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IN THE NEWS

Top stories from the state, nation and world

Justice Opens Preliminary Investigation of Ron Brown

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Justice Department has opened a preliminary criminal investigation of Commerce Secretary Ron Brown's personal financial dealings.

The decision, announced Thursday by Attorney General Janet Reno, means the department has found specific and credible allegations that Brown might have committed a federal felony.

The preliminary investigation began Wednesday. The department has 90 days from then to decide whether there is enough evidence to ask a special court to name an independent prosecutor to conduct a full criminal investigation. The special court authorized Reno to announce the move.

Government Says Control Of Chiapas Re-Established

SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS, Mexico — After a five-day military thrust, the government says it has regained control of the remote jungle region in southern Mexico that Indian rebels have held for the past year.

Leaders of the rebel Zapatista National Liberation Army remain at large, however, along with rebel soldiers and thousands of Indian peasant supporters.

Uncertainty over the situation in Chiapas state contributed to another drop in Mexico's stock market and currency today.

The Zapatistas rose up on Jan. 1, 1994, to demand better living conditions for Indian peasants in Chiapas, Mexico's poorest state, and fair elections.

Russian President Blames Army for Chechen Losses

MOSCOW — In a dark and defensive address to the nation, President Boris Yeltsin berated his military leaders for big losses and human rights abuses in Chechnya but insisted that Russia must use force to defend its unity.

Looking somber but steady, Yeltsin stood throughout his 61-minute speech to a rare joint session of Parliament, winning only mild applause from the lawmakers when he finished.

It was his bleakest portrait of post-Soviet Russia since he became president in 1991, bereft of hope and vision at a time when his popularity is at an all-time low and many believe he should resign.

After his unsteady arrival at a meeting last week, all eyes were on Yeltsin for signs he might be unwell or had been drinking.

Israeli, PLO Leaders Defuse Crisis, Will Expand Talks

EREZ JUNCTION, Gaza Strip — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO chief Yasser Arafat broke a deadlock Thursday and agreed to step up talks on expanding self-rule in the West Bank.

Rabin promised to ease a travel ban and permit 15,000 Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to return to jobs in Israel next week. The move came after Arafat arrested militant opponents of the peace talks and created a military court to try those suspected of attacking Israel.

Rabin also proposed that Arafat's self-rule government take over the running of the West Bank city of Jenin. But Palestinians were cool to the idea because he suggested that this be done without Israeli troops pulling out.

Hacker's Electronic Trail Ends in North Carolina

RALEIGH — A fugitive described by federal officials as "a computer terrorist" has been arrested here following a two-week electronic manhunt that spanned the country.

Kevin D. Mitnick, a fugitive computer hacker known as the "Condor," was arrested Wednesday and charged with violating probation.

Mitnick, 31, originally from California, also was charged with illegal use of a telephone access device and computer fraud after being arrested at about 1:30 a.m. at his Raleigh apartment, authorities said.

Mitnick had been a fugitive since 1992, when he broke the conditions of his probation for a computer hacking conviction in 1988, according to reports.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Weather

TODAY: Rain likely; high mid-40s.

SATURDAY: Chance of rain; high mid-50s.

SUNDAY: Partly cloudy; high upper 50s.

Increase in Women, Minority Faculty Explored

BY STEPHEN LEE
STAFF WRITER

The newly created minority and women's task forces will be among the issues discussed at the monthly Faculty Council meeting today.

The open meeting will be held at 3 p.m. in Wilson Library Assembly Room.

Chancellor Paul Hardin said the task forces were created to address the current concerns of minorities and women.

"The task forces were designed to examine various things concerning the Uni-

versity," Hardin said. "The task forces will find out what all the other people are doing and to make the University run more efficiently."

He said the minority task force would concentrate on issues such as increasing diversity on the UNC cam-

pus by maintaining high minority enrollment.

He said this year had been UNC's best ever for minority recruitment.

Hardin said the women's task force planned to address issues such as the number of female faculty, the number of women with endowed professorships and women's rate of progress in attaining high administrative positions.

The minority recruitment and retention task force was created last month, and the task force on women was created last week, Hardin said.

Jane Brown, Faculty Council chairwoman, said the task forces enhanced all levels of the University.

"It's part of our continued commitment to diversify the faculty and staff at Carolina," she said.

Harold Wallace, vice chancellor of University affairs, and Linda Lacey, professor of city and regional planning, will lead the minority recruitment and retention task force. Barbara Delon, library personnel officer, and Noelle Granger, professor of cell biology and anatomy, will be in charge of the women's task force. The four

co-chairmen will be introduced at today's meeting.

Also at today's meeting, Hardin said he would address Gov. Jim Hunt's budget proposal at the beginning.

In addition, Bill Leone and University Police will be recognized for their courageous actions in the Jan. 26 Henderson Street shootings. Also recognized will be the Division of Student Affairs and various University offices within the department for their services in the aftermath of the

See TASK FORCE, Page 5



Faculty Council Chairwoman JANE BROWN

UNC Rips Tigers as Sullivan Returns to Action

BY STEVE ROBBLEE
SENIOR WRITER

Go ahead and talk about Jerry Stackhouse's alley-oop dunk in the first half of North Carolina's 66-39 win over Clemson Thursday. All around the state, the play will be talked about at water coolers, in classrooms and gymnasiums today.

Didn't see it? No big deal, Stackhouse said it wasn't that good anyway.

"There wasn't anyone under there, so that was weak," Stackhouse said. "A '6' maybe."

The truth is, there wasn't much about the Tar Heels' performance that was weak.

On offense, the Tar Heels (20-2, 10-2 in the ACC) scorched the Tigers (3-14, 3-8) before 21,572 at the Smith Center.

"They've got the size; we don't have it," said Clemson head coach Rick Barnes. "They lob it up there, and then we've got to get a lot of guys in there trying to help. And then they've got guys who go 10 for 20 from the 3-point line. ... That's a big difference in the game. We can't take both of them away. I wish we could, but we can't."

Clemson couldn't stop either the inside or the outside scoring Wednesday night. UNC shot 54 percent from the field and 50 percent from 3-point land. Rasheed Wallace was the main inside force — he hit 5-of-8 shots — and Donald Williams was hot from the outside.

Williams' six 3-pointers were a career high. His 24 points led both teams and matched his season high.

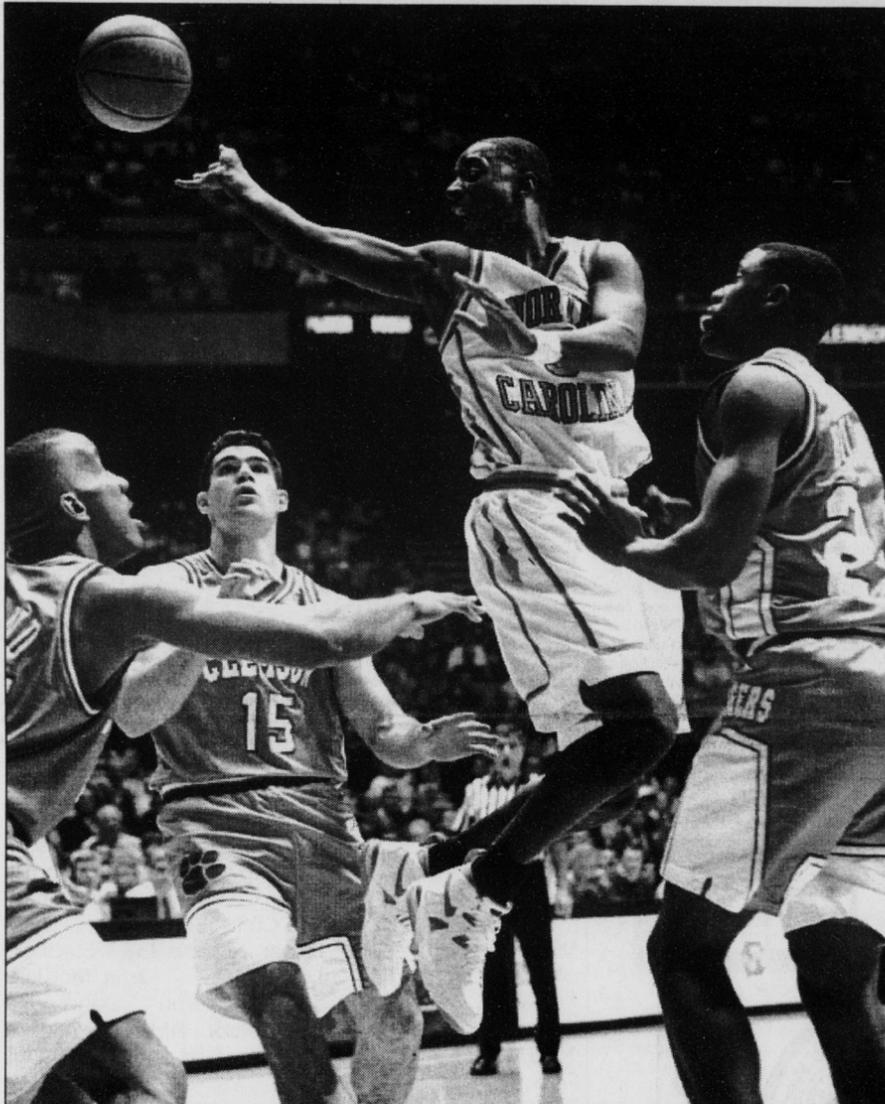
For a while, it seemed as though Williams was going to outscore the entire Clemson team. Clemson led Williams 14-12 at halftime before the Tigers pulled away in the second half.

After the game, Williams was low-key about his performance.

"I think they were just worried about Rasheed and the inside, and the perimeter was open," Williams said.

The game also marked the return of Pat Sullivan, UNC's 6-foot-8 forward who has not played in a regular-season game in two years. Sullivan had back surgery Dec. 8 but seemed to move well after just 10 weeks to recover.

Sullivan entered the game to a standing ovation with 13:58 left in the first half. He played 16 minutes and did not miss a shot



UNC point guard Jeff McInnis (5) goes airborne as he threads a pass through a pack of Tigers, including Rayfield Ragland (left) and Iker Iturbe (15). McInnis had 11 assists in the Tar Heels' 66-39 win over Clemson Thursday night.

DTH/KATIE CANNON

See MEN'S BASKETBALL, Page 9

Runoff On for CAA Post, Elections Board Decides

BY STEVE MAGGI
ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY EDITOR

Elections Board Chairwoman Erin Lewis decided late Thursday to allow a runoff between Wes Galbo and Anthony Reid on Tuesday in the race for Carolina Athletic Association president.

"We forgot to add in the write-ins to the total number, and when we did, that changed the percentages," Lewis said.

"This is not an administrative decision; we just made a mistake."

"We had 96 hours to certify the results, and so we were well within our rights," she said.

"Erin Lewis made the decision a few minutes ago," Galbo said at 11 p.m. Thursday.

Twenty-five write-in votes were added to the total, lowering Galbo's percentage of the vote to 49.8 percent — less than the majority needed to win the election, Lewis said.

"Since there is no majority, there must be a runoff," she said.

When asked about this new opportunity, Reid said, "I am excited."

Galbo said he was not sure how he would react to the decision. "We're not sure what we're going to do yet," he said. "We're looking into appeals."



Kenan Returns to His Roots at UNC

BY RACHAEL LANDAU
STAFF WRITER

No one expects that their class will produce a group of famous people who at one time only dreamed of achieving fame.

Randall Kenan, a UNC graduate of 1985, didn't expect it, but he was one of several people from his senior honors creative writing class to be recognized in the publishing field. Some are famous publishers and authors; others are still awaiting their first publication.

At 31, Kenan is the author of two books — one collection of short stories, "Let the Dead Bury Their Dead," and a novel, "A Visitation of Spirits."

He is now a visiting professor of creative writing at UNC adjusting to being colleagues with people who were once his teachers. Kenan is teaching English 23W and 34W, introductory and intermediate fiction writing.

Other success stories from his class include Alane Mason, an editor at Norton, and Tim McLaurin, author of several books, including "Cured By Fire."

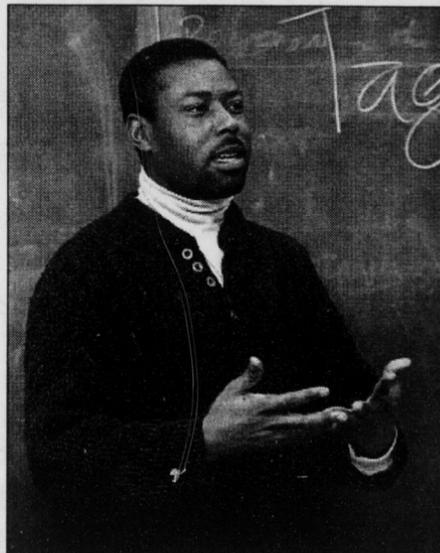
Kenan said he thought the class was so successful because the students had spurred each other on.

"There was a great deal of respect among the students for each other," said Daphne Athas, a lecturer in the creative writing program who was one of the teachers of Kenan's senior honors class.

"They didn't know they were going to become famous," she said. "No one considered themselves better than anyone else."

As a student at the University, Kenan already had developed a reputation for himself.

See HERO, Page 2



Randall Kenan, author of two books, was inspired to make writing a career during his English classes at UNC.

DTH/KATIE CANNON

Name: Randall Kenan
Birthdate and Birthplace: March 12, 1963; Brooklyn, N.Y.
Occupation: author, visiting professor at UNC
Education: East Duplin High School, 1981; B.A. in English, UNC, 1985
Hobbies: reading, racquetball, computers
Philosophy on Life: "Do the best you can with what you've got."

Every dewdrop and raindrop had a whole heaven within it.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow