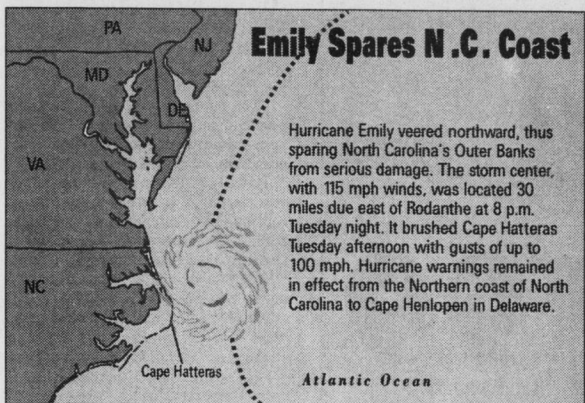
"There was light damage on the Outer Banks. Walkways and small piers were washed away. Winds reached 100 miles per hour at (Cape) Hatteras and there was some structural damage to a few homes," said a spokesman for the North Carolina Highway Department. "Much of the beachfront damage was due to waves that were four to eight feet high."

Many buildings along Ocracoke and Hatteras islands lost their roofs as wind gusts topped 90 mph, said Dare County emergency management officials, who abandoned their operations center on Hatteras because of flooding.

The center of the hurricane got as close as about 20 miles due east of Cape Hatteras late Tuesday afternoon, and the eye wall — the region of strongest wind around the calm eye — moved over Hatteras Island, said Bob Sheets, director of the National Hurricane Center.

No part of the eye crossed land, however. The eye had grown to 45 miles wide Tuesday evening, and it was 30 miles due east of Rodanthe at 8 p.m.

Cars were floating in a bank parking lot in Buxton, and fallen trees were blocking



SOURCE: ASSOCIATED PRESS

DTH/JUSTIN SCHEEF

roads, said the National Weather Service in Buxton, which also reported flooding in the yard of its office a mile inland from Pamlico Sound.

The slow-moving storm was expected to create a tidal surge six to eight feet high, though the weather service said flooding reports on Hatteras indicated the surge was even higher.

No injuries were immediately reported, though to the north, a surfer was missing in Virginia.

Emily Spares N.C. Coast

Hurricane Emily veered northward, thus sparing North Carolina's Outer Banks from serious damage. The storm center, with 115 mph winds, was located 30 miles due east of Rodanthe at 8 p.m. Tuesday night. It brushed Cape Hatteras Tuesday afternoon with gusts of up to 100 mph. Hurricane warnings remained in effect from the Northern coast of North Carolina to Cape Henlopen in Delaware.

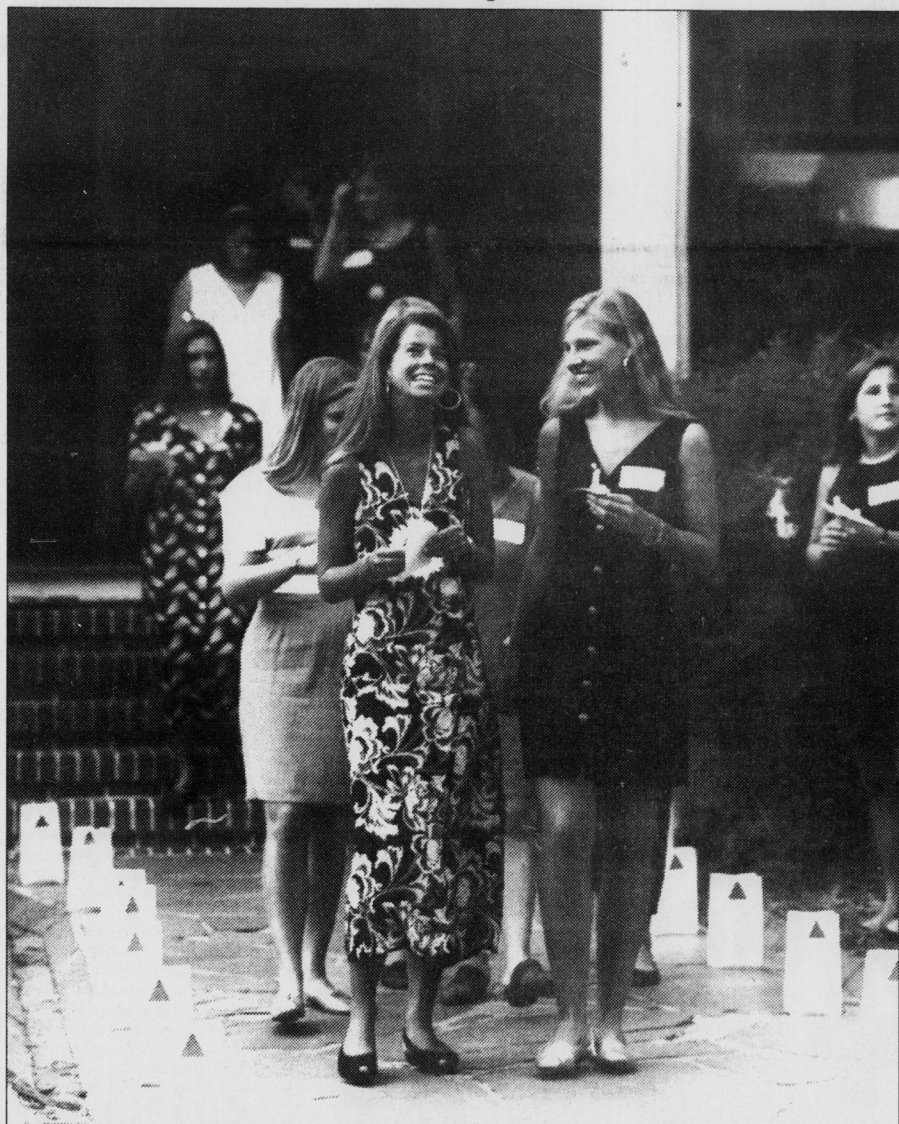
Paul Getty, a Morehead City dentist, said he was surprised the hurricane had not hit Atlantic Beach harder.

"This is the fourth time one has come in, and then, whoosh! It turned away. There must be some meteorological reason for storms to turn away from Morehead City," he said.

"It's odd that each hurricane has missed us. Maybe God is waiting to hit us with the

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'Pref Night'



DTH/JUSTIN WILLIAMS

Members of Delta Delta Delta sorority escort rushees out of a preference night activity Tuesday evening. Rush began last week and will come to a close tonight when rushees are matched with sororities.

Grads Are Struggling To Make Ends Meet

Low Graduate Stipends Hurt Teaching, Studies As Students Take Extra Jobs

Editor's note: This is the second in a two-part series about the financial troubles of the University's graduate programs.

BY MARTY MINCHIN
SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS EDITOR

The stereotype of the struggling graduate student may just be a reality at UNC.

Graduate students juggle a full schedule of teaching, studying for competency tests and going to class. And the small stipends the University pays these students has forced many to take part-time jobs to survive.

"There is a real sense that (graduate students) can barely get by on the teaching assistant stipends," Randall Henrick, linguistics department chairman, said.

The University removes tuition charges and students fees straight from graduate students' paychecks, a practice most universities do not follow, Henrick said.

Many universities that UNC competes with for graduate students waives all tuition and student fees, said William Balthrop, chairman of the Department of Communication Studies. The University still charges all graduate students in-state tuition and student fees, he said.

Henrick said: "The problem we have here is that people go off and do other sorts of things to make money. Sometimes they spend an inordinate amount of time working part-time."

"I'm worried about keeping and producing good students," he said. "I'm worried that there's not much support once they get here. It's a problem for the program because it diminishes the life of the department. They aren't around to share ideas and bounce ideas off each other."

Steve Bos, a third-year graduate student in the political science department, said many graduate students in his department had to work second jobs to keep from going into debt.

Bos said he was paid \$7,400 a year for teaching in the political science department, but after tuition and student fees were deducted from his paycheck, he only received \$106 a week.

"That's the same thing they've been giving me for two years and tuition is taking a jump," he said. Bos said he worked a newspaper route every day to earn money to stay out of debt.

Working two jobs has affected his performance as a graduate student, Bos said. "I'm probably a worse teacher because I'm delivering a paper route." Bos said his work load also cut into his time for studying.

Bruce Winterhalder, anthropology department chairman, said some graduate students in his department could not work at their full potential because they were often stressed because of their financial situation or had to work another job to support themselves.

"Once we have graduate students here, even those we can fund, we fund them at such minimal levels that they can't achieve the potential they would like to," Winterhalder said. "They're constantly living on sort of a hand-to-mouth poverty level."

Laurence Avery, English department chairman, said one problem resulting from low funding was that many students took eight or nine years to get their Ph.D., which students normally could obtain in four or five years.

"People have to work to make all the money they can while they're in graduate school," Avery said. "We need those fellowships to enable people to move towards a Ph.D. at a faster pace."

Henrick also said some graduate students

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N.J. Suit Names Hardin; Chancellor Denies Role

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS
University of North Carolina Chancellor Paul Hardin, who is a defendant in a lawsuit aimed at the board of directors of a New Jersey insurer, said he was not responsible for the company's day-to-day operations.

Hardin is one of 45 defendants in a lawsuit that charges former board members and executives of Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Co. with mismanagement and inaction.

New Jersey's attorney general filed the lawsuit July 8 after a two-year investigation into the financial dealings of the company.

Hardin, president of Drew University in New Jersey before coming to the UNC in 1988, served on Mutual Benefit's board of directors from 1986 through its 1991 failure, the Herald-Sun of Durham reported.

"I served on the board with other educators, other professional persons, and the CEOs of several of the country's largest corporations. Our responsibilities were the usual ones attendant to persons in that position," Hardin said in a statement released Tuesday.

He said that, more than a year ago, the board asked the New Jersey insurance commissioner to step in and protect the assets of the company. "The company was solvent and he had no authority to come in without our invitation," Hardin said.

He said he was trying to keep the lawsuit from interfering with his duties as

chancellor and was keeping President C.D. Spangler informed.

Hardin said he would not comment about the specifics of the case because it was still being litigated.

The company was once the nation's 18th-largest insurer.

Sharon Hallanan, deputy attorney general of New Jersey in charge of the Mutual Benefit case, said the 45 defendants asked for an extension in filing their answer to the suit.

The defendants must file an "answer," or response, to the suit by the middle of September, Hallanan said.

"An answer generally contains denials, explanations, often a counter-claim or cross-claim," she said. "Sometimes motions are filed at this time."

The lawsuit says the company sank too much money into developments and leveraged buyouts and got too far into real estate lending without checking on the risks. It also alleges that top company officers made questionable inside deals and worked to keep the directors in the dark.

"The essence of the thing, with respect to the directors, is they didn't oversee the investments of the company adequately," said Bob Ritter, a Hackensack attorney and special counselor for N.J. Insurance Commissioner Samuel Fortunato, the suit's plaintiff.

"They are responsible and directly accountable to the policyholders to see the company is run in a proper manner," Ritter said. "If they're not doing that they shouldn't be on the board. That's the law."

The state is seeking an unspecified amount of compensatory and punitive dam-

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COURTESY CAR CONTROVERSY

Dealer: Department Knew of Tag Law

BY PHUONG LY
STAFF WRITER

UNC athletic officials said Tuesday they didn't think they were doing anything wrong when they drove cars with dealer tags.

But a Chapel Hill car dealer said the athletic department knew it was violating a state law banning use of dealer tags on courtesy cars.

In the athletic department's 25-year-old courtesy car program, dealers lend 53 cars to UNC coaches free of charge in return for

tickets to athletic events. Courtesy cars are legal; putting dealer tags on them is illegal. Only dealers, their employees, company officers and those test-driving cars are allowed to drive cars with dealer tags.

Buck Copeland, general manager of Yates Motors Co. Inc. in Chapel Hill, said athletic officials and dealerships knew about the law.

"They knew it was not right, but they were just getting by with it," said Copeland, whose dealership supplies one car a year to the athletic department.

Legislators decided to put teeth into the law because of the widespread abuse of dealer tags, said N.C. Sen. John Kerr, D-Goldsboro, who wrote the legislation. Lawmakers did not direct the law at athletic courtesy car programs, he said.

A new state law taking effect Oct. 1 includes fines for dealer-tag abusers. The old law had no penalties and wasn't heavily enforced, Kerr said.

Kerr said users of dealer tags had several advantages — they did not have to pay

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Are Courtesy Cars Necessary Perks For Coaches or Athletic Excess?

BY PHUONG LY
STAFF WRITER

Although athletic officials say courtesy cars for coaches are a necessary perk, some faculty members think it is an example of the inequity between academics and athletics.

"I think perks and large shoe contracts, etc., are a blatant sign of this distortion of values," said Townsend Ludington, chairman of the Faculty Committee on Athlet-

ics. "The point of a university is educational and intellectual development," said Ludington, who is also chairman of the American studies department. "The point of a university is not to offer sports for the millions."

UNC faculty members do not have courtesy cars. They can get access to a car for business purposes through the University's

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I think I think; therefore, I think I am.

Ambrose Bierce