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IN THE NEWS

Top stories from the state, nation and world

Special Assembly Accepts New Bosnian Constitution

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Bosnia's Muslims and Serbs made war Wednesday while Muslims and Croats made peace by approving a tentative constitution for their planned federation.

At least 10 people were reported killed in battles around the Muslim enclaves of Gorazde in the southeast and Bihac in the northwest. But Sarajevo was peaceful as a special assembly of Muslims and Croats endorsed the constitution.

Seeking to feed the peace momentum in Sarajevo, where few shots have been fired since a truce began Feb. 10, the United States' top general and U.N. ambassador arrived for talks with leaders of Bosnia's Muslim-led government.

Congress to Investigate Fatal Military Plane Crash

WASHINGTON — Congress will hold hearings to investigate the airplane crash last week at Pope Air Force Base that left 23 Army paratroopers dead, a congressman who represents the district including the base said.

U.S. Rep. Bill Hefner, D-N.C., predicted the hearings likely would occur when the House reconvened after Easter.

An F-16D fighter jet collided with a C-130 Hercules transport plane on March 23 as both tried to land on the same runway at Pope. The fighter jet skidded into a C-141 transport plane that was preparing to take members of the 82nd Airborne Division from neighboring Fort Bragg on a training mission. The soldiers were engulfed in flames from jet fuel that caught fire and flying debris from the planes.

China Accepts Inspection Of N. Korea Nuclear Sites

WASHINGTON — China will permit the U.N. Security Council to approve a resolution urging North Korea to open its suspect nuclear sites to international inspectors, South Korea's foreign minister said Wednesday.

But the minister, Han Seung-joo, said the resolution would impose "minimum requirements," and the State Department spokesman said it could be a month before another, tougher resolution was presented to the council.

The International Atomic Energy Agency in the meantime will evaluate data collected during inspections in March to determine whether North Korea has an active program to develop nuclear weapons, department spokesman Michael McCurry said.

CNN Charged for Airing Noriega's Conversations

MIAMI — CNN was charged with criminal contempt Wednesday for broadcasting tape recordings of ousted Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega's prison conversations.

Cable News Network was charged with "knowingly and willfully" disobeying an order from Noriega's trial judge by broadcasting translated excerpts of conversations between Noriega and his attorneys' staff. The case, long in the review stage, is a constitutional showdown over freedom of the press and free-trial rights.

CNN attorneys pleaded innocent, and U.S. District Judge William Hoeweler scheduled a three-day, nonjury trial to begin July 11.

High Court Hears Case Of Special School District

WASHINGTON — The constitutional separation of church and state allows the creation of a public school district to accommodate an insular Hasidic Jewish community's beliefs, the Supreme Court was told Wednesday.

Nathan Lewin, attorney for the school district for disabled children, asked the court to overturn a New York court ruling that said the district unconstitutionally created a "symbolic union" between the government and the Satmar Hasidic sect.

A lawyer for state school board officials said the district's creation violated the amendment's concurrent ban on government establishment of religion.

Weather

TODAY: Partly cloudy; high upper 50s.

FRIDAY: Partly cloudy; high lower 60s.

SATURDAY: Fair; high in the 60s.

SUNDAY: Partly cloudy; high in the 60s.

Front Line Calls for Increased Campus Security

BY PHUONG LY
ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY EDITOR

Student government released the campus security section of its "From the Front Line" report Wednesday, about two months behind schedule, but student government officials say many of the report's recommendations already have been implemented.

Recommendations of the 43-page campus security section that have been implemented or are in the process of being implemented include expansion of Point-to-Point

and Safe Escort services and development of a residence hall watch program.

Student Body President Jim Copland said his office, which compiled the seven-section Front Line Report, had worked during the spring semester to try to get the recommendations implemented.

The Front Line project, an assessment of the University from the student point of view, began last fall when volunteers polled 400 students on campus issues.

Recommendations for the campus security section were finished by the end of last semester, but writing of the report was

delayed, Copland said.

He said the delay did not affect how student leaders worked on the campus security section's recommendations, which were divided into four sections — education, organized preventive measures, deterrence and enforcement, and sexual assault response.

"(The delay) did not make a difference because we did follow these up," Copland said. "We've made significant progress on all of the four areas this semester."

The Front Line report will help future student government administrations form

their agendas, Copland said, adding that he did not expect his administration to act on all the recommendations.

Front Line's campus security section states that many students are concerned about crime on campus. Fifty percent of all students polled and 81 percent of female students polled said they did not feel safe walking home at night, the report states.

"It's unfortunate because that means that there's a sense of fear on this campus, and I wish there was more of a sense of safety in this community," said Molly Montgomery, coordinator of student government's

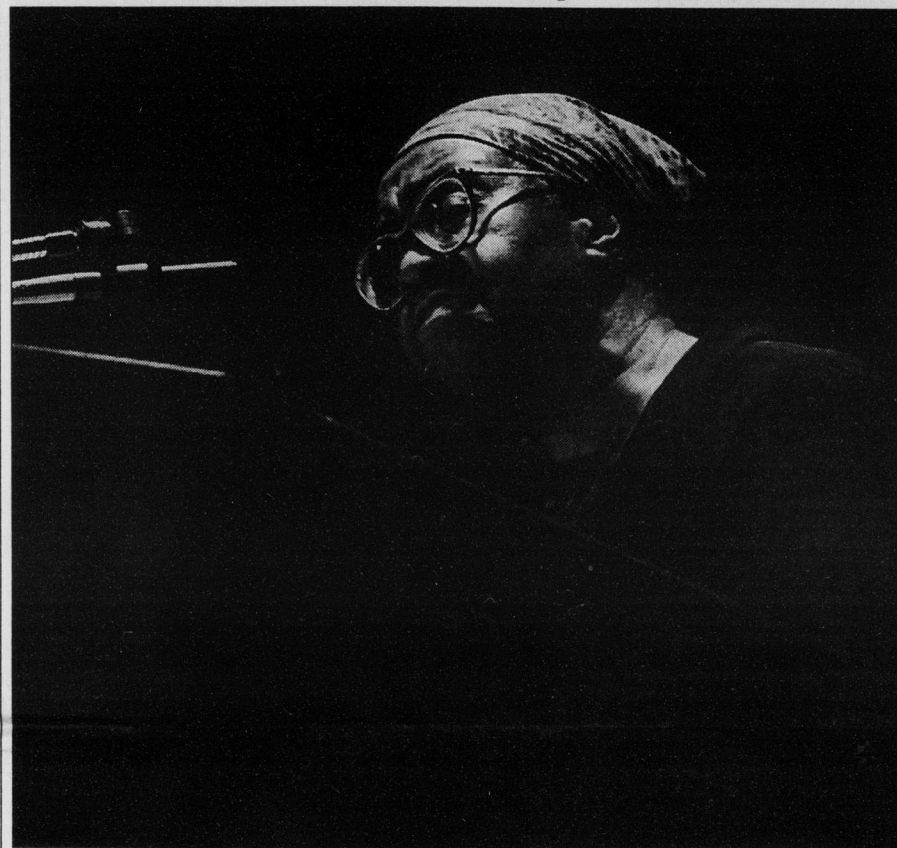
campus security committee.

The report also states that 13 percent of male students polled did not believe date or acquaintance rape was a big problem on campus, and 51 percent were not sure or did not know.

The report suggested expanding Point-to-Point's hours of operation and its route to include off-campus destinations. The UNC Board of Trustees recently approved raising the transit fee from \$25 to \$35 to expand the shuttle service to destinations

Please See FRONT LINE, Page 2

Priceless Poetry



Gwendolyn Brooks, Pulitzer Prize-winning poet, reads from her works to an audience of about 700 Wednesday night in Memorial Hall. Brooks has been writing poetry for more than 40 years. See story on page 3.

Pit Preacher Arrested During B-GLAD Event

BY LISA ROBBINS
STAFF WRITER

Gary Eugene Birdsong, a Pit preacher, was arrested at about 12:30 p.m. Wednesday in the Pit area after the campus gay and lesbian group complained that he was disrupting its activities.

Bisexuals, Gay men, Lesbians and Allies for Diversity placed a complaint to University Police that the preacher was standing in the area B-GLAD had reserved this week for its Celebration Week events, police reports state.

"We felt like he was taking away from it," B-GLAD Co-chairman-elect Patrick Willard said. "We could hear him. People were turning away from us. Basically, this is our one week in the entire year. We wanted to make sure people were paying attention to us."

Birdsong, 50, was charged with two misdemeanor counts of disorderly conduct and trespassing. He was released on \$150 secured bond and is scheduled to appear April 28 in Chapel Hill District Court.

Birdsong, who has a white beard, preaches in the Pit about twice a week.

Willard said Birdsong was not actually in the Pit, but only in the Pit area above the steps. Willard said he called the police because he was told by Anne Varley, the Student Union reservationist, that only groups who reserved the Pit could be there.

Birdsong did not ask B-GLAD members if he could preach in the area, he said.

Varley said that according to the University's Facilities Use Policy, "No activities may be held which render a space unsatisfactory for use in its normal or pri-

mary function or which interfere with an activity previously scheduled."

Birdsong was asked to leave the Pit area Wednesday and refused several times, police reports state.

"Mr. Birdsong was preaching — delivering a sermon and trying to make people accept him," reports state.

Willard said two preachers approached B-GLAD members Tuesday and asked if they could preach in the Pit area. B-GLAD did not have a problem with the two preachers because they had asked permission and were not disruptive, Willard said.

Freshman Steven Boussios, who was helping with the B-GLAD activities, said Birdsong was preaching against homosexuals and pointing to the B-GLAD supporters.

"He was being very offensive and making attacks on people," Boussios said. "He has the right to be rude and offensive, but elsewhere. He has the whole campus to preach in."

But senior Steve Anson, who was sitting in front of Lenoir Dining Hall when Birdsong was preaching, said he thought the preacher should not have been arrested.

"I was just disturbed by what I view as censorship," Anson said. "He wasn't infringing on anyone else's rights, so I think it was uncalled for."

Willard said the act was not an issue of restricting Birdsong's rights to free speech.

"I don't think it had to do with censorship," he said. "Anyone else who wanted to be in the Pit had to ask, which he didn't do."

Holly Stepp and Phuong Ly contributed to this article.

Women's Basketball Heads to Richmond to Face Purdue

BY ZACHARY ALBERT
SENIOR WRITER

The UNC women's basketball team is on a collision course with the Final Four, but the initial impact has already been made.

The Tar Heels stunned the odds by edging past Vanderbilt 73-69 without their leading rebounder and then fed off the momentum to upend Connecticut 81-69 and claim the East Regional last weekend in Piscataway, N.J.

But now North Carolina, the No. 3 seed, must face West Region top seed Purdue in the second national semifinal at the Richmond Coliseum Saturday. The Tar Heels are 31-2 on the season, while the Boilermakers are 29-4. Alabama and Louisiana Tech square off in the first semifinal at noon.

For UNC head coach Sylvia Hatchell, the dream of an NCAA title is just two games away.

"Our goal was to get to the Final Four and win a national championship,"

WOMEN'S FINAL FOUR PREVIEW ON PAGE 9



The UNC women's basketball team heads to Richmond for its first-ever Final Four. Clueless about the women's game? Check out the DTH Final Four quiz inside.

Hatchell said after Saturday's win. "We've talked about it all along, and we've taken it step by step."

The steps have been more like leaps this season. The Tar Heels vaulted to their first ACC Tournament championship in 10 years and have amassed more wins than any team in school history.

After a season of hearing the gripes about the UNC men's team's lack of chemistry, it's comforting to turn to the women's

team and watch its sense of harmony.

A quick glance down the starting five gives an indication of North Carolina's well-balanced attack.

Marion Jones has given the Tar Heels a great advantage in the speed department. The 5-10 freshman became the point guard during the season and has displayed the track talents that make her the quickest player in the league.

Jones is a defensive terror, stalking opposing guards with a wide wingspan and the fleetest of feet. While she isn't known for her outside shot, Jones canned 3-point shots over the weekend when the Tar Heels needed it most.

But above all, her intensity is relentless. Jones' will to win moves her to a stream of tears before clutch games.

"I love it when a kid wants it that bad," Hatchell said.

Tonya Sampson adds more speed, more flair and more heart to the UNC backcourt. Her role as a floor leader and a take-over

Please See FINAL FOUR, Page 9

Carmichael Final Four Send-Off Scheduled for Hatchell, Team

BY MARY BETH MAURIELLO
STAFF WRITER

Many students say the women's basketball team don't get the respect they deserve.

But the team will claim center stage this morning at a send-off rally planned to cheer them on to their first appearance in the Final Four of the NCAA tournament.

Carolina Athletic Association will sponsor an informal send-off for the team at 9:15 a.m. in front of Carmichael Auditorium, CAA Co-president-elect Nil Dalal said Wednesday. The rally will last about 10 minutes and feature the UNC pep band, she said.

UNC faces Purdue in Saturday's semifinal game in Richmond, Va.

"I am really excited for them," Dalal said. "I know they will do wonderful things."

Provost Richard McCormick said he and his wife would attend the games in Richmond. "I think it is fantastic that the women are in the Final Four," he said. "I haven't been this excited in a long time."

The women's basketball team has worked hard and exceeded fans' expectations, he said. "They have raised expectations, and they are going to bring home the national championship."

Please See SEND-OFF, Page 4

Police Arrest Escapees in Apartments

BY ELENA BERTON
STAFF WRITER

Two men who had escaped Sunday from the N.C. Department of Corrections in Durham were arrested in a local apartment complex Wednesday following an anonymous call to the Chapel Hill Police Department.

Vernon Weldon Dickerson, 35, of the Durham-Creedmoor area and Marvin Eugene Barnes, 28, of Siler City were arrested at Willow Terrace Condominiums, which are located at 70 Willow Drive in Chapel Hill.

Dickerson was hiding in the bathroom of one apartment, while Barnes was discovered in a closet of another apartment and arrested at gunpoint.

According to Chapel Hill police reports, the two men had been drinking.

Police reports state that an anonymous caller called the Chapel Hill Police Department's administrative line Wednesday

at 1:28 a.m.

Chapel Hill police spokeswoman Jane Cousins said two women had rented the apartments where the escapees were found.

Cousins said she would not release any further information about the locations of the arrests because police still were investigating the case.

Police reports state that Dickerson also goes by the name of Gary Gene Meade and that Barnes goes by Roy William Hobbs III. Cousins said the suspects gave false names and false birth dates.

Gary Newkirk, spokesman for the Department of Corrections, said Dickerson and Barnes escaped Sunday at about 11:30 p.m. by cutting through the security fence.

The two men had been painting the jail's kitchen when they were last seen during a check at 11 p.m.

Newkirk said it was difficult to say exactly how Dickerson and Barnes had escaped from the minimum-security prison in Durham.

"They certainly got some form of assistance (from the outside)," Newkirk said. "We made an inventory of all our cutting tools in the kitchen after the discovery, but nothing was missing."

"It's impossible that they got any help from the inside."

According to Newkirk, Dickerson had been serving a 20-year sentence for breaking, entering and larceny since September 1989.

Barnes had been serving a six-year sentence for attempted rape and taking indecent liberties with a minor since July 1993, Newkirk said.

After the arrest, Chapel Hill police turned over Dickerson and Barnes to Department of Corrections officers.

The two men were then transferred to a more secure prison where disciplinary action would be taken, Newkirk said.

Newkirk said Dickerson and Barnes would appear in court, but that a court date had not yet been scheduled.

I only drink to make other people seem interesting.

George Jean Nathan