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IN THE NEWS

Top stories from the state, nation and world

Congress Ending Session With Debate on Brady Bill

WASHINGTON — After a year marked by swings from confrontation to cooperation, Congress struggled to find common ground on a handgun control bill Monday and wrap up its business for 1993.

Compromise legislation to extend jobless benefits to the long-term unemployed also was up for final passage, as was a bill to provide a final \$18 billion to clean up the savings and loan fiasco.

And the House approved a plan to re-make the campaign finance laws, a key item on President Clinton's agenda. But it was the Brady Bill, providing for a five-day wait for handgun purchases, that held center stage in the final hours of the year's session. President Clinton prodded lawmakers to deliver the bill for his signature as a "Thanksgiving Day present" to a crime-weary public.

United States Remembers Kennedy's Assassination

DALLAS — With an assassin's nest as a bleak backdrop, Dallas unveiled a simple but eternal tribute Monday to the memory of President John F. Kennedy. Twin fighter jets thundered above Dealey Plaza, and a flock of white doves fluttered skyward at the exact moment of the assassination 30 years ago. It was 12:30 p.m.

Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., and other family members and friends marked the day with visits to JFK's grave at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia.

His sister Jean Kennedy Smith observed the anniversary in Ireland, land of the family's ancestors. Smith, the U.S. ambassador to Ireland, read extracts from JFK's speeches at a memorial Mass in Dublin.

In Kennedy's home town of Boston, city government and institutions named for the 35th president held no ceremonies.

Neo-Fascists Make Gains In Italian Municipal Races

ROME — After years out in the cold, considered pariahs by many on Italy's political scene, supporters of the Italian Social Movement achieved their biggest electoral success Sunday.

In local elections that produced sharp setbacks to discredited mainstream parties, the Italian Social Movement was the top vote-getter in Rome and Naples. Its candidates will be in mayoral run-off elections in both cities. Other MSI candidates did well elsewhere in the country.

Alessandra Mussolini, former dictator Benito Mussolini's 30-year-old granddaughter, won about 30 percent of the Naples vote to force a run-off with a leftist candidate.

Clinton Seeks Consensus On Global Trade Proposals

WASHINGTON — President Clinton has less than a month to strike a global free-trade agreement while coping with demands from angry French farmers, upset Brazilian citrus growers and furious textile workers just about everywhere.

The president and others in the administration are professing optimism that they can overcome all these obstacles and complete the Uruguay Round of trade talks by a Dec. 15 deadline. Those negotiations, involving 110 nations, are being held under the auspices of the Geneva-based General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor sat down Monday with his European counterpart, Sir Leon Brittan, in what were described as make-or-break talks.

Serbia Blocks U.N. Aid Convoys to Eastern Bosnia

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Serb-dominated Yugoslavia blocked all U.N. aid convoys into eastern Bosnia on Monday, while U.N. officials reported starvation in the battle-scarred, southwestern city of Mostar.

Lyndall Sachs, a U.N. spokeswoman in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, said Yugoslav officials had begun demanding special authorization for aid convoys to cross into Bosnia. They cited a law passed by Yugoslavia last year requiring such permission for the passage of goods. As a result, U.N. convoys headed for the Bosnian cities of Tuzla, Srebrenica and Sarajevo, had to return to Belgrade Monday as U.N. officials haggled with Yugoslav authorities.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Weather

TODAY: Partly cloudy; high 66.
WEDNESDAY: Partly sunny; high 69.

Council Passes Gun-Control Laws

BY ROCHELLE KLASKIN
ASSISTANT CITY EDITOR

The fat lady has finally sung in Chapel Hill.

The public hearings are over, all the letters have been read, and Chapel Hill Town Council members have made up their minds on gun control.

The council voted unanimously at its Monday night meeting to approve five new gun-control ordinances recommended by the town attorney and town manager.

The town already had the strictest gun-control laws in the state, and now they have become even more stringent.

Council member Joe Capowski said he was pleased with the ordinances, but he wished they could be stronger.

"But I recognize the constraints of the constitution of North Carolina," he said.

Capowski said Chapel Hill's new ordinances would have more of an effect on crime once other municipalities in the area

including Raleigh, Cary and Durham began to pass gun-control measures of their own.

"Chapel Hill is not in a vacuum," he said. "Crime does not respect political boundaries."

Lisa Price, one of the founders of North Carolinians for Gun Control, said she was pleased the council took every step it could under N.C. laws to increase gun-control restrictions in Chapel Hill.

"Chapel Hill is part of a great social movement," she said. "Everyone is looking to see what is happening in Chapel Hill. It's a snowballing effect."

Chapel Hill police Chief Ralph Pendergraph said that although he did not think passage of the ordinances would reduce crime or violence in Chapel Hill, it was an important statement for the council to make.

"The proposed ordinances should set a tone and set the town's stance against crime and violence," he said. "These are good

things." Pendergraph added that police would not be going on witch hunts looking for guns.

Council member Rosemary Waldorf also said the new ordinances would not create more work for the police department.

"We expect this to be a tool and not a drain on police time," she said.

But opponents of the new gun-control legislation say they will challenge the new ordinances in court.

"That is the next plan of action," said David McFarling, president of the Durham Pistol and Rifle Club. "It will be done."

McFarling said the ordinances were a further erosion of his rights.

"We were never given a fair chance," he said. "The town council neglected the will of the people and decided to follow their own political agenda."

McFarling said he already had talked to an Orange County commissioner to try to

block any gun-control legislation at the county level.

The council initially held a public hearing in September to gauge public opinion on gun control.

Because of the overwhelming turnout of those who wanted to speak, an extra hearing was scheduled for the following night.

The third hearing was held Nov. 5 for residents and nonresidents to voice their specific opinions on the proposed ordinances.

Many council members said that taking legal action at its meeting was timely and symbolic due to the recent passage of the Brady Bill in the U.S. Congress, and also because Monday marked the 30th anniversary of President John F. Kennedy's assassination.

"This is a symbolic step forward for the council," council member Julie Andresen said.

But Mayor Ken Broun said the new

Gun-Control Laws Passed

The Chapel Hill Town Council voted Monday night to make the strictest gun-control laws in the state even more stringent. The five ordinances will:

- YES Prohibit the display of firearms in specified public areas by any person consuming alcohol for the purpose of dining or any other impairing substance.
- YES Prohibit the display of any firearm at polling places.
- YES Prohibit the display of any firearm at any public assembly in specified public areas.
- YES Prohibit the display of small guns in specified public areas; and
- YES Prohibit the possession, off one's own premises, of certain semi-automatic weapons — unless unloaded, packed away and in transport.

ordinances would make a difference. "This is more than symbolic. I think we are taking some real steps here and giving the police officers some real tools."

Clinton Announces End to American Airlines Strike

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FORT WORTH, Texas — American Airlines and its striking flight attendants union agreed Monday to end a 4-day-old strike that crippled one of the nation's largest airlines at the busiest time of the year.

President Clinton announced the agreement, saying he persuaded both sides to agree to binding arbitration. American said it hoped to have its truncated schedule back to normal by the end of the week.

"Passengers who hold American Airline tickets, if they come to the airport tomorrow, can do so with some confidence," American Chairman Robert Crandall said. "I have no doubt we'll get everybody where they're going in time for Thanksgiving."

"Yes, there was a real risk of losing our jobs," striker Loren Pastirik said. "I think it's going to take a while for passengers to trust American again, but it's a great feeling right now. ... We wanted to work. We did what we needed to do. We wanted respect from the company."

The end of the strike was a victory for the flight attendants, who had sought the appointment of a special presidential panel to mediate their dispute.

It also was a victory for Clinton, who persuaded Crandall during a phone call to drop his opposition to further arbitration.

"I have spoken with both parties involved. Both have agreed in principle to end the strike and return to the bargaining table immediately," Clinton told a White House news conference.

The strike by the Association of Professional Flight Attendants, which began Thursday, disrupted Thanksgiving travel plans for thousands of passengers. American, lacking enough flight attendants to staff its planes, flew only cargo.

"Although we prefer a different ap-



DTH/JUSTIN WILLIAMS

Holly Bridges, a second-year UNC law student, checks her flight schedule Monday with American Airlines ticketing agent Sonja Kaiser at Raleigh-Durham International Airport. Bridges found out that her flight would be on schedule.

proach, we are anxious to put our airplanes back in the air and put our people back to work," Crandall said.

Crandall said he was at least partly swayed by Clinton and added that binding arbitration was less troubling than an emergency mediation panel. However, Crandall said he was still concerned that an arbitrator would split the difference between

American's offer and the flight attendants' demands, costing the Fort Worth-based airline too much money.

The 21,000-member union walked out in a contract dispute over pay, medical benefits, staffing and work rules. The strike, the first by flight attendants at American, was the biggest against a U.S. airline since 1989.

Crandall said the strike took a heavy financial toll on the airline. After Clinton's announcement, Crandall said, "This will not repair our fourth-quarter projections. ... We expect we will have a loss for the year."

Earlier, Crandall said the airline was losing more than \$10 million a day during the strike.

FDA Policy Slows Drug Approval

BY MAURINE SHIELDS
STAFF WRITER

American doctors are prescribing a new type of birth-control pill to their patients — at least one that is new to the United States.

Patients in this country are just now benefiting from Desogen, which has a lower level of hormones than other birth-control pills, although women in Europe have used it for years. The pill seems to cause fewer side effects, such as break-through bleeding, than its predecessors, but it only was approved by the Food and Drug Administration last year.

"Some people feel that Americans are deprived of the newest medical advances, while others say that FDA regulations are for our protection," said Maryann Oertel of the Drug Information Center at UNC Hospitals.

Although the FDA is slow to approve some potentially helpful drugs, it has saved Americans from very serious side effects of other drugs, Oertel said.

In the 1950s, Thalidomide was used extensively in Europe to treat morning sickness. But the disastrous effects were not seen until 1961, when the first Thalidomide baby was born. Severe birth defects resulting from the drug included shortened, deformed and absent limbs and organs. Because the FDA never approved the drug, the tragedy did not affect the United States as greatly as it did other nations.

But researchers say examples involving



other experimental drugs support the belief that the FDA holds up beneficial drugs.

The French abortion pill, RU-486, is widely available abroad but not in the United States.

Many AIDS drugs are offered only outside the United States but could save or improve thousands of lives. And modifications of current therapies, such as the Desogen birth-control pills, could improve current medicine.

But the FDA is slow to approve these new drugs.

"The FDA has much stricter regulations than comparable European regulating bodies," Oertel said.

Although approval is slow, Oertel said, "In general, the FDA is doing a good job. The new administration under (FDA Director) David Kessler is really pushing

the FDA to review totally new treatments more quickly and give them priority."

Dr. Marc Rubin, director of anti-infectives clinical research at Glaxo, agreed. Rubin is investigating a new drug, 3TC, which shows promising indications for AIDS and hepatitis patients.

"The FDA's mandate is to protect the American public, but at the same time, they are very receptive to changes that may help pharmaceutical companies in getting new drugs to market," he said.

Rubin said his experience with the FDA had been very positive. "The FDA is eager to see data that might suggest that a new drug is promising," said Rubin.

But bringing a new drug to market is a

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Panelists: Students, Residents Must Be Wary of Town Crime

BY PETER ROYBAL
STAFF WRITER

In a public meeting on violence in Chapel Hill, the town police chief, a criminologist and a doctor in the Department of Family Medicine at UNC said violence in Chapel Hill was lower than statistically expected, but urged the students and townspeople who attended the meeting to think carefully about their personal safety.

Charles Warren, a criminologist and graduate student in sociology, said that Chapel Hill should have a crime rate 70 times higher than it has.

"I'm surprised at the remarkable low levels of violence in Chapel Hill," he said. Warren cited the large number of men from ages 16 to 25, the town's transitory population and social inequality as reasons to expect a higher crime rate. Orange County has the most social inequality in North Carolina, Warren said.

Chapel Hill police Chief Ralph Pendergraph said that while Chapel Hill's crime rate inside residences had declined and while Chapel Hill probably was "in a little better shape than a lot of communities," residents still should consider their personal safety carefully.

He warned against excessive alcohol consumption, noting that many victims of crime had been drinking, sometimes so heavily that they could not provide good descriptions of their attackers. Pendergraph also said that being cautious in unfamiliar places and avoiding dangerous situations would, among other things, prevent victimization.

"If you feel uncomfortable, then that's enough. Take whatever action to get out of the situation," he said. "Everyone has the

responsibility to do what they need to protect themselves."

All panelists agreed that violence was nothing new. Adam Goldstein of the Department of Family Medicine sought to put violence in a historical context. "We've become accustomed to the waves of violence and we don't really think it will happen to us," he said.

Warren said actual violence in the United States had declined markedly in the past 100 years, but the amount of reported crime had risen. He said there were areas in the country where the number of acts of random violence was decreasing. Nonetheless, the United States is the most violent industrial society in the world, Warren said.

The panel also discussed the reasons for crime and often pointed to poverty as the root source. Pendergraph said, "Poverty causes people to do things out of desperation and anger."

After presentations by each panelist, students and town residents asked questions about violence in Chapel Hill. Christine Skaer, a junior biology major, said growing up in Charlotte made her cautious about personal safety, but she thought that even these precautions would not protect her from random acts of violence.

"I feel like you almost need to be paranoid now," she said.

Editor's Note

Because of Thanksgiving Break, The Daily Tar Heel will not publish for the rest of the week. We will be back bright and early Monday morning. Happy Thanksgiving!

Home life as we understand it is no more natural to us than a cage is natural to a cockatoo.

George Bernard Shaw