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## IN THE NEWS

Top stories from the state, nation and world

### Former Minister Convicted in Florida Clinic Shooting

PENSACOLA, Fla. — A jury deliberated just 20 minutes Wednesday before convicting a former minister of murder in the shotgun slayings of an abortion doctor and his bodyguard.

Paul Hill, 40, could receive either life in prison or death in the electric chair. The jury will return Thursday.

Hill, acting as his own lawyer, offered no defense during his three-day trial, refusing to make any statement or question any witnesses.

Circuit Judge Frank Bell had barred him from arguing that the slayings were justifiable homicide to save fetuses.

Hill, wielding a 12-gauge shotgun, ambushed Dr. John Britton, 69; his unarmed bodyguard, James Barrett, 74; and Barrett's wife, June, 68, as the three arrived at the Ladies Center abortion clinic July 29.

### White House Gunman to Go to Trial in Federal Court

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A Colorado man was ordered to stand trial on charges he fired 27 semiautomatic rifle bullets at the White House on Saturday. A federal magistrate rejected a defense plea for the charges to be lessened since no one had been injured.

Privately, a federal prosecutor held open the possibility that Francisco Martin Duran might yet be charged with attempting to assassinate President Clinton, who was inside the White House when the shots were fired. But no new charges were lodged Wednesday.

Duran, 26, is charged with possessing a firearm as a convicted felon, destroying government property, assaulting a uniformed Secret Service agent and using a firearm while committing a crime.

### Possible Tip Fizzles Out in S.C. Carjacking Mystery

UNION, S.C. — What at first seemed like a break in the case of two boys missing after a reported carjacking eight days ago evaporated Wednesday, leaving the tearful parents again pleading for their sons' safe return and leaving police without leads.

Sheriff Howard Wells said investigators would search door-to-door near the crime scene to find anyone who might have seen something helpful.

Susan Smith told authorities Oct. 25 that her sons, 3-year-old Michael and 14-month-old Alex, had been taken by a man who commandeered her car, forced her to drive about five miles, then ordered her out. The case began its eighth day with a call from Seattle authorities saying a boy at a motel there resembled the description of Alex Smith. It turned out not to be him.

### 13 People Die in Standoff With Police in Algeria

ALGIERS, Algeria — At least 13 people died in a downtown shootout Wednesday that ended a 24-hour standoff between police and Muslim militants trying to overthrow Algeria's government, a witness said.

It was the bloodiest single gun battle in the capital during the 33-month-old conflict pitting armed Islamic extremists against this North African country's military-installed regime.

The government, meanwhile, returned to jail two top Muslim fundamentalist leaders after they urged militants to continue their rebellion, which has left more than 11,000 people dead, informed sources said.

A shootout Tuesday between security forces and gunmen in the crowded Telemly neighborhood killed four people.

### Bosnian Troops Advance On Serb-Controlled Town

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Muslim-led government forces and their Bosnian Croat allies advanced on a Serb-held town Wednesday in a rare coordinated assault that could signal a new phase in the war.

Bosnia radio reported that Bosnian Serb lines near Kupres were in disarray and that thousands of Serb civilians had fled the town in anticipation of a pincer attack.

Government troops made "significant gains" in heavy ground fighting overnight on the road between Kupres and Muslim-held Bugojno to the east, said Paul Risley, a U.N. spokesman in Zagreb, Croatia.

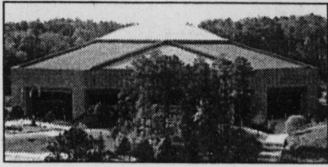
Bosnian Croat forces, meanwhile, captured several villages in their advance toward Kupres.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Weather

TODAY: Sunny; high mid-70s.  
FRIDAY: Fair; high in low to mid-70s.

### The Dean E. Smith Center



The Smith Center sits idle in the off-season and is losing about \$500,000 annually; it kind of makes you wonder ...

# What happened to all the concerts?



BY JEFF GARIGLIANO  
STAFF WRITER

It's worth more than \$33 million. It has been home to some of the greatest names in Atlantic Coast Conference history.

The Dean E. Smith Center is a monument to the University's basketball tradition. Games are packed, and students camp out for tickets.

But financially speaking, the Smith Center is in the hole.

Although Chancellor Paul Hardin recently lifted a ban on the Grateful Dead — a band that produced tremendous revenue for the center during a spring tour and several headaches for the town — the University has failed to capitalize on its state-of-the-art Smith Center.

And for the most part, it doesn't really have a plan to get the center back into the profit mode, or



DTH/KATIE CANNON

Concert events, like Depeche Mode, pictured far left, in the Smith Center in November 1993, have become a rarity.

at least breaking even. With more than 21,000 seats, the Smith Center was and still is one of the largest indoor collegiate arenas in the country. Only the Carrier Dome at Syracuse University in New York; Brigham Young University's Marriott Center in Salt Lake City; and the Thomas Bolling Arena at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville are larger.

But despite its size and reputation, the Smith Center generally sits idle when blue-clad teams finish their season.

In 1987 (its first full year of operation), there were 16 concerts held at the Smith Center, with total ticket sales just over 226,000. Those numbers have never been equaled, or even approached, since.

### The Gradual Decline

The problems for the Smith Center didn't happen overnight, but they became obvious with two

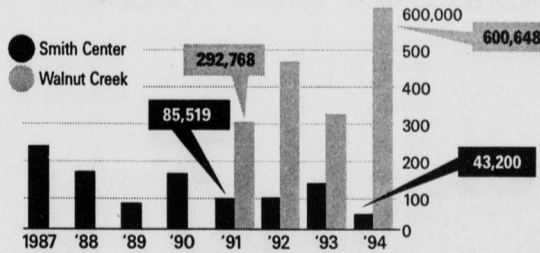
debacles in the past year that garnered a great deal of media attention.

At this time last year, the Smith Center was managed by Pace Entertainment, a Houston company that books shows for several venues in the area, including Walnut Creek Amphitheatre in Raleigh and Blockbuster Pavilion outside of Charlotte.

In December 1993, Pace had scheduled several shows at the Smith Center for spring 1994, including the Grateful Dead and Janet Jackson. The shows were booked in conjunction with Cellar Door Productions, a regional promoter.

The Dead had played two shows at the center in spring 1993 and had sold out both. The only performers in the history of the Smith Center to sell more tickets than the Grateful Dead are Bruce

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### Walnut Creek Taking Chunk Out of Smith Center Profits

Since its opening in 1991, Walnut Creek Amphitheatre in Raleigh has attracted many bands that might have played in the Smith Center.

## Associate Med. School Dean, Health Care Reformer Dies

STAFF REPORT

Dr. Eugene Mayer, associate dean of the UNC School of Medicine and director of the N.C. Area Health Education Centers program (AHEC), died Wednesday at UNC Hospitals after a brief illness. He was 56.

Mayer had served on the UNC faculty since 1971 and as AHEC director since 1978. He was a professor of medicine and a research associate with the Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research.

"Gene Mayer was one of the really great people in the movement in North Carolina of delivering health care to the rural areas and less fortunate," UNC-System President Emeritus William Friday said. "He was an exceptional doctor with a sense of commitment and purpose. Personally, he was a friendly and affable man to everyone who knew him. He was the

kind of devoted doctor that everyone will miss."

Founded at the University in 1972, AHEC is a partnership among community hospitals, the state's four academic medical centers and health professionals. Nine regional sites provide services such as community-based clinical training for student physicians, dentists, nurses and others.

Chancellor Paul Hardin said that Mayer had been a remarkable health care leader. "Through his efforts, AHEC became a unique and widely admired national model for decentralized health sciences education," Hardin said.

"Gene helped the program grow to exemplify Carolina's mission of public service and our campuswide goal of improving the quality of life in North Carolina.

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## Developer Presents Revised Plan



### Meadowmont Backers and Town Council Will Meet Again to Consider Proposal

BY DEAN HAIR  
ASSISTANT CITY EDITOR

The developers of Meadowmont, East West Partners, told the Chapel Hill Town Council Wednesday that they wanted the proposed community to be focused on a "village center" that would be easily accessible to residents.

The Town Council held a public hearing and work session to discuss questions and ideas regarding the proposed development of the 425-acre Dubose property.

The property lies in eastern Chapel Hill straddling N.C. 54. The master land-use plan proposes a maximum of about 2,000 dwelling units, 1.5 million square feet of

commercial space and about 500,000 square feet of office space.

The property is currently zoned as Residential-1, and the plan calls for a Mixed Use/Residential-1, which would allow commercial, office and residential uses.

Brad Davis, who represented East West Partners, presented a synopsis of the master plan for developing the land. "At the basis of the design is livability," Davis said. "Most land is developed or spoken for around the site."

The proposal calls for pedestrian and bike lanes, conservation of the natural and cultural resources of the site, and creating neighborhoods. Many citizens found aspects of the proposal unsatisfactory, but others were pleased with some of the plan's changes.

Alice Ingram, a Design and Review Board member, said aspects of the layout

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Try everything once except incest and folk dancing.

Sir Thomas Beecham