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IN THE NEWS

Top stories from the state, nation and world

Letterman Navigates Way Through Academy Awards

LOS ANGELES — Late-night television personality David Letterman played host to the 67th annual Academy Awards celebration Monday night.

Letterman follows Johnny Carson and Carol Burnett as only the third television star to host the Oscars. The choice of Letterman raised eyebrows in Hollywood because of his offbeat style and his limited connection with the motion picture industry.

Wiest, Landau Win Oscars for Best Supporting Roles
See Page 4

Clinton Has Precancerous Facial Lesions Removed

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Doctors removed precancerous skin lesions from President Clinton's face during his annual physical examination Friday, the White House said Monday.

Press Secretary Mike McCurry said doctors had removed several actinic keratoses from Clinton's forehead and from one ear.

Actinic keratoses are common skin lesions among middle-aged people, usually caused by overexposure to the sun. The lesions generally are removed as a precaution because there is a chance they can become cancerous.

The lesions were removed by freezing with liquid nitrogen, and the treatment left a large red blotch on Clinton's forehead.

Lab Found in Hindu Cult's Sacred Building in Tokyo

TOKYO — In the cult's most holy building, a secret door behind a huge Hindu statue leads to a hidden chemical lab. From there, an underground passage connects to a storeroom filled with all the chemicals needed to make nerve gas.

The discoveries Monday are among the many chilling details police have revealed in raids against the secretive Aum Shinri Kyo, or Supreme Truth, sect, the chief suspect in last week's nerve gas attack on Tokyo subways.

Ten people were killed and 5,000 sickened in the March 20 attack. Hundreds of people remain hospitalized.

Inside or near several of the sect's drab concrete buildings near the foot of Mount Fuji, police found rooms or underground containers they believe were used to confine people who tried to flee.

Clark: O.J. Argued With Ex-Wife on Day of Slayings

LOS ANGELES — O.J. Simpson argued with his ex-wife during a telephone call on the day she was killed, prosecutors suggested Monday.

Deputy District Attorney Marcia Clark, during sharp questioning of Simpson houseguest Brian "Kato" Kaelin, asked the witness if he knew whether Simpson had an argument with Nicole Brown Simpson during a cellular phone call from the Riviera Country Club on June 12.

Clark offered no evidence that this had occurred, and Simpson's defense objected to the question. But after attorneys huddled for private discussions with Superior Court Judge Lance Ito, Clark was allowed to pursue her line of questioning.

Clark's questions marked the first time the prosecution had suggested that Simpson had any contact with his ex-wife on the day of her death other than during a recital for their daughter.

U.N. Warns of Air Strikes As Fierce Fighting Rages

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Unable to stop the intensifying war in Bosnia, U.N. peacekeepers warned Monday that NATO might need to bomb Serb forces to prevent them from targeting civilians.

The threat came as Serbs reported the fiercest fighting yet on a northeastern battlefield where troops of the Muslim-led government have been gaining ground. The Serbs also said they had launched a major counterattack on government troops in central Bosnia. And Croatian Serbs threatened to cross the border to help their ethnic kin in Bosnia. Colum Murphy, a spokesman for the U.N. peacekeeping force, warned the Serbs that the new commander of the peacekeeping force, Lt. Gen. Rupert Smith, would call for NATO air strikes if the Serbs deliberately shelled civilians.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Weather

TODAY: Cloudy; high 64.

WEDNESDAY: Cloudy; high 60.

Area Transit Plan on Track Despite Obstacles

BY RYAN THORNBURG
CITY EDITOR

The Chapel Hill Town Council took a shot at tackling the Triangle's growing traffic problem Monday night by taking firm steps to connect Chapel Hill and other Triangle cities by a commuter train.

Jim Ritchey, executive director of the Triangle Transit Authority, presented the report to the council, which gave the go-ahead for the TTA to explore transit options despite concerns about funding and the availability of the tracks and train cars

needed.

"Unless we begin the planning process, I can guarantee it won't be built," Mayor Ken Broun said.

The council's approval set in motion the first phase of the regional transportation plan that could be in place by the turn of the century, Ritchey said.

The first phase of that plan would create a commuter rail service connecting Duke University, Research Triangle Park, Cary, downtown Raleigh and north Raleigh. During the first phase, Chapel Hill would be connected to the train stations by bus

service.

The proposed commuter train would be a series of self-propelled diesel cars that would carry as many as 300 passengers each at an average speed of 75 mph, Ritchey said. The only problem is, only three manufacturers make the kind of car Chapel Hill wants, and none of them is based in the United States.

The owners of several of the Triangle's existing train tracks are leery of allowing a commuter system to use the existing tracks because of liability concerns, Ritchey said. Use of the existing infrastructure would

make the plan much more cost-effective, he said.

"We plan to use existing tracks where we can and build new ones only where absolutely necessary," he said.

The second phase of the plan would have the most effect on Chapel Hill drivers who sit through traffic on U.S. 15-501. The second phase would implement a fixed rail line along 15-501 that would shorten the commute to Duke to 29 minutes from the 42 minutes Ritchey said it takes by car.

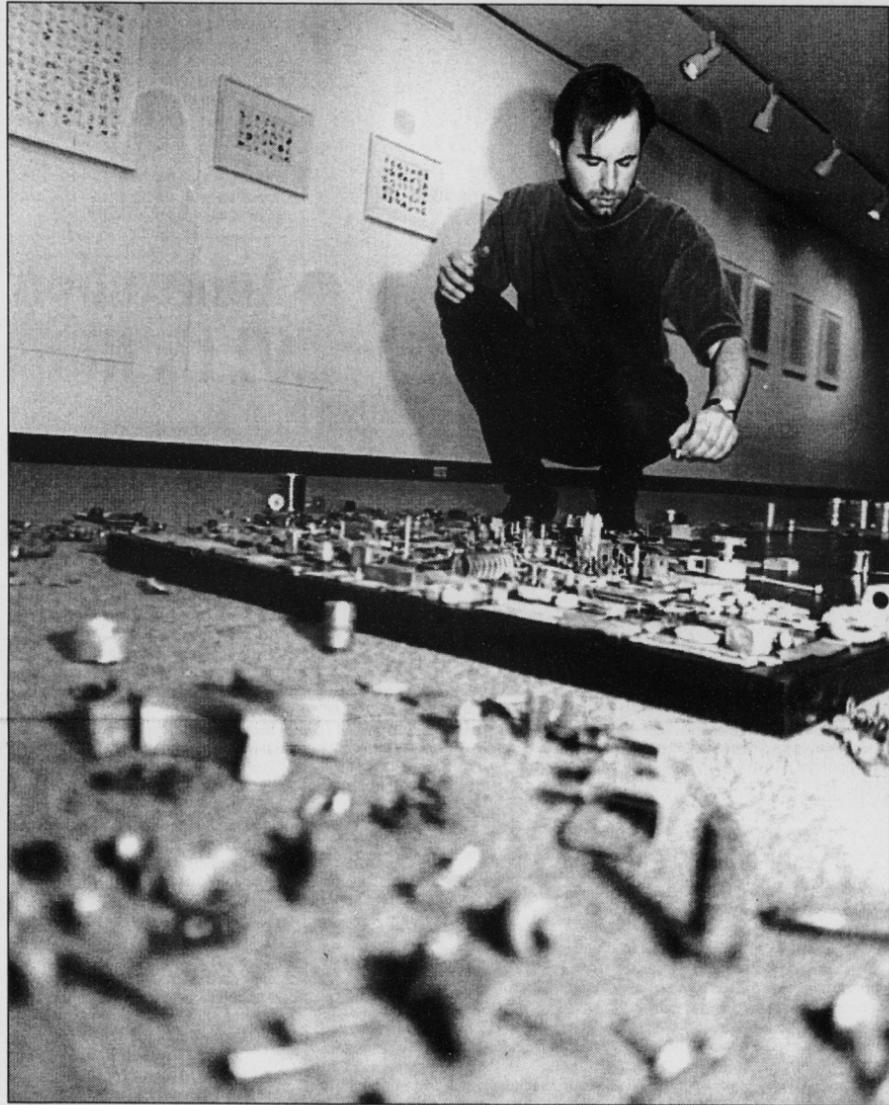
The commuter train from Chapel Hill to Durham is estimated to cost \$160 mil-

lion, he said.

That cost, in addition to the \$150 million estimate for phase one and an \$80 million link from the primary rail system to the Raleigh/Durham International Airport, is a major concern for the TTA and for council members.

Ritchey presented three preliminary financing plans to the council, each of which would need N.C. General Assembly approval. The transit plan could be funded by a 0.25 percent sales tax, a half-cent per gallon local option gas tax or a 5 percent to 10 percent rental car use tax, he said.

Recycled Art



Artist Michael Knoch assembles one of his pieces in the Union gallery. The 1993 UNC M.F.A. graduate has been collecting discarded metal from the Chapel Hill area for more than five years. His exhibit opens today.

Officials Not Opposed To Interim Chancellor

BY ADAM GUSMAN
UNIVERSITY EDITOR

After meeting with UNC-system President C.D. Spangler, chancellor search committee Chairman Johnny Harris said Monday that they were on the same page regarding the possibility of an interim chancellor — one will be selected if necessary.

"I met with the president this morning, and he assured me that if the process necessitated an interim chancellor, he was prepared to do that," said Harris, the Charlotte businessman who is leading the search for a successor to Chancellor Paul Hardin, who will step down June 30. "But he saw no reason to talk about that until it becomes a possibility that is a lot closer."

Harris maintained his earlier prediction that the committee would complete its task on time by sending the names of two or three candidates to the University's Board of Trustees for approval before Hardin's resignation.

Still, he expressed frustration with the slowness of the process. "Believe me, I would have loved it if we could have finished the whole thing in a week," Harris said. "I'm as frustrated as anybody that we have not completed our mission to date."



Search committee chairman **JOHNNY HARRIS** said the Board of Trustees had the power to add their own names of finalists.

The search committee considered two more nominations at Monday's meeting on the UNC campus, he said. He would not comment on the size of the pool the committee was currently considering.

Even after the search committee's job is complete — when the short list of names has been passed on to the BOT — the names of the candidates will probably not be released, Harris said. The BOT will vote in closed session and pass the names on directly to Spangler and the UNC Board of Governors for approval, he said.

"We are doing this state a disservice when we allow this process to take place without a level of confidentiality available to the candidates," Harris said.

It is likely that all members of the board — which now numbers 23 with the addition of Student Body President-elect Calvin Cunningham — will have met each of the top candidates when they vote on which candidates to recommend, Harris said.

He raised the possibility that the BOT could choose to ignore the recommendation of the search committee, which he said had happened in the past at UNC.

"The trustees have been very interested in the process," he said. "But every trustee has been invited to every meeting we've had. We've tried to include them as much as possible by making them ex-officio members of the committee."

Harris indicated that the members of the committee would attempt to reach some sort of consensus regarding the names of the two or three finalists. "If you send a list of two or three people, you better be darn sure you're willing to live with any of them."

DIE-HARD FANS MUST MAKE SEATTLE TREK FOR TICKETS

BY KATHRYN TAYLOR
STAFF WRITER

About 370 students hoping to follow the men's basketball team to the 1995 NCAA Final Four lingered outside the Dean Smith Center from Saturday night until Monday afternoon.

Students clustered in tents and sleeping bags, dreaming of tickets to the championship games. However, the 300 tickets allocated for students were not distributed Monday at the Smith Center but will be distributed later this week in Seattle.

Students who waited in line were rewarded Monday at 5:30 p.m. with vouchers instead of tickets, Carolina Athletic Association Co-President Jennifer Rasmussen said. The vouchers can be redeemed for tickets in Seattle, she said.

"It's a voucher system, which means that students in line will present their student IDs, pay the \$70 and receive a voucher through the Department of Athletics ticket office," Rasmussen said.

"There will be a place in Seattle called the Carolina Will-Call Window. Each school in the Final Four will have one. When everyone gets to Seattle, they will

present their vouchers and show their UNC ONE Cards, and then they will receive their books of tickets."

The athletic department is using the voucher system to prevent ticket scalping, Rasmussen said.

"It was done so that those students who really want to go to the Final Four can do it," she said. "Apparently, there were a lot of people who were just there to make money."

Rasmussen said that more than 100 students left the line when the voucher system was explained.

Daren Lucas, athletic association ticket manager, said Monday that more than 300 students waited in line for vouchers.

Lucas said the University had a block of 3,500 tickets at the Final Four. Of those, 300 are allocated to students. The remaining tickets will be distributed among donors and University officials, he said.

He said the athletic department was not concerned with controlling the crowd.

"We told them that we were working on a first-come, first-serve basis, and they have been policing themselves," Lucas said.

See VOUCHERS, Page 2

Nelson Among Gay Leaders to Visit D.C.

BY ANGELA MOORE
STAFF WRITER

While President Bill Clinton has been trying to distance himself from liberal issues given the shift toward conservatism across the nation, Carboro Alderman Mike Nelson said a conference for homosexual public officials he would be attending at the White House in early April did send the message that Clinton had not forgotten those who helped send him to Washington.

"The message is one of inclusion," said Nelson, the only openly gay elected official currently holding office in North Carolina.

Nelson called the meeting, the first of its kind, a big step.

"I think they are saying they treat gay officials the same as any other officials in America," he said.

Nelson said that the meeting was slated for early April but that the exact date had not yet been pinpointed because the president's busy agenda did not usu-



Carboro Alderman **MIKE NELSON** could meet with President Clinton at the White House conference.

ally allow for definitive advance scheduling.

Other gay leaders in the area praised Clinton's effort to hold the meeting.

"The meeting is a very important message from the president," said Joe Herzenberg, former Chapel Hill Town Council member and one of the first openly gay elected officials in North Carolina. "He ran with support from our community, and since then there have been constant disappointments over the past two years," he said. "This is a way to get the troops back in line."

Nelson said that he hoped the president See CONFERENCE, Page 2

They're Back: UCLA Returns to Final Four After 15-Year Absence

BY TODD GRAFF
STAFF WRITER

A former fixture of the Final Four has returned.

After seven seasons of languishing through lack of respect and beratings from Bruin faithful, head coach Jim Harrick has brought the team from Westwood to the Final Four for the first time in 15 years.

But Harrick knows a trip to the national semifinals is no special accomplishment for a school whose appearance there seemed almost a formality under John Wooden. In fact, Final Four banners do not even grace the resplendent rafters of Pauley Pavilion.

"I hope that we aren't satisfied with what we've achieved," Harrick said. "We set goals for our team in the early part of the year, (and) we've achieved almost every

one of them. We still would like to go to Seattle and finish the play."

UCLA (29-2) will arrive in Seattle ranked No. 1 in the nation and chasing its first title in 20 years. The Bruins have not lost since the end of January, riding a 17-game winning streak, and have been tested only once in the tournament.

The Bruins run with a frenetic pace behind the quickness of senior point guard Tyus Edney. He will push the ball at every opportunity, and the Bruins will press and run for 40 minutes with perhaps the best fast break in college basketball.

Edney averages 14.5 points per game, and more importantly, he has an assist-to-

turnover ratio of almost 5-to-1 in the four tournament games. But it was his full-court, 4.8 second scamper against Missouri which saved the Bruins from the torment of another early tournament exit.

In Saturday's West Regional final, Edney was instrumental in setting the pace early in the Bruins' 102-96 victory against Connecticut. He continually broke the vaunted UConn press, creating easy buckets for his teammates.

"We had a point guard that was probably a little better than anyone on the floor," Harrick said of Edney. "He was the difference."

UConn guard Ray Allen said: "He penetrated our zone. We couldn't contain him."

See UCLA, Page 2



UCLA
West Region Champions



Conference: Pacific 10
Coach: Jim Harrick (7th season, 166-55 at UCLA, 333-152 overall)
Road to the Final Four:
beat Florida International, 92-56
beat Missouri, 75-74
beat Mississippi State, 86-67
beat Connecticut, 102-96

Probable Starters:
F Ed O'Bannon, 20.3 ppg
F Charles O'Bannon, 13.5 ppg
C George Zidek, 10.6 ppg
G Tyus Edney, 14.5 ppg
G Toby Bailey, 10.3 ppg

Age doesn't matter unless you are a cheese.

Billie Burke