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IN THE NEWS

Top stories from the state, nation and world

Israeli Officials Capture 2 Suspects in Bus Bombing

JERUSALEM — Israel has rounded up dozens of Islamic militants, including two believed to be accomplices in the deadly Tel Aviv bus bombing, amid fears of terror attacks during President Clinton's visit.

Clinton is to join 5,000 guests at Wednesday's gala signing of the Israel-Jordan peace treaty at a desert border crossing just north of the Red Sea. He plans to tour Jerusalem the next day.

Fearing that militant fundamentalists might try to disrupt the visit, Israel is mounting a massive security effort.

Hamas, the militant group that stunned Israel with the bus bombing and two other terrorist attacks in the past two weeks, warned Monday that it would strike again if its leaders were harmed.

Texas Channel Opens for Ships After Pipeline Break

HOUSTON — The Houston Ship Channel reopened Monday after salvage crews removed a sunken tugboat and used scanning equipment to ensure there were no cars, mobile homes or other flood debris blocking one of the nation's busiest ports.

The channel was closed a week ago because of flooding caused by torrential rains. On Friday, the floodwaters subsided somewhat to reveal a tugboat near the mouth of the San Jacinto River, a waterway east of Houston that leads into the Houston Ship Channel and empties into Galveston Bay.

Coast Guard officials said they were ahead of schedule in cleaning up the 200,000 gallons of petroleum in the river.

U.S. Forces in Haiti Seek Anti-Government Gunmen

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — U.S. Special Forces teams are tracking two small bands of anti-government gunmen through southwestern Haiti, but weeks of searching turned up only 64 weapons and one man.

The hunt by the Green Berets attests to continued instability in the countryside more than a month after U.S. troops landed in Haiti to oversee a transition from military dictatorship to democratic rule under President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Aristide, who was returned to power Oct. 15, was expected to announce shortly his selection of businessman and longtime supporter Smarck Michel as prime minister. The choice was a gesture to Haiti's business community, which remains nervous about populist policies.

Bosnian Soldiers Bombard U.N. Peacekeeping Troops

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Bosnian government soldiers attacked U.N. peacekeepers with machine guns, grenades and remote-controlled mines Monday, provoking a furious response from the U.N. commander.

No casualties were reported, but the attacks on Mount Igman, overlooking Sarajevo, worsened the U.N. forces' already strained relations with the Muslim-led government.

After a harsh protest from Lt. Gen. Sir Michael Rose, the peacekeeping commander for Bosnia, Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic said he would order his troops to "desist from this sort of firing," a U.N. spokesman said.

Rose called the attacks "exceptionally dangerous and potentially catastrophic," said the spokesman, Lt. Gen. Tim Spicer.

O.J. Simpson Prosecutor Asks for Jury Dismissal

LOS ANGELES — O.J. Simpson's prosecutor asked Monday that scores of prospective jurors be dismissed because they might have heard her remark that they are liars, but the judge pressed on with jury selection.

Deputy District Attorney Marcia Clark requested that Superior Court Judge Lance Ito dismiss all 77 people remaining from the first group of prospective jurors, and possibly the entire group of roughly 300 people.

Clark said the jury candidates' objectivity might have been compromised by her saying during a closed hearing that many of them were Simpson fans who were lying to get on the jury so they could acquit him of murder.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Weather

TODAY: Partly cloudy; high 74.

WEDNESDAY: Mostly sunny; high 65.

Officials Investigating Morrison Blaze

BY HEATHER N. ROBINSON
STAFF WRITER

Ron Keane, the special agent in charge of the inquiry into the Morrison fire that occurred Saturday, said Monday that the State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) and University Police were still investigating the fire, which caused \$100 in damage.

"We are investigating this as a suspicious fire," said Keane, who is from the SBI. "We don't want to make this more of an issue than it really is, but people's lives were at stake."

Some residents of Morrison Residence Hall thought the fire, which started at 3:58 p.m. from a stack of newspapers on a third-floor lounge couch, was suspicious, but others believed it to be unintentional.

"I think the fire was intentional," said Steven Hill, a freshman from Monroe. "There were so many other fires that have occurred."

Kim Engel, a freshman from Charlotte, also said the fire was suspicious. "There was a fire in all three South Campus dorms. That is too much of a coincidence that three fires all start in the same area."

The Morrison fire was one of three this past weekend, all of which occurred in South Campus dorms. One fire started in a study lounge in Ehringhaus on Saturday and caused \$25,000 in damage. The other fire started in a resident's room in Hinton James on Sunday. It was reported to have caused minimal damage.

Andrew Johns, a freshman from Henderson, said he was not sure the fire

was intentional.

"I haven't heard anything about arson, and I haven't been down to see where the fire took place," Johns said. "I really don't think it was arson. I would feel very unsafe if the fire was found as arson."

Some residents are worried about the outcome of the investigation, which involves the SBI, University Police and Chapel Hill Fire Department officials.

"To think that someone is deliberately setting fires where I live — it's scary," said Shauna Collier, a freshman from Charlotte. "It makes me feel kind of weird."

The fire has caused some students to fear for their safety. "I would not feel very safe," said Anna Ortiz, a freshman from Castalia. "If someone would commit arson once, it is possible that they will do it

again, and it may be worse the second time."

Kristen King, a senior from Wilmington, said she thought the fire would lead to financial repercussions for all students.

"I assume we will be punished for the fire financially through student fees," King said. "I don't think the fire is fair to any of us."

Because of the investigation, the Morrison elevator will not stop on the third floor, where the fire took place. All of the lounges and kitchens have also been closed off to residents, which some Morrison residents said was inconvenient.

"I think that the fire is already being handled as arson," Oliver said. "I can't study in the lounge or use the elevator to get off on the third floor."

Investigators Probe Finance Allegations

BY KARI COHEN
AND MELISSA MILIOS
STAFF WRITERS

Questioning continued Monday in an ongoing investigation of the Student Congress Finance Committee's alleged ethical conflicts and a violation of branch relations.

Finance committee Chairman Tom Lyon and congress Speaker Pro Tem Meredith Armstrong testified last night about the committee's actions involving the Black Student Movement (BSM) and Bisexuals, Gay men, Lesbians and Allies for Diversity (B-GLAD).

Student Body President George Battle chose Student Attorney General Shannon Kete to head a committee to investigate allegations that the BSM and B-GLAD were discriminated against by the finance committee as the groups tried to obtain funding last spring and this fall.

Lyon allegedly refused to hear BSM and B-GLAD bills because they were not handed to him 24 hours before they were scheduled to be heard.

He said none of the bills that were to be voted on were in his box when he checked for them as late as noon on the day of the meeting. He also said that he had written a letter to Monica Cloud saying he needed to see the bills before the meeting.

Lyon said he had no prior knowledge of the BSM bill whatsoever.

"I was in the meeting and someone said something to me about BSM requesting some \$34,000, and I just laughed about it and said 'Yeah, right,'" Lyon said. "But then I flipped open to the BSM bill, and I went, 'Oh my gosh, I've never seen this before.'"

Armstrong said that she had been aware that the BSM bill was going to come before the committee and that whether or not Lyon had been aware of the bill was irrelevant.

"As long as the bill is there on the table, then his job has been done by someone else, and if he never saw the bill before coming to the committee, it wouldn't change anything," Armstrong said.

But Tara Servatius, former finance committee member, said the 24-hour rule was a necessary one because the chairman had to have time to post the bill so other members of the committee could look over it and check on the organization's status within the University.

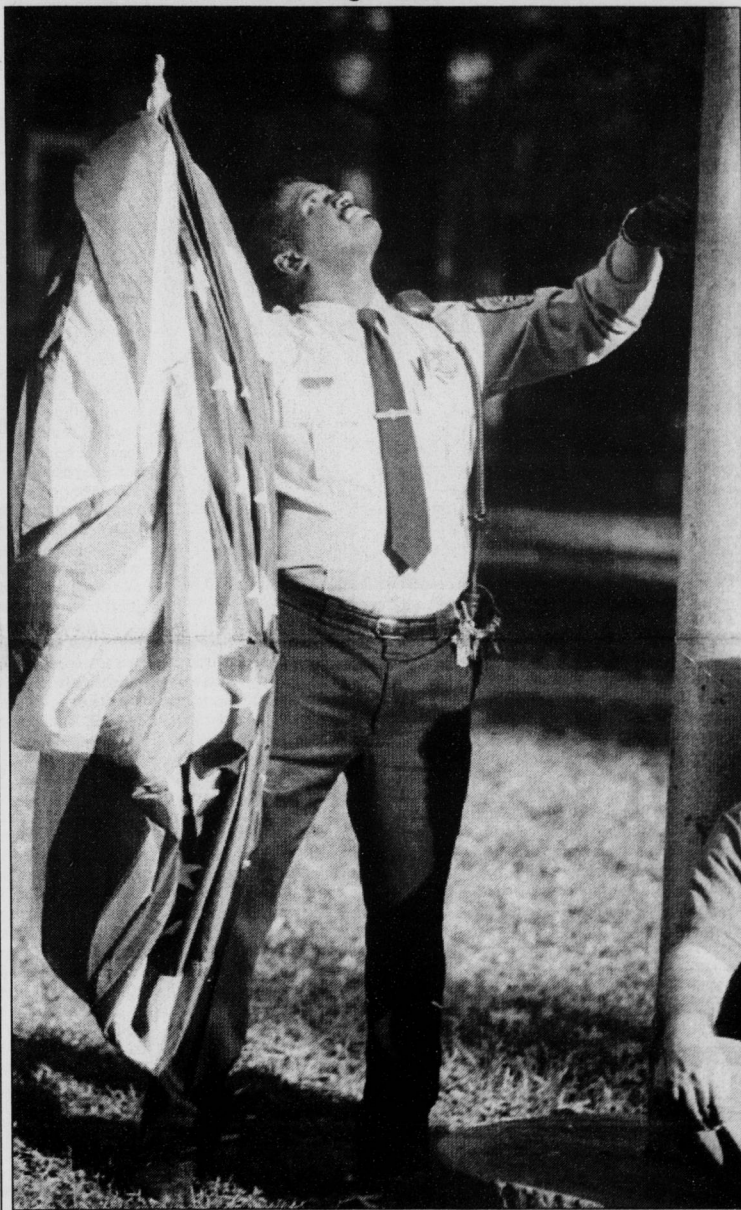
Servatius, who acted as finance committee chairwoman during the second summer session, said that Lyon's actions were not unethical but that they were typical in dealings with groups asking for funding.



Student Attorney General SHANNON KETE and her team of investigators began last week to question the people involved in the alleged finance committee misconduct.

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Going Down?



Officer V.L. Edwards takes down the flag at Polk Place Monday evening. He removes the flag every day at 5 o'clock.

DTH/LAURA THOMAS

Testimony In Murder Trial Ends

BY JOE REYNOLDS
AND JULIE CORBIN
STAFF WRITERS

HILLSBOROUGH — Testimony ended Monday in the second murder trial of David Allen Sokolowski, who is charged in the death and dismemberment of his live-in girlfriend, Pamela Owens Ellwood. Superior Court Judge Cy Grant denied a motion by the defense Monday to dismiss first-degree murder charges against Sokolowski.

Defense attorney William Sheffield presented Judge Grant with four case precedents and moved that the charge of first-degree murder be dropped because of insufficient evidence.

Sheffield said the state had shown neither malice nor specific intent or premeditation on the part of Sokolowski. He also said the state's evidence was purely circumstantial and pointed to the four case precedents as support for his motion.

Orange-Chatham District Attorney Carl Fox responded by listing part of the state's evidence. He said that Sokolowski had pawned Ellwood's guitar and pieces of her car, that he had lied to a friend of Ellwood's about her whereabouts, that he had described Ellwood as having been "taken care of" to a co-worker and that two ears had been found on the porch of Sokolowski's house.

Sheffield responded, saying that the evidence for the case had been mixed with the evidence of the Rubel Hill murder case held in March. Grant sided with Fox and denied Sheffield's motion, saying that there was enough evidence and that the precedents didn't apply to this case.

Sheffield had requested earlier that Judge Grant bar any mention of Sokolowski's previous trial, which ended in a conviction for first-degree murder. Grant accepted the motion.

Sokolowski was convicted in March of having killed his friend and neighbor, Rubel Hill in February 1992. Hill's dismembered body was found, with several bullet holes in it, on Sokolowski's Hillsborough farm.

David Spittle, a N.C. forensic serologist from the State Bureau of Investigation, testified Monday that tests done on blood samples taken from a shirt and bra had been inconclusive and could not prove that the samples matched Ellwood's blood.

The shirt and bra, along with a pair of socks, were found tied up in a bag in Sokolowski's kitchen. The shirt and bra were soaked in blood he described as "rotten," while the socks were free of blood, Spittle said.

Curtis Bauer testified for the state that he and his friend Kevin Fulmar stayed with Sokolowski for four days in March 1992. He said he never saw Ellwood or Hill the whole time they were there.

David Owens, Ellwood's father, testified that he and his wife last saw their daughter when she visited them in Winston-Salem in January or February 1992.

Owens said he and his wife went to see Ellwood on March 8. When they couldn't get in the front door, they walked around the house to see if anyone was home and found Sokolowski behind the house.

When Owens asked where Ellwood was, Sokolowski said that she had gone to

See SOKOLOWSKI, Page 2

Gun-Toting Couple Robs McDonald's; Suspects Escape on Foot, Police Say

BY CHRIS NICHOLS
CITY EDITOR

It looks like trouble has found Chapel Hill's McDonald's on the east end of Franklin Street.

After avoiding the past year's three gun-related incidents at its West Franklin Street counterpart, McDonald's at 1748 N. Fordham Blvd. caught the crime bug after an armed couple robbed the restaurant Sunday night.

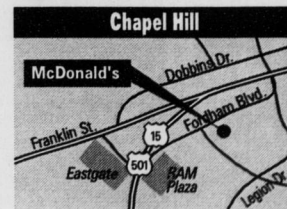
Chapel Hill police spokeswoman Jane Cousins said the robbery occurred about 10:25 p.m. when no customers were in the restaurant.

A man and a woman armed with handguns went into the store and ordered all of the employees except for the manager into a walk-in freezer, Cousins said.

The couple demanded that the manager open the safe and then took an undisclosed amount of money, she said.

The man and woman left the restaurant on foot and headed in the direction of Europa Drive, Cousins said.

Police have no suspects in the robbery. "It's a pretty unusual crime," Cousins said. "These sorts of crimes are pretty un-



usual anywhere in an open business."

Seven employees were in the restaurant at the time of the robbery, according to reports.

Cousins said no one reported any injuries.

The man is described as a black man, about 5 feet, 5 inches and in his early 30s. Cousins said that no description for the woman was available, except that she is black.

Chapel Hill police Capt. Barry Thompson, who is in charge of investigations, said he did not know how long the couple was in the restaurant.

He said neither the man nor the woman was wearing any kind of mask or disguise.

100 Applications Reviewed For Boulton's Replacement

BY CHRISTINA MASSEY
STAFF WRITER

The committee in charge of the search for a new vice chancellor for and dean of students affairs is beginning to review applications for the position.

Stephen Birdsall, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and chairman of the search committee, said the search was progressing without any problems.

"We've advertised and received applications, and now we are in the process of reviewing them," he said.

The position became available when Donald Boulton, former vice chancellor for and dean of student affairs, announced his resignation in July.

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ership. Boulton has worked at the University for 22 years and has taught part-time in the education school since 1974.

He announced his resignation in February, and a committee to find his replacement was formed shortly thereafter.

Birdsall said the committee, which consists of six faculty and staff members and three students, met several times during the summer and was now sifting through a pool of more than 100 applicants.

He said he was pleased with the quality of the applicants so far.

"We have a lot of fine candidates," he said.

The committee is looking for a wide variety of qualities in the applicants, Birdsall said.

"We are looking for someone with full-time student affairs experience who is able to work with a diverse student body, has effective management skills, has strong oral and communication abilities, and can demonstrate creative leadership," he said.

After reviewing the applications, the committee will make recommendations to Chancellor Paul Hardin, who ultimately

See BOULTON, Page 2

My motto is the same as my blood type: B positive.

Cynthia Nelms