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IN THE NEWS

Top stories from the state, nation and world

Clinton Acts on Mexican Plan After Congress Balks

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Facing unyielding opposition in Congress, President Clinton scrapped a \$40 billion rescue plan for Mexico on Tuesday and hurriedly assembled a substitute package combining U.S. money with international aid.

Racing against what the administration said was the imminent threat of financial default by Mexico, Clinton invoked presidential authority to commit \$20 billion for loans and loan guarantees to the government of President Ernesto Zedillo.

Mexican financial markets and the peso rallied Tuesday after the announcement.

International lenders increased their aid pledges by \$15 billion, to a total of \$27.8 billion. Canada and a group of Latin American countries pledged \$1 billion apiece.

Peru Agrees to Cease-Fire To End Border Conflicts

QUITO, Ecuador — Ecuador announced a cease-fire Tuesday to end border clashes with Peru over a remote jungle region, but Peru kept sending in troops and refused to confirm that any agreement had been reached.

No fighting was reported Tuesday. Ecuador's armed forces said several skirmishes erupted Monday, wounding one Ecuadorean soldier.

More Peruvian troops — including crack counterinsurgency forces — traveled toward the border by riverboat and trucks, even as diplomats gave mixed signals about whether Peru would accept the cease-fire, which Ecuador said took effect at noon.

In Lima, Rosa Jimenez, a Foreign Ministry press official, said Peru had not yet accepted the truce.

European Floods Move to Holland; Thousands Flee

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands — Dozens of Dutch hamlets became ghost towns Tuesday as tens of thousands fled surging rivers that threatened to breach dikes and flood farmlands. At least one person drowned.

Flood waters that killed at least 27 people in northwestern Europe earlier this week began to recede. But the flooding wasn't expected to peak until today in the Netherlands, where most land is below sea level.

On Monday, about 15,000 people left low-lying farmlands of their own volition. On Tuesday, the evacuations were mandatory: Dutch authorities declared a state of emergency and ordered 70,000 people out of "polders," farmland reclaimed over the centuries from marsh and river basins.

Russians Extend War Into Rural Chechen Villages

GROZNY, Russia — Taking the war to every corner of Chechnya, Russian troops attacked one town with armored vehicles Tuesday and blasted at least two others with artillery.

Word also emerged of savage bombing raids on mountain villages in the south of the secessionist republic. A British photographer who returned from one remote site told of an attack on a farm in which Russian fighter jets killed a woman and decapitated four of her children.

As the war approached the two-month mark, Moscow's troops lobbed more artillery shells into central Grozny despite a thick fog and continued to battle out-manned Chechen fighters for full control of the ruined capital.

Helms Appears Unlikely To Fight Nuclear Treaty

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Prospects for quick Senate approval of a treaty reducing U.S. and Russian nuclear arsenals got a boost Tuesday when Sen. Jesse Helms indicated no strong objections to the pact.

As chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the N.C. Republican — who has consistently opposed arms control treaties — could have been a major roadblock to ratification of the START II agreement.

But when Secretary of State Warren Christopher presented the administration's case for ratification, Helms signaled that he wasn't inclined to fight this one.

Helms said he was concerned about reducing the U.S. arsenal to the point that "a future leader of Russia or any other nuclear power may decide foolishly that it is safe to risk war with the United States."

Weather

TODAY: Mostly sunny; high mid-50s.
THURSDAY: Mostly cloudy; high in the 50s.

Man Killed in Carrboro Business Fire

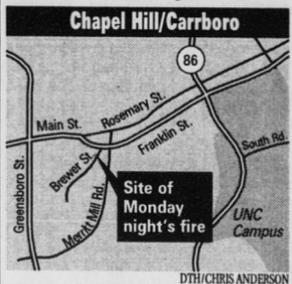
BY RYAN THORNBURG
CITY EDITOR

A Carrboro man died Tuesday morning from smoke inhalation he suffered in a late-night fire Monday. The fire was at Simply Super Car Wash & Auto Detail Service at 414 E. Main St. in Carrboro.

Thomas A. Alston, 43, had been living in a portion of the store where he worked. Carrboro fire Chief Rodney Murray said firefighters had found Alston lying unconscious just inside the front door of the business. He was transported by ambulance to UNC Hospitals, where he was treated for burns covering more than 80 percent of his body, Murray said.

Alston was pronounced dead at 5:45 a.m. Tuesday.

Chapel Hill and Carrboro fire departments responded to a 911 call from a passer-
See FIRE, Page 4



Firefighters brought the fire at Simply Super Car Wash fully under control within an hour and a half late Monday night. Thomas A. Alston, an employee of the car wash, was killed in the blaze.

Suit to Challenge Co-SBP Candidates

BY STEPHEN LEE
STAFF WRITER

Graduate student Ruffin Hall will file a Student Supreme Court case today in an attempt to prevent candidates from running as co-student body presidents.

"Allowing co-student body presidents blatantly violates the student constitution," he said. "In any reading of a constitution, just because something isn't explicitly stated doesn't mean you can do it. It's unconstitutional, and it's ill-conceived student government policy."

According to Hall, the Student Government Code interprets the office of student body president to be run by one person.

"If you can allow two student body presidents, why not four?" he said. "Who signs legislation? Who vetoes a bill? Do you impeach one or both co-SBPs? Any of these decisions requires student referendum because it's part of the constitution."

Hall said he found out about students running for co-SBP last week.

"I started responding to it as soon as I

found out about it," he said. "I had no intention of dramatically disrupting the election."

Hall said he was not making any personal gains by filing the case.

"I don't know any of the candidates or members of the Elections Board personally," he said. "This is about a legal interpretation of the Student (Government) Code. I stand by doing nothing personally by this. I'm not doing this for anybody but me and the welfare of student government."

Law student Elliott Zenick is also involved with filing the case.

Ross McKamey, Elections Board vice chairman, said that Hall had come to talk to the Elections Board on Monday night to try to stop students from running together for student body president and that the board had denied his request.

"We had already been through the



code," McKamey said. "It doesn't say anywhere that there can't be co-candidates. We determined since it didn't say explicitly you can't have two, his request was not allowed."

"A lot of his arguments are based on the wording of the code on being a student body president," he said. "The same wording was used for co-CAA presidents."

"Just because there've been joint officers in the past doesn't make it right," Hall said.

The candidates running together will stay on the ballot until a ruling against co-candidates is announced, McKamey said.

"If he wants to bring the case, then he can bring the case," he said. "It's a question that needs to be answered. Hopefully this election will go through and a decision will be made."

Jen Fiumara and Jeff Berkaw, co-student body president candidates, said they both questioned Hall's timing on the matter.

"It seems a little odd that we were notified the day before the petitions were due,"

Berkaw said. Petitions for all candidates were due by 5 p.m. Tuesday.

Fiumara said the Carolina Athletic Association and the Residence Hall Association both had co-presidents who served well.

"It's never been challenged before, and you wonder what the motives are," Fiumara said.

Berkaw said the code was open to different interpretations.

"It's all a matter of interpretation," he said. "It says 'a president,' and I think he means one. We think it's an issue for the students to decide whether 'co-' is a good thing. We believe the Student (Government) Code can be interpreted to mean co-presidents."

Michael Williams and Kelly Jo Garner, who are also co-candidates for student body president, said they would like to help change the code, should the ruling ban co-presidents.

See ELECTIONS, Page 5

Throw Out Records for Duke Game

BY STEVE ROBBLEE
SENIOR WRITER

Unlike last season, it's not No. 1 vs. No. 2.

North Carolina and Duke won't play for the conference title or a No. 1 seed in the NCAA Tournament Thursday night.

When the Tar Heels and Blue Devils renew their rivalry for the 193rd time in Cameron Indoor Stadium, the best rivalry in college basketball will simply be for bragging rights.

The dislike — or even downright hatred — between North Carolina and Duke extends beyond basketball arenas. Though the schools sit just eight miles apart, their attitudes exist worlds apart.

"Go to hell, Carolina," is a familiar phrase in Durham. In Chapel Hill, Tar Heel fans say, "Duke sucks."

To North Carolina fans, "Dookies" are spoiled rich kids from the Northeast who drive BMWs and have their parents write a check for \$20,000 on the first day of school.

When Duke students picture Chapel Hill, they see country bumpkins clad in Carolina blue and worshipping Dean Smith.

Every time they meet, it's a civil war, and a war between the rich and the middle class. Their battles take place two or three times a year on the basketball court.

Nicknames for the event haven't quite caught on.

This paper tried "Tobacco Road Rumble" last year.

"Battle of the Blues" doesn't work. Neither does "15-501 Feud."

ESPN2, which will televise the game across the nation, doesn't even try to find a slogan in its commercials for the game.

It's not a war. It's not a feud.

It's just a friendly rivalry that transcends all description...

Some games mean everything.

In particular, this game may mean everything for the Blue Devils after an 0-1 start in the ACC. With virtually no chance to make the NCAA Tournament, the Dookies can only salvage the season with a win over No. 3 North Carolina in Cameron.

Dozens of tents have already been set up outside the arena, probably another 100 or so will be set up tonight, said Tom D'Armi, Duke's director of games opera-

See DUKE, Page 7

Profit Desire May Slow AIDS Research Progress

BY WENDY GOODMAN
STAFF WRITER

AIDS has claimed the lives of 243,423 Americans during the past decade.

Although various treatments are available for the victims of AIDS and HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, many people question whether pharmaceutical companies are actively searching for a future cure or are focusing entirely on treatment plans.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, approximately 1 million people are infected with HIV in the United States. Another 401,000 Americans reportedly have full-blown AIDS.

Of those infected, many rely on treatment drugs such as AZT to help them slow the disease's progress. A patient taking the average dosage of AZT spends approximately \$3,500 each year.

According to Kathy Bartlett, the media coordinator for Burroughs-Wellcome Co., the company that produces AZT, statistics have shown that \$382 million is spent on AZT each year worldwide.

With this amount of money coming in to the companies yearly, many AIDS activists have questioned the legitimacy of pharmaceutical companies and their search for treatment drugs vs. their search for a potential cure.

Spencer Cox, a media coordinator for the Treatment Action Group, said he believed that the search for a cure was not under way because of the uncertainty that doctors had concerning the disease.

"Basically, most pharmaceutical companies are looking for treatment agents because we don't have the vaguest idea what a cure would look like," Cox said.

Bartlett said the focus right now might not be a cure but the treatment of such a

dangerous disease. "I think that what we are focusing on is something that will make this a manageable disease," she said.

"I think you'll find people who believe a cure isn't what we should be looking for but something to make this manageable."

The Second National Conference on Human Retroviruses and Related Infection is meeting this week in Washington, D.C., where the treatment of AIDS and the future of medicine and the disease will be the topic of discussion.

Ramona Jones, spokeswoman for Glaxo, a pharmaceutical company at Research Triangle Park, said a UNC professor would be presenting information at the conference.

"Joseph Eron, an associate professor at UNC, will present this data at the conference in Washington," Jones said.

Pharmaceutical companies and people in the medical profession maintain that treatments are only one aspect of the research. They say research also focuses on the possibility of cures in the future.

Dr. Charles Van Der Horst, an associate professor of medicine at UNC, said he believed that pharmaceutical companies were working on an eventual cure.

"I think they are actively focusing on a cure," Van Der Horst said. "Greed pushes the pharmaceutical companies. There will be a lot of mediocre drugs that they push when they don't have anything better to sell to make up some of the money they spent in research."

Jones said AIDS research was focusing on combined treatments. "Treatment for AIDS is moving toward a combination of drugs."

Research on the combination of various
See AIDS, Page 4

Black History Month Begins Today; Events in the Works

BY ADAM GUSMAN
UNIVERSITY EDITOR

Black History Month begins today, and plans are being made by University faculty members and students to offer several programs in commemoration of the month's importance.

The Black History Month Committee of the Black Student Movement met Tuesday to plan activities for the coming month.

Members of the University community have expressed their opinions about what the specially designated month of February means to them.

"Although it's the shortest month of the year, I think it's a genuine effort to recognize the contributions and even the existence of Americans of African descent," said Lee Richardson, president of the campus chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

"Our hope is that people would take more time to learn about not only African Americans but minorities of all kinds in our society," Richardson said.

Tera Hunter, assistant professor of history, said she thought Black History Month was an effort "to acknowledge the importance of contributions of African Americans to American history."

"Black History Month is a time to give to the traditionally voiceless, dispossessed and disinherited — to tell those stories," said Tomeiko Ashford, a first-year graduate student in English from Columbia, S.C.

"It's a time also to redefine history, to

create new history, and to challenge ourselves to go on and achieve new and better things."

Audrey Johnson, associate professor at the UNC School of Social Work, will speak in Raleigh's City Hall Council Chamber at noon Friday to kick off Black History Month in Raleigh.

Johnson's speech will be titled "The Legacy of African-American Social Work." She will focus on the problems of women and young middle-class blacks who are caretakers of the elderly.

Johnson will give the speech as part of the Carolina Speakers, a group comprising 70 UNC faculty members who share their ideas, insights and research throughout the state.

Johnson's remarks will be free and open to the public.

Richardson said a Black Greek Awareness Week was being planned, and more activities will be announced in coming weeks. Black History Month was first only celebrated for a week. It was inaugurated in 1915 and has grown to become a national celebration, featuring lectures, seminars, presentations and discussions in schools, colleges and communities across the country.



Attention: Candidates

All candidates for the presidency of RHA, CAA, GPSF, the senior class and the student body should turn in platforms and sign up for endorsement interviews by 5 p.m. Friday. Platforms can't be longer than 800 words. Endorsement interviews will be Sunday.

Congress representatives must turn in endorsement questionnaires at the DTH by 5 p.m. Thursday. Call Editorial Page Editor Thanassis Cambanis or Editor Kelly Ryan at 962-0245 with any questions.

Campus Elections
Call-in
685-1390
Call The Daily Tar Heel's voice-mail line to leave comments, questions or criticisms about student elections.

The surest sign that intelligent life exists elsewhere in the universe is that it has never tried to contact us.

Calvin and Hobbes