

The Daily Tar Heel

Chapel Hill, North Carolina
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1994

News/Features/Arts/Sports 962-0245
Business/Advertising 962-1163
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Volume 101, Issue 150
A century of editorial freedom
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IN THE NEWS

Top stories from the state, nation and world

Clinton: U.S. Won't Play Major Role in Bosnia

WASHINGTON — President Clinton played down differences with Russia over NATO's threatened air strikes against Bosnian Serbs, saying there were no serious obstacles to carrying out the attacks. For the second straight day, Clinton and Russian President Boris Yeltsin were unable to discuss NATO's decision. Clinton, at a news conference on Wednesday, made clear the U.S. would not play a major role in Bosnia even though American war planes might be called upon to help silence the guns of Sarajevo.

Clinton said U.S. ground forces would not take part in NATO's newly authorized mission to get rid of the more than 500 heavy guns pointed down on Sarajevo by Bosnian Serbs.

UPS Sues Teamster Union For Staging Worker Strike

ATLANTA — The United Parcel Service filed a lawsuit accusing the Teamsters union of an illegal strike, seeking \$50 million in damages from the one-day walkout.

The strike Monday was in protest of an increase in the weight limit on packages handled by UPS drivers, from 70 pounds to 150 pounds. Both sides agreed to discuss the limit and the walkout ended.

In the lawsuit filed Wednesday, UPS said the union violated a court order and grievance procedures in calling the strike.

The union said the high weight limit raised the risk of worker injuries. Bernie Mulligan, a Teamsters spokesman, said Thursday the strike was legal and the union would fight the lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court in Washington.

Russian Market Reformer Plans New Political Party

MOSCOW — Yegor Gaidar, the champion of Russia's market reforms, on Thursday announced plans to create a new political party that he said would help solidify the ranks of reformers.

Gaidar's action, however, reflected a split within Russia's Choice, a pro-reform alliance he leads in the new parliament.

Some of its members are turning away from Gaidar, blaming him for their defeat in the Dec. 12 parliamentary elections. Some smaller pro-reform parties have rejected Gaidar's calls to unite.

Gaidar announced his plan to about two dozen politicians and cultural leaders. He said reformers needed a well-oiled campaign machine to succeed in the 1996 presidential race and other elections.

Official Says Agreement Won't Stop MIA Search

WASHINGTON — The administration's top official on Asia told skeptical POW-MIA family members Thursday that the search for the missing will not slacken following the restoration of trade relations with Vietnam.

"Our efforts will continue undiminished, indeed with fresh momentum," said Winston Lord, assistant secretary of state for East Asia and Pacific affairs.

Lord said there were more than 500 military and civilian personnel assigned to POW-MIA affairs.

But leaders of several POW-MIA family groups said they were betrayed by President Clinton's decision last week to end the two-decade-old trade embargo.

Harding Sues Olympic Committee for \$20 Million

LILLEHAMMER, Norway — A defendant Tonya Harding struck back at the U.S. Olympic Committee with a \$20 million lawsuit and vowed to skate, win a gold medal and "hang it on my wall forever."

The skater asked an Oregon court Wednesday to block the USOC from holding a hearing that could lead to her expulsion from the Winter Games for actions surrounding the attack on Nancy Kerrigan.

A court hearing on her request was set for Friday.

"I have done nothing that would warrant my removal from the U.S. Olympic team," Harding said.

USOC executive director Harvey Schiller said the committee would counter her lawsuit by filing motions of its own.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Weather

TODAY: Cold, freezing rain; high mid-30s
SATURDAY: 30-percent chance of rain; high mid-50s
SUNDAY: Chance of showers; high 50s

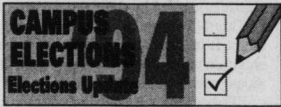
Elections Board Drops Case Against Candidate

BY ERICA LUETZOW
STAFF WRITER

The Elections Board dropped a pending hearing against Roy Granato, candidate for Student Congress, after discovering a section in the Student Elections Code that defined what constitutes campaign materials.

Granato, who won the congress seat for Dist. 13 in Tuesday's election by a 98-62 vote, tore down posters Tuesday morning that discouraged students from voting for him. Granato then took the signs to the Elections Board.

The board had to determine whether the posters were actually campaign material supporting another candidate.



After reviewing the election code Thursday and deciding the posters in question were not campaign material, election officials ruled that a hearing would not be necessary, and Granato would not be disqualified, said Melinda Manning, elections board chairwoman.

"I'm relieved," Granato said. Granato said he took down the posters because he thought they were not campaign material.

"I strongly feel these are not campaign

materials," Granato said. "They were just some kind of sick plot for me to lose."

"(The posters) were lies," he said. "They were not in any way endorsing another candidate."

Granato said he also thought removing the posters did not adversely affect his opponent Dallas Duke's campaign.

"I won the election fair and square," he said. "By taking those down I was not hurting (Duke's) campaign."

Manning said the case was a result of a misunderstanding of the Student Government Code. "Roy believed that negative campaigning like that was illegal, which it is not," she said. "You can be as nasty as you want under the code."

Granato's election violation dispute was

not the only one that occurred during the campaign season, Manning said.

Manning said that there had been eight official election violations this campaign season.

"There have obviously been a lot more (violations), but these are the only ones we have been able to catch and get evidence," Manning said. "The Roy Granato thing would be the most serious one."

Manning said the number of official violations was up from last year, when they did not take formal action against violators.

"I would say it is above normal. We've just been a little more conscientious about it," she said.

A lot of the violations involve signs

posted in unapproved areas and campaigning door-to-door after hours, she said.

A similar incident occurred in Granville Towers when signs urging students not to vote for Meredith Armstrong and making fun of her sorority membership appeared on individual residence hall doors.

"I did not file a complaint about that," Armstrong said. "I felt I handled it on my own."

Armstrong said some friends of the other candidates put the signs on the doors, and they took them down after she talked to them.

Other students thought the election code was violated when Mark Bibbs, a UNC

Please See VIOLATIONS, Page 2

Cold Snap Closes UNC Offices, But Most Classes Still On

BY HEATHER N. ROBINSON
STAFF WRITER

There is about an inch of ice on the roads. Do you go to class? You make the call.

Dean of Student Affairs Donald Boulton said Thursday night the University did not cancel classes for inclement weather, but he expected professors, students and employees to make the call when determining whether to show up.

"I was planning to go to the (Carolina vs. Maryland) game, but I couldn't make it out," he said.

"If I get up tomorrow and can make it (to the University), I'll be here," Boulton said. "Temperatures dropped 48 degrees between Wednesday afternoon and 5 p.m. Thursday."

Wednesday's temperatures peaked at 74 degrees, while Thursday afternoon hosted temperatures only reaching 32 degrees.

Both the Student Legal Services offices and the Registrar's Office closed yesterday at 3:30 p.m. Student Health Services refused to make additional appointments and Point-2-Point shut down its services for the day and night as well.

But the possibility of classes being canceled was slim to none.

"The staff is required to report in, so the students are required to go to class," said Brenda Kirby, secretary to the University. "I've been here since 1980, and have yet to see classes canceled due to inclement weather."

"We just don't do it—there is too much going on at the University to just close the place," Boulton said. "We don't require students to be in class, so they have to make the decisions."

Michael Klein, director of the University Department of Transportation and Parking, said that none of the three levels of the severe weather procedures had been put into effect for the storm by late Thursday afternoon.

The most-severe weather plan is the ice emergency plan.

The plan states that the associate vice chancellor for facilities management makes the final decision on what precautions to take based on input from the physical plant director, the director of transportation and parking and UNC Hospitals.

In the past, if Chapel Hill Transit workers stayed home, so did students. Buses were running Thursday afternoon, but sleet and ice made CHT shut down later in the evening.

When less than severe conditions occur, physical plant director Herbert Paul decides what precautions to take.

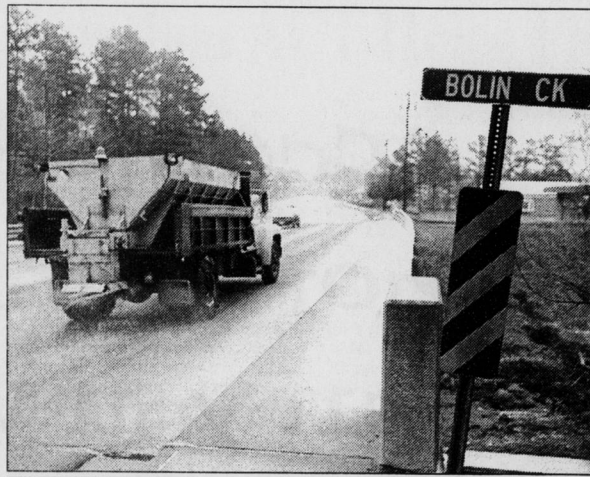
Crews distributed sand and chemicals in shaded areas to prevent standing water from freezing, Paul said, and workers were on call overnight to distribute more if necessary.

Please See WEATHER, Page 7



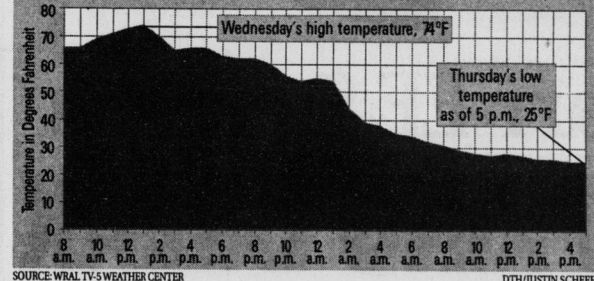
DTH PHOTOS BY JUSTIN WILLIAMS

Beverly Bowen (above), a freshman from Charlotte, scrapes away frozen sleet from her windshield before heading out to the mall Thursday afternoon. A Chapel Hill public works truck (left) spreads a layer of sand over the icy Bolin Creek bridge on East Franklin Street before Thursday's rush hour.



Sleet, Ice and Cold Temperatures Invade Triangle

Temperatures at Raleigh/Durham International Airport fell 47 degrees in a 23-hour time span.



SOURCE: WRAL-TV-5 WEATHER CENTER

DTH/JUSTIN SCHEFF

Computer Error Produces Duplicate Duke Tickets

BY ALI BEASON
STAFF WRITER

A computer system foul-up left some students without the seats they had camped out for at the Feb. 3 UNC-Duke game in the Smith Center.

About 30 students were surprised to find other ticket holders in their seats when they got to the Smith Center that night. The Smith Center Ticket Office distributed two rows of duplicate tickets for upper-level section 214A. The triangle-shaped section is in a far corner of the center.

The TicketMaster system that the ticket office uses to generate tickets for athletic events went down during printing, said ticket manager Daren Lucas.

When the mechanism fails, officials often can't tell where the computer stopped, Lucas said. Sometimes there is an overlap, he said.

Student tickets are printed by section, Lucas said.

The overflow of students from the two rows were given seats on the lower level in walkways behind lower level section 110. Ushers set up folding chairs behind the regular seats.

Some students went to complain to Carolina Athletic Association Ticket Coordinator Todd Austell at halftime. The upper-level corner is one of the worst student sections on the upper deck, Austell said.

The students who were moved to the lower level probably got better seats than they would have had on the upper level, he said.

When he heard about the problem he was concerned that more than two rows of students had been left without seats, Austell

Please See TICKETS, Page 7

First Lady Addresses Forum Via Satellite

BY ADAM BIANCHI
STATE AND NATIONAL EDITOR

North Carolina's winter storm kept Hillary Rodham Clinton out of the Triangle on Thursday afternoon, but the First Lady used a satellite transmission from Washington to address 600 viewers in N.C. State University's McKimmon Center.

Clinton began her speech by talking about the accomplishments of the president's administration in its first year, including moves toward balancing the federal budget and the National Community Service Act.

She said her work as head of the Task Force on National Health Care Reform had convinced her of the need for fundamental changes in health care to ensure that all citizens had access to medical care when they needed it.

"The system is broken in some places,

and we need to make sure it gets fixed," she said. "We have the best doctors, the best nurses, the best hospitals and the best technology in the world. But we have absolutely the worst system of paying for that health care in the world."

Clinton said she rejected arguments that the administration's plan would damage America's medical system while attempting to reform the insurance industry.

"We need to keep what's working and get rid of what's creating problems," Clinton said. "To those in Washington

who say there is no health-care crisis, I say tell it to the single mother who wants to work but has to stay on welfare to keep her family's medical insurance. Tell it to the senior citizen who has to choose whether to buy either food or prescription medicine every month."

Clinton said she was convinced that the insurance industry needed to be overhauled because so many people lost their insurance when they suffered a catastrophic

Please See CLINTON, Page 6

Editor's Note

It's that time of the year again. It's almost time to choose next year's editor.

But before that can happen, The Daily Tar Heel needs eight students to serve as at-large members of the DTH Editor Selection Board.

All undergraduate and graduate students are encouraged to apply except those affiliated with student government, officers of an officially recognized student group and current

DTH staff members. The DTH will appoint three staff members — a writer, an assistant desk editor and a desk editor — to serve on the 11-member board.

Applications are available in the DTH office, Union Suite 104, and at the Union desk, and are due Feb. 18.

This is your chance to play a part in determining the future of the DTH.

There seems to be so much more winter than we need this year.

Kathleen Norris