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IN THE NEWS

Top stories from the state, nation and world

Investigators Searching For Clues in Plane Crash

ROSELAWN, Ind. — Crews built a gravel road across a boggy soybean field Tuesday to help investigators reach bodies and clues in a commuter plane crash that killed all 68 people on board.

American Eagle Flight 4184 gave off a high-pitched whine of engines at full throttle as it streaked to the ground in a driving rain Monday en route to Chicago's O'Hare Airport.

National Transportation Safety Board spokesman Ted Lopatkiewicz refused to speculate on the cause of the crash. One witness said he saw the almost-new twin-engine propjet plunge toward the ground with a wing sheared off.

Searchers found the plane's cockpit voice recorder and flight data recorder.

CNN Guilty of Contempt For Airing Noriega Tapes

MIAMI — CNN was found guilty Tuesday of criminal contempt by airing taped phone conversations of jailed Panamanian leader Manuel Noriega and his lawyers in 1990.

The network was convicted by U.S. District Judge William Hoeveler, who said CNN willfully violated his gag order involving the conversations.

CNN could be fined \$100,000. Sentencing is scheduled for Dec. 9. The network had no immediate comment.

During a four-day trial in September, the network argued that it was legally entitled to air the prison tapes, which had been leaked.

In fact, it said it had a journalistic responsibility to do so to show what it contended was government misconduct for taping Noriega's calls to his lawyer.

Carjacking Search Slowing Down With No New Leads

UNION, S.C. — A couple whose two young sons vanished a week ago in an alleged carjacking abduction made a new public appeal for clues Tuesday as calls to a tip line began to slow.

"It is a nightmare that seems to have no end," said Susan and David Smith in a written statement.

Despite a nationwide manhunt and international publicity about the case, no firm leads have come forward. A search Tuesday for the missing car at a river was "just to rule that out," Union County Sheriff Howard Wells said.

Three-year-old Michael and 14-month-old Alex Smith have not been seen since Oct. 25, when Mrs. Smith reported that a man jumped in her car then ordered her out at gunpoint.

Mexican President Issues Final Speech to Country

MEXICO CITY — In a farewell address to the nation Tuesday, Mexico's president lauded his free-market reforms, lamented the recent slayings of two party leaders and urged Indian rebels in the south to return to peace talks.

President Carlos Salinas de Gortari was heckled repeatedly by opposition lawmakers during his last state-of-the-union address to the Congress, delivered under heavy security.

Salinas spoke for two hours and 45 minutes about a six-year term highlighted by dramatic free-market reforms to revive an economy that was in shambles when he took office in 1988.

President-elect Ernesto Zedillo takes office Dec. 1.

U.S. Soldiers Continuing Kuwaiti Practice Missions

KUWAIT — U.S. warplanes dropped 55,000 pounds of bombs on burned-out Iraqi tanks and other desert targets Tuesday in exercises designed to show allied resolve to protect Kuwait.

Two B-52s and a pair of B-1 bombers led more than 100 warplanes in the biggest allied air force exercise in several years. American A-10 Thunderbolt tank-killing jets and British and French combat planes also took part.

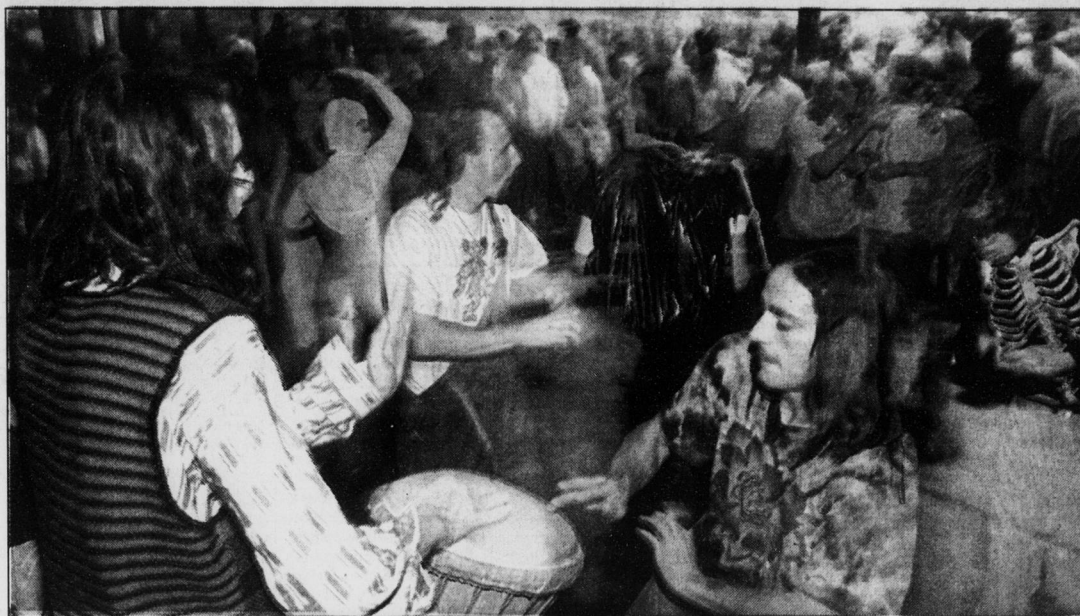
Kuwait's defense minister, Sheikh Ahmed al-Humoud al-Sabah, applauded as the B-52s dropped 500-pound bombs on simulated targets in Kuwait's northern desert, including burned-out Iraqi tanks left over from the 1991 war in the Persian Gulf.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Weather

TODAY: Sunny; high 68.
THURSDAY: Sunny; high 78.

Town, Tricksters Keep Trouble Down



Bongo playing drew many Halloween parties off the street and into a sidewalk dance party on East Franklin Street Monday night.

ALE Visits Town; Checks IDs, Bars

Agency Cites 20 People, Resulting in 28 Infractions at Local Watering Holes

BY SARAH CORBITT
STAFF WRITER

Normal Halloween activities on Franklin Street include outrageous costumes and pranks. For local bars, activities mean routine searches by the Alcohol Law Enforcement agency.

Among the 110 police officers on Franklin Street Monday night, 10 were from the Alcohol Law Enforcement (ALE) agency.

Officers from the agency helped with alcohol regulation on Franklin Street Monday night because of requests from the Chapel Hill Police Department, ALE officer Mark Ellington said.

The ALE is a state agency that regulates the sale, possession and consumption of alcohol. The ALE also helped with Halloween night policing last year.

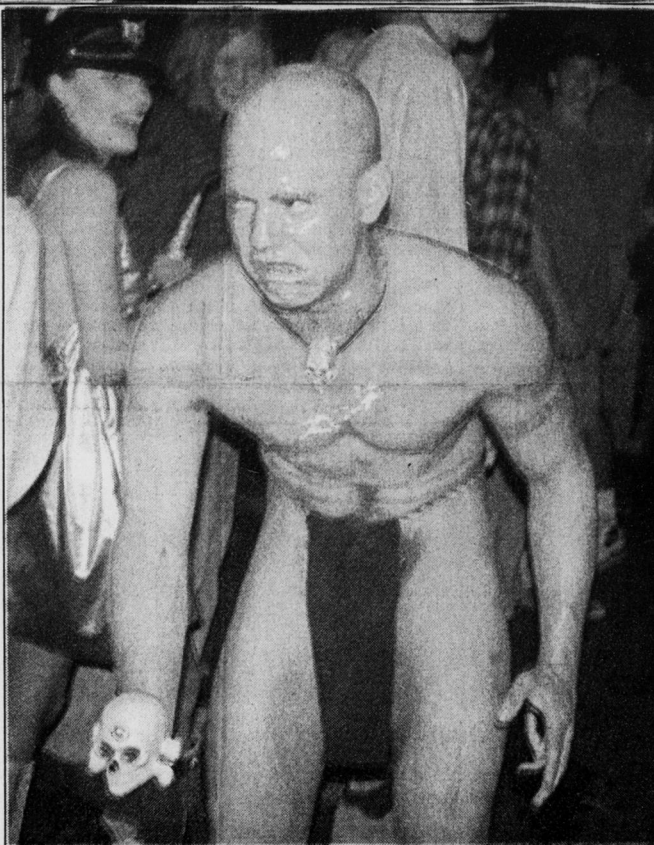
The Chapel Hill Police Department was also assisted by Carrboro police officers, the Orange County Sheriff's Department, the Highway Patrol and University Police.

Three of the 10 ALE officers monitored Franklin Street. The remaining officers conducted routine checks of bars in the outlying areas, Ellington said.

A number of bars on Franklin Street were inspected by visible ALE agents. None of the agents were undercover, Ellington said.

Twenty people were issued a total of 28 citations by the

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ABOVE: Lance Chase devilishly stalks about Franklin Street as Satan in his drafty loin cloth. RIGHT: Ronald McDonald takes down a foot long from Subway instead of a Big Mac during Monday night's bash.

Crowd Causes Few Problems for Town

Police Describe Mass of 35,000 As 'Largest Crowd We've Ever Had'

BY HOOPER GRAHAM
STAFF WRITER

Ghosts and goblins mingled with fairy-tale characters and super heroes, and Forrest Gump ran down Franklin Street, passing thousands of people participating in the Chapel Hill Halloween tradition.

Roughly 35,000 people assembled on Franklin Street, Chapel Hill police Capt. Barry Thompson said. "It's the largest crowd we've ever had," he said. "It was larger than when we won the Final Four NCAA championship."

Franklin Street was blocked off at 10 p.m. from Raleigh Street to Columbia Street, Thompson said. The majority of the people massed on Franklin between Henderson and Columbia streets.

Officers worked all along Franklin Street to help maintain order.

Local and county law enforcement officers helped to keep the number of arrests to a minimum. Eleven arrests were made, Thompson said. "They ranged from affray or public fighting, drinking and disruption, urinating in public and assault, but on the whole I think everything went pretty smoothly," he said, adding that some minor injuries resulted from the scuffles.

The Orange County Sheriff Department, North Carolina Alcohol and Law Enforcement, North Carolina Highway Patrol, University Police and Carrboro and Chapel Hill police departments sent 110 officers onto Franklin Street.

"We had officers located along the sides of the buildings, some in intersections and some working traffic," Thompson said.

To prevent crime and injury, the police concentrated on the presence of alcohol and weapons on the street. "The biggest danger is when you mix a large amount of people with alcohol," Thompson said. "If we had not worked alcohol as we did, the arrests and injury numbers would be a lot higher."

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Second-Degree Sex Charge Against Wolslagel Dropped

BY KATHRYN TAYLOR
STAFF WRITER

The second-degree sexual assault charge that has been pending against UNC Assistant Registrar Grant Wolslagel since Oct. 12 was officially dropped Tuesday morning.

Orange-Chatham District Attorney Carl Fox, who is representing the woman who filed the charge, announced at a Tuesday press conference that the case would not be pursued further.

Both Fox and the woman, who requested to remain anonymous, could not be reached for comment Tuesday.

Wolslagel, who described the situation as "an absolute hell," said he was relieved that the woman had dismissed her charges against him.

"I am very thankful that the charges have finally been investigated and dismissed, and that the truth of this malicious and calculated attack has prevailed, vindicating me from this most horrible, real nightmare," Wolslagel said



Orange-Chatham District Attorney CARL FOX held a press conference Tuesday to announce that the case against Wolslagel had been dropped.

in a written statement.

"I think of myself, and I believe others concur, as a gentle, nonaggressive, caring and giving person."

Monday, the woman said she wanted to drop the charges after consulting with Fox because she did not want to deal with the media.

"It's not by any means to say that this man is innocent," she said Monday. "Had the media not been involved, I would have pressed charges."

The woman said another reason she dropped the charge was that she wanted to get on with her life.

"I'm going to try to put this behind me," she said. "I think I'll be able to heal from this situation and relationship the sooner it's over. Two and a half years was enough of this relationship."

Bill Massengale, one of Wolslagel's attorneys, said no decision had been made yet about whether Wolslagel wanted to pursue the matter further.

"Needless to say, our client was very upset to have been in the papers over something he didn't do," he said. "We haven't decided yet whether or not to take any compensatory legal action. We'll have to wait and see whether this affects his life or his job."

University Registrar David Lanier said that he had expected the assault charges to

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Filmmaker Shares Life, Movies, Inspirations

Director, Producer Calls His Newest Film Project 'Microcosm of America'

BY MELISSA MILIOS
STAFF WRITER

Filmmaker John Singleton discussed his films, his life and his road to success Tuesday in a promotional lecture for his newest feature film, "Higher Learning."

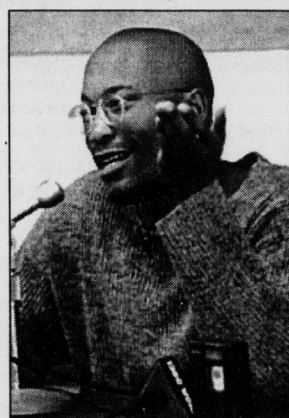
Singleton said his new movie was an explosive look at the lives of college students as they deal with issues of racism, identity, sexism and insecurity.

"I wrote a movie that would be a microcosm of America, an emotionally, racially, sexually charged America. It wouldn't be about the old people and all their rules, it'd be about how all those rules affected our generation."

Singleton said the college, the fictional Christopher Columbus University, was meant to represent a stereotypical private institution that everyone could relate to.

"Columbus University is a place where black people feel alienated, where white women feel alienated, where a white boy with no money feels alienated," he said. "If you really open up and look at what's going on around you right now, it has to do a lot with things going on even right here at this school that nobody wants to talk about. Or do they?"

Singleton also discussed his two previ-



John Singleton said 'Star Wars' got him started in the movie business. His blockbust films, "Boyz n the Hood" and "Poetic Justice."

Singleton said he wrote "Boyz n the Hood," his first film, as his college thesis project, and had completed the screenplay by the end of the first semester of his senior year. He had always wanted to write and direct his own film, specifically a "black" film, he said. "I went through four years of college thinking 'I'm going to make black movies, with black actors, with black people making them. All I want to see is chocolate.'"

"And I thought, 'I'm going to write a movie about what I really want to write

about — I'm going to write about me and my friends, about how we grew up, about what went down.' So I started taking down notes for this screenplay and I called it 'Boyz n the Hood.'"

Singleton said it was a struggle to get a production company to agree to let him direct the film, but he held out and eventually gained the backing of Columbia Pictures.

"I said (to the executives at Columbia), 'Pardon me if I speak frankly, but you guys make bad movies — you make shitty movies,'" he said. "Now I don't want some boy from Idaho directing my movie. It's about me and my boys on the porch in L.A."

"Boyz n the Hood" netted Singleton two Academy Award nominations and the respect and notoriety of the movie world. His second film, "Poetic Justice," was a romance starring Janet Jackson.

Singleton also told Tuesday's audience about his childhood, his boyhood dreams and the people he met on his rise to fortune.

His infatuation with the theater goes as far back as the first time he saw a movie by one of his favorite directors, George Lucas.

"I knew since I'd seen 'Star Wars' when I was nine years old that I wanted to make films," he said.

But, Singleton said, his inhibitions almost led him to forget his dreams. "I was talking one day with one of my mother's friends and I told her, 'I really want to go to school for film but I think I should go to school for business. So what do you think?' and she said, 'I think you're scared.' So I said 'What! I'm not scared — I'm going to film school.'"

The fastest way to a man's heart is through his chest.

Roseanne