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IN THE NEWS

Top stories from the state, nation and world

Prosecutor Grills Potential Alibi Witness for Simpson

LOS ANGELES — The witness who was supposed to give O.J. Simpson an alibi testified Thursday that she couldn't be sure what time she saw his Bronco outside his home. She acknowledged that a defense investigator had tried to feed her times beneficial to Simpson.

In grueling cross-examination, Rosa Lopez was caught in a contradiction over whether she ever had filed for unemployment and acknowledged she testified last week that she had made airline reservations when she hadn't.

Lopez, a former housekeeper for a Simpson neighbor, labored through a line of questioning in which she could not recall the time, date or even the season in which she spoke to defense investigator William Pavelic.

Two-Year Humanitarian Aid Mission Ends in Somalia

MOGADISHU, Somalia — U.S. Marines escorted the last U.N. peacekeepers off the beaches of Mogadishu on Thursday, quietly ending a 2-year intervention that tried and failed to rescue Somalia from drought and its feuding warlords.

After the wrap-up of an international intervention that cost \$2 billion and the lives of more than 100 peacekeepers, the U.S. Marines that helped guard the pullout will leave Somalia.

The operation that began with a televised invasion nearly 27 months ago closed without fanfare Thursday as the final peacekeepers were hurried away to waiting battle-ships off shore.

U.S. Marines landed Monday to protect the evacuation of 2,400 Pakistani and Bangladeshi peacekeepers.

Bosnia Gears Up for More War Fighting; Aid Slowed

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Aid routes dried up across Bosnia on Thursday in a sign that combatants were preparing for another bloody spring.

Five bullets pierced a U.N. plane on Sarajevo's runway — the fourth plane hit in six days — prompting the United Nations to suspend both humanitarian and operational flights.

Serbs revoked permission for food shipments to reach hungry Muslims in north-west Bosnia, banned convoys from reaching Sarajevo next week and harassed a Muslim charity.

By all indications, Serbs and their rival, the Muslim-led government, were giving more credence to military force than to a peace process that is getting nowhere.

West Bank Should Become Autonomous by Year's End

JERUSALEM — Foreign Minister Shimon Peres predicted Thursday that Palestinian autonomy would be extended to the West Bank by the end of the year.

Peres' statement, made at a meeting with senior Foreign Ministry officials Thursday, appeared intended to bolster the sagging Israel-PLO peace process.

But his timetable created alarm among Palestinians.

The Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho became autonomous 10 months ago, in accordance with the September 1993 Israel-PLO accord.

But efforts to implement the planned second stage, extending autonomy to the rest of the West Bank, have been bogged down over Israeli concerns about the safety of about 140,000 Jewish settlers.

R.E.M. Drummer Suffers Hemorrhage in Germany

FRANKFURT, Germany — The drummer of the rock group R.E.M., Bill Berry, has suffered a brain hemorrhage and is expected to undergo surgery in Switzerland, his German agent said Thursday.

Berry felt ill and was unable to complete a concert in Lausanne, Switzerland, Wednesday night, concert promoter Marek Lieberberg said.

Berry was taken to a hospital for examination, and doctors determined he had suffered a brain hemorrhage.

Lieberberg said he could not give Berry's condition or other details.

R.E.M. is on a European tour promoting its new album, *Monster*.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Weather

TODAY: Cloudy; high mid-40s.

SATURDAY: Cloudy; high low 40s.

SUNDAY: Cloudy; chance of rain; high in the 50s.

Housing Cost Won't Change Next Year

BY STEPHEN LEE
STAFF WRITER

The Department of University Housing recommended Wednesday that there be no housing rate increases for the 1995-96 school year.

The recommendation has been approved by Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Edith Wiggins and will pass if approved by Chancellor Paul Hardin.

Rick Bradley, assistant housing direc-

tor, said the recommendation was approved by the Housing Advisory Board on Wednesday.

"We've recommended to the vice chancellor and chancellor that the housing rates not be increased," he said.

Bradley said no increase was necessary because occupancy had been higher this year than in years past, which generated higher revenues, and because total expenditures were lower than had been anticipated.

"The revenues exceeded our expectations, and expenditures in the current year are anticipated to fall below budgeted expectations," he said. "We have done a good job retaining students, and incoming freshmen are choosing to live on campus."

Bradley said that the estimated occupancy for the 1994-95 school year was 92.3 percent and that this upcoming year's occupancy was estimated at 95.9 percent.

He said he expected the recommendation to be approved. "I would be surprised

if they would not approve it," he said.

Bradley said that Hardin would probably look at the recommendation next week.

Wiggins said she saw no reasons not to approve it. "It's obvious they don't need an increase, so I support it."

Jody Davis, Resident Hall Association president, said she had been expecting an increase this year and that she was pleasantly surprised by the decision. She said housing rates usually increased 3 percent

each year.

"It's a nice surprise," she said. "It's been a long time since there has been no rent increase. The campus residents certainly appreciate that housing is giving us this break in rent increases."

Bradley said he also was glad there would be no increases. "I think anytime you can be in an organization where you are selling a service and being able to tell

See HOUSING, Page 2

Senate Fails To Approve Amendment

Sen. Mark Hatfield, R-Ore., Casts Deciding Vote Against Balanced-Budget Amendment

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Senate solemnly dealt defeat Thursday to the balanced-budget amendment to the Constitution, cornerstone of a broader Republican drive to cut spending and shrink government.

Both sides sought instant political advantage in the residue of the fiery battle. The 65-35 vote that left the amendment just shy of the needed two-thirds majority followed Democratic accusations that the Republicans were threatening Social Security, a charge Majority Leader Bob Dole sharply denied.

At the White House, President Clinton challenged GOP leaders in Congress to detail "how they are going to keep the promises of their 'Contract (With America)' on balancing the budget and paying for their tax cuts."

Fifty-one Republicans and 14 Democrats voted for the amendment, while 33 Democrats and two Republicans — Mark Hatfield of Oregon and Dole — voted no.

Dole is a firm supporter, and his vote — after one final, futile attempt to sway Hatfield — was a parliamentary maneuver that kept the measure alive for another possible vote during the 1996 election season. To bring up the amendment again, Dole had to vote with the prevailing side this time.

"Let 'em try," Democratic leader Tom Daschle said defiantly a few hours before the vote.

The amendment is designed to end the run-up in red ink that has the national debt approaching \$5 trillion. It calls for a balanced budget beginning in the year 2002, unless three-fifths of both houses vote otherwise.

A key element of the "Contract With America," it cleared the GOP-controlled House in January on a vote of 300-132.

Republicans had looked to the measure to provide discipline for tough votes ahead.

"It might make getting what we want to do harder," Sen. Pete Domenici, R-N.M.,

See BUDGET, Page 5

Guys, Can I Play?



Physical plant employee Ken Vogol installs one of four new "top-of-the-line" basketball poles at the Cobb-Joyner basketball and hockey complex.

B-GLAD Gets More Funding on Appeal

BY ADAM GUSMAN
UNIVERSITY EDITOR

After reviewing the Student Congress Finance Committee's recommended funding for B-GLAD, the appeals committee doubled the amount Thursday in its recommendation.

The appeals committee increased the funding to \$1,795 from the \$935 that was granted after the Feb. 24 budget hearing. Bisexuals, Gay men, Lesbians and Allies for Diversity had originally requested \$3,082.

In a letter Wednesday to congress Speaker Monica Cloud, the group asked that the appeals committee investigate the finance committee's decision to cut the group's budget request.

A request was also made for the ethics committee to look into possible violations by the finance committee. Ethics committee Chairman Roy Granato has received a copy of the letter.

The appeals committee consisted of Cloud, Student Affairs Committee Chairwoman Ginny Moore, Granato and Wendy Greene, Dist. 8, whom Speaker Pro Tempore Meredith Armstrong appointed in this instance because Armstrong herself is a member of the finance committee. Rules and judiciary committee Chairman Omar McCallop is also on the appeals committee, but he did not attend

Thursday's meeting because of a prior commitment.

"We felt that B-GLAD's funding was inconsistent with how much we had given other groups," Greene said. "I think they were also treated rudely by some members of the finance committee. Most people in Student Congress aren't like that and are sincerely interested in the best interests of the students, but a few are rude. Their mommas didn't teach them any manners."

"This is what we feel like is pretty fair," Moore said after the appeals committee formed its recommendation. "B-GLAD serves about 6,000 each year with their programming. A group of that caliber and of that recognition should not be treated with a lack of respect."

"This is a basic, good number they can work with," she said. "With the budget the finance committee recommended, they probably would not have reached as many people with their programming."

The appeals committee examined B-GLAD's individual expense requests. The amount allotted for telephone expenses was increased from \$125 to \$410. "We wanted them to have a working telephone and to be able to make long-distance calls," Moore said. "They're involved in networking with other universities."

Greene added, "I'd just as soon give

See B-GLAD, Page 2

Ammunition in Botanical Gardens May Be Williamson's

BY RYAN THORNBURG
CITY EDITOR

Two boxes of ammunition found in the N.C. Botanical Gardens during the weekend might have been left there by shooting suspect Wendell Williamson, University and Chapel Hill police believe.

The two boxes of ammunition and ammunition clips were found near Red hiking trail in the Botanical Gardens at 4 p.m. Sunday by UNC student Brian Coffey, University police reports state.

Coffey could not be reached for comment.

According to a police report filed by University Police officer Ernest Caviness, the boxes of ammunition had labels on them that included the name of a town

near Clyde, which is Williamson's hometown.

Lt. Angela Carmon of University Police confirmed that the boxes had a Waynesville label on them and that the caliber of the ammunition was thought to be .30-06, the same caliber used by the gunman on Henderson Street Jan. 26.

Coffey called University Police, who came out to investigate the find. Caviness and other UNC police officers seized the ammunition, valued at \$50, and turned it over to Chapel Hill police as possible evidence in the shooting case.

Chapel Hill police spokeswoman Jane Cousins said the ammunition was in evidence storage and was being processed. She did call the circumstances "very unusual" for University Police to turn evi-

dence over to Chapel Hill police.

"At this time, it's not linked to any specific case right now," Cousins said.

"We're certainly looking into the possibility it is connected (with the shooting case)."

The boxes were found inside a brown plastic bag located 30 to 35 feet northwest of post Q on the Red hiking trail, according to a University police report. The bag was in a pit where an old tree had uprooted, the report states.

Cousins said the importance and future of the ammunition were still uncertain. She said the ammunition had not been requested by Orange-Chatham District Attorney Carl Fox, who is prosecuting the case.

"If we could ever prove that it was not

linked to (the shooting case), which I don't think we'll be able to do, it would go back to the University Police for them to investigate," Cousins said.

Williamson is awaiting a pretrial conference at Central Prison's mental health ward in Raleigh. He has been indicted by an Orange County grand jury on two counts of first-degree murder with more criminal indictments pending.

The counts of murder are in connection with the deaths of UNC sophomore Kevin Reichardt and Chapel Hill resident Ralph Walker, who were shot to death by .30-06 ammunition that came from the M-1 Garand rifle used by the gunman on Henderson Street Jan. 26.

Williamson could face the death penalty if convicted.

GARDEN DIRECTOR PLANTING SEEDS OF SUCCESS

White's Dedication Helps N.C. Botanical Garden Thrive

BY MICHELLE CRAMPTON
STAFF WRITER

With warm weather slowly returning and spring flowers just beginning to bloom, Peter White, director of the N.C. Botanical Garden, is in his element.

White doesn't get to spend all his time outdoors enjoying the rising temperatures, however.

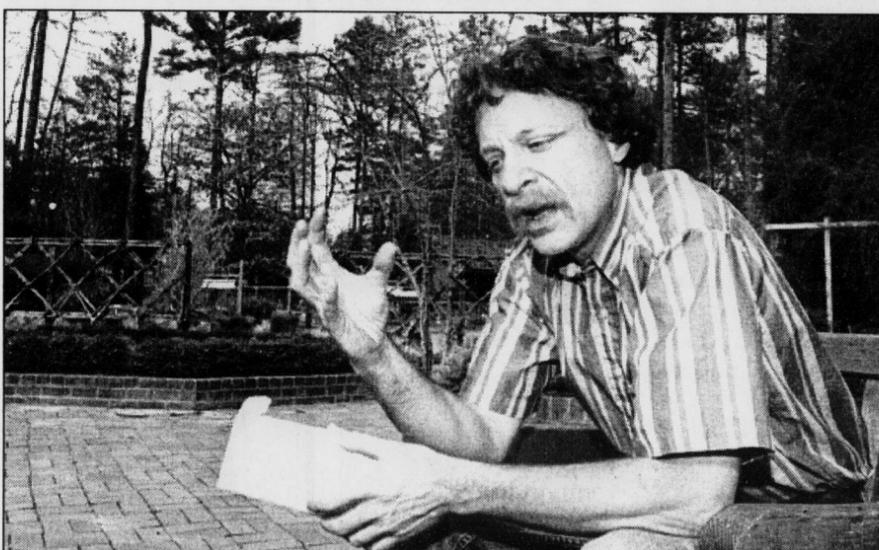
He is also a professor in the biology department, where he teaches a course in ecology and population and one in conservation.

Conservation is a major issue in both of White's jobs. It's one of the focal points that he and the staff at the Botanical Garden, which includes Coker Arboretum, Mason Farm Biological Reserve and the Botanical Garden proper, concentrate on.

Conservation efforts at the garden include the protection of native and rare plants through a process called ex situ conservation.

"That is what you try to do when

See HERO, page 5



Peter White has spearheaded conservation efforts of N.C. plant life.

Name: Peter White
Birthdate: Feb. 17, 1948, in Philadelphia
Occupation: Director, N.C. Botanical Garden; professor of biology

Education: Ph.D., Dartmouth College, 1976; B.A. Bennington College
Family: Wife, Carolyn; son, Matthew Trillium Hanyon; daughter, Sarah Linnaea Hickler

Hobbies: playing guitar, writing, photography, hiking
Philosophy on life: "Wild nature has all the ingredients for well-being if we learn how to live with that nature appropriately."

DTH/CHRIS GAYDOSH

Fiber Optics Coming to Union Soon

BY JENNIFER BURLESON
STAFF WRITER

A fiber-optic communications system is coming to the Student Union this summer, Edith Wiggins, vice chancellor of student affairs, said Thursday.

Lee Conner, student body co-secretary, said the system would upgrade technology in the Union.

"I think basically it will allow us access to the information highway," Conner said. "You can access anything in the world."

Steve Hoffmann, president-elect of the Graduate and Professional Student Federation, said installation of the new system would bring with it a number of improvements.

"Different programs can be picked up and be accessible to everybody in the Union," he said. "Things can be upgraded to run almost like a public access."

Hoffmann said putting the optics in would result in a repositioning of organizational locations in the Union. "It will also allow expansion for the Union."

Fiber optics will allow students to make long-distance connections without a huge phone bill, Hoffmann said. "It's much less

See UNION, Page 5

If you never did, you should. These things are fun, and fun is good.

Dr. Seuss