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IN THE NEWS

Top stories from the state, nation and world

Seagroves Will Not Face Second Trial for Shooting

RALEIGH—A second trial will not be held for the Durham man whose first trial on charges that he killed a teenager who broke into his home ended with a hung jury, the state attorney general said Tuesday. Attorney General Mike Easley said Michael Seagroves would not be retried on charges of voluntary manslaughter and assault with a deadly weapon.

"I am convinced the state cannot obtain a unanimous verdict of guilty in this case," Easley said at a news conference. "The case cannot be made any stronger or tried any better than it was in December."

One of the main reasons for the decision is that jurors told the Attorney General's Office that they did not believe the prosecution's main witness, Clifton Hester Taft, Easley said. Taft was shot and wounded as he ran from Seagroves' house.

Jackson Settles Dispute Over Sexual Abuse Charge

SANTA MONICA, Calif. — Without admitting guilt, Michael Jackson settled a lawsuit Tuesday that alleged he molested a 13-year-old boy. Terms of the settlement left the youngster "very happy."

Terms of the out-of-court agreement were confidential, although a source put it at at least \$10 million.

The settlement probably could end the criminal investigation, experts said, but Jackson's problems were far from over.

"I am very happy with the resolution of this matter," said Larry Feldman, attorney for the boy, now 14. The boy, Feldman told reporters, was also "very happy with the resolution of this matter."

Jackson didn't issue any statement but insists he didn't do anything wrong.

Clinton Asks Congress for \$7.5 Billion in Quake Aid

WASHINGTON — The Clinton administration wants \$7.5 billion in federal spending to aid earthquake victims in California, officials said Tuesday.

White House Budget Director Leon Panetta said the administration would send Congress an emergency supplemental budget request Wednesday for \$6.61 billion that would be added to \$897 million in contingency federal funds that already had started flowing to California. Panetta called the \$7.5 billion estimate a "placeholder" that would likely rise.

Panetta said that the administration would ask Congress to declare the supplemental request an "emergency" which under budget rules would allow the deficit to be increased rather than forcing Congress to find cuts in other federal programs.

Arby's Restaurants to Ban Smoking With New Policy

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — Arby's Inc. will ban smoking in all of its corporate-owned restaurants this summer and hopes to install the smoke-free policy in all franchise outlets as well, company officials said Tuesday.

Arby's said it would be the first major fast-food chain to have smoke-free corporate restaurants nationwide. The chain, which features roast-beef sandwiches, has 2,248 restaurants in the United States, 257 of them corporate-owned.

Arby's said test markets would be set up next month in Phoenix and Pittsburgh. Each city has 24 corporate-owned restaurants. By summer, Arby's plans to have a no-smoking policy at all corporate outlets.

U.S. Troops Continue Withdrawal from Somalia

MOGADISHU, Somalia — Discouraged U.S. troops are withdrawing from Mogadishu's streets faster than expected and moving to the heavily guarded seaport and airport to await the trip home.

Two months before the U.S. military is scheduled to finish removing its 5,300 soldiers from the capital, the beaches at the airport are crowded with tents.

Most U.S. bases and strongholds around the city have been turned over to soldiers from other countries who are staying in Somalia as U.N. peacekeepers.

The American soldiers, the backbone of the operation, must finish withdrawing by March 31, along with their helicopters, howitzers, armored personnel carriers and anti-tank missiles.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Weather

TODAY: Variably cloudy; high mid-50s.

THURSDAY: Chance of rain; high low 50s.

Clinton Calls for Speedy Reforms on All Fronts

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Proclaiming progress on his promises to break gridlock and revive the nation's economy, President Clinton challenged Congress Tuesday night to move promptly on health care and welfare reform. "Our work has just begun," he declared in his first State of the Union address.

Clinton told a joint session of Congress that both reform efforts could be done this year. "We must do both at the same time."

Upping pressure on Congress to pass the health care reform plan he proposed, Clinton — who has yet to veto a bill — threatened to veto any measure that did not meet his standard of universal coverage.

"If the legislation you send me does not guarantee every American private health insurance that can never be taken away, I

will take this pen, veto that legislation, and we'll come right back here and start over again."

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, the president's chief adviser on health care, was seated in the gallery between AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland and Jack Smith, the chief executive officer of General Motors.

At the top of his speech, Clinton paid special tribute to former House Speaker Thomas P. O'Neill Jr., who died earlier this month.



President BILL CLINTON gave his first State of the Union address Tuesday night.

O'Neill's eldest son, Tommy O'Neill, sat in the gallery near Mrs. Clinton.

Clinton called the late speaker "a giant who presided over this house with such force and grace," drawing the first of many rounds of applause.

In the formal Republican response, Senate GOP Leader Bob Dole signalled a fierce election-year battle lies ahead over health care, as he sharply criticized Clinton's plan.

"More cost. Less choice. More taxes. Less quality. More government control. Less control for you and your family," he said in remarks prepared for after Clinton completed his speech.

"That's what the president's government-run plan is likely to give you."

Dole called instead for a more modest proposal that he said would offer greater access to health care for all.

Clinton took advantage of — and some of the credit for — the improving economy to call for Congress to "continue our journey of renewal" by enacting the remainder of his domestic program. "We replaced drift and deadlock with renewal and reform," Clinton said.

Turning to crime, Clinton voiced strong support for legislation that would put 100,000 more police on the beat, send three-time felons to prison for life and ban assault weapons.

"Violent crime and the fear it provokes are crippling our society, limiting personal freedom and fraying the ties that bind us," Clinton said.

"Those who commit crimes must be punished, and those who commit repeated violent crimes must be told: Commit a third violent crime and you'll be put away, and put away for good. Three strikes and

you're out."

He also urged sportsmen to "join us in a common campaign to reduce gun violence." The emphasis on crime follows polls suggesting that crime has become the number-one concern of most Americans.

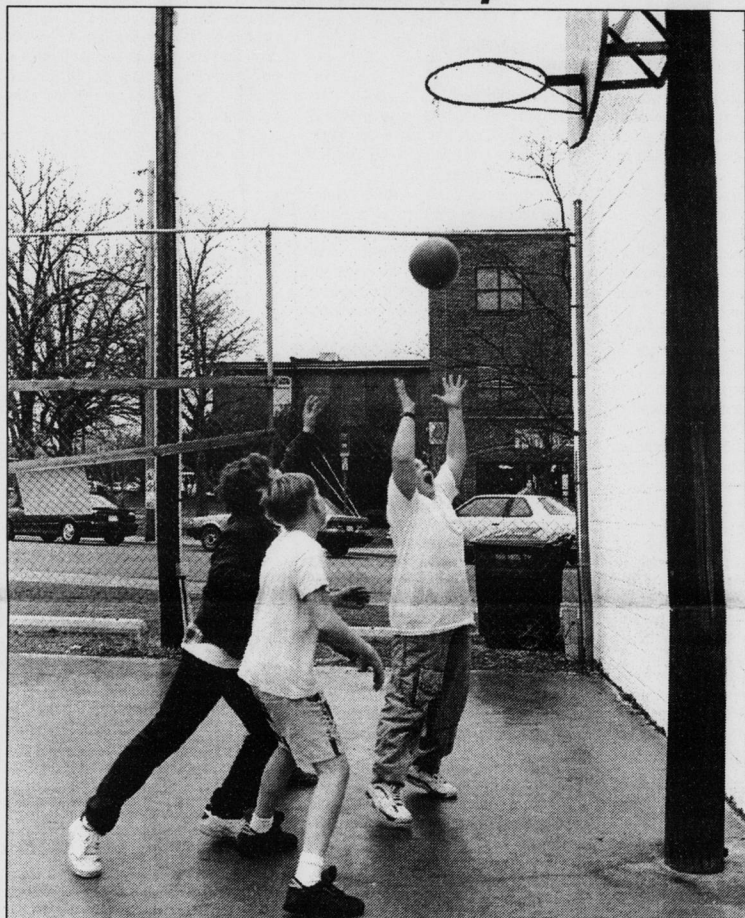
The president also included a strong pitch for overhauling the nation's welfare system.

He said his welfare reform package would withhold certain benefits to pregnant teens. "We will say to teenagers, 'If you have a child out of wedlock, we will no longer give you a check to set up a separate household. We want families to stay together.'"

Welfare reform was given added emphasis in the speech after Senate Finance Committee Chairman Daniel Patrick

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Afterschool Play



DTH/JUDITH SIMVILA

Darby Landy, Matt King and Chris Pendergraft play ball after school outside the Carboro Baptist Church on Greensboro Street. The three all attend Grey Culbreth Middle School.

10-Point Guarantee Outlines Treatment of Rape Victims

BY JESSICA FRANK
STAFF WRITER

In an effort to increase the reporting of sexual assaults, University Police has adopted a 10-point guarantee to ensure that victims of sexual assaults will be treated with courtesy and respect.

Advocates for Victims of Sexual Assaults, formerly Women Against Rape, worked with the Campus Security Committee and University Police to develop the new policy.

Sibby Anderson-Thompkins, assistant dean of students, said the 10-point guarantee would be distributed on 3-inch-by-6-inch cards to various student agencies, including the Office of the Dean of Students, University Housing Department, Student Psychological Services, Student Health and University Police.

Under the 10-point guarantee, University Police promise to arrange a one-on-one meeting, not to release the victim's name, not to blame or prejudice the victim, to assist in arranging for medical treatment, to fully investigate the case and to consider the case seriously regardless of gender.

Ruth Campbell, co-president of Advocates for Victims of Sexual Assaults, said the myth that police officers were uncaring, impersonal and intimidating led to the discomfort people felt in reporting sexual assaults.

"The UNC Police is not like that, and it's important that students know," Campbell said. "The 10-point guarantee is a way to show victims that they will be supported and treated with respect when they report sexual assaults. This should result in increased reporting."

Campbell said University Police were very easy to work with and had already been following most of the guidelines in the 10-point guarantee.

"They had already done it — it just wasn't articulated," Campbell said.

Maj. Donald Gold of University Police said no rapes had been reported in the past year. However, according to the 1993 Campus Security Report, 11 sexual offenses were reported to University Police, said Anderson-Thompkins. Sexual assault includes any type of sexual crime except for rape, Gold said.

"This does not indicate that rapes do not occur on this campus," Gold said. "They're just not reported to us."

Gold said that it was more common for sexual assault victims to report the crime to the Orange County Rape Crisis Center or

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New Task Force To Study Abuse In Relationships

BY DAWN BRYANT
STAFF WRITER

Have you or someone you know ever been involved in an abusive relationship?

The increased number of students who might respond "yes" to that question contributed to the formation of a task force to study domestic and relationship violence at UNC.

A 15-member task force met for the first time Tuesday in the Student Union to begin its examination of such incidents on campus and to discuss ways to educate students about the issue and provide services to victims and abusers.

The Office of the Dean of Students received 11 reports of relationship and domestic violence in 1993.

"The eleven reports should not be taken as indicative; hidden assault occurs more often than reported ones," said Frederic Schroeder, UNC dean of students.

Members of the group include administrators, representatives from the Honor Court and from Student Legal Services, Mary Sechrist from University Counsel and the Chapel Hill Police Department.

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Students Want to Help Select New BCC Chief

BY HOLLY RAMER
STAFF WRITER

Student leaders asked the chancellor Tuesday to appoint students to half of the slots on the selection committee for a new director of the Sonja H. Stone Black Cultural Center.

Leaders from the Black Student Movement, the Campus Y and student government sent a letter Tuesday to Chancellor Paul Hardin saying that students should have an active voice in the selection process, which will begin next month.

The selection committee, to be formed in February, will conduct a nationwide search for a permanent replacement for BCC director Margo Crawford, who will leave Jan. 31.

"Students have played a vital role in bringing the issue of a free-standing SHS Black Cultural Center to fruition as well as being a major part of the programming and the decision-making processes concerning the black cultural center," the letter said.

"Given the history of student participation with the SHS Black Cultural Center, it seems logical that the selection committee for the BCC's new leader have strong student representation," the letter said.

Hardin, who received the letter Tuesday night, said he would take the recommendation into "serious consideration."

He said he is now in the process of consulting several people and considering advice on finding a replacement for Crawford.

"I have begun to consult with people to get an assortment of views on how we will put a committee together," Hardin said. Provost Richard McCormick said the

members of the search committee would be chosen carefully.

"There will be a great deal of talk about who should be on the committee," he said. "Of course, there will be students and faculty on the committee."

McCormick said that although assembling a committee could take weeks, and the actual search even longer, he thought the BCC would run smoothly under Interim Director Harold Wallace, vice chancellor of University affairs.

"He is someone everyone has an enormous amount of confidence in," McCormick said. "It's not like (the BCC) will drift or disintegrate in the meantime."

Once the search committee is formed, it will turn to the task of finding the best person for the job. The ideal candidate will have a variety of skills, McCormick said.

"We'll be looking for someone who has real strengths in the broad field of African-American culture," he said. "It could be someone with an academic background, such as someone who has studied African-American art or music. It could also be a practitioner of one of those things—someone who creates culture."

McCormick said applicants would also be judged on the basis of their administrative skills, but these skills alone would not suffice.

"We don't want someone whose sole strengths are bookkeeping and shuffling papers," he said.

Although the search for a new director will be nationwide, there still is a possibility that the position could be filled by a local person, McCormick said.

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Local Companies Boost Town Security Fund

BY JOHN BLACKWELL
STAFF WRITER

Chapel Hill businesses and citizens are continuing to support an experimental citizen patrol program initiated last fall to help local police fight crime.

Local businesses and individuals have contributed \$7,500 to the town security fund since Oct. 15, town finance director Jim Baker said Tuesday.

The Chapel Hill Police Department started the citizen patrol program last November with a \$30,000 contribution from the Village Companies, WCHL radio and the Village Company Foundation, an organization funded by the 10 Village Companies.

The police department has used the fund to hire citizens for part-time patrol work. Residents patrol the streets with hand-held radios to notify the police of any crime or potentially dangerous situations they observe.

A.D. Yates, owner of Yates Motor Company, which made a donation to the fund, said he donated money because he was concerned about crime in the community. He added that it still was too early to tell if the patrol project would be a success.

"I certainly hope it's going to be effective," Yates said. "If we can't have patrol by the police in sufficient numbers, it's a good idea to have someone else looking out for those who cause trouble."

Chapel Hill Police Chief Ralph Pendergraph said the additional money would only help to sustain the program through this fiscal year, which ends June 30.

"I don't think it will let us expand the program," Pendergraph said. "But we've got the staff a little bit closer to where we want to have it."

The citizen security assistants work Thursday through Saturday from 9 p.m. to

"It's not that I think the program is the answer to the (crime) problem, but it's a first step. Just from the publicity value alone it has merit. People are paying attention to the problem."

DAVE ANNA

The Resolute Building Company owner

2 a.m. They are paid \$6 to \$6.50 an hour, one-fourth the cost of overtime pay for Chapel Hill police officers.

The citizen patrol also will be used to assist police officers at special events, such as the Franklin Street celebration on Halloween.

Using specially trained citizens to handle tasks such as directing traffic can free police officers for more important work, Pendergraph said.

The police department has hired about 15 citizens to work on the patrol since its initiation last fall. Town officials had hoped to hire as many as 20 when the program was initiated.

"We feel that we're just beginning to get a core group of employees that we can really count on," Pendergraph said.

Most of the money collected for the fund was spent on jackets, vests, hand-held radios and salaries for the civilian patrolers.

The amount of money spent on training varied from employee to employee.

"There are still some capital needs that we have to satisfy," Pendergraph said.

"We need new hand-held radios. If we don't have enough to go to all the citizen patrolmen, our officers have to give up theirs, and that's something I don't want to

happen."

Pendergraph said he did not know if the program would be continued after the end of the fiscal year — a budget plan has not yet been made. "That's an issue the (town) council has to address."

Dave Anna, owner of The Resolute Building Company, said his business made a donation to the fund as a token of his "spiritual support" for the program.

"It's not that I think the program is the answer to the (crime) problem, but it's a first step," Anna said. "Just from the publicity value alone it has merit. People are paying attention to the problem."

Anna said the program was a positive step because it had increased awareness of the town's crime problem, but added that the town should not become dependent on private money to fund the citizen patrol.

"I think it's a fundamental mistake for private money to be funding something that the town government should be providing," Anna said.

Pendergraph said the program had been criticized as being ineffective, especially after the attack of four New York men in the downtown area last November.

"The perception was that we could have (the security assistants) working in a two-week period, but that's just not realistic," Pendergraph said.

"At that time we had only hired about five of them. Their presence would not have had any effect on those involved in the crime."

Pendergraph said he thought the security assistants could still contribute to crime reduction.

"The more we develop a visible presence, the more impact it will have."

Anyone who might be interested in part-time employment as a citizen security assistant should go to the police headquarters on Airport Road for more information.

Most of the sighs we hear have been edited.

Stanislaw J. Lec