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IN THE NEWS

Top stories from the state, nation and world

One Killed by Mail Bomb in Sacramento Office Building

SACRAMENTO — One person was killed Monday when a package bomb exploded in a state lobbying group's office near the California Capitol.

An employee of the California Forestry Association had retrieved the small, heavy package from outside the association's one-story brick office just after 2 p.m., police spokesman Michael Heenan said.

It wasn't immediately known whether anybody else was hurt. Heenan said he didn't know whom the package was addressed to or how it had been delivered.

The California Forestry Association is a trade association representing commercial forest landowners. In 1993, it filed a petition seeking to remove the northern spotted owl from the endangered species list.

Helicopter Explosion Kills 5 Crew Members in Texas

FLORENCE, Texas — An Army transport helicopter exploded in the air Monday, killing all five crew members.

"When we got to the scene, there was still debris falling from the air," said Steve Pruett, a homebuilder who was working nearby. The helicopter crashed in a rural area, splitting into three main pieces, he said.

Pruett and Jeffrey Condon, another construction worker building the only home in the vicinity, said four men and one woman had been killed. Condon said he had checked unsuccessfully for vital signs.

The crash happened at about 11:15 a.m. near Florence, a central Texas town of about 800 people 40 miles north of Austin. The cause is under investigation.

Refugees Hole Up in School Compound, Resist Eviction

KIBEHO, Rwanda — About 600 refugees holed up at a school strewn with mangled bodies refused on Monday to leave a camp where thousands died in Rwanda's latest ethnic violence.

The camp that a week ago held 120,000 people is now a ghost town of acres upon acres of deserted huts, broken shards of cooking pots, clothing, shoes and machetes.

At least 2,000 people were killed there by Rwandan soldiers or trampled to death in stampedes on Saturday. No bodies could be seen outside the school grounds; soldiers buried most of the dead in mass graves Sunday. An estimated 100,000 men, women and children, many sick or wounded, fled the camp, trudging toward Butare, 20 miles east of Kibeho.

Supreme Court Clears Way For Trial of Suicide Doctor

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Supreme Court opened the way Monday for Michigan to prosecute Dr. Jack Kevorkian for aiding the suicides of terminally ill patients, turning down his argument that there is a constitutional right to assisted suicide.

Kevorkian was charged with murder in the deaths of two people and with assisted suicide in three other cases. The retired pathologist has aided or witnessed 21 suicides since 1990.

The high court made no comment in rejecting Kevorkian's appeal of a Michigan Supreme Court ruling that the Constitution creates no right to assisted suicide.

The justices turned down a separate challenge to Michigan's ban on assisted suicide, a suit filed by two cancer patients and two medical professionals.

Shabazz Defense Accuses Government Informant

MINNEAPOLIS — Attorneys for Qubilah Shabazz accused an FBI informant Monday of extorting money from the government in exchange for tapes that allegedly support a murder-for-hire case against Malcolm X's daughter.

Seeking to have the case thrown out, defense attorney William Kunstler said Michael Fitzpatrick would not turn over the tapes he made of his conversations with Shabazz until the government agreed to pay him \$6,000 a month. Prosecutors said they should be able to use a statement made to FBI agents about an alleged plot to kill Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan.

U.S. District Judge James Rosenbaum could decide as early as today whether to allow the statement at Shabazz's trial, which is scheduled to begin Monday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Weather

TODAY: Mostly sunny; high 69.
WEDNESDAY: Mostly sunny; high 72.

Town Extends Benefits to Gay Couples

BY JENNIFER FREER
ASSISTANT CITY EDITOR

Chapel Hill became the second town in the state to allow same sex and unwed opposite sex couples to register as domestic partners Monday night, less than a year after Carrboro passed a similar measure.

Five ordinances and three resolutions regarding the town's domestic partners policies were passed unanimously at the Chapel Hill Town Council meeting Monday. Of the five residents who spoke, none spoke against domestic partners.

In September, the Carrboro Board of Aldermen adopted a policy to register domestic partners of the same or opposite sex for town employees. As of April, five couples had paid \$40 each to register with Carrboro.

The first ordinance passed at the Chapel Hill Town Council meeting defined domestic partners to include partners of ei-

ther the same or opposite sex, the same definition that Carrboro used.

"Domestic partners has been defined," said Susan Johnston, a resident of Chapel Hill and supporter of the domestic partners policies. "It enables two people with a long-term monogamous relationship to have practical benefits."

The Town Council then passed an ordinance authorizing town employees to use sick leave, family leave and medical leave for care of domestic partners and of any children in the household.

"Many children suffer from lack of care already," said Dan Coleman, a member of Orange County Greens, a liberal activist group. "It's rare that we have the chance to promote care. Gays and lesbians have suffered long enough, and Chapel Hill and Carrboro are leaders."

Another ordinance passed by the council prohibits future relationships between employees who are domestic partners,

"Gays and lesbians have suffered long enough, and Chapel Hill and Carrboro are leaders."

DAN COLEMAN

Member of the Orange County Greens

spouses or members of the same family.

Also, if a council member has a registered domestic partner, the council member must disclose the partner's real estate interests.

The council also passed a resolution asking that the town manager prepare a report regarding changes in the Development Ordinance. The ordinance now defines families as no more than two unrelated persons. It was recommended that the definition be expanded to include reg-

istered domestic partners.

The council resolved that it eventually would take action regarding the issue of health-care coverage but that it would look into the matter more first. A resolution was passed to reissue a report regarding the costs of insurance before the domestic partner ordinance would be expanded to include health-care benefits.

N.C. law allows the town to provide health insurance for dependents of town employees, but the term dependent as currently defined does not include domestic partners.

"I disagree with the (lack of) health benefits," said Lightning Brown, a Chapel Hill resident in favor of the domestic partners proposals. "I think it is reasonable for you to understand domestic partners and dependents as compared to married couples. Look at the facts of need and you have a good reasonable basis to understand domestic partners."

Professor Tied To Affair With Second Student

BY JILL DUNCAN
STAFF WRITER

A former UNC student said in court that she had a relationship with the director of composition in the English department while she was a student — making her the second student to say she had been involved with the professor.

Gretchen Davis, a former student at the University, said her relationship with James Williams, director of composition, occurred in 1991, according to court records.

Davis was called to testify during Williams' custody case against his ex-wife, Ashley Williams. Davis would not discuss the extent of the affair, according to records.

Williams, who could not be reached for comment Monday, was granted custody of his son on April 13. Ashley Williams will request at a hearing May 2 to reopen the trial based on evidence from a third UNC student, sophomore Lauren Dickerson, said Terry Harn, Ashley Williams' attorney.

UNC's amorous relations policy calls for sanctions against professors who have relationships with students they evaluate. The policy does not provide for sanctions against other faculty-student relationships.

Clifton Metcalf, vice chancellor for University relations, would not speculate as to whether the University planned to take action against Williams. "I cannot speak about his case specifically, but I can say that every time allegations are made about misbehavior on state property, they will be investigated," Metcalf said.

James Williams' attorney, Lunsford Long, and Ashley Williams could not be reached for comment Monday.

Harn said he hoped to reopen the case based on the new evidence from Dickerson.

Dickerson said she met Williams in spring 1994. She had been having difficulty with her English 12 teaching assistant and had been told to see Williams for help. "He was very helpful and very responsive," she said. "I kept visiting him in his office because he would help me with my papers or grade my papers to make sure my TA was being fair."

Dickerson said that Williams had made her feel uncomfortable because he was overly complimentary and "had wandering eyes." She said she wrote a commendation during the summer for Williams and turned it in to his supervisor. "I didn't know he would see it. He called me at home in Hillsborough to thank me."

Dickerson said that Williams knew where she worked and that he came by at least twice and called her at least twice to ask her to lunch.

She said she refused and told him she did not get a lunch break. "I was still very friendly. I did not know how to take it. It was not blatant. If it had been, I would have turned him in in a heartbeat."

Dickerson said she realized later that he made her feel very uncomfortable. "I don't think someone needs to be in that position if he makes students feel uncomfortable," she said.

According to court records, Ashley Williams alleged that James Williams had committed adultery with numerous people and that he or his agent had placed and answered ads in publications seeking sexual relations with men and women.

The records also stated that there was probable cause to believe that Williams had committed acts of domestic violence and had placed Ashley Williams at risk of life-threatening diseases.

According to records, Williams admitted to having fathered a child by another woman while he was married to Ashley Williams. The child was born five months after his and Ashley's son. Both children were named Austin, according to court records.

In January 1994, Ashley Williams took junior Ako Shimada to court for having sexual relations with her husband. Shimada paid \$10,000 to Ashley Williams and wrote her a letter of apology for breaking up her family and having sex with her husband.

According to court documents, Ashley Williams found pictures of James Williams and Shimada together and letters written to him from Shimada in his office. Williams admitted in documents to having sex with Shimada in his faculty office in 1993.



Vernon Chiu of Southern High School presents Charlotte Smith with the official T-shirt for Project Graduation on Monday. Smith and Pat Sullivan are honorary co-chairmen for the event, which provides a safe way for high school seniors to celebrate their graduation.

Just Say No

Opening Day Finds Fans Struggling to Forgive

BY JON GOLDBERG
FEATURES EDITOR

Washington Post reporter Thomas Boswell once wrote that time begins on opening day.

This time around, however, many Americans are having a hard time winding their watches.

Tonight's first pitch, three weeks later than usual, finds the sport struggling to salvage its previously held boy-next-door image while attempting to pound out a long-term labor deal.

Locally, baseball fans are trying to forgive the sport that denied them a home-run record chase and a World Series last year because of the 232-day

strike. Some are having a harder time than others.

"I've been a Yankees fan all my life," said Don Eason, owner of North Carolina Original Sports Bar. "I don't care if the Yankees play another game in my lifetime."

The NBA and NHL playoffs, and not baseball, are expected to heat up the multiple screens at the sports bar, Eason said. Although baseball games will be shown when possible, he said they probably wouldn't draw people in like in the past.

"I have yet to hear one person walk in here and say 'I can't wait for opening day,'" he said.

St. Louis Cardinals fan and history Professor Don Higginbotham recognizes the importance baseball plays in American culture. He's been reading up on the subject for his first-session summer school class on the history of sports in America.

"It is really the national pastime," he said. "It was the first really popular team sport in America."

Because it is such a big part of Americana — right up there with apple pie and mom — it's having a more difficult time becoming reaccepted by its fans. Watching supposed heroes bickering over millions of dollars is hard for the average American to swallow, Higginbotham said.

"Baseball is suffering more because it was always considered clean and pristine and bucolically American," he said.

Fellow Cardinals fan Chris Helton, a UNC junior from Belmont, has been looking forward to the season's start. He hopes that the Cards can string some wins together and that division rivals

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Nearly 25 Years Later, Kent State Reflects on Its Tragic Past

BY JULIE TWEELMAN
STAFF WRITER

"Inquire, Learn, Reflect."

These are the words inscribed on the May 4 Memorial, one of the many ways in which four former students of Kent State University in Kent, Ohio, are commemorated.

Almost 25 years have passed since the students were killed by members of the National Guard during a Vietnam War protest.

These years have brought with them the

start and finish of new wars and more protests, but the memory of those students and the events of that fateful day are still very much alive in the minds of their parents, students at Kent State today and people who lived through that era of American history.

A Look Back

May 4, 1970, started out like any other day during the Vietnam War. A protest had been planned, but that was not out of the ordinary at that time. President Richard Nixon gave the order to invade Cam-

bodia on April 30, inciting many anti-war demonstrations in the coming week, including particularly emotional reactions in Kent.

The increased tension in the city resulted in rioting in downtown Kent, as well as the burning of the campus headquarters of the Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps by a group of students. By Saturday, the National Guard had arrived, at the request of the mayor and governor, because of fear for public safety.

Between 2,000 and 3,000 people assembled for the May 4 protest in the uni-

versity commons area. The National Guard ordered the crowd to disperse and was met with verbal dissension and rock throwing. The guardsmen responded with tear gas, which was ineffective because of the wind that day.

The Guard then tried to enforce the Ohio Riot Act, which permits the use of force if a violent crowd is endangering public safety, by raising bayonets and forcing the crowd to retreat to a nearby parking lot. What happened next left a cruel mark

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Oklahoma Death Count May Hit 200

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

OKLAHOMA CITY — On a day when the White House suggested the death toll could surpass 200, a tiny victim of the federal building bombing was buried amid hearts and teddy bears. And the search for her murderers pressed on.

One-year-old Baylee Almon — the infant who, photographed in a firefighter's arms, broke hearts around the world — was the first of the 80 victims recovered so far to be laid to rest. "Baylee is in God's hands," the Rev. Charles McDade said at her funeral Monday.

As suspect Timothy McVeigh sat in jail, his lawyers sought to pull out of the case. One of the lawyers said he doubted anyone in Oklahoma City could give McVeigh a fair hearing.

The hunt for an as-yet-undiscovered second suspect remained the investigators' top focus. The FBI said an Army deserter questioned Sunday had no part in the attack, then continued to follow leads across the country. As debris was hauled out by searchers, agents combed it for clues.

The search for the missing resumed in the tomb of pulverized concrete and broken pipes, with special precautions taken to ensure workers' health against infection from decaying bodies.

Searchers once again failed to reach the day-care and Social Security areas of the building. They used chain saws and jackhammers to whittle away at a three-story-high pile of rubble pancaked on those areas but said they wouldn't get there until today.

Among the bodies found Monday was that of a Marine, still in uniform at his recruiting desk in the rubble. The Pentagon identified him as Capt. Randolph Guzman, 28, of Castro Valley, Calif. Reporters allowed inside for the first time saw search dogs gingerly creeping and helmeted workers crawling into spaces braced with 4-by-4's like a mine shaft.

But pool correspondent Roger O'Neil of NBC said other images particularly stayed with him, "from the determined look on the rescuers' faces ... to the toys." His voice faltered momentarily describing a memorial wreath of fresh white mums laid amid the ruin.

The death toll included those known to have been killed in the blast and a nurse, Rebecca Anderson, who was mortally injured after she went to the bomb scene to help in rescue efforts Wednesday. Three other rescue workers have been injured, none seriously.

White House chief of staff Leon Panetta said the death toll could rise to more than 200.

Several funerals and memorial services were held Monday.

At another funeral, the three children of Lola Bolden, a 40-year-old Army sergeant, wept in a small chapel where Maj. Ronald Bain, who worked with her, eulogized: "She takes with her a part of our battalion."

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DTH/CHRIS ANDERSON

I ran three miles today. Finally, I said, "Lady, take your purse."

Emo Phillips