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IN THE NEWS

Top stories from the state, nation and world

Harding Claims She Didn't Know of Plot Until Later

PORTLAND, Ore. — Tonya Harding admitted Thursday she failed to tell authorities what she knew about the Nancy Kerrigan attack, but denied planning to injure her skating rival. She asked to remain on the U.S. Olympic team.

Harding's statement came as her ex-husband, was reportedly working out a deal with authorities to testify against her.

Harding said she was "embarrassed and ashamed to think that anyone close to me could be involved" but said she had "no prior knowledge" of the attack.

Harding has not been charged in the Kerrigan attack. If she is charged, she could be removed from the U.S. Olympic team competing at the Winter Games in Lillehammer, Norway, next month.

Two Members of Reno's Staff Resign Unexpectedly

WASHINGTON — Deputy Attorney General Philip Heymann, a veteran of four administrations who served as right-hand man to Janet Reno, resigned Thursday — a move they both attributed to differences in management style and chemistry.

And a special assistant to Reno, Lula Rodriguez, who is under Justice Department investigation over alleged vote fraud in a Miami-area election, also resigned, spreading turmoil to the top of a second key Cabinet department.

The sudden moves at the Justice Department followed recent high-level changes at the Defense Department, where the secretary resigned and his proposed replacement withdrew recently.

Black Leaders Request Investigation of Seagroves

DURHAM — The U.S. Justice Department will decide in the next several weeks whether it will investigate the case of a homeowner who shot youths who broke into his home.

Black leaders have asked the department to review Michael Seagroves' fatal shooting of 15-year-old Jamal Elliott and the wounding of another youth.

The request was contained Wednesday in a letter to James Turner, acting director of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division.

The letter asked federal officials to examine whether Seagroves violated the civil rights of Elliott.

It was signed by leaders of the Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People, the local chapter of the NAACP and the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance.

Packwood Set to Appeal Court Ruling on Diaries

WASHINGTON — Sen. Bob Packwood, R-Ore., will appeal a court ruling ordering him to provide his diaries to the Senate Ethics Committee, his lawyer said. A judge said he would delay transfer of the materials for the appeal.

Defense attorney Jacob Stein said he would go to the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia while the diaries are given to a court-appointed hearing examiner, who in turn will prepare them for the ethics committee.

U.S. District Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson said at a court hearing he would order a delay of "days rather than weeks" in transferring the diaries and tapes, to allow time for an appeal.

Survey: Many Disabled Without Health Insurance

WASHINGTON — Nearly half the nation's 24 million people with severe disabilities lack private health insurance, the Census Bureau said Thursday in its first comprehensive survey of Americans facing special challenges.

Altogether, 49 million Americans have a disability that keeps them from doing one or more of the common activities of life, such as moving around the home, getting in or out of bed or a chair, bathing, dressing, eating or going to the toilet.

Forty-three percent of the severely disabled lack private health coverage. So do 34 percent of all Americans with disabilities, severe or otherwise. That's far above the 25 percent of all Americans uncovered by private insurers.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Weather

TODAY: 80-percent chance of rain; high 55-60.

SATURDAY: 30-percent chance of rain; high mid-50s.

SUNDAY: Chance of rain; high 50.

Gunshot Kills ASU Student at Fraternity Party

Chi Psi Fraternity President Says Charter Not in Danger

BY KELLY RYAN
CITY EDITOR

A Chi Psi fraternity party turned tragic early Thursday morning when an Appalachian State University student was shot and killed after playing with a handgun police believe the victim didn't know was loaded.

ASU sophomore Christopher Todd Stewart of Charlotte was pronounced dead at 1:10 a.m. Thursday at UNC Hospitals from a gunshot wound to the chest, according to hospital spokeswoman Kathy Neal. He was 20.

Stewart's friend, ASU student Scott Barnes, notified police at 12:43 a.m. that Stewart had shot himself in the chest, Chapel Hill police reports state. Stewart and Barnes had driven to Chapel Hill for

the night to visit some Chi Psi friends, who live in the lodge at 321 W. Cameron Ave.

While in a third-floor bedroom with their Chi Psi friend who was sick, Stewart and Barnes passed a handgun back and forth. Then, police say, Stewart put the gun to his chest and pulled the trigger. Barnes had purchased the Glock 40-caliber, semi-automatic gun in Boone on Wednesday.

"There was a small group on the third floor," said Chapel Hill police spokeswoman Jane Cousins. "The magazine that holds the bullets wasn't in (the gun.) They probably assumed there was not a bullet, but there was one bullet in the chamber."

The manager of the Colonial Gun Shop in Hillsborough said that a Glock 40 semi-automatic handgun, which costs \$479, is good for target shooting.

"But it's a good self-defense weapon because it's lightweight and easy to use," said Don, who asked that his last name not be used. "A lot of law-enforcement officers use it because it's very easy to teach some-

one to use."

Cousins said that several fraternity members, who were emergency medical technicians, performed CPR on Stewart until an ambulance arrived. But Thomas Clark, associate chief medical examiner, said CPR could not have saved Stewart's life.

The medical examiner's office will test Stewart's body for the presence of alcohol in the next two to three days, Clark said.

As of Thursday afternoon, police planned to finish interviews with witnesses and collect lab results before determining if any arrests should be made. Because witnesses admitted to handling the gun, investigators are trying to determine if Stewart actually pulled the trigger, Cousins said.

"We're calling it a suspicious death," she said. "We have no reason to believe there was any intent to shoot anybody. The initial report is that he shot himself. It's just not clear."

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Friends Grieve Over the Death of Fellow Appalachian State Student

BY ROCHELLE KLASKIN
ASSISTANT CITY EDITOR

The knock on her door came at 4:30 a.m.

Colleen Neace, a sophomore at Appalachian State University, awoke from her sleep and found out her boyfriend was dead.

Christopher Todd Stewart, 20, of Charlotte, died early Thursday morning when Chapel Hill police believe he accidentally shot himself with a gun he did not know was loaded during a party at the Chi Psi lodge.

Neace said only a few people knew the "real" Stewart. "He wasn't the most

friendly or outgoing person, but when you really got to know him, you saw something special," she explained. "But you had to be worthy of it."

Stewart, who was in the middle of his third year at ASU, was a man of conviction, Neace said.

"He wasn't scared to take a stand," she said. "He did what he wanted to. He was Todd."

One of Stewart's best friends, ASU junior Thom Dunn, agreed with Neace. "He had very strong beliefs," he said. "He rarely faltered from them. He was pretty vocal about it."

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Candidates Announce Platforms at Dorm Forum

BY HOLLY STEPP
UNIVERSITY EDITOR

Improving campus security and environmental awareness were two of the top issues for the 1994 student body candidates at the first forum of the election season.

Candidates for SBP, Carolina Athletic Association and Residence Hall Association presidents, and senior class president and vice president gathered in Ehringhaus Residence Hall on Thursday to discuss their platforms and goals for the next year.

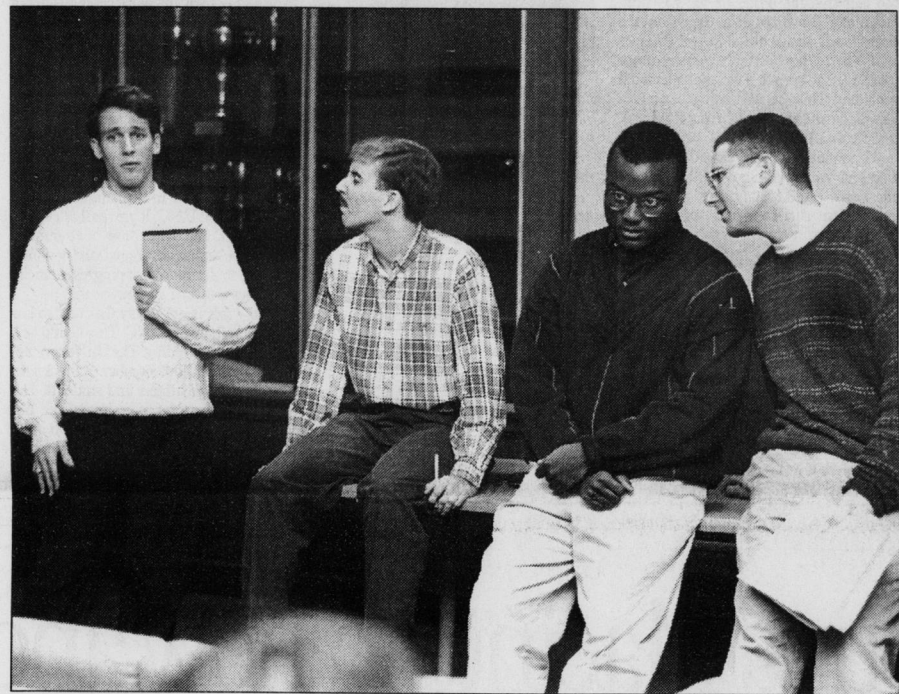
All the SBP candidates gave their views on improving campus safety and increasing campus recycling. The responses ranged from expanding the Point-2-Point shuttle service to increasing the number of University Police officers, and from requiring all campus departments to use recycled products to expanding Green Games.

All the candidates said they would make the effort to make the campus safer for students. Junior George Battle said he would like to improve transportation and security to sorority houses. "It is a shame that we as students can't walk anywhere we want on campus without being afraid," he said.

SBP candidate Tommy Koonce suggested implementing an automated door access program in all the dorms. "I think students should be able to access doors with their UNC ONE Cards and avoid having to wait outside in the dark," he said. Koonce also suggested that a door buzzer system might be feasible and would allow students to call down from their room and buzz guests in.

Peter Wallsten, a campaign worker for candidate Rebecca Moore, spoke on her behalf. Moore, who has been ill, recently was released from hospital care and thus was unable to attend.

Wallsten read from Moore's platform and said she wanted to implement a safe ride program in which students would provide other students with safe transportation from all areas of the community. "Safe



DTH/WARREN PRICKETT

Student body president candidates Tommy Koonce, Wayne Rash and George Battle, and campaign worker Peter Wallsten — who spoke on candidate Rebecca Moore's behalf — answer questions during a forum in Ehringhaus dorm.

ride programs have been implemented at other universities, and Rebecca is confident that they can work at UNC," he said.

SBP candidate Wayne Rash, a Student Congress member, said he would implement a victims-assistance fund possibly paid for by students to better educate people about sexual assault. "About 84 percent of sexual assault happens in a date or relationship situation, and we need money for better education on the issues," he said.

On the subject of recycling, Koonce said he would push the administration to require all University departments to use completely recycled products in copier machines. "It is really important that the University do all it can to encourage recycling efforts," said Koonce, who served as chief of staff last semester in current SBP Jim Copland's administration.

Student government should push Marriott Corp. to boost its recycling efforts, Rash said. "I think Marriott should further increase recycling for the cardboard pizza boxes in Lenior and Chase Hall," he said.

Rash also said he would expand the Green Games and better publicize the inter-dorm competition.

Battle did not mention any specific plans on recycling but said student government should take the lead in the efforts.

The candidates also discussed the dorm visitation policy, the UNC housekeepers movement, and faculty salaries, retention and recruitment.

Candidates for CAA president gave their vision for the next year. Jen Rasmussen and Nil Dalal said they were running as co-presidents because they thought they both

had had valuable experience with CAA.

"I have worked with various aspects of CAA for three years, and Nil has camped out for tickets three years, so we each bring good perspective to the job," Rasmussen said. They said they planned to focus on improving ticket distribution for both basketball and football games and planning bigger events for Homecoming.

The other CAA candidate, Louis Patalano, said his ideas and goals for CAA haven't changed much since when he ran for the office last year as a sophomore. "When I ran last year, people told me that they liked my ideas but I need more experience, so I am back with more experience," he said.

Patalano said he would work to add

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Hardin Named ACC's Representative to NCAA Commission

BY KARA SIMMONS
STAFF WRITER

Tar Heel basketball might not be sitting atop the Atlantic Coast Conference now, but Chancellor Paul Hardin is.

Hardin recently was chosen by the heads of universities in the Atlantic Coast Conference to represent the ACC on the NCAA President's Commission.

Thomas Mickle, director of information at ACC headquarters in Greensboro, said that Hardin was an obvious candidate for the position.

"Paul is eminently qualified to serve on the Commission because he has a diverse background as both a university administrator and a collegiate athlete," he said.

"He represents a school with men's and women's athletic programs that are consistently ranked in the top 10 and are considered leaders in the country," he said.

Hardin could not be reached for comment Thursday.

The commission, which made its debut 10 years ago, is instrumental in proposing legislation, conducting studies and identifying problems concerning the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

The 44-member commission, which includes representatives from Divisions I, II and III, sets the direction for the NCAA.

Although it is not a voting body, it determines the emphasis and designates the issues that will receive precedence at NCAA conventions held two to three times a year.

Thomas Hearn, the current ACC representative on the commission, said he hoped Hardin would continue efforts to improve collegiate athletics.

"The fundamental matters of the last seven years focus on saving intervarsity athletics from excesses and abuses," said Hearn, president of Wake Forest University.

Recent measures by the commission include the approval of a review of academic standards for freshman eligibility and subsequent increase of the minimum grade-point average and SAT scores respectively from 2.0 and 700 to 2.5 and 900.

The review will study the effect that the increases will have on minorities. These standards will go into effect Aug. 1, 1995.

The commission also opposed a measure to raise the number of Division I men's basketball scholarships from 13 to 14 per school. The proposal was defeated by the NCAA Convention despite protests and boycott threats from NCAA coaches.

"Perhaps most important among these (measures) is to ensure that every athlete has the opportunity to get an education," Hearn said. "I'm certain Paul will protect

the gains the commission has made and further those matters at hand."

Hearn said he was pleased that Hardin would replace him.

"The only thing I have to say about Paul's election is 'Thank God,'" Hearn said. "But tell him to get himself a thick suit of armor. It's a time-consuming and difficult responsibility."

Athletic reform is not a foreign subject to Hardin.

He exposed the illegal payments given to student athletes by boosters when he was president of Southern Methodist University in the early 1970s.

Hardin has supported the Knight Foundation's Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics report, which suggested tighter institutional control of athletic, academic and financial programs.

He also has supported faculty reform proposals and has submitted his own initiatives in response to discussions with colleagues nationwide.

Hardin and UNC Athletic Director John Swofford collaborated on a plan to invest \$1 million in post-season athletics revenues to needy academic programs over the next five years.

Swofford said he felt that Hardin could successfully fulfill the position.

"Paul will be excellent in terms of en-



Chancellor PAUL HARDIN will help set the direction for the NCAA.

hancing communication between the NCAA and conference players as the commission continues to work on reform efforts in collegiate athletics," he said.

"He will be a superb representative for our institution as well as the entirety of the ACC."

Buyback Program Needs Funds

Only \$500 Has Been Donated; Supporters Plan Fund-Raiser

BY KRISTEN MIN
STAFF WRITER

Although a gun buyback program has the go-ahead from town officials, "Buy Back the Hill" is still desperately in need of money.

The task force for "Buy Back the Hill" met Wednesday in front of FGI Inc. on West Franklin Street to discuss a fund-raising plan.

The meeting was less than 12 hours after an Appalachian State University student died at the Chi Psi fraternity house of a gunshot wound to the chest from a semi-automatic handgun. Chapel Hill police said they believed Christopher Todd Stewart, 20, shot himself with a handgun he did not know was loaded.

Concern about an increase in gun-related violence led Chapel Hill Town Council member Jim Protzman, chief executive officer of the Chapel Hill marketing and advertising firm, FGI Inc., to initiate the project. The buyback program will allow Chapel Hill residents to bring their unwanted guns to Chapel Hill Police Department, where they will receive \$50 to \$100 or other forms of exchange in return.

Fred Meier, task force chairman, said the buyback was tentatively planned to begin in May. "We are planning to have a fund-raising program in March and April to begin buying back guns," he said. "We are still at the planning stage."

The task force is working to collect enough money to prepare for any number of buybacks, Meier said.

"A town of 400,000 collected over 7,000 guns, and Chapel Hill is one-tenth of that size, so you're looking at a figure of 700 and at least \$35,000," he said. "We're looking for more than 500, but we don't know how many guns are out there or how successful the collection will be."

The fund raising for the project was also initiated by FGI Inc. "The only donation we have now is a generous contribution of \$500 from FGI," Meier said.

Protzman said he began the program because of the successful buyback programs in other cities. "We're really committed to getting guns off the streets," he said. Protzman urged businesses and concerned individuals to contribute to the program and to help make Chapel Hill safer.

Reasons other than money may motivate residents to turn in their guns, Protzman said. "In recent gun buyback programs, individuals have made contributions in memory of loved ones who have been killed by handguns," he said. "Some also made contributions to prevent their loved ones from being hurt or killed by gun violence."

Meier said the task force was emphasizing the impact that guns had on youths. "I think that everybody is concerned about the number of guns available to younger people," Meier said.

"All of us have examples of guns that don't have to be on the streets. We want some of those guns put away."

Meier said the task force planned the buyback to be only a temporary program. "We'll just see how the buybacks are going on that one day and take it from there," he said. "If there's success, we'll see what we can do about buying back more."

Meier also said he expected to see more guns coming from homes rather than from the streets. "There are guns out there that we can pick up," he said. "They'll probably

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In the future everyone will be famous for 15 minutes.

Andy Warhol