

# The Daily Tar Heel

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## IN THE NEWS

Top stories from the state, nation and world

### N.Y. Gunman's Rampage Product of Racial Hatred

MINEOLA, N.Y. — The gunman who turned a commuter rail car into a terror train brimmed with racial hatred and targeted the suburbs because he didn't want to embarrass New York's black mayor, authorities said Wednesday. All those shot were white or Asian — two of the groups disparaged in four pages of rambling handwritten notes taken from the gunman after Tuesday's killings aboard the 5:33 p.m. Long Island Rail Road train.

Colin Ferguson, a 35-year-old naturalized citizen from Jamaica, was held without bail Wednesday after his arraignment on four counts of murder and a weapons possession count. The heavyset black man, his hands cuffed behind him, did not speak or enter a plea at the hearing. When the shooting ended, four people were dead, 19 wounded by gunshots and two others hurt.

### Clinton Says He Disagrees With Elders' Suggestion

WASHINGTON — President Clinton declared he was "foursquare" behind Joycelyn Elders despite their disagreement over legalizing drugs. The surgeon general said Wednesday she had "no second thoughts" about her controversial remarks.

Elders appeared to have weathered the storm over her suggestion that legalizing drugs would make America's streets safer.

Coming in the midst of a White House crime-fighting offensive, Elders' comments clearly took administration officials aback, and they rushed to disavow them.

But Clinton, who grew accustomed to the blunt-spoken doctor's penchant for controversy back in Little Rock, Ark., made clear that she still was in good standing as surgeon general.

### NAFTA Becomes Reality During Signing Ceremony

WASHINGTON — President Clinton signed legislation Wednesday creating the world's largest free-trade zone and used the ceremony to prod other nations to "seize the moment and close the deal" on liberalized global trading rules. With considerable fanfare and eight pens, Clinton signed the North American Free Trade Agreement, which links the United States, Canada and Mexico into a single market.

"This whole issue turned out to be a defining moment for our nation," Clinton told an audience of supporters.

And, in a fence-mending gesture toward organized labor, which fought the trade agreement fiercely, Clinton vowed to send to Congress early next year legislation "to create the world's best worker-training and retraining system."

### Report Says Radioactive Fuel Stored Dangerously

WASHINGTON — Tons of highly radioactive reactor fuel are being precariously stored, sometimes in rusting containers at government weapons plants, the Energy Department says.

The department in a task force report said that in one case at the Oak Ridge weapons complex in Tennessee, an unknown quantity of reactor fuel was buried but could not be located.

And while the radioactive fuel, most of it contained in pools of water at weapons sites in Washington, Idaho and South Carolina, might pose no immediate threat, the canisters, some of them 40 years old, continue to deteriorate.

### Psychiatrist Takes Stand During Seagroves Trial

DURHAM — Michael Seagroves acted in an understandable way when he shot teenagers who broke into his garage and when he forgot critical parts of the event, a defense psychiatrist testified Wednesday. "All the alarm signals go off at once," said Dr. John March, a Duke University expert in post-traumatic stress disorder. "Mr. Seagroves was operating under the assumption he was about to be killed. ... One responds automatically ... just does it."

Seagroves, 37, is charged with manslaughter and assault in the shootings of two teens who broke into his garage to steal a motorcycle and golf clubs.

March said Seagroves' decisions to get a .22-caliber rifle and later to fire it were consistent with reactions to stressful, life-or-death situations.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### Weather

TODAY: Mostly sunny; high near 60.  
FRIDAY: 40-percent chance of showers; high near 60.

## LaVonda Burnette Not a UNC Student

BY KELLY RYAN  
CITY EDITOR

AND AMY PINIAK  
STAFF WRITER

Chapel Hill-Carrboro Board of Education member LaVonda Burnette, who billed herself as a UNC student during the November campaign, said Wednesday night that she had not enrolled in a UNC class this semester.

After receiving a tip from a local resident that Burnette, 23, was not a UNC student, the University Registrar's Office confirmed Wednesday that no record of Burnette's enrollment existed in UNC's computer files, which date back to 1968.

Burnette said she had called UNC and

Chapel Hill High School to request that her records be restricted after she discovered that members of Putting Children First, a parents' watchdog group, had been asking for her high school records.

Assistant University Registrar Kathy Allen said any student or former student had the right to restrict the release of directory data, which was normally public information.

But if someone sought restricted information, the registrar's office would not say that no file existed, Allen said. "(Instead,) the caller is told that the information is restricted and cannot be released without the student's permission."

Every student who has enrolled at the University since 1968 is in the University's computer files, Allen said. The only excep-

tions are those who have only taken correspondence courses through UNC, she said.

Burnette confirmed during a telephone interview that she had not been enrolled in a UNC class this semester but had been sitting in on an English course. She repeatedly declined to reveal the course title or instructor of the class.

"I wasn't assigned a class," she said. "I didn't sign up for it. After talking to folks, they recommended that I start sitting in, and I bought the books, and I participated and what-not."

In an earlier interview Wednesday, Burnette said the name of her teaching assistant was Jeff Jones, whom The Daily Tar Heel contacted. Jones, who was not listed in the University phone book, said he taught an English 12 section in which

Burnette was enrolled.

Although Jones would not give the course section number or his supervising professor's name, he said Burnette was an excellent student.

"She is an excellent student — very opinionated and outspoken in class," Jones said.

But Susan Stedman, program assistant for the composition program in the Department of English, said Wednesday night that there was no Jeff Jones teaching any section of English 12.

"I'm the one who puts them on the payroll," Stedman said. "There is no Jeff Jones on the payroll."

Burnette said in a later interview that  
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School board member LaVONDA BURNETTE ran as a UNC student in the November election.

### Is This Thing Real?



Ann Greer, a Knightdale resident, helps Santa straighten his beard before his next round of visits from children Wednesday at University Mall. Playing Santa is Claudio Niedworok, an international storyteller from South Africa.

DTH/ELIZABETH MAYBACH

## Panel Chooses Wake County for Dump Site

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RALEIGH — A storage facility that would take radioactive waste from eight Southeastern states for 20 years should be built on the western edge of Wake County, a state panel decided Wednesday.

The Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management Authority voted 14-0 to seek a license for the Wake County site rather than a site in Richmond County.

Richmond County opponents of the facility were relieved but cautious.

"We can enjoy the holidays for the first time in four years," said Bobby Quick of FORCE, the Richmond County opposition group.

"We've been through heck for the last four years, so it's really hard for me to applaud."

Quick said opponents in Richmond County couldn't afford to let down their guard.

"Suppose they get up here and find it's not licensable?" he said, referring to the Wake County site. "Where are they going to go? Back to number two."

John Mac Millan, the authority's executive director, said the agency would concentrate on getting a license for the Wake County site, but Richmond County still could be selected if trouble developed.

"The authority selected the preferred site," he said. "It has not eliminated Rich-

mond County, but it has put it on a shelf, so to speak. That (moving to Richmond County) is a potential contingency plan ...."

Gov. Jim Hunt said the most important work, that of determining the site's safety, would begin now.

"My number-one concern is safety, and I will only support a site that will protect the public's health and safety," Hunt said.

Wake County opponents will seek help to fight the facility, said Pat Dragstedt of Ground Zero, a Wake County group opposed to the project.

"We're going to call in other environmental groups, the national groups that had indicated they would help us. This is a big decision to us. We've been accused that no one cares. But now that it's a reality, people will."

Matt McConnell, an environmental activist who lives about seven miles from the site, said the fight was only beginning.

"There was no justice today," he said. "... This was the skirmish. The battle is yet to come."

Protesters waved dollar bills as each vote was recorded. When the authority members finished voting, the protesters chanted, "Not here, not there, not anywhere."

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## Housekeepers Continue Legal Battle Against UNC

BY JAMES LEWIS  
SENIOR WRITER

Members of the UNC Housekeepers Association, whose movement for racial equality on the job is nearing its third year in litigation, say they plan to continue their fight.

In 1991, members of the UNC Housekeepers Association first filed a grievance with the University, alleging racial discrimination with respect to pay, training and supervisory practices. The grievance then was heard and denied at the first three steps of the University's grievance procedure.

This fall, Judge Brenda Becton of the Office of Administrative Hearings was scheduled to be the first person outside of UNC to hear the case. But before Becton could hear the case, the University appealed a pretrial motion.

Last month, a Wake County Superior Court judge said Becton had no jurisdiction to hear the dispute and dismissed the case.

Members of the UNC housekeepers movement have appealed the decision to the N.C. Court of Appeals, and they expect the case to be heard this spring.

In the meantime, members of the group have said they will not be silent.

Marsha Tinnen, a housekeeper and member of the UNC Housekeepers

Association's steering committee, said that despite the legal setback, the group would continue to work toward its goals.

"(As blacks) we've always been used to being turned down on something," she said. "And it's not like, just because we can't have our way that we're going to throw a tantrum."

"We understand exactly sometimes how administration is and how slow making progress is."

Bruce Runberg, associate vice chancellor for facilities management, said the University was in a continual process of trying to provide a high-quality housekeeping organization.

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### UNC Housekeepers: A Look at the Men & Women Who Clean Campus Buildings

A FOUR-PART SERIES  
MONDAY: A Job Description  
TUESDAY: The Fight Against the System  
WEDNESDAY: The Money Factor  
TODAY: The Meaning of the Movement

## Hitchcock Leads Others In Secondary, Black Community's Struggles

BY MICHAEL BRADLEY  
STAFF WRITER

1993 has been a good year for Jimmy Hitchcock.

He's seen the Sonja H. Stone Black Cultural Center win its struggle for a free-standing building, and he's seen the UNC football team produce one of its best seasons in years. In both successes, Hitchcock played a big role.

As a starting cornerback for the football team and a leader of the movement for a free-standing BCC, Hitchcock attacks social issues just as he does opposing ball carriers — head-on and with enthusiasm.

Hitchcock first gained the University community's attention as a student activist last fall. With teammates John Bradley and Tim Smith, Hitchcock formed the Black Awareness Council, a chief voice in the advocacy of a free-standing BCC.

But this fall, Hitchcock gained headlines on the field. When Lawrence Winslow went out with an injury early in the season, Hitchcock moved in as a starter — permanently. The junior from Concord is tied for

the team lead in solo tackles with 53 and is one of UNC's hardest hitters.

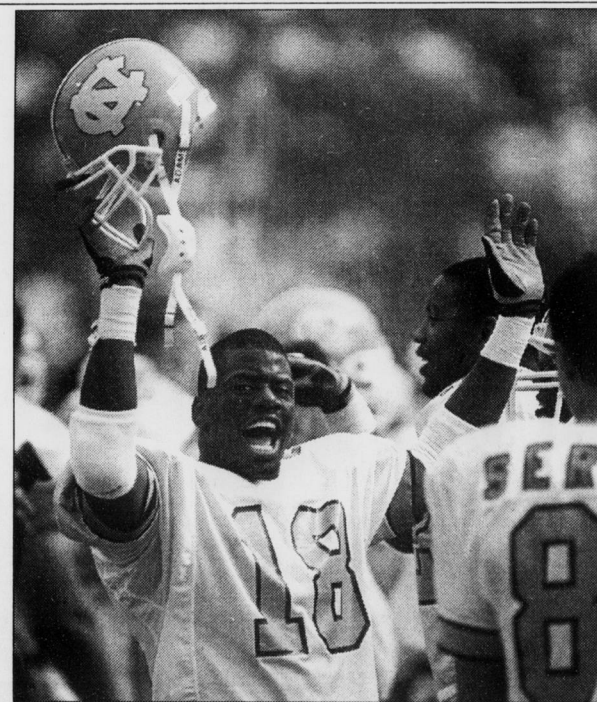
"I think I've asserted myself as one of the best corners in the league," Hitchcock said. "I haven't given up any touchdowns the whole year. I haven't given up much of anything on the weak side."

Hitchcock and free safety Bracey Walker anchor a UNC secondary that has played extremely well in recent games after being burned for big yardage early in the season by lesser competition. Hitchcock's bone-jarring hits and speed in running down defenders have helped energize North Carolina's defense in recent routs of Georgia Tech, Tulane and Duke and the shut-out against Clemson.

"We're a great defense," Hitchcock said. "I think we show up when the great games come about."

Hitchcock is outspoken off the field as well. During the BCC debate, the involvement of athletes in campus politics prompted national media attention as well as a visit from filmmaker Spike Lee.

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SPECIAL TO THE DTH/NATHAN DARLING

Jimmy Hitchcock's enthusiasm on the sidelines and on the gridiron carry over into his duties as co-founder of the Black Awareness Council on campus.

## Good, Bad Solutions for Exam Stress

BY CHRIS GIOIA  
STAFF WRITER

Stressed out? Just skip that biology exam. That's Danny Lloyd's solution to end-of-semester stress. Lloyd, a sophomore from Hillsborough, explained that studying wasn't always the answer when it came to final exams.

"My philosophy is that by the time final exams come around, then if you haven't learned (the course work), then you're not going to learn it before finals, so why prepare for it?" he said. "My advice is, don't bother studying. It doesn't help."

One semester, Lloyd attended only two of his exams. "That's why I'm a sophomore," said Lloyd, who said he'd spent enough time in college to be a senior.

Not everyone is laid-back about exams, though. Sophomore Ryan Williams described experiences in past exams. "We were in the Math 10 exam, and this guy just flipped. He started yelling, 'I can't do it! I can't do it!'"

"In Chem 11, a guy screamed and slammed his head against the desk a couple of times, really hard. Then he turned in his paper and left."

While "camping out" in the Undergraduate Library last semester, Williams,

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### Editor's Note

This is The Daily Tar Heel's last regular issue of the semester. Tomorrow, look for the special Holiday Gift Guide, complete with extra crossword puzzles to tide you through exams.

The DTH office will close at 5 p.m. Friday and reopen Jan. 4. If you need to reach us, please call 962-0245 or 962-1163 and leave a message, and we'll get back to you as soon as possible.

The DTH will resume publication Jan. 7. Happy holidays and good luck on exams!

## Nobody shoots at Santa Claus.

Alfred Emanuel Smith