

WEEKLY SUMMER EDITION

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10 Chosen to Serve as Jurors for Jogger Murder Trial

BY JAMIE KRITZER
CITY EDITOR

HILLSBOROUGH — Ten jurors had been selected by early Wednesday afternoon in Orange County Superior Court to decide the fate of Anthony Georg Simpson, the local high school student charged with murdering an early-morning jogger on Estes Drive 10 months ago.

In a case that has been widely publicized, the judge, prosecutors and defense lawyers scrutinized about 35 Orange County residents all day Tuesday and most of Wednesday. The two final jurors hadn't

been selected before press time Wednesday.

Of the ten Orange County jurors selected Wednesday, five were white females, three were black females and two were white males.

Superior Court Judge Gordon Battle said opening remarks might be heard Wednesday if jury selection was complete before 5 p.m.

In the early morning hours of July 15, Kristin Lodge-Miller was jogging on Estes Drive when Simpson, 18, lunged at her from behind some bushes, police reports state. Lodge-Miller broke free after Simpson

attempted to rape her, but Simpson caught up to her and shot her five times, police reports state. Lodge-Miller, 26, died shortly after she arrived at the hospital.

Simpson was charged with first-degree murder and attempted rape. He subsequently pleaded guilty to shooting Lodge-Miller but contended he was innocent of first-degree murder, which involves premeditation. He entered a plea of not guilty to the attempted rape charge.

Jim Protzman, who started Chapel Hill's gun buyback, said the outcome of the case was important in Chapel Hill.

"It is important that our community

looks at it and faces it," Protzman said. "People got the illusion that nothing happens here. Well, it does happen in Chapel Hill, and it did."

"It happened in my neighborhood, so it was a real tragedy to me," said Protzman. "It was tragic, but I guess to call it a tragedy doesn't do it justice. I think the gun destroyed two lives. The woman was shot and killed, and (Simpson) will likely spend the rest of his life in jail."

The shooting also opened the eyes of women in the community.

"I think it was evident that people were voicing their concerns about the murder

and (Simpson's) situation that made him do such a thing," said Sandy Dixon, office administrator at the Orange County Rape Crisis Center. "It brought out a lot of safety precautions from many of the women in the area."

Neither District Attorney Carl Fox nor Simpson's attorney James Williams would comment on their strategies for selecting jurors.

"If you listen to the questions we ask, you can tell what we're after," Williams said. Williams' questions focused mainly on opinions that potential jurors had formed as they read newspaper articles about the

case. A total of 60 potential jurors called for jury selection a little more than a month ago lined the halls of the Hillsborough courthouse Tuesday morning. Twelve of them were picked randomly by a court bailiff after having filled out questionnaires about their backgrounds and opinions before the court session started. In all, 200 people had been sent requests to appear for jury duty. Due to various excuses given, only 100 were expected to appear.

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Collins: Question Life; Treasure Faith, Love

BY KELLY RYAN
EDITOR

When he has felt restless the past few years, geneticist Francis Collins has twice answered a calling in a small Nigerian jungle hospital.

He relies on his somewhat rusty physician skills and sets out to right the public health problems in a country of 93 million people. The work forces Collins to re-evaluate himself.

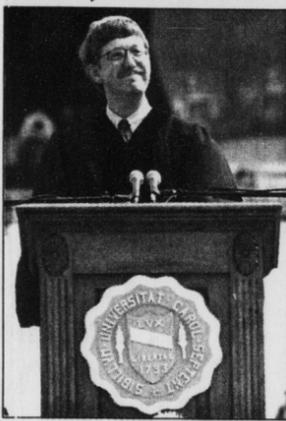
Struggling with the worth of his contributions one day, Collins was approached by a young farmer close to death. The farmer, sensing Collins' troubles, explained that he thought Collins was in Nigeria to save him.

"To touch one human being. To change one other human being's existence for the better," Collins said, "that's enough. Have your goals, have them be grand, but remember what really counts are those single human beings that you come in contact with."

Director of the National Center for Human Genome Research, Collins delivered a 20-minute lesson on work, faith and love after the Bicentennial Class of more than 4,500 had trooped into Kenan Stadium on Sunday for UNC's 192nd Commencement. The ceremony was the official close to the eight-month Bicentennial Celebration.

"I encourage each of you to consider these three questions and decisions carefully," he said. "What will be your life's work? What are you going to do about faith? And what role will love play in your life? A life which earnestly seeks answers to these questions will be full of challenge, but full of meaning."

The keynote address drew frequent applause and cheers — in marked contrast to the widely criticized 1993 Commencement address given by Ted Turner, chairman of the board and president of Turner Broad-



DTH/KATIE CANNON

Geneticist FRANCIS COLLINS delivered Sunday's keynote address.

casting Corporation Inc. Turner's speech was often unfocused and impersonal.

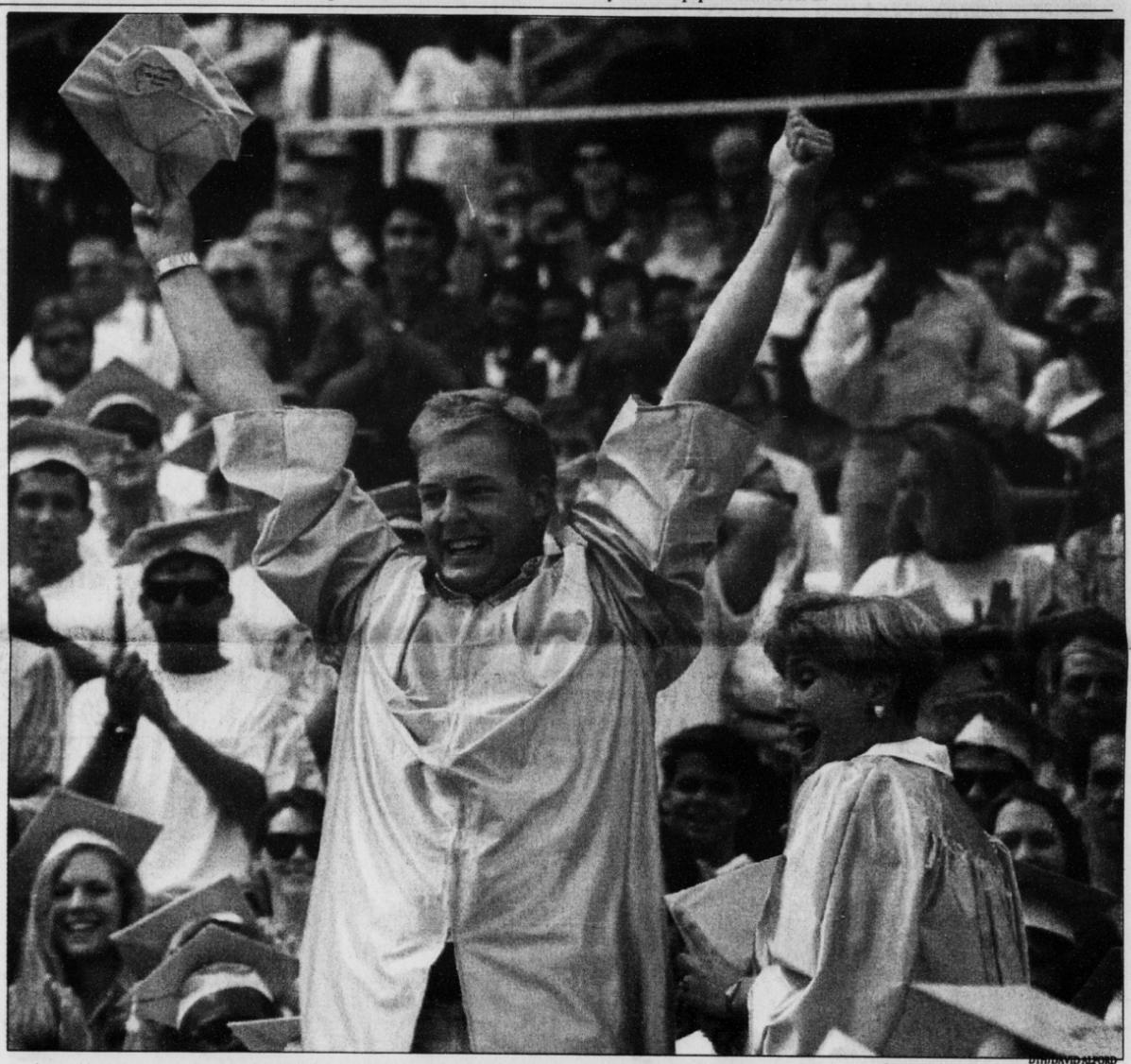
Beginning at 9:30 a.m., the class of '94's procession was a celebration, with students blowing bubbles and popping champagne bottles. Signs graced the stadium's home side — one proclaimed South Africa's freedom, another borrowed the catch phrase from a commercial: "Graduating, Mr. Fowler? Yes, I am."

Caps and gowns were personalized with inflatable animals and Carolina pride pins. Some opted to don baseball caps and silver top hats — others played with beach balls and read newspapers.

After the procession, UNC administrators and campus leaders gave brief remarks to set the stage for the keynote address.

Collins, who had been receiving The Daily Tar Heel since he was selected, opened with memories of recent campus events, stressing his ties to UNC. Collins graduated from the UNC School of Medi-

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James Vanke reacts to Suzanne Woloski's "yes" to his marriage proposal during Commencement. Only Vanke, his roommate and keynote speaker Francis Collins knew Vanke had planned to ask for Woloski's hand in front of 32,000. For story, see page 4.

UNC to Push Legislators for Competitive Salary Hikes

BY KELLY RYAN
EDITOR

Although Gov. Jim Hunt's proposal to raise state employee salaries by 4 percent has garnered support on the UNC campus, some worry that the University is still falling behind its academic peers.

"Over the last few years, (raises) haven't made up for inflation, let alone for service," said Kay Wijnberg, a UNC law professor active in the State Employees Association of North Carolina. "It's to keep us from losing more ground. It doesn't repair losses from the downward trend from the past 10 to 12 years."

Hunt's proposal calls for 4 percent across-the-board hikes, a one-time, 1 percent bonus, and an additional 1.5 percent for teaching faculty. The additional pay increase for university and community college professors and instructors was designed to keep the state competitive in attracting talented educators.

North Carolina's community college instructors are the lowest-paid in the nation.

The General Assembly will convene for its short session Wednesday and begin considering Hunt's recommendation, which bears a \$285 million price tag.

About \$16.4 million would be appropriated to community college and university

instructors.

Wijnberg is leading an employees' letter-writing campaign to press state legislators for a 6 percent pay hike. Like the UNC-system Board of Governors, SEANC believes 4 percent isn't enough.

The letter-writing effort, which began several months ago as a vehicle for networking state employees at all levels, has been discouraging.

SEANC has provided letter-writing tips for staff and faculty interested in contacting legislators by mail or phone. Wijnberg said it was difficult for her to gauge just how many letters had been written, but she said she suspected it wasn't very many.

"It's been more difficult this year," she said. "I think people are discouraged. It's getting easier to leave state government and find jobs that offer higher salaries."

If enough letters are generated, they could make a difference as legislators juggle the many needs facing the state. But Wijnberg said state employees from all over North Carolina would have to lend support to the effort to convince the legislature that salaries should be a priority.

Other financial needs include transportation improvements, public school funding and information highway funds.

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UNC Officers File Grievances After Mix-up Over Promotion

BY THANASSIS CAMBANIS
SENIOR WRITER

Two University security guards have filed grievances against the University after three promotions were reversed by the University Police chief.

The two security guards, who are black, say racism was a factor in the original personnel decision, when two white external candidates were hired over two in-house black candidates.

"There were flaws in the process," said Carolyn Elfland, associate vice chancellor for business, who oversees University Police.

Elfland said the entire selection process would be redone at the suggestion of a facilitator.

Lewis Walton, a veteran black security guard, filed a grievance against the University saying he was denied a security guard commander post because of his race. Walton said he was the most qualified candidate for the newly created position.

"I'm asking for the promotion, for one, because I do deserve it," Walton said. "I was told that the process was flawed. My qualifications exceeded those (University Police Chief Alana Ennis) asked for and, as an internal candidate, I don't see how I could be passed over."

Ennis hired two security guard supervisors and a security guard commander in mid-April.

After complaints that the candidate assessment process was inconsistent, Ennis

reversed her decision. Then, in the same week, she decided to uphold the three appointments until the hiring process was re-examined.

"This certainly is not a pleasant situation for anyone," Ennis said Wednesday. "I regret this whole thing."

Ennis said she had told all the inside candidates that the hiring process would be started from scratch. Outside facilitators, who conduct the evaluation process for job candidates within the department, will determine when the new assessment process will take place.

Walton said that last week he had a hearing with Elfland as Step 2 of the state employee grievance process. At Step 2, an employee's complaint is heard by a department overseer. Attorneys cannot participate in this step.

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Future of Recall Bill Uncertain in Face of NAACP Opposition

BY LYNN HOUSER
CITY EDITOR

Although eight of nine speakers at a hearing Monday opposed a proposed bill to recall school board members, it is still unclear whether legislators will introduce the bill this session because only one organized source of opposition was present.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People provided the only organized opposition at the hearing, which the school board called to gauge the bill's controversy. Organized opposition would make the bill more likely to be debated on the house floor and, therefore, less likely to be considered during this year's short session, when only noncontroversial bills may be considered, John

McCormick, the school board's attorney, said.

The Rev. Gene Hatley, president of the local NAACP chapter, said the bill needed changes before his organization would approve it, adding that members of the North Carolina NAACP would lobby against the bill.

"We will support some draft of recall legislation," Hatley said, "but not this one." He said they wanted



School board member LAVONDA BURNETTE

and her supporters say the bill was created just to remove her from office.

"The first draft of the bill was drawn up in January after board member LaVonda

an increase in the number of petition signatures required to hold a recall election, limited grounds for recall and no extension of time to replace unacceptable signatures.

School board chairman Ken Touw asked Hatley why he wanted twice as many signatures to recall school board members as the number required to recall town council members.

Hatley responded that issues dealing with children were more sensitive and stirred up more emotions.

At its May 2 meeting, the board had increased the number of petition signatures required in the first draft of the bill from 8 percent to 10 percent of registered voters — about 4,250 signatures.

The first draft of the bill was drawn up in January after board member LaVonda

Burnette admitted she had claimed falsely during her campaign that she was a UNC student and that she had later tried to cover it up when Daily Tar Heel reporters questioned her about it.

The board made several other changes in the first draft and decided against limiting grounds for recall before they voted May 2 to send the bill to the General Assembly.

Alan McSurely, chairman of the legal redress committee of the local NAACP chapter, said he had talked with lawyers across the state who told him the bill would be "a disaster."

McSurely said unlimited grounds for recall would result in school board mem-

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If it was so, it might be; and if it weren't so, it would be; but as it isn't, it ain't. That's logic.

Lewis Carroll