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IN THE NEWS

Top stories from the state, nation and world

Mercedes-Benz to Name Alabama As Site for Plant

VANCE, Ala. — German auto giant Mercedes-Benz capped months of speculation Wednesday by signaling that a rural Alabama town won the bidding war for the company's first U.S. assembly plant.

To business interests, the selection of Alabama also signaled that Mercedes would help recast the state's image.

Mercedes issued a statement saying it would announce the site of the \$300-million factory Thursday in Tuscaloosa, about 20 miles west of Vance, where developers offered a 1,000-acre tract for the project. The company previously said the announcement would be made near the factory location.

Sites in South Carolina, North Carolina and several other states also were considered for the plant, which will employ 1,500 and is expected to create another 11,500 jobs through related industries.

Bosnian Parliament Votes To Reject Peace Proposal

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Bosnia's parliament spurned an international peace plan Wednesday, voting overwhelmingly to reject it unless Serbs return land taken by force.

The vote portends another calamitous winter of fighting while the Muslim-led government of Bosnia tries to wring more concessions from Serbs and Croats. Serbs already have said they will bargain no more over land.

Sixty-one parliament deputies voted for conditional acceptance of the international peace plan, which would divide Bosnia into three ministates controlled by Serbs, Croats and the Muslim-led government. Four voted for it unconditionally and seven voted against it, Information Ministry spokeswoman Senada Kreso said.

Republican Senator Backs Clinton Health-Care Plan

WASHINGTON — Hillary Rodham Clinton picked up the first Republican co-sponsor for the administration's health-care plan Wednesday as U.S. Sen. James Jeffords, R-Vt., pledged his backing during the first lady's second round of hearings before Congress.

Although the White House is courting many Republicans and believes no bill will get through Congress if it turns into a partisan fight, Jeffords is the first GOP lawmaker who has been willing to put his name on President Clinton's bill.

Hillary Rodham Clinton's second day of testimony to sell the Clinton plan to Congress went much like the first, with lawmakers singing her praises but pointing to possible trouble spots with the proposal.

Yeltsin Gives Lawmakers Five Days to Surrender

MOSCOW — The government gave increasingly isolated lawmakers five days to leave the parliament building or "face the consequences" Wednesday. Besieged hard-liners, short on food but long on weapons and bravado, vowed to hold out.

The government kept up a tight cordon of razor-wire and thousands of police and troops around the building. But the hard-liners showed no signs of surrendering.

The government didn't spell out what it meant by "serious consequences," but it will be expected to do something if the lawmakers continue to hold out past Monday. Foreign Minister Andrei V. Kozyrev offered fresh assurances Wednesday that force would not be used in the showdown.

Senate Votes to Prohibit Federal Funds for Insane

WASHINGTON — The Senate voted Wednesday to bar the criminally insane from collecting federal disability benefits so long as they are in a mental hospital or halfway house.

The Social Security Administration estimates that stopping such payments would save about \$10 million a year and deny benefits to 1,500 people.

Although the ban passed the Senate by a 94-4 vote, congressional aides said the amendment faced an uncertain future in the House. The Senate vote came after Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., told the Senate about the shopping spree of a N.C. man who has been collecting Social Security since a jury found he was insane at the time he killed four people.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Weather

TODAY: Sunny; high mid-60s.

FRIDAY: Clear and cool; high 60-65.

Clinton Expected for University Day

BY HOLLY RAMER
STAFF WRITER

President Bill Clinton has not yet confirmed whether he will attend the University's Bicentennial Convocation on Oct. 12, but officials in the Bicentennial Observance Office said Wednesday that they were optimistic about the visit.

Clinton is tentatively scheduled to deliver an address in Kenan Stadium at 7:30 p.m.

Richard Richardson, faculty chairman of the Bicentennial Observance Office, said he expected to hear from Clinton's office by Monday.

"We've been checking regularly with the White House," he said. "We are the only thing scheduled on his agenda for that

evening. I think there's a pretty good chance that he will come."

After the presidential election last November, Chancellor Paul Hardin invited President-elect Clinton to attend the opening ceremonies of the Bicentennial Celebration.

Brock Winslow, associate director of the Bicentennial office, said many state dignitaries, including Gov. Jim Hunt, had strongly supported the invitation. The entire N.C. congressional delegation also signed a joint letter of support for the invitation, Winslow said.

"A lot of what is involved in getting (Clinton) to come here is making him aware of the invitation," Winslow said.

Last spring, Clinton responded with a letter thanking the University for the invitation, but saying it was too soon to commit to the engagement.

"We've had no official communication since then, but we have had verbal communication (with White House officials) on several occasions," Winslow said. "I've talked with their scheduling office constantly about the possibility."

Because most invitations are declined quickly, University officials are encouraged that Clinton has not yet turned down the offer, said Steve Tepper, executive director for the Bicentennial Celebration.

"It's encouraging that they have not said no," Tepper said. "That means we're still being considered. I guess (President Clinton's staff) is making last minute plans for his schedule."

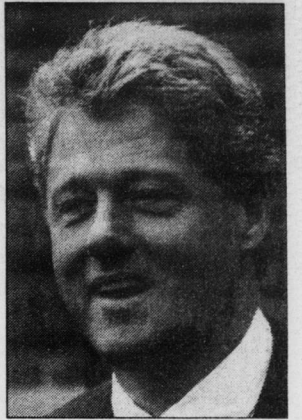
The convocation, which will be at 6

p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 12, will encompass a wide variety of entertainment programs, Tepper said. Six processions of faculty, staff, students, alumni, visitors from international universities and school children will begin the ceremonies in Kenan Stadium, while a film and re-enactment of Hinton James' historic walk from Wilmington will close the ceremonies, he said.

Taped greetings from around the world featuring David Brinkley, Walter Cronkite, former Presidents George Bush and Gerald Ford and the Chancellor of Oxford University also will be broadcast, Tepper said.

"There will be lots of pageantry and lots of flags," Tepper said. "It will be very

Please See CLINTON, Page 4



BILL CLINTON is tentatively scheduled to speak Oct. 12.

Running With the Devil(s)



A battle of midfielders ensued Wednesday night on Fetzer Field, with UNC senior Paige Coley and Duke sophomore Cara Lyons playing the opposing roles. The top-ranked Tar Heels breezed to a 7-2 victory. See story on page 11.

BSM Plans Pit Rally To Inform Students, Show BCC Support

BY JAMES LEWIS
ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY EDITOR

Black Student Movement President John Bradley said Wednesday that the organization would hold a "spirited" rally in the Pit early next week to inform students about current campus issues, including the movement for a free-standing Sonja H. Stone Black Cultural Center.

The News & Observer of Raleigh reported Wednesday that the BSM was planning a protest on Monday against the UNC Board of Trustees' decision to build the BCC on the Coker Woods site, located next to Coker Hall on South Road.

But Bradley said Wednesday night that the rally, which is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Monday in the Pit, was actually a meeting to inform members of current issues and to attract possible recruits.

"We mainly want freshmen to show up," Bradley said. "We are kind of targeting them because we want to especially educate them about the issue."

"That's the big point of the rally is to get the people who haven't been here and don't exactly know what's going on and to get them knowledgeable about the issues."

The organization had planned the rally before the BOT decided Friday not to revoke on the site issue, Bradley said. "Actually, this meeting was planned before the BOT meeting."

Supporters of the Wilson-Dey site, located between Wilson Library, Kenan Labs

and Dey Hall, had asked the board to re-examine its July decision to build the BCC on the Coker Woods site.

But BOT members did not move to reconsider the site Friday, and many BOT members have said the site issue has been settled.

Bradley said the BSM was waiting for the BCC Advisory Board to make a statement about the site decision.

"As of right now, we are trying to find out if Coker is actually buildable," he said. "But as far as the Black Student Movement is concerned, we haven't come to a concrete decision on where the site is."

When they have been given enough evidence on which site is buildable, then the BSM will come to a decision.

BCC Advisory Board Chairman Harry Amana said Wednesday that the advisory board would consider the BOT's decisions at Tuesday's regular meeting.

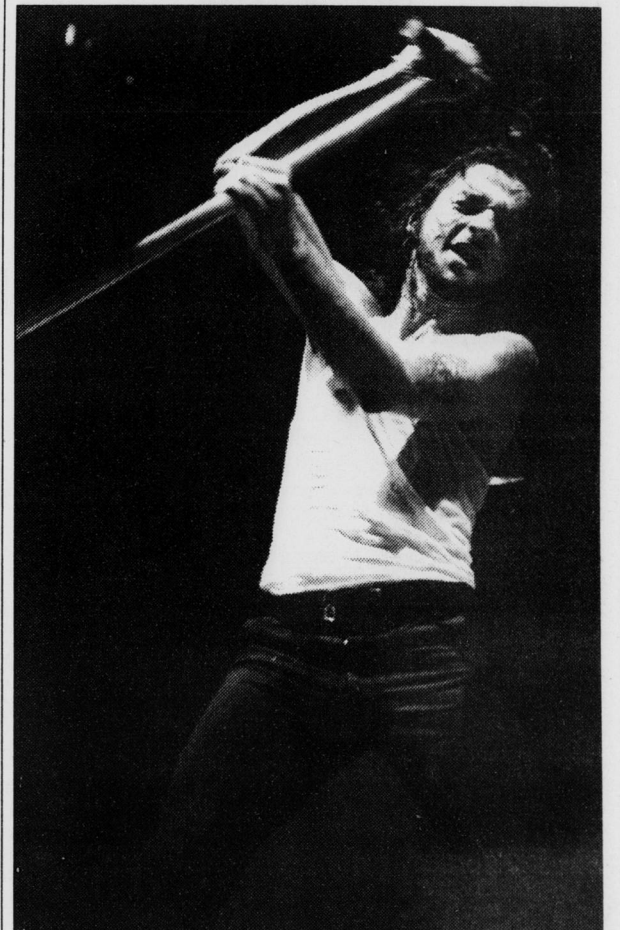
Bradley said the rally would be more of a campus-issues forum than a demonstration against University officials.

"This is really not negative," he said. "This rally is not directed toward or to point someone out and saying, 'You're wrong.' It's more about information — of getting people back involved."

Bradley said he would not rule out protests in the future. "Protests can happen, and BSM will do it if it has to," he said.

"But we really want this issue to be over. It's been fought for too long, but until it's completed we are not going to stop."

'Personal Jesus'



Depeche Mode lead singer David Gahan gives his all at a concert Tuesday night at the Smith Center. See review on page 4.

New Law to Put Heat on Drunk Drivers

BY WARD CONVILLE
STAFF WRITER

A new law lowering the legal blood alcohol concentration for North Carolina drivers will go into effect Friday.

"This is a major victory in our fight to make North Carolina highways safer," Gov. Jim Hunt said in a Sept. 16 press release.

Hunt gave strong support to the law, which lowers the legal amount of alcohol a driver can have in his or her bloodstream from .10 to .08 BAC.

The N.C. General Assembly passed the law this summer.

"Drunk drivers are not only a threat to themselves but to all motorists," Hunt said in the release. "This new lower threshold is a strong message that we are serious about reducing the threat posed by drunk drivers."

The law, sponsored by N.C. Rep. Joe Hackney, D-Orange, met little opposition in the General Assembly, Hackney said.

"I think it causes people to think when they drink a little bit more, a reminder that the law is gradually getting stronger," Hackney said. "I think we see it sending a strong signal that one drink less will be tolerated."

Hackney also said the passage of the law was part of a national trend to strengthen drunk-driving laws.

According to the press release, North Carolina will become the 10th state in the nation to enact the .08 BAC limit.

The press release also stated that in 1992 there were nearly 76,000 drunk-driving arrests in the state and 534 deaths due to alcohol-related accidents.

Joe Parker, director of the Governor's Highway Safety Program, said the law was one of the most important pieces of legislation to pass the General Assembly this

year.

"It means North Carolina is serious about taking drunk drivers off the road," Parker said. "California did this and had a significant decrease in alcohol related fatalities."

"Forty-two percent of North Carolina (motor vehicle) crashes involve alcohol," he said. "We hope that it will give further deterrence to people driving after drinking."

Parker said he thought the primary goal of the legislation was to encourage driver safety.

"Use a designated driver, or don't drink at all," he said.

Steve Jones, a public information officer for the N.C. Highway Patrol, said he thought the new law would enable the highway patrol to make more drunk-driving arrests.

Please See DWI, Page 4

Local Police Now Can Withhold Victims' Names

BY BRETT PERRY
STAFF WRITER

Law-enforcement agencies across the state beginning Friday will have the authority to decide whether to reveal victims' names from crimes occurring within their jurisdictions.

The main purpose of the new law is to prevent the news media from publishing the names of sexual-assault victims and to protect those people who don't wish to be identified. The N.C. General Assembly passed the new law July 23.

Before, the State Bureau of Investigations was the only agency that could declare portions of police reports private. Now local agencies will have the same

information because of this law can bring the issue to court, the bill also states. The police are not liable if a victim's name is released that should not have been.

"There isn't any criminal liability with our releasing the names of victims," said Chapel Hill police Chief Ralph Pendergraph.

Pendergraph was optimistic about the new bill and said he was glad to see that the department was given more freedom.

"I think that this bill is the first time an attempt to regulate the information released to the public has been tried," Pendergraph said.

"I hope that the bill will clear up the

Please See POLICE, Page 4

Now we sit through Shakespeare in order to recognize the quotations.

Oscar Wilde