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IN THE NEWS

Top stories from the state, nation and world

House Passes Bill Limiting Abortion Clinic Blockades

WASHINGTON — A bill cracking down on abortion clinic violence passed the House on Thursday after lawmakers rejected a bid by anti-abortion lawmakers to soften penalties for protesters who staged peaceful blockades.

It was approved on a voice vote after the House voted, 246-182, to reject an effort to send the bill back to committee and strip out language opposed by abortion foes.

Hurrying to get the bill to President Clinton before Congress begins its Thanksgiving recess, supporters kept the measure free of controversial amendments so it wouldn't differ much from the Senate version passed earlier this week.

Repeat offenders would face up to three years in jail, and first-time offenders one year, under the House bill.

Flight Attendants Strike After Late Talks Fall Apart

DALLAS — Flight attendants struck American Airlines on Thursday, forcing the nation's largest airline to cancel some flights. The carrier threatened to fire strikers and said it intended to use managers and non-strikers to keep most flights going.

The strike, which began at 7 a.m. EST, delayed other flights and caused passenger confusion at airports across the country.

The airline and the union failed to reach a new contract agreement in two days of federally mediated last-ditch talks. They are split over pay, staffing and other issues. Twenty negotiators called it quits around 2 a.m. CST Thursday in New Orleans, and the strike began four hours later.

NAFTA Vote Gives Clinton Needed Leverage at Forum

SEATTLE — Leaders of the world's fastest-growing economies gathered today to hear President Clinton's appeal for reducing trade barriers across the Pacific. Secretary of State Warren Christopher opened the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation conference.

Political Leaders React to NAFTA

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by hailing Wednesday's House vote approving the North American Free Trade Agreement. He called it a historic vote that "gives our work here today added urgency."

Clinton was flying there to meet with leaders of 14 other Asian and Pacific governments. As he departed Washington, he said the House vote on free trade gave the United States "the economic, political and moral standing" to argue for opening trade throughout the world.

Prospects for Bosnians Worsen As Winter Sets In

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — A month before the official start of winter, frigid weather already is taking its toll among Bosnia's most vulnerable.

Even as leaders of the warring factions signed an accord in Geneva promising to let U.N. aid convoys pass unhindered, the news from Bosnia was bleak: U.N. officials said five patients died this week at an unheated mental hospital, and others were wandering naked.

One of Sarajevo's two main hospitals prepared to discharge about 100 patients and move 150 others to underground corridors warmed by wood stoves because the buildings could not be heated. A British-based medical relief group said it was halting crucial surgery for Sarajevans because patients were too cold and weak to withstand operations.

Somali Warlord Emerges For Celebratory Rally

MOGADISHU, Somalia — Fresh from forcing a U.N. retreat on an order for his arrest, Gen. Mohamed Farrah Aidid emerged from hiding Thursday for a jubilant greeting from 4,000 shouting, dancing and drumming supporters.

Militiamen with rocket-propelled grenades and automatic rifles guarded him when his van drove into a marketplace for his faction's weekly "peace" rally. Crowds pressed around the van and women danced to the sound of drums.

The celebration came two days after the U.N. Security Council lifted an arrest warrant for Aidid that had put a \$25,000 reward on his head.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Weather

TODAY: Partly cloudy; high mid-60s.
SATURDAY: Partly cloudy; high 55-60.
SUNDAY: Mostly clear; high 50-55.

Housekeepers May Strike If Demands Not Met

BY HOLLY STEPP
ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY EDITOR

The UNC Housekeepers Association said Thursday it might strike or hold a sick-out if Chancellor Paul Hardin did not meet its demands by their set deadline.

"We are definitely considering the idea, if the chancellor continues to ignore us," Larry Farrar, a member of the Housekeepers' Steering Committee, said at a press conference at the Campus Y.

Farrar said that if the chancellor did not take the housekeepers' demands seriously, the group might strike or stage a sick-out, in which they would use their sick-leave days to stay out of work.

The UNC Housekeepers Association presented Hardin with a list of demands

Nov. 12 after a rally in protest of Wake County Superior Court Judge Henry Hight's dismissal of the housekeepers' grievance against the University.

The housekeepers asked the chancellor to meet with them by today and sign a petition recognizing the Housekeepers' Steering Committee as the official representative body of the housekeepers.

Farrar said he hadn't heard from the chancellor's office. But a statement released Thursday night by the chancellor's office addresses the housekeepers' demands.

The press release states that it would not be "appropriate" for the University to recognize the Housekeepers' Steering Committee as the representative body of the housekeepers. "There is an established administrative structure through which

employment interests and concerns can be addressed," the release states.

Farrar said the housekeepers had no definite plans and would not announce when a walk-out would take place. "What will happen is we will just walk, and we won't tell anyone, the press or the administration. In 1969, no one expected the dining room employees to walk out, and they did."

The cafeteria workers of Lenoir Dining Hall went on strike to protest unfair wages and treatment in 1969. Their grievances included the fact that there were no black supervisors despite the fact that most of the workers were black. The governor called in the National Guard to break the strike. The cafeteria workers won all their demands, but two years later, lost their jobs when the

University contracted the dining services out to a private company.

Farrar said it would be impossible to determine how many of the University's 400 housekeepers would participate in a strike. "I can't say how many people, but the ones I talked to said they would be out there if we struck," he said.

Farrar also said it would be difficult for some of the housekeepers to strike. "Well, I can't speak for anyone, but as for myself, after missing a couple of paychecks, I am among the homeless."

Herbert Paul, Physical Plant director, said he wasn't sure the housekeepers could legally strike, since they were not unionized employees. Susan Ehringhaus, senior University legal counsel, was not available for comment Thursday.

The housekeepers also spoke about gaining the support of the Employee Forum. Barbara Prear, a steering committee member, said the housekeepers should not have to go to the forum for support. "If they care about us as employees, we shouldn't have to go them."

Other housekeepers said the forum was not dealing with real problems. "If my only worries were about basketball tickets, I would be in paradise," Farrar said. "Most of the housekeepers can barely afford to pay rent and buy food, let alone buy basketball tickets."

Thursday's news conference comes 2 1/2 years after 20 housekeepers filed the first grievance. Before Hight's dismissal of

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Blowin' in the Wind



Charles Wagoner, a UNC buildings and grounds employee, rounds up some autumn leaves behind Wilson Hall on Thursday morning. Employees such as Wagoner have been working about six hours a day collecting the fallen foliage.

RHA Plans to Protest If BOT Repeals Policy

BY PHUONG LY
ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY EDITOR
AND KEVIN MCKEE
STAFF WRITER

Residence Hall Association members said they would show their anger by holding rallies if the UNC Board of Trustees revokes the recently adopted 24-hour visitation policy at its meeting today.

Some trustees already have said they disapprove of the policy, which will be discussed at 8:30 a.m. today in the Faculty Lounge of the Morehead Planetarium.

RHA members said that after they talked with trustees about the policy Thursday, they thought the board would rescind the policy, which allows 24-hour visitation of opposite-sex guests in six residence halls.

The old policy, which still is in effect in the rest of the dorms, allows opposite-sex guests in dorm rooms from 9 a.m. to 1 a.m. Sunday through Thursday and from 9 a.m. to 2 a.m. Friday and Saturday.

RHA President Jan Davis said the tradition of student self-governance at the University would be broken if the BOT revoked the pilot program.

"We're going to notify the entire campus that their rights as adults are being violated," Davis said. "Student self-governance is what this whole University is about."

Since the policy took effect in September, the University and BOT have been barraged with calls from parents, alumni and other citizens calling the visitation

"We're going to notify the entire campus that their rights as adults are being violated."

JAN DAVIS

Residence Hall Association president

program immoral and demanding that it be rescinded.

Davis said the four BOT members she met with — Chairman John Harris, Anne Cates, Billy Armfield and David Whichard — told her their main concern about the policy was that they did not have a part in making the decision to implement it.

About 80 percent of the students in the residence halls affected voted in favor of the pilot program, which was developed by a committee of UNC faculty, staff and students. The policy will be evaluated in December by the housing department.

Davis said she and Kathleen Frandano, RHA public relations executive assistant, would propose to the BOT today that it would get a voice in the evaluation process of the new visitation policy. Davis and Frandano said they also would talk about why the policy should be kept.

Student Body President Jim Copland, an ex-officio BOT member, will present the board with a petition signed by 1,000 students in favor of the policy.

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'American Pictures' Shows Racism, Poverty, Oppression

BY ERIKA HELM
STAFF WRITER

Jacob Holdt of Denmark has been in this country for about 30 years, but he says he has seen and experienced what Americans who have been living here for their entire lives refuse to or won't acknowledge — oppression.

Holdt showed pictures of his 100,000-mile hitchhike across the United States as part of Human Rights Week in front of a crowd of more than 1,000 in Memorial Hall.

The film, called "American Pictures," focused on the black underclass in America. The film, which was selected as the Outstanding Film of the Year by the London Film Festival, has been shown at more than 100 colleges.

"Today we see tremendous anger and pain in our country," Holdt said. "I think a bit of us are confused, black and white, of why this did happen."

Holdt told the predominantly white audience that throughout the film they would be told that, as whites, everything about them was wrong, so they in turn would be feeling what blacks had felt for centuries.

"Watching this show is important to understanding the damage we go through from living in a segregated society," he said.

Holdt said the health-care system ignored the poor, and society disregarded the fact that the life span of blacks was seven years shorter than that of whites.

He captured the pain and hunger in the eyes of children and adults.

One picture showed five children sleeping in one bed. Another showed a woman staring at a floor of blood. She refused to clean it up because it was the only thing she had left of her murdered son.

Several slides were split to show the differences between black and white societies and to emphasize the racial boundaries still prevalent today.

Holdt told a story of an elderly couple in their late 70s who ate only turnip greens for all three meals. The old man told him, "I went to bed a million times hungry."

Holdt said, "In America, you are constantly taught that it is your fault if you are poor."

During his trip across America, Holdt also had a conversation with a white Southern racist, Woody.

Woody said he and his brothers had killed so many blacks that he had lost count. His brothers liked killing blacks for the fun of seeing the fear on their faces, he said. The conversation took place at the end of 1991.

Holdt said people such as Woody and his brothers usually had an abusive childhood and used violence as a way of releasing their anger.

Holdt blamed racism on the narrow-mindedness of whites. He remembered going to a Ku Klux Klan meeting where the police disarmed the blacks but did nothing about the klansmen carrying pistols.

He said poor whites also contributed to racial problems. "Like blacks, (poor whites) suffer from self-hatred," he said. "The poor whites feel left behind when they see blacks in higher positions."

Holdt said he also lived in white, middle-class homes and found it difficult to live in those homes and not think of blacks as inferior. "I hope to make you aware of racism but also committed to anti-racism," he said.

Ginger Norwood, a freshman from Carrboro, said she enjoyed the show even though the pictures were shocking. "They showed a lot of violence that I didn't want to believe existed," she said.

Connie Mann, a junior from Jacksonville, said the most disturbing element of the pictures was that some of them were taken in 1991.

"It really makes people aware of the racism that still exists in our society."

Carrboro Police Investigate Man's Death

BY DANIEL FELDMAN
STAFF WRITER

For the second time this year, the State Bureau of Investigation rolled into Carrboro to investigate a homicide that police still are unable to link with a motive or suspect.

Troy Joseph Dison, a 24-year-old man, was pronounced dead at the scene of the crime when police arrived at his home Wednesday afternoon.

A friend of Dison's, who was scheduled to meet with him Wednesday, discovered the body and notified Carrboro police.

Carrboro police Capt. John Butler said Dison's body was found face-down on the floor of his apartment at about noon.

Dison, who was unemployed at the time of his death, lived in a four-unit apartment building at 114-B Estes Drive, which is located near North Greensboro Street and about a mile from downtown Carrboro.

"The autopsy result showed that he died of multiple stab wounds to the neck," Butler said. "The SBI was called in as a routine procedure to perform tests on the body."

This was a major investigation."

Butler said Thursday afternoon that police had no major leads or motives in the investigation, adding that there were no definite suspects.

Carrboro police Chief Ben Callahan said new reports from the state medical examiner's autopsy lab added another weapon to the cause of Dison's death.

"There appears to be signs of a blunt trauma to the back of his head besides the stab wounds," Callahan said. "We went back to the apartment to search for this kind of weapon today but could not locate one."

Callahan said homicides in Carrboro were extremely rare, with only three in the past three years.

He added that additional police forces were called in to help out with the investigation, including Orange County sheriffs, Chapel Hill police detectives and the SBI.

"The sheriffs helped check IDs of the people at the crime scene, along with gathering evidence," Callahan said.

"Those from Chapel Hill helped to provide background information and now are

investigating the crime.

"As of today, the SBI has formally opened this case, with a mobile crime lab unit on the scene to help in the search."

Keith Bulla, SBI special agent in charge, said he was unable to comment about details in the case, but confirmed that agents were in Orange County investigating the homicide.

Callahan said Dison's neighbors had no relations with the victim because he recently had moved into the apartment complex. "Nobody knew him and hadn't spoken with him."

He said the apartment showed no signs of forceful entry, adding that nothing appeared to be missing to give the impression of a robbery attempt.

"We are now developing information and checking out our leads," Callahan said. "As of now, we are interviewing the witnesses and beginning to pursue leads."

Dison was a former employee of Willow Springs Rest Home on Jones Ferry Road, where a personnel spokeswoman refused to comment on his work there.

Two Assault Suspects Charged With Hate Crimes

BY KRISTEN MIN
STAFF WRITER

Chapel Hill police have upgraded charges against one teenager and arrested another under the state's hate-crime statute for their involvement in the weekend attack of four New Yorkers.

Keithan Jamel Burnette, 17, of 105 Fowler St. in Carrboro was arrested Thursday and charged with four counts of ethnic intimidation, according to Chapel Hill police reports.

Police say Burnette was one of the 15 to 20 teenagers who assaulted members of the Staten Island, N.Y.-based band Schroeder — made up of one black man and three white men — that traveled to Chapel Hill to play at The Cave on Sunday night.

According to police, the incident began when the victims were walking east down West Franklin Street early Sunday morn-

ing, and a group of teenagers began walking behind them making racial comments.

When the two groups reached University Square Plaza, more teenagers joined the group and continued making taunting remarks. The only specific comment the victims could recall included the term "oreo," referring to the fact that one black man was walking three white men.

On Monday, police arrested Dimetrius George Mullins, 17, of 205 Broad St. in Carrboro and charged him with three counts of simple assault, according to reports. Chapel Hill police Wednesday upgraded the charges against Mullins to include one count of ethnic intimidation.

"This is the first time that we have had a hate-crime charge in Chapel Hill," said Chapel Hill police spokeswoman Jane Cousins. "This does not mean, however, that there were not other occurrences of racially motivated crimes in Chapel Hill." Cousins said that if the suspects were

found guilty of hate crimes, they could be sentenced to up to two years in prison, a fine or both. Simple assault usually carries a lesser punishment, such as 30 days in jail.

N.C. General Statute 14-401.14, titled Ethnic Intimidation, states, "If a person shall, because of race, color, religion, nationality or country of origin, assault another person or damage or deface the property of another person or threaten to do any such act, he shall be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment up to two years or a fine, or both."

The law has been in effect in North Carolina since Oct. 1, 1991.

In response to the incident, the Midway Development Commission issued a statement Thursday saying the media's coverage of the assault has had a negative impact on the group's efforts at revitalizing the area.

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Don't trust anyone over 30.

Jerry Rubin