

The Daily Tar Heel

Volume 102, Issue 157
101 years of editorial freedom
Serving the students and the University community since 1893

Chapel Hill, North Carolina
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1995

News/Features/Arts/Sports 962-0245
Business/Advertising 962-1163
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IN THE NEWS

Top stories from the state, nation and world

Murders of Three Children Upset Coastal Community

KILL DEVIL HILLS — Authorities investigating the murders of three children from Delaware and the suicide of their father have answers to a few questions. But they don't have an answer to the most pressing one: Why?

Tests show that the same gun was used to fire the shots that killed Douglas Mont, 35, who committed suicide, and his three children, who were murdered, Kill Devil Hills police Chief James Gradeless said at a news conference Monday.

And autopsies show that the children were shot in the head before the van they were in was set on fire, the chief said.

But investigators don't even know why Mont and his children were in North Carolina, much less why the children were killed.

Susan Smith's Stepfather Admits to Molesting Her

UNION, S.C. — The stepfather of the woman accused of drowning her two young sons admitted seven years ago that he molested her, according to court records unsealed this morning.

The four-page report says Beverly Russell admitted fondling Susan Smith's breasts, kissing her and putting her hand in his genital area when she was 16 years old. The reports does not indicate how often Smith was molested or for how long a period.

Smith, now 23, faces murder charges in the Oct. 25 drowning deaths of her sons, 3-year-old Michael and 14-month-old Alex. She is being held in a Columbia prison awaiting a trial scheduled for July.

Chechen Peace Talks Fail; Fighting Breaks Out Again

GROZNY, Russia — Russia's defense minister said Monday that no peace could come from negotiations with Chechen rebels, declaring that Moscow would only settle for their surrender.

Coming a day after a tentative truce expired, the comments by Defense Minister Pavel Grachev further dimmed any hopes that the war he once said could be settled in two hours would end any time soon.

Sporadic shelling and small-arms fire erupted in Grozny, the Chechen capital, and Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev said the war would "last for another 50 years."

Grachev, visiting an armor testing range outside Moscow, said Chechen military commanders "are willing to talk about a cease-fire."

Rebel Serbs Hold Session To Plan War Cooperation

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia — Rebel Serbs from Croatia and Bosnia plotted military strategy together Monday for the first time, a sign that conflicts in the neighboring states could escalate into a single war.

SRNA, the Bosnian Serb news agency, reported that a military council of Bosnian and Croatian Serbs had discussed cooperation if Croatian Serbs were attacked by Croatian government forces.

The meeting, in the Serb stronghold of Banja Luka in northern Bosnia, included Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and Croatian Serb leader Milan Martić. A joint military command also was on the agenda, sources said.

Mexican Bishop Works to Mediate Chiapas Conflict

SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS, Mexico — As opponents demand his removal, Bishop Samuel Ruiz struggles to hold together an increasingly polarized Chiapas state and mediate a yearlong Indian uprising.

The job is getting tougher by the day. The 70-year-old diabetic monsignor faces protests by dissenters who want him to resign and pressure from Mexico City to quit his role as mediator.

The toll shows on his ashen face and the unusual silences at ever-rarer public appearances.

At the brightly painted 16th-century Roman Catholic cathedral, parishioners stacked blankets and firewood in front of the diocese doors on Monday after a riot Sunday left four people injured.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Weather

TODAY: Windy, 30 percent chance of rain; high near 50.

WEDNESDAY: Mostly sunny; high low 50s.

Two Women Assaulted Over Weekend

BY LAURA GODWIN
STAFF WRITER

A Chapel Hill woman was sexually assaulted in her Laurel Ridge apartment on N.C. 54 Bypass on Sunday morning, according to Chapel Hill police reports.

A man forced his way into the victim's apartment at 4:30 a.m. through a glass door in the back of the apartment, the report states. Police spokeswoman Jane Cousins said that police were not sure how the man had broken into the apartment but that he had not broken the glass.

The 20-year-old victim was by herself in her apartment when she woke up to find the man in her room, Cousins said. "He threatened her with a knife, but she did not see the knife," she said.

After the victim was threatened, a struggle with her assailant followed, Cousins said. Both the victim and the man fell down the steps inside the woman's apartment. The man raped the victim and then left, she said.

The woman called police immediately after the incident and officers responded, Cousins said.

As a result of the attack, the victim received minor bruises. She was treated at and released from UNC Hospitals on Sunday.

The victim was not able to identify her attacker but was able to give police a detailed description, Cousins said. The attacker was described as a black male, 30 to 40 years old, 5 feet 7 inches tall, 175 pounds, with a broad build and small hair growth on his chin, she said.

The police would not identify the victim as a student or a permanent resident of Chapel Hill. Cousins said the police were

continuing their investigation of the matter.

Joy Isom, manager of Laurel Ridge Apartments, said she did not want to comment on the matter because, she said, she was not aware of the details of the incident. The staff of the apartment complex is cooperating with the police in trying to find out more about the incident, Isom said.

Cousins said Sunday's incident was not related to a sexual assault reported Feb. 18 that occurred on Caldwell Street in Chapel Hill when a woman was sexually assaulted by two men at gunpoint.

Margaret Henderson, director of the Orange County Rape Crisis Center said two rapes in one weekend was not necessarily high for Chapel Hill. "People say violence runs in spurts," Henderson said.

Because incidents of sexual violence often go unreported, judging whether or not the number of sexual assaults this weekend is unusually high for Chapel Hill is difficult, she said.

Henderson said that sometimes the only thing that affected public awareness of crimes was whether they made it into the newspapers.

Blowing an Afternoon



Stacey Cutbush takes a break between classes to blow bubbles Monday afternoon. She and her new bottle of bubbles were enjoying the sunshine that returned Monday.

DTH/CHRIS GAYDOS

Yet Again, Galbo, Reid Face Off for CAA Post

BY JILL DUNCAN
STAFF WRITER

The Elections Board announced Monday after it had checked the legitimacy of write-in candidates that there would be a runoff between Wes Galbo and Anthony Reid for Carolina Athletic Association president.

Elections Board Chairwoman Erin Lewis said the board would continue trying to telephone write-in candidates to see if any of the votes could be voided. The board set the deadline at 7 p.m., saying that all votes for write-in candidates they were unable to reach would be considered valid.

Galbo needed 19 of the write-in votes to be voided to win. After the phone calls, Galbo had only 49.8 percent of the vote. He would have needed 50 percent of the votes plus one vote to win.

Adding to the problems of the Elections Board, Jonathan Jordan, a law student and former Student Congress speaker pro tem, filed a case against the board regarding the write-in election of a Student Congress representative from Dist. 1, Terry Milner.

Jordan filed a complaint to the board alleging that there had been political solicitation and commercialization at the pollsite. He said in the complaint that, according to the Student Government Code, there was to be no solicitation or commercialization for or against any candidate within 50 feet of the voting site. Jordan said in the complaint that there had been campaign signs on a bulletin board within this range during the voting period.

Jordan said in the complaint that a girl had been overheard telling someone to vote for Milner. Jordan also said in his complaint that it had been his understanding that the board chairwoman had been made aware of the activities but had "responded that it was no violation."

Lewis responded to the allegations in an administrative decision issued Friday. She said the conversation between the two individuals discussing candidates within 50 feet of the Law School pollsite had not been a political solicitation. "The Elections Board is not in the position to regulate what two individuals say to each other in context of a private conversation. The Elections Board has no jurisdiction here."

Lewis also said that there had been political commercialization in that signs had been posted within 50 feet of the pollsite. All four candidates were fined \$1 each.

Candidates Prepare for Final Vote

BY HEATHER N. ROBINSON
STAFF WRITER

With an extra week of campaigning behind them, candidates in four races will have their last test of how well they've sold themselves to the student body, with the official end to the campus election season culminating in today's runoff elections.

Student body president candidate Stacey Brandenburg said her team was hoping for the best. "Elections are inherently unpredictable," Brandenburg said. "We have planned for all possibilities."

SBP candidate Calvin Cunningham said he thought he was in a good position to win Tuesday. "We're down a significant number of See RUNOFF, Page 2

Campus Elections

Runoffs will be held today for four student government offices.

Student Body President

Stacey Brandenburg
Calvin Cunningham

Senior Class President/VP

Nick Johnston and Mark Marin
Thad Woody and Terius Dolby

Carolina Athletic Association

Wes Galbo
Anthony Reid

Student Congress, Dist. 21

Charles Walters
Adrienne Wilkerson

Poll Sites

- Law School 10 a.m.—5 p.m.
(Law students only)
- Hanes Art Center 10 a.m.—5 p.m.
- Student Union 10 a.m.—7 p.m.
Rooms 211–212
- Health Sciences Library 10 a.m.—7 p.m.
- Granville Towers 10 a.m.—7 p.m.
- Chase Hall 10 a.m.—7 p.m.

Graduation Rate of Athletes Declining

BY KATHRYN TAYLOR
STAFF WRITER

In the seven years that the UNC-system Board of Governors has kept records on athletes' graduation rates, the University has consistently led other system schools in the percent of graduated athletes.

This year, however, the tables have turned.

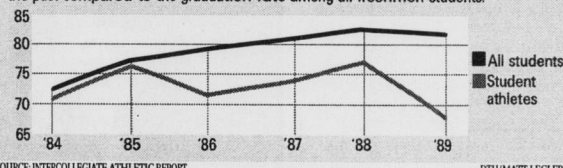
The percentage of student athletes that graduated within five years fell about 10 percent in 1994, according to the BOG's annual Intercollegiate Athletic Report.

The report said 67.8 percent of the athletes who began attending UNC in 1989 had graduated by 1994, as opposed to the more than 77 percent who began attending in 1988 and graduated by 1993.

This year was the first time in the report's history that the graduation statistic had dipped below 70 percent.

Percent of Freshmen Who Graduate

The percent of freshmen athletes who graduate within 5 years has been lower in the past compared to the graduation rate among all freshmen students:



SOURCE: INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC REPORT

DTH/MATT LECLERCQ

The new figures dropped UNC to third place among the 15 UNC-system institutions with athletic programs. Elizabeth City State University and UNC-Wilmington had higher athlete graduation rates last year, according to the report, which was released last week.

Richard Baddour, senior associate di-

rector of athletics, said the athletic department was not worried about the new statistics.

"I don't think this year is any indication of anything," he said. "This may be a little slip, but we do not see it as a trend."

See ATHLETES, Page 2

Taking Steps for Minority Retention

Programs Make Strides Toward Higher Graduation Rates

BY BETH GLENN
STAFF WRITER

Battling homesickness, new academic challenges and greater personal freedom are just some of the challenges faced by almost every freshman.

African-American and Native American students face additional obstacles that could mean the difference between earning a degree and dropping out.

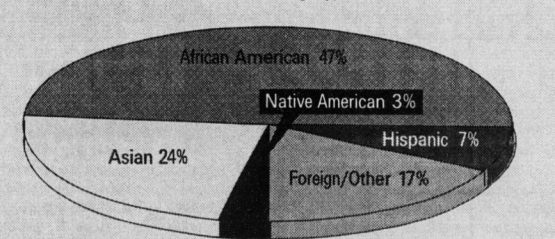
To overcome some of these hurdles, they need a vast and vital support network.

Many find that support in the Office for Student Counseling, a division that works with the College of Arts and Sciences and the General College to guide minority students through what can be a rocky road to graduation.

"I see talented, vivacious energetic

Distribution of Nonwhite UNC Students

Minorities make up about 18 percent of the student body. Of this 18 percent, half are African Americans or Native Americans. The increasing minority enrollment requires the expansion of existing support services.



SOURCE: UNIVERSITY REGISTRAR

DTH/CHRIS ANDERSON

students get here and get hit by brick walls," said Sibby Anderson-Thompkins, assistant dean of OSC. "They encounter instructors that diminish or disregard their ability and don't support them. No one seems to understand their perspective, and day after day they read articles that deny the existence of racism and say they are using it as a crutch."

The counseling center provides about 1,500 students with a host of programs

tailored to their needs at different stages of their undergraduate careers.

"The OSC believes strongly that providing specialized programs for each year of undergraduate study is the most effective approach to improving retention and enhancing academic excellence among minority students," said Harold Woodard, interim associate dean of

See RETAINMENT, page 5

Jury Indicts Williamson; No Other Charges Filed

FROM STAFF REPORTS

An Orange County grand jury Monday handed down two indictments of first-degree murder against former UNC law student Wendell Justin Williamson, 26, of Carboro.

Williamson is charged with killing UNC student Kevin Reichardt and Chapel Hill resident Ralph Walker during a shooting spree in which Chapel Hill police officer Demetris Stephenson was also shot in her hand.

The spree began just before 2 p.m. when a gunman began firing a semi-automatic rifle between 40 and 50 times at passers-by. Walker was the first victim as he was shot dead on the steps of the house where he was living.

Reichardt, a sophomore lacrosse player, was shot twice and died in the street in front of the Phi Mu sorority house annex. Chapel Hill, Carboro and University

police who were in the district courthouse in the post office building returned fire on the gunman, wounding him once in each leg.

Bill Leone, a bartender at Tammany Hall, was also shot in the shoulder as he tackled the gunman.

Williamson was not indicted on any other charges in connection with the shooting spree during Monday's grand jury proceedings in Hillsborough.

The case will now go to N.C. Superior Court, where it is expected to be heard sometime this fall.

Williamson, who is in custody at the mental health ward of Central Prison in Raleigh, could face the death penalty if convicted. According to N.C. law, aggravating circumstances in the case must be found before the death penalty can be considered.

The killing of more than one person qualifies as an aggravating circumstance in N.C. law.

Orange-Chatham District Attorney Carl Fox is now being required to make a request within 10 days to the Supreme Court judge handling the case to schedule a pretrial conference. The pretrial conference must be held within 45 days after the request is made, according to state law.



WENDELL WILLIAMSON

was indicted on two counts of first-degree murder.

I discovered my wife in bed with another man, and I was crushed. So I said, "Get off me, you two!"

Emo Phillips