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IN THE NEWS

Top stories from the state, nation and world

Russian Hardliners Stage Protest Against Yeltsin

MOSCOW — In their first mass protest since October's bloody clashes, thousands of hardliners Sunday shouted "Hang Yeltsin!" and rallied support for the Communists and ultranationalists who move into Parliament this week.

Just three days before President Clinton arrives in Moscow for talks with Boris Yeltsin, the crowd also marched to the U.S. Embassy with red Soviet banners, yelling "Fascists!" and "Yankee go home!" Several dozen police officers watched the demonstration by at least 5,000 people, and no violence was reported. The rally had been authorized by Moscow city authorities.

1986 Audit Tells Differing Story of Arkansas Thrift

WASHINGTON — Nine months after Hillary Rodham Clinton's law firm told state regulators a troubled Arkansas thrift was heading for improvement, federal regulators painted a starkly different picture — warning that the institution was teetering near insolvency because of risky land ventures and accounting irregularities, documents show.

A confidential March 1986 audit by the Federal Home Loan Bank Board also warned that Madison Guaranty Savings and Loan funds appeared to have been improperly diverted to projects and associates of the thrift's owner, James McDougal.

Eight years later, that allegation is a key focus of a widening federal probe into the thrift's failure that has now embroiled President Clinton and Hillary Rodham Clinton.

NATO Summit to Discuss Future Role of Alliance

BRUSSELS, Belgium — The "Partnership for Peace" that is a cornerstone of the NATO summit, which begins today, forges new ties with former foes from the Warsaw Pact with a fearful eye on rising Russian nationalism.

But the Eastern European countries won't get what they dearly want — immediate NATO membership with the accompanying pledge that NATO allies will defend their borders from attack.

The partnership deal President Clinton and the other 15 leaders will likely approve today will not extend the all-for-one, one-for-all defense guarantees NATO nations enjoy under the 1949 Washington Treaty.

Washington has objected to setting a date for bringing any new members into NATO, and has warned that security and stability in Europe could be undermined if NATO expands too rapidly.

Wind Shift Fosters Fires Outside Australian City

SYDNEY, Australia — Wildfires raging outside Sydney flared dramatically Sunday when the winds shifted and became stronger, and hundreds more people were forced to flee their homes.

Four people, including two firefighters, have been killed and more than 60 hospitalized since the fires began a week ago.

Thousands have been evacuated and others left stranded after major highways and railroads were blocked by smoke and flames.

On Saturday, the huge fires came to within five miles of downtown Sydney, Australia's largest city with 3.6 million people, but firefighters cut off their progress.

Both the winds and the flames eased soon after sundown.

Cleanup Continues After 750,000-Gallon Oil Spill

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — Crewmen busily siphoned oil from a leaking barge Sunday while workers on shore scooped, skimmed and sopped the oil from beaches and lagoons.

An estimated 750,000 gallons of heavy oil spilled from the barge when it went aground on a reef about 300 yards offshore Friday morning. Since then, oil has continued to leak, although more slowly.

Six miles of the shoreline was sullied, and a sheen of floating oil covered about 20 miles of water northwest of the barge.

On Saturday night, workers began pumping oil from the barge into the tanks of a nearby salvage barge. It was carrying 1.5 million gallons before the accident.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Weather

TODAY: Mostly sunny; high upper 30s.

TUESDAY: 30-percent chance of rain; high mid-40s.

Crawford to Leave BCC to Take Consulting Job



MARGO CRAWFORD resigned her position as BCC director Thursday.

BY JENNIFER TALHELM
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

If students have learned one thing from Margo Crawford, director of the Sonja Haynes Stone Black Cultural Center, it's to stand up for their beliefs.

Now the students will have to proceed without their mother-figure and leader.

Thursday, Crawford announced her work at UNC was over. She will join a cross-cultural consulting group in Glencoe, Ill., in early February. It was time to move on, she explained.

"I never intended to stay," she said in an interview Friday afternoon. "I don't think anyone I know would have that tenacity anyway."

Crawford, 50, came to UNC on July 1, 1988. She will join Be Young Associates Inc. as a senior associate. Her resignation is effective Jan. 31.

Be Young Associates assists business organizations, public school systems and

universities nationally with cross-cultural communication and learning how to value cultural differences. Be Young is a former professor and 30-year friend of Crawford's since Crawford was a student at Northeast Illinois University.

Crawford will work as a consultant earning about double her current \$45,000 salary, she estimates. "I'm not coming back. It's a career change," she said. "This is a wonderful time for me."

Chancellor Paul Hardin said he would appoint an interim director, most likely from within the University, by the middle of this week. Crawford will spend the month working with the interim director. The University will hold a nationwide search for a permanent replacement.

Crawford has been a driving force behind the movement for a free-standing BCC. In the past two years, she has helped students through numerous protests that eventually led the administration to approve land for the center between Coker

Hall and the Bell Tower.

The BCC was included in the University's \$400 million Bicentennial fund-raising goal in December. Crawford said she thought that because the BCC was finally in the fund-raising process, it was a good time to leave.

"I think this is as good a time as any," she said. "We are in the process of raising the money. I believe it will be a quiet process."

Crawford applied for the job at Be Young Associates four months ago. Only Hardin knew she was seriously thinking of taking the job, she said.

BCC Advisory Board Chairman Harry Amama said he was surprised Crawford decided to leave so suddenly.

"To her credit, Margo waited until the BCC was in the position it is now to leave," Amama said. "She made the move that is in her best interest. I know she went through sacrifices to stay here."

Crawford helped make the BCC struggle

known throughout the country, drawing personalities such as filmmaker Spike Lee and the Rev. Jesse Jackson, who lent their support for the center.

Her leadership endeared her to the students and often pitted her against University administrators.

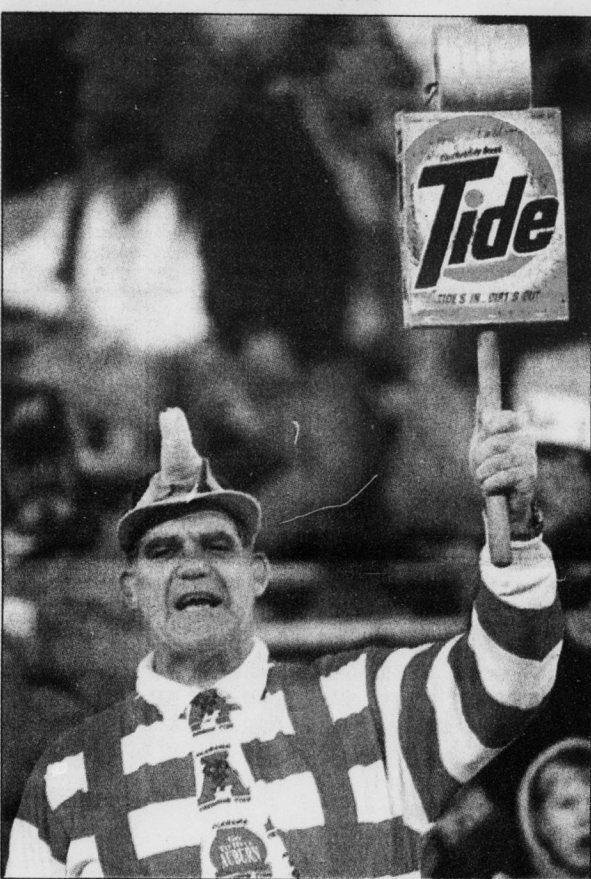
In the midst of an April morning protest, Crawford announced to frustrated and angry students that the best way to make Hardin meet their demands would be to move into his South Building office.

"If I wasn't black, I'd probably be the chancellor anyway," she proclaimed. Later that day, 16 students and one Chapel Hill resident were arrested after they refused to leave Hardin's office.

Crawford has accused Hardin and the administration of running a "witch hunt" to get rid of her. But she said Friday that she was on friendly terms with the University.

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Washed Out



Jerry Bogle, of Stockboro, Ala., proudly waves his "Roll Tide" spirit stick during UNC's Gator Bowl loss to the Alabama Tide on New Year's Eve in Jacksonville, Fla. See complete game story on page 12.

DTH/JUSTIN WILLIAMS

Burnette Plans to Stay on Board

BY KELLY RYAN
CITY EDITOR

At LaVonda Burnette's first meeting Dec. 27 as a member of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Board of Education, her six colleagues decided unanimously that she should resign.

And at her second meeting tonight at 7:30, Burnette will officially announce whether she will. The meeting will be held at Estes Hills Elementary School.

Al McSurely, legal counsel for the Chapel Hill-Carrboro branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and a friend of Burnette's, said Sunday that she did not plan to resign.

"She has said she isn't going to resign," he said. "She was elected by 4,100 voters, and she made a contract with those voters."

Burnette declined an interview Sunday afternoon.

Chapel Hill and Carrboro voters began questioning Burnette's integrity and honesty a little more than a month ago, after the UNC Registrar's Office said she had never enrolled at the University — as an evening college, part-time or auditing student.

In the past month, Burnette, who grabbed the third open school board seat by 113 votes, has had to answer to charges that she lied when she campaigned as a UNC student and a product of the local school system.

Burnette left Chapel Hill High School without enough credits for graduation and completed her schooling at Durham Technical Community College. The UNC Registrar's Office has no record that Burnette ever paid a \$10 fee to audit a class.

If Burnette doesn't resign tonight, the school board will be left with two options — to do nothing or to begin a formal investigation. Under state law, local school boards can vote to unseat a member after a



School board member LAVONDA BURNETTE billed herself as a UNC student during her campaign.

trial-like hearing shows that a member's conduct has been "immoral or disreputable."

School board Chairman Ken Touw said that although Burnette apologized to the community, it was not enough to restore credibility to the board. After letters, phone calls and an emotional meeting that have divided the community over the matter, the school board was convinced it would be difficult to work with someone they could not trust, he said.

"Are the consequences of leaving her on the board worse than the consequences of going through this process, which would be stressful for her and the community?" Touw asked.

"The board becomes stronger with more diversity, but in order for that diversity to

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NAACP Supports Burnette

BY KELLY RYAN
CITY EDITOR

Members of the black community came together Saturday to denounce attempts by some school board members who they claim are asking for names of people to replace board member LaVonda Burnette.

Burnette will announce at tonight's school board meeting whether she plans to resign.

The Chapel Hill-Carrboro chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the South Orange Black Caucus issued a joint statement Saturday evening after meeting separately.

"We condemn the actions of school board members who have participated in discussions regarding a replacement for Ms. LaVonda Burnette, a duly elected member of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro school board," the Rev. Gene Hatley, a spokesman for the local NAACP branch, read from a statement during an interview Sunday.

"Until there is a vacancy on the board, we believe these actions are unethical, immoral and disreputable."

Hatley said one school board member, whom he would not name, called him for his suggestion on who should replace Burnette after the school board

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Gator Bowl Trip Stays Within Allotted Budget

BY HOLLY STEPP
UNIVERSITY EDITOR

Jacksonville and the Outback Steakhouse Gator Bowl might have been bad news for Mack Brown's football team, but for the athletic department the trip was good news because of a smaller budget, a smaller entourage and less criticism.

The UNC athletic department's downsized budget for the Gator Bowl has garnered little criticism from the professors who were "appalled and outraged" with the amount of money spent on the trip last year.

About 650 people went on the trip, including team managers, cheerleaders and the marching band.

Many professors said they thought too many nonathletes received bonuses and free rides to the Peach Bowl.

Although the University has not received the final bills for the trip, athletic department officials said Friday that the trip would fall within the proposed \$578,000 budget.

Jeff Elliott, associate athletic director, said he was sure the athletic department had met its financial goals and stayed within its proposed budget.

"There may be some spots where we come up over or under budget, but for the most part we will be within our budget projection," Elliott said.

The Gator Bowl budget was about \$17,000 less than the Peach Bowl trip last

January. And, this time, 71 fewer people accompanied the team.

The athletic department presented a budget in December for the trip that only provided for 38 administrators to travel with the team.

The Peach Bowl budget included hotel accommodations and travel expenses for more than 100 administrators in addition to the team and various support people.

Athletic Director John Swofford said the budget was an attempt to be more sensitive to the University's financial plight, as well as to the needs of athletics. Several professors had said that the \$146,000 spent on souvenirs and athletic staff bonuses last year, as well as the number of administrators traveling with the team, was too much during tight financial times.

"We really trimmed down the number of nonteam support people we took to Jacksonville," Elliott said. Administrators who were included in the Gator Bowl entourage included Chancellor Paul Hardin and various athletic directors.

Last January, members of the UNC Board of Trustees, UNC-system Board of Governors and nonrevenue sports coaches were included in the budget for the Peach Bowl.

Other savings came from having the pompons that were distributed at games donated by an area company, a savings of \$2,900, and limited mailings about the event, which saved the department about \$10,000.

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University's Lowest-Paid Employees To Get Raise in January Paychecks

BY HOLLY STEPP
UNIVERSITY EDITOR

The University's lowest-paid employees will see a salary increase in their Jan. 21 paychecks, thanks to a new state salary rate for employees in the lowest rank of state salary grades.

The Office of State Personnel set a new rate of \$14,549 for all permanent employees and newly hired employees in pay grades 50 to 55, the state's lowest pay classifications.

Chancellor Paul Hardin announced the changes Wednesday during a meeting of the Employee Forum, an advisory group representing staff employees.

The state personnel office authorized state agencies to make the changes after the first of the month.

The new pay scale will increase the salaries of about 133 current UNC employees.

Most of the employees affected serve in service positions such as housekeepers, laborers, general utility workers, sales clerks, vehicle operators and food service assistants.

Most University employees already are at the new pay level because of an Accelerated Pay plan, said Laurie Charest, associate vice chancellor for human resources.

The Accelerated Pay plan was enacted by the General Assembly in 1990 to provide faster salary movement within pay grades 50 to 53.

After they completed a certain amount of state service, eligible employees progressed up an accelerated pay scale, which

once topped off where the new grade now begins.

Employees in pay grade 50 had earned a minimum salary of \$13,521 and, through the Accelerated Pay plan, those employees had a top 1993-94 salary of \$14,549.

"Most of our lower-paid employees were moved up to the top of the pay level within nine months in coming to the University," Charest said.

"Most of our employees that have been here for any amount of time have already reached the top of the pay grade."

The new pay grade and its pay level will replace the Accelerated Pay plan, Charest said.

Executive Vice Chancellor Richard McCormick said the University was pleased to have the opportunity to increase the salaries of the lowest-paid employees.

"The University has been seeking this for a very long time, and we are glad to see this come about," McCormick said.

"This measure had been a great part brought about by the efforts of the University and the efforts of the lowest-paid employees on this campus."

This new pay grade marks the fifth year that the General Assembly has authorized an increase in the 50 to 55 pay grades.

However, only once in the past five sessions has the General Assembly allocated money to state agencies to make the changes in salary grades, McCormick said.

Most state agencies have used a combination of state allocations and their own reserves to accommodate the pay changes.

"We are not unhappy to have the chance to make these pay increases possible, but it

would be nice to have the state allot some funds when they make the changes in the pay grades," McCormick said.

The University will reallocate internal funds to accommodate the changes, McCormick said.

Wayne Jones, vice chancellor for business and finance, said each individual department would have to find the funds within their departments to accommodate the pay increase if no funds already have been allocated to those positions.

"For example, if the employee falls under University housing and there are no funds allocated by the state, the housing department will have to cover the salary increase with revenues from housing."

Editor's Note

A new year, a new semester, a new beginning.

The Daily Tar Heel is looking for new staff members for the spring semester.

If you are interested in writing, copy editing, photography, graphics, layout, illustrating or drawing editorial cartoons, come by the DTH office (Union Suite 104) and pick up an application.

No experience is necessary, except for the photography and graphics desks.

Applications are due by 5 p.m. Jan. 18. Feel free to call 962-0245 if you have any questions.

It's going to be a fun and exciting semester at the DTH.

Don't miss out.

There is nothing permanent except change.

Heraclitus