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IN THE NEWS

Top stories from the state, nation and world

Earthquake Rocks India, Kills Estimated 10,000

NEW DELHI, India — A major earthquake shattered the dawn quiet Thursday, tumbling mud and mortar homes on sleeping families in villages across southern India. At least 10,000 died and many more cried for help from the wreckage.

Authorities feared the death toll would rise substantially in India's worst quake in a half-century.

The quake, which measured at least 6 on the Richter scale, ripped through southwest India at 3:56 a.m. It was felt at least 400 miles from the epicenter and caused a wide swath of damage.

The death tolls given by state officials and news reports varied from 6,200 to 10,000, and all appeared to be based on confirmed statistics and estimates.

Failure of Waco Cult Raid Fault of ATF, Report Says

WASHINGTON — Secretary of the Treasury Lloyd Bentsen replaced the head of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms on Thursday and suspended five other top officials after a scathing report faulted the agency for the raid on a Texas religious cult in which four agents died.

Field commanders "obviously should not have" proceeded with the Feb. 18 raid on the Branch Davidian compound near Waco upon learning that cult leader David Koresh knew they were coming, Bentsen said.

Bentsen released the report of an investigation, ordered by President Clinton, that said the agency's plan for the operation was "based on seriously flawed assumptions" about Koresh and his followers.

Yeltsin Agrees to Bargain With Parliament Members

MOSCOW — President Boris Yeltsin agreed Thursday to church-mediated talks with hard-line lawmakers in an effort to break the siege of Parliament and end Russia's 10-day-old political crisis.

Yeltsin's announcement came after a meeting at the Kremlin with Patriarch Alexy II, head of the Russian Orthodox Church. The patriarch's offer to mediate the power struggle underscored the church's growing influence since the decline of Communism.

The president and patriarch agreed closed-door talks would begin Friday.

There was no immediate comment from the leaders of the 100 or so lawmakers who have holed up in the Parliament building with a few hundred volunteer defenders.

Clinton Will Hold Meeting With Chinese President

NEW YORK — President Clinton will meet in November in Seattle with Jiang Zemin, the president of China, in an effort to extricate relations between the two countries from "some rough waters," Secretary of State Warren Christopher said Thursday.

It will be the first visit to the United States by a Chinese leader since the crackdown on dissidents in Tiananmen Square in Beijing in 1989 sent relations between the two countries on a downward spiral still marked by controversy over nuclear weapons testing.

Christopher's announcement followed an assertion by Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen that China would not be deterred from setting off underground nuclear weapons tests even while Clinton tries for a world-wide test ban.

Mercedes-Benz Presents Blueprint for New Plant

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — Mercedes-Benz became the latest automaker to find a home in the land of cotton.

On Thursday, it unveiled a Southern blueprint for making sport-utility vehicles in the Alabama countryside.

Germany's largest car conglomerate will build an American company from the ground-up on 966 acres in the hamlet of Vance, where two sawmills are now the major employers for about 250 residents.

Groundbreaking for the \$300 million, T-shaped plant will be in January, and production should begin in early 1997, making about 60,000 vehicles annually.

At least half of those will be exported, Werner said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Weather

TODAY: Sunny, warmer; high near 70.

SATURDAY: Partly cloudy, warmer; high mid-70s.

Chancellor Opposes 24-Hour Visitation Policy

BY HOLLY STEPP
ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY EDITOR

Chancellor Paul Hardin said Thursday that he wouldn't intervene in the implementation of a 24-hour residence hall visitation policy even though he opposed the plan.

"I don't think it is a good policy, but the means by which it came about are authentic and tried, so I will honor the students' decision," Hardin said.

Students in six residence halls voted Sept. 21 to allow 24-hour visitation by members of the opposite sex.

The program, which went into effect

Sept. 22, continues to draw calls and letters from concerned parents and citizens.

Wayne Kuncl, director of University housing, said that since Wednesday he had received about 25 phone calls and several letters from parents and citizens concerned about the visitation-policy changes.

According to secretaries in the chancellor's office, Hardin has received about a half-dozen letters criticizing the visitation policy.

Hardin said Thursday that he was concerned about the privacy rights of students.

"I want to ensure that the proper department will make sure that students whose privacy is violated have the last word on

the matter," he said.

"I think the students will find that they don't have the privacy that they used to."

Kuncl said he thought the calls stemmed from articles in local newspapers. "I think that a lot of the calls and letters that came were a result of The News & Observer editorial," Kuncl said.

The editorial, published Tuesday, criticizes the University for "condoning" overnight visitation by guests of the opposite sex.

"It would be naive, of course, to think that students haven't been sometimes spending the night in their rooms with boyfriends and girlfriends.... But for the

university to condone such activity is inappropriate," the editorial states.

The editorial also encouraged parents of UNC students to express their concerns about the visitation policy. "Perhaps the parents who are footing the bill for their youngsters will make their feelings known to Chancellor Paul Hardin," the editorial states.

Kuncl said he had tried to explain the policy to the callers. "Most people don't realize that we passed two different policies," Kuncl said.

"One policy allows for 24-hour visitation, the other stipulates that guest must be escorted to and from the resident's room

between the hours of 9 p.m. and 9 a.m.," he said.

Kuncl said that even though he explained the policy and the University's rationale for the decision, most people still said they disagreed with the policy.

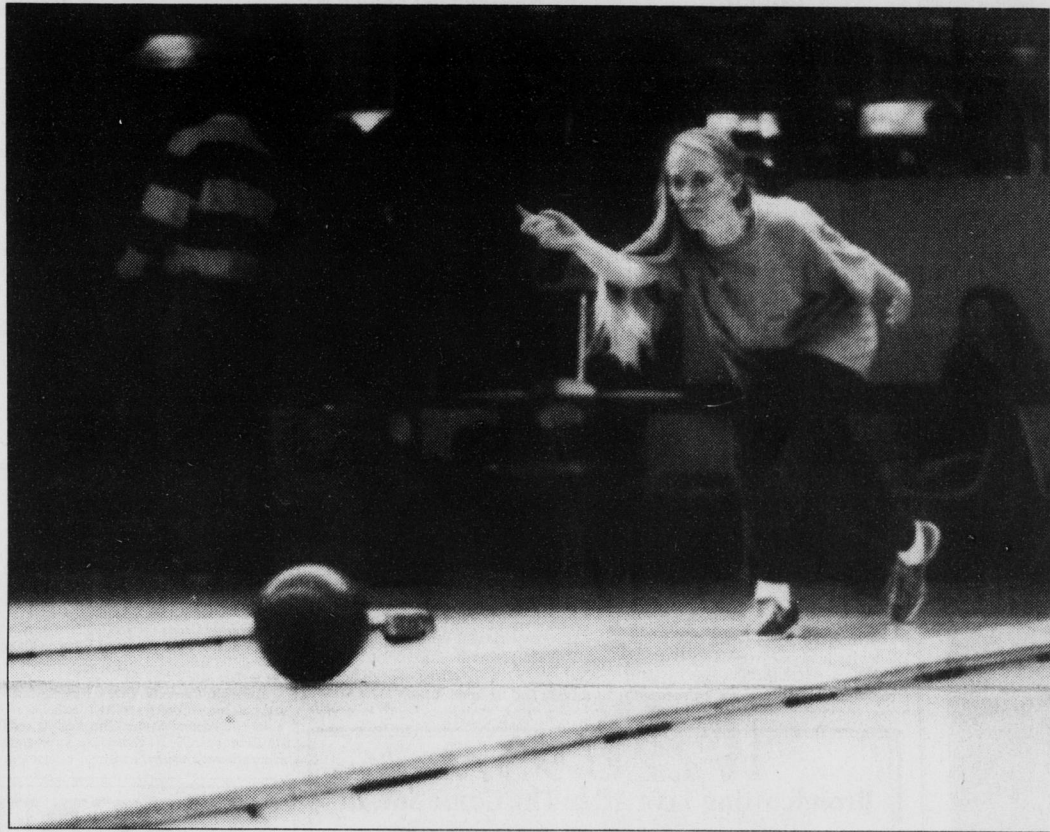
"What amounts to is that most people say by allowing students to vote on the matter, the University is condoning an activity they don't support," he said.

"Many people say students are not responsible enough to make that sort of decision."

Programs similar to UNC's have been

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Perfect Form



Sharon Rodberg, a senior physics major, enjoys free bowling as part of Senior Week's 'Bow-a-rama' Thursday night. Despite successfully completing a UNC bowling course, Rodberg still couldn't topple the tough competition at the Union Underground.

DITH/ELIZABETH MAYBACH

'Dawn of Justice' May Join Events In Bicentennial

BY JESSICA FRANK
STAFF WRITER

Student Bicentennial Committee officials said Thursday that they would be interested in working with Campus Y's proposal for additional Bicentennial activities, but the group said it could not give definite approval until all details were finalized.

The programs in the Campus Y proposal focus on the oppression and struggle that certain groups such as women and African Americans have faced in the University's history, Campus Y officials say.

Steve Tepper, executive director of the Bicentennial Observance Office, said, "One of our six Bicentennial objectives is to promote issues of fairness, justice and diversity. The Campus Y's proposal fits with our objectives. We applaud and welcome the theme."

The proposed Oct. 12 Dawn of Justice Celebration would promote a future of hope that combats social injustice and fosters inclusiveness, Campus Y Co-Presidents Michelle LeGrand and Ed Chaney said in a letter to the Student Bicentennial Planning Committee.

In an interview Thursday, LeGrand said it was important to have the Campus Y diversity program on the opening day of the Bicentennial celebration.

"(Bicentennial Committee officials) have been trying to incorporate some programs, but they weren't in the opening ceremonies, and they were not well-publicized," LeGrand said.

LeGrand and Chaney said the Dawn of Justice program's intent was to increase the public's awareness of major contributors to the University that had gone unawarded.

Kevin Moran, chairman of the Student Bicentennial Planning Committee, said the Campus Y's philosophies and ideals for the Dawn of Justice Celebration tied into the Bicentennial's theme of community.

"We chose community because we want to make sure the Bicentennial involves all people," Moran said. "We must take positive steps forward."

Moran said the Bicentennial, in addition to being a celebration, should be a time of reflection and evaluation.

"It should be a time when we evaluate our strengths as well as our weaknesses," Moran said. "And a time when we reaffirm our commitment to working to be the best possible university we can be."

Moran said the Bicentennial staff already had planned several programs involving previously unaffiliated groups, such as the production of the compilation of works by UNC housekeepers called "I Have a Story To Tell."

In addition, all University staff members are invited to the University Day picnic on Oct. 12. "It's special because all staff members can attend and buy lunch for just \$1," Moran said.

The Campus Y wants to combine their Dawn of Justice speakers program with the previously scheduled Bicentennial performing-arts series and picnic.

Chaney said he did not foresee any problems with working with the Bicentennial Planning Committee on the Dawn of Justice program.

"It will still be what we envisioned," Chaney said. "It is very important for these issues to be a part of the Bicentennial."

Charges Dropped Against Shooting Victim

BY KRISTEN LANEY
STAFF WRITER

The state dismissed all charges Thursday morning against a Carrboro man who was charged with two counts of injury to personal property and one count of misdemeanor larceny.

James Earl Holeman Jr., who told police he heard noises outside his 306 W. Franklin St. apartment Aug. 11 and discovered Holeman trying to steal a friend's bicycle. Holeman suffered injuries in the chest area behind his left arm.

After the incident, Herring was charged with assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill inflicting serious injury.

Charges were thrown out against Herring Aug. 27 because Holeman did not attend the hearing to

give testimony. Orange-Chatham District Attorney Carl Fox reopened the case and sent it to the grand jury, which did not indict Herring for those charges.

Holeman was not present Thursday morning when roll was called at Chapel Hill District Court on Franklin Street, but he did appear later in the day to be tried.

Holeman's attorney, public defender James Williams, said, "Obviously I'm pleased that the charges were dismissed."

Joe Buckner, Herring's attorney, said there were several reasons why the state chose to drop the charges against Holeman.

"The state felt that Mr. Holeman had been punished enough for the crimes," Buckner said.

Holeman agreed to pay restitution for the damage to the bicycle locks, Buckner said. District

Judge Patricia Love, who presided over Thursday's trial, ordered him to do so within 60 days.

Holeman also agreed to stay away from the 306 W. Franklin St. building, where Herring still resides, Buckner said. "He agreed not to have any contact with Mr. Herring," he said.

Herring was present in the courtroom at the state's request, but he was not needed to testify, Buckner said.

Steve Henkel, who owned one of the damaged bicycle locks and the bike Herring said Holeman attempted to steal, was not present in court Wednesday. Henkel's bike was recovered, so Holeman doesn't have to pay restitution for it, Buckner said.

Assistant public defender Joal Hall handled the case Thursday because Williams was not in court. "I wasn't surprised by the fact they were dismissed."

LAW LOWERS DRUNKEN-DRIVING THRESHOLD

Students Call New Law Reasonable

BY JUDY ROYAL
STAFF WRITER

When many students head to their favorite bars tonight to have a few drinks, they had better know when to say when just a little sooner than usual.

Beginning today, when the state's new blood alcohol concentration law goes into effect, a drink or two could make all the difference if you choose to drive home.

Under the new law it is illegal for anyone to drive with a BAC of .08 or above. The maximum legal BAC, the percentage of alcohol in a person's blood, was .10.

Maj. Don Gold of the University Police said although the procedures for dealing with drunk drivers will not change, more intoxicated people can be removed from the roads under the new law.

Gold said after a person is suspected of driving drunk is stopped, the officer asks him or her to exit the vehicle and then administers various sobriety tests. Based on the suspect's test performance and driving, the officer makes a decision whether or not the suspect is drunk, Gold said.

If the suspect is determined as drunk, he or she is placed into custody and taken before a breathalyzer certification opera-

"If I've had one beer, I won't drive. But I think it's ridiculous that I can't have one beer legally."

ALGERNON PRIMM
20-year-old UNC junior

tor and a magistrate, Gold said. Gold said he feels the new law is a step in the right direction.

"It think it's probably a prudent move," Gold said. "Any impairing substance is too much when operating a piece of equipment like a car."

Many students also think lowering the legal BAC is a good idea.

"I think it's good that they have decreased the blood alcohol level because now it will be a lot easier for drunk drivers to be prosecuted," said Ron Johnson, a sophomore from Clayton. "This will make the roads and highways much safer for innocent people."

Algermon Primm, a junior from Mebane, said, "I think it's a great idea, but they

ought to lower the drinking age to go along with it. If I've had one beer, I won't drive. But I think it's ridiculous that I can't have one beer legally."

Eric Kesler, a freshman from Charlotte, said, "I don't have a car, and I hate everyone in Chapel Hill that does. The more of them they lock up, the easier it'll be for me to get across the street."

Some students have mixed feelings about the new law, stressing that the impact of alcohol is different for each person.

Lori Anne Wilson, a sophomore from Henderson, said although she's very against driving drunk, she had some reservations about the law.

"Different (BAC) levels determine awareness of different people," she said.

Ellen Ziegler, a 1992 graduate from Durham, said, "I don't think that (the BAC) needs to be restricted that much. Drinking and driving is a problem, but there are other methods of prevention."

Ziegler, who feels .10 is a reasonable legal BAC, said everyone knows their level of tolerance and that officers should base their decision more on sobriety tests.

"I don't think (the law) will stop me from getting (behind the wheel of) a car if I've had one beer and I feel fine."

Local Police, Bars Say Change Won't Result in More Arrests

BY KRISTEN MIN
STAFF WRITER

Although the state's stricter drunken driving law takes effect today, local bar owners and police officials said it would not drastically affect the number of DWI arrests in town.

This summer, the N.C. General Assembly passed the law, which lowers the legal blood alcohol content from .10 to .08. State representatives hope the law will curb the number of alcohol-related accidents.

Chapel Hill police spokeswoman Jane Cousins said this law would not make a significant difference in the number of arrests in town.

In the 1992-93 fiscal year, Chapel Hill officers made 135 DWI arrests in town.

"Most of these arrests involve a blood alcohol concentration of more than .10. There's been just a few that came between .08 and .10," she said.

He's Not Here manager Mark Burnett said that because many bar customers in Chapel Hill walked downtown, the law would not affect too many residents.

"The bars in cities like Charlotte, Durham and northern Raleigh, may, on the other hand, lose some business because they are mobile societies," Burnett said.

Charles Smith, the general manager of Slug's Restaurant, said that even though Slug's customers normally did not walk as they did on Franklin Street, he predicted that the law would not affect sales.

"Everyone's been careful with drinking lately, especially with the local police being stricter with DWI," he said.

No local bars will serve customers who have had too much to drink. Alcohol Law Enforcement gives seminars to bartenders about the cutoff policy, which includes ways to handle underage drinkers.

Catherine Gloss, the manager of Ham's restaurant, said that it was hard to tell what difference the new law would make. "If bars are regulated like they're supposed to be, there should not be any problem."

Burnett said He's Not Here employees already were good about ensuring their customers' safety. "We either call a cab for

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I wasn't really naked. I simply didn't have any clothes on.

Josephine Baker