

# The Daily Tar Heel

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## IN THE NEWS

Top stories from the state, nation and world

### President Signs Crime Bill, Makes it Into Federal Law

WASHINGTON, D.C. — After six years of talk and bitter congressional debate, the huge anti-crime bill became law Tuesday, banning many assault-style weapons, allowing the death penalty for dozens more federal crimes, and providing billions of dollars to build prisons and hire police.

President Clinton, signing the \$30 billion, six-year measure at an elaborate outdoor ceremony at the White House, hailed its provisions but said all Americans would have to help as well.

Clinton did not directly blame Republican leaders for the bill's close calls last month. However, he pointedly praised the relatively few GOP congressional members who had bucked their party leadership to keep the bill alive.

### 180 U.N. Countries Adopt 20-Year Population Plan

CAIRO, Egypt — With the Vatican offering some support for the first time, some 180 nations adopted a 20-year blueprint Tuesday for slowing the world's population explosion.

Now, some suppose it is up to individual nations to come up with the money to put it into action.

Unlike past U.N. population conferences, the 1994 forum focused not only on birth control but on two concepts the Vatican supports for slowing population growth — economic development and a commitment to giving women more power over their lives.

The Vatican's partial support for the U.N. plan surprised many delegates. The Holy See rejected the final documents at the 1974 and 1984 U.N. population conferences.

### Officials Say Pilot in White House Crash Took Cocaine

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Maryland man who died after crashing his stolen airplane onto the White House lawn had trace amounts of cocaine in his system and a blood-alcohol content slightly above the legal limit, officials said.

Frank Corder, 38, had a blood-alcohol content of .045, Secret Service spokesman Dave Adams said Tuesday. The legal limit for pilots is .04. He said Corder's blood showed "trace amounts of cocaine."

Meanwhile, investigators believe National Airport radar picked up the single-engine plane moments before it crashed and are trying to determine if the Secret Service was warned.

Corder, a self-employed trucker, died in the crash when the stolen plane tore into the White House lawn.

### Senators May Draft Health Care Reform Bill This Year

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Democratic congressional leaders met with President Clinton on Tuesday and said they might ask Republicans to help draft a slimmed-down health reform bill that could be passed this year.

Some wondered how the leaders could hold out any hope for consensus in the 11th hour when it had proved so elusive for months.

Lawmakers on both sides of the aisle said that was what voters had told them.

Meanwhile, prospects for reaching a consensus on the proposal of a self-styled "mainstream" group of Republican and Democratic senators appeared slim to none as senators returned to work.

### Liberians Escape Fighting As 20,000 Flee to Guinea

GENEVA — More than 20,000 Liberians have fled to neighboring Guinea during the past week to escape fighting between rival guerrilla factions, the U.N. refugee agency said Tuesday.

The refugees were fleeing battles between splinter groups belonging to the National Patriotic Front in Gbompa, where the group has its headquarters, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees said.

The agency said it feared another 70,000 Liberians might cross the border as tribal conflict continued in the West African nation. It said a mass exodus had not occurred because the combatants had blocked the border between Liberia and the Ivory Coast.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Weather

TODAY: Mostly sunny; high upper 80s.

THURSDAY: Mostly sunny; high low 90s.

# Aldermen Approve Partners Ordinance

## Insurance Coverage Only Part Left Out of Board's Landmark Decision

BY KRISTEN LANEY  
STAFF WRITER

Supporters of the domestic partners ordinance claimed a victory Tuesday night at the Carrboro Board of Aldermen meeting.

After months of heated debate among Carrboro residents, the board unanimously passed two domestic partner components in front of a packed board room.

The three components that make up the domestic partners ordinance are registration of domestic partners, addition of domestic partners to the financial disclosure requirements for elected officials and ex-

tension of health insurance benefits to domestic partners of town employees.

The first two of the three issues passed unanimously. The board will not vote on the insurance issue until Blue Cross & Blue Shield of North Carolina decides whether it will extend benefits to domestic partners of town employees.

Mike Nelson, an alderman and the only openly gay elected official in North Carolina, said the domestic partners ordinance was fundamentally a civil rights issue.

"These couples are not treated with equity and fairness," Nelson said. "For whatever reason, these couples can't marry, their families should be treated with equity and fairness."

The board agreed that the registration fee for domestic partners would be \$40, which is the same fee as for a marriage license. The board also decided that the

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MIKE NELSON  
Carrboro alderman

first day of registration would be Oct. 11, 1994, which, ironically, is National Coming Out Day, the day that homosexuals are encouraged to disclose their sexual orientation.

Carrboro Mayor Eleanor Kinnaird noted before discussion of the domestic partners issue that the board recently had received five letters in support of the ordi-

nance and 21 letters against the ordinance, 15 of which were from the ladies' Sunday school class of the Carrboro United Methodist Church.

This ordinance would be one step in the right direction, Nelson said. "In the eyes of the law, domestic partners are strangers, and that simply ain't right."

Although domestic partners could benefit financially, this issue is not about money, Nelson added. It is about community building.

"There is not a lesbian or gay family that wouldn't trade all the money in the world for the respect that straight married couples get," he said.

This ordinance will create an environment where families can be nurtured and strengthened, Nelson said. Alderman Jacquelyn Gist said she thought the ordinance was simply right and fair.

Both Nelson and Doug Ferguson, the Orange Lesbian and Gay Association chairman and a second-year law student at UNC, applauded Carrboro for passing progressive ordinances in the past.

In 1993, Carrboro was the first local government in the state to allow domestic partners to take both sick leave and bereavement leave for their loved ones.

Ferguson also said he was not surprised with the outcome of the meeting. He said the unanimous approval of the ordinance paved the way for other municipalities.

"I feel confident that Carrboro is the most progressive (town) in the state," he said.

The Chapel Hill Town Council will consider a similar ordinance this fall, Ferguson said. "OLGA will be working with Chapel Hill this fall, and maybe Orange County later."

## UNC Grad Victim in Plane Crash

BY MELISSA MILIOS  
STAFF WRITER

University alumna Marla Renee Dickerson was one of the 131 people who died Thursday when USAir's flight 427 crashed near Pittsburgh.

Dickerson graduated from UNC in August 1991 with a bachelor of arts degree in psychology. She was a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority.

Alicia Seard, a graduate student at UNC, said Dickerson's death made her appreciate the need for friends to share their emotions.

"It just took me by surprise," Seard said Tuesday. "Something to remember for people our age is to show today what you could put off until tomorrow, because tomorrow's never promised. Just show your love today."

Seard said she had been a member of Dickerson's pledge class at Alpha Kappa Alpha, one of her line sisters.

Crystal Heilig, a senior English major, is also a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha. "Marla was a very quiet person," Heilig said. "She had a close circle of friends who knew her well."

"For those of us who knew her, her presence will really be missed."

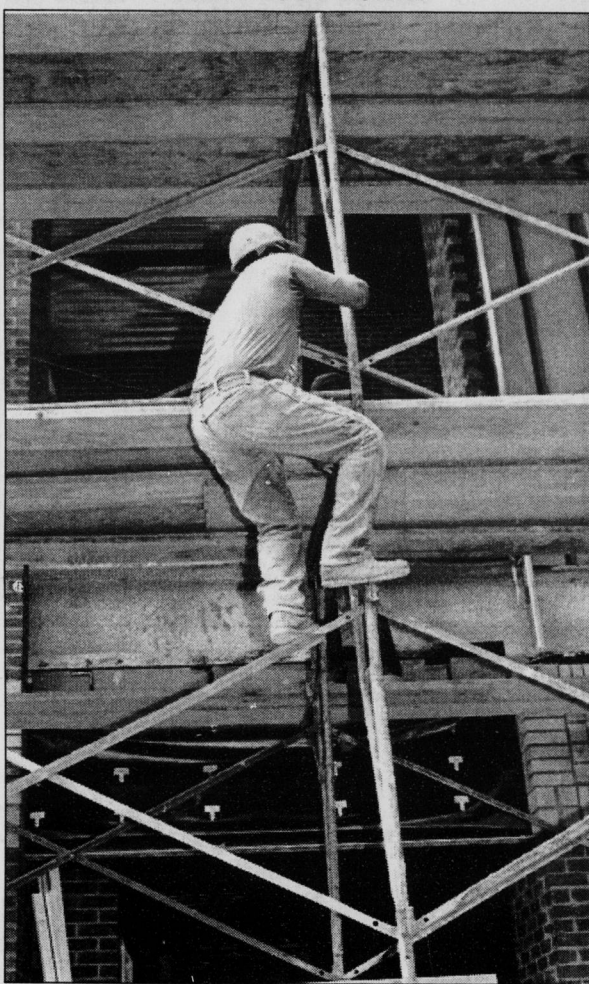
Heilig said Dickerson had come back to UNC on several occasions to attend alumni functions. Her last visit to Chapel Hill was in the spring of 1993 to attend a wedding of one of her line sisters from Alpha Kappa Alpha, Heilig said.

Seard said these visits reflected Dickerson's loyalty to the sorority.

"She believed in keeping things sacred," she said. "If she made a commitment, she kept it. She showed that in all her relationships — family, friends."

Dickerson was attending Northern Illi-  
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## Don't Look Down!



Robert Wood climbs on the scaffolding on the new building at the corner of Columbia and Franklin streets to help move pallets. Workers on the site say Top of the Hill will be ready in a couple of weeks so First Union can move in.

## Feds Can Intervene In Student Aid Office

BY PETER ROYBAL  
STAFF WRITER

The U.S. Department of Education has outlined a policy that would allow the federal government to intervene in the internal workings of universities that have high student loan default rates or don't keep up with the requirements for administering federal money.

UNC officials think they are safe from intervention but said they worried about granting a federal agency the authority to challenge the University's coursework, faculty research activities or student achievement.

Eleanor Morris, director of the Office of Scholarships and Student Aid, said she believed UNC had complied with the federal regulations for administering federal money.

"I'd like to feel if the letter had come (claiming UNC had a violation), the chancellor would have told me," she said.

Chancellor Paul Hardin was out of town Tuesday, and the Department of Education would not release names of universities that have been warned they are in violation of federal standards.

Hardin stated his concern that a federal agency might be able to interfere with an institution's academic programs in a July 11 memo to University administrators.

But officials in the financial aid office said the plan could be beneficial if it was administered responsibly.

Morris said she supported the education department's program, "as long as there are not any frivolous reasons accepted by (the agency) to bring a school under review."

"If the agency serves in any way to identify abuses of the federal student aid program, then I think it's useful, provided it doesn't set up many more rules that are hard to follow and complex and intrusive," she said.

The program grew out of changes Con-

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ELEANOR MORRIS  
Director of the Office of Scholarships and Student Aid

gress made in 1992 to the Higher Education Act in response to "reports of fraud and abuse," according to a Department of Education press release.

The purpose of the program is "to ensure greater accountability for federal dollars," said Jane Glickman, an education department spokesperson.

If a school violates one of 11 rules, the Department of Education can bring it before a State Postsecondary Review Entity. In North Carolina, this organization is called the State Postsecondary Education Review Commission.

The education department notified approximately 2,000 schools in early August that they might be in violation of one of six rules. Although there are normally 11 rules, the Department of Education will only enforce six of them this year, said Rachel Schultz, a department program specialist.

The reasons for which a school can be referred to the commission include student loan default rates higher than 25 percent, recent suspensions of the school from receiving federal financial aid and failing to file audits in a timely manner.

UNC's student loan default rate is 2.2 percent, and the University has conducted an audit of the financial aid office every year, Morris said.

Edwin Capel, UNC's internal auditor, was recently funded by a state investigation for not filing audits his office had

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## Full Congress to Debate Group Funding

### SBP to Fight Unfavorable Recommendation for Minority Recruitment

BY SHARRON SCOTT  
STAFF WRITER

Student Congress will grant or deny funding requests to 12 University and campus-related organizations and vote on \$73,000 in appropriations Wednesday at its full meeting.

Speaker Pro Tempore Jonathan Jordan said that he expected Congress to debate past midnight over the groups' funding requests.

The Student Congress Finance Committee reviewed the requests from each group and gave recommendations on their funding requests Wednesday.

The executive board's request for \$7,280 for minority recruitment received an unfavorable recommendation from the committee.

Committee chairman Thomas Lyons and congress Speaker Monica Cloud were unavailable for comment Tuesday.

Jordan, who is also a member of the finance committee, said some people believed funding minority recruitment was the job of the administration, not congress.

Student Body President George Battle said this statement was "ludicrous."

"It is our job to make the University better," Battle said.

Battle said he thought the only reason the bill would not be passed was if people did not want diversity in the University. "There are no logical reasons why someone would oppose this bill," he said.

The largest request came from the Yackety Yack, UNC's yearbook, for appropriations totalling \$21,376. The group received an unfavorable recommendation from the finance committee.

Yackety Yack's original request for \$32,076 was decreased last Wednesday because of budget disagreements.

The N.C. Student Legislature also received an unfavorable recommendation on its request for \$2,505.

The finance committee gave favorable recommendations to the Student Environmental Action Coalition and the executive branch.

SEAC is seeking \$605 to promote an expanded recycling program for Lenoir Dining Hall.

The executive branch is requesting \$1,000 for the Elections Board to cover technical expenses for the spring election.

The Victory Village Day Care Center did not receive any recommendation by the Finance Committee, but Jordan said he did not expect the center to receive

funds. The center is seeking \$10,970 for the continuation of 38 student-family scholarships, which provide full tuition for day care services of students' children.

Jordan said that although student congress had funded the scholarships in the past, many members believed the funding was in conflict with the Finance Committee Code.

Five other groups also received no recommendations from the finance committee.

The Korean-American Students Association is requesting \$4,800 for programming, hoping to increase its influence on campus through a proposed "Korean Night" and cultural festival.

The Alliance of Black Graduate and Professional Students is asking for \$6,656 to pay for speakers and conference travel throughout the year.

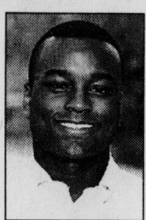
UNITAS, a learning and living program housed in Carmichael dorm, is requesting \$360 for office supplies, printing and publicity.

The Cellar Door, UNC's undergraduate literary magazine, is asking for \$5,200 to cover publication costs.

Company Carolina, the campus' newest theatre organization, is requesting \$9,900 for production costs.

Although congress cannot grant each group its request, Jordan said organizations that involved many people and were in no way political or controversial had the best chance of receiving their requests.

He said all 12 organizations, regardless of congress' decisions, would be treated fairly. "Overall, everyone should be satisfied."



Student Body President GEORGE BATTLE said he hoped the full congress would overturn the Finance Committee's unfavorable recommendation.

### Student Congress Meeting

7:30 p.m. Today  
Law School Classroom 1

7:30 p.m. Today  
Law School Classroom 1

## Human Relations Summit to Address Campus Differences

### Early November Summit 'Unprecedented,' Says Student Body Vice President

BY ANDREW RUSSELL  
STAFF WRITER

Student government's Committee on Human Relations will attempt to bridge the communication gap between student groups and the student body at the first annual Human Relations Summit.

The two-day summit, open to all members of the campus community, will feature about 25 student organizations and will cover issues such as sexism, racism and religion.

Eddie Hanes, co-secretary of human relations, said the main goal of the summit was for students to gain a better understanding of the differences that existed not only at UNC but worldwide.

"We need a conference because there is a gap, a lack of understanding and knowledge about differences that exist at UNC," Hanes said. "Bridging the gap is essential — Carolina has prided itself on diversity, and this is an avenue to pursue that theme."

Student Body Vice President Donyell Phillips has been working with the human relations committee to plan the summit, which will be held in early November.

Phillips said the summit would address many issues within the University.

"The summit is unprecedented because it's not just limited to race," she said Tues-

day. "We're trying to include a number of differences within the student body."

Ethnicity, sexual orientation, students with disabilities, gender issues and political issues are among the topics the summit will cover, Phillips said.

Also to be discussed are the Sonja H. Stone Black Cultural Center movement, curriculum diversity, minority faculty recruitment, student recruitment and retention, the different student government branches, and student representation in the administrative process, she said.

"We think we have a broad enough group of individuals to get a large number of views," Phillips said.

Hanes said organizations and individuals attending the summit would break up into small group sessions targeting different subjects. They will then reconvene to discuss the issues and to draw up a proposal summarizing the wants and needs of the campus community, he said.

The proposal will analyze the present conflicts and attempt to offer solutions that will aid in overcoming some of the ignorance and closed-mindedness that exist at UNC, Hanes said.

"The summit is more or less a time for students to come to student government and ask, 'What can you do for us?'" he said.

The Committee on Human Relations will meet Saturday, Sept. 24, to highlight the details of the summit and to discuss how it can best meet the needs of the UNC

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*No matter how thin you slice it, it's still baloney.*

Alfred E. Smith