

The Daily Tar Heel

Volume 103, Issue 95
102 years of editorial freedom
Serving the students and the University community since 1893

Chapel Hill, North Carolina
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1995

News/Features/Arts/Sports
Business/Advertising
962-0245
962-1163
© 1995 DTH Publishing Corp. All rights reserved.

Testimony Under Way in Double-Murder Trial

BY WENDY GOODMAN
CITY EDITOR
AND VICTOR D. HENDRICKSON
STAFF WRITER

Double-murder suspect Wendell Williamson appeared unshaken as eyewitness testimony about the Jan. 26 shootings on Henderson Street got under way in Orange County Superior Courthouse on Wednesday.

Five witnesses who saw or heard Williamson's shooting rampage took the stand after attorneys made opening statements to the nine-woman, three-man jury. There were also morning motions to suppress statements made by Williamson at the hospital the night of the shooting.

Orange-Chatham District Attorney Carl Fox told jurors in his opening statement that the shooting "was premeditated." Fox detailed the events of the afternoon of the shooting, foreshadowing future testimony.

Fox said Williamson had an M-1 rifle, 75 eight-rounds of high-powered ammunition in his bag and several other clips when he started up Henderson Street.

During his opening statement, Fox pointed at Williamson and said he was "guilty of two counts of first-degree murder, guilty of 11 counts of assault with a

Today in Court

Excerpts from the first day of testimony in the Wendell Williamson murder trial

■ The judge decided not to allow a statement Williamson made to a State Bureau of Investigation agent on the night of the shootings.

■ District Attorney Carl Fox said in his opening statement to the jury that "it was premeditated."

■ Public defender James Williams said in his opening statement to the jury that "Wendell Williamson was severely mentally ill, and the just verdict is not guilty by reason of insanity."

■ Katherine Stovel, a UNC graduate student, testified that Williamson said, "Run away over there ... so that I don't shoot you."

■ Joanna Morisey, a UNC senior, testified that from her house on Henderson Street she saw Williamson shoot Reichardt.

deadly weapon with intent to kill and guilty of two counts of discharging a firearm."

Public defender James Williams said, "Wendell Williamson was severely mentally ill, and the just verdict is not guilty by reason of insanity."

Williams said Williamson's mental problems could be traced back to an outbreak at the law school in September 1992 when he was "howling and beating himself in the face."

Williamson had been diagnosed by sev-

eral psychiatrists as a paranoid schizophrenic and as delusional, the public defender said. Williamson also told people he believed he was telepathic, which was the alleged reason for the Jan. 26 events.

Williamson believed that the entire world was in danger and would be destroyed if they did not acknowledge him as a telepath, Williams said. "He had to do something to save himself and the world... was hoping people would see him and say, 'You are the telepath.'"

His client walked directly into the line of gunfire and did not try to avoid the bullets because he did not believe he could be hit, Williams said.

Orange County Superior Court Judge Gordon Battle decided to admit statements made by Williamson to Chapel Hill Police Detective J.B. Parks and Sgt. Marcia Gayle on the night of the shooting, but he upheld the defense's motion to suppress statements Williamson made to State Bureau of Investigation agent Tim Thayer.

The defense argued that under the circumstances, Williamson was in no condition to waive his Miranda rights. He had been shot in both legs, was on morphine to kill the pain, was being prepared for surgery and was handcuffed to the hospital bed, the defense argued.

Fox argued that Williamson was read his rights, was coherent and understood the questions.

Thayer testified that Williamson told him he had considered committing the same crime Jan. 25 at the Florida State-UNC basketball game at the Smith Center. He decided to wait until Jan. 26 so he could commit the crimes during "the light of day." Parks testified that Williamson was "alert and coherent during the interview."

Dr. Seymour Halleck, professor of psy-

chiatry at UNC, testified for the defense that he did not realize until after the interview that Williamson might not be competent to waive Miranda rights. During the interview, he said Williamson was "very tense."

Battle said the dismissal of Thayer's statements was due to the amount of time elapsed between the 2 p.m. reading of the rights and the 6 p.m. interview. "The lapse of time was too long under the circumstances," he said.

Several prosecution witnesses who took the stand had to choke back tears as they described the events they saw Jan. 26.

Benjamin DeGraffinreidt, an employee at Northampton Plaza Apartments, where Williamson parked his car prior to the shooting, said he saw Williamson pull into the parking lot and was going to tell him he could not park there.

However, DeGraffinreidt said he changed his mind when he saw Williamson "get out a big gun (that was) high-powered and an old army bag he put on his shoulder." DeGraffinreidt said he heard shots 20 minutes later.

Millard Church, a housemate of the first victim, Ralph Walker Jr., and Gordon

See TRIAL, Page 11

Aid Office Admits to 'Oversight'

■ Financial aid office mistake means UNC won't be exempt from federal rules.

BY ERIC FLACK
STAFF WRITER

More than 100 universities, including three UNC system schools, have been exempted from some student-aid regulations by the Department of Education, but because of an oversight in the Office of Financial Aid, UNC-CH missed its opportunity to get involved with the program.

UNC-Charlotte, UNC-Wilmington and UNC-Greensboro are part of a five-year program allowing them to manage and distribute student aid as they see fit rather than following federal guidelines.

UNC-CH was notified of the program, but according to Eleanor Morris, director of the Office of School and Student Aid, the memo was not given proper attention. "We didn't see the memo, but I knew about it," Morris said.

"It is not something that we have given up on. It is something that did not come to our attention in April."

Morris, who blames the mix up on the installation of a new computer system at the time of the memo's arrival, said that if the program is deemed beneficial to the schools who are currently participating, UNC will do its best to become involved later on.

"When that letter was coming in, we were struggling with a new computer system, and there had been no time to put effort into this," Morris said.

"We are going to try to find out if it is really benefitting the other schools. If there is anything we can do to improve things for our students, we will do it for next year."

The consortium of schools involved in

See STUDENT AID, Page 2

Politician Commemorates U.N. Day

BY ERICA BESHEARS
ASSISTANT STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

Former Massachusetts Gov. Endicott "Chuck" Peabody warned that although the world is celebrating the 50th anniversary of the United Nations, it might be on the verge of attending the wake of the worldwide organization.

Peabody made a speech in Gerrard Hall on Wednesday evening as part of the U.N. Day activities in Chapel Hill. Wednesday marked the 50th anniversary of the first time the United Nations convened.

In his speech, Peabody criticized Washington politicians who oppose the United Nations and are responsible for the United States owing \$1.4 billion in dues to the United Nations. "The Congress has lifted

up defense armaments and cut in half our U.N. appropriations," he said.

Peabody admitted that the United Nations needs reform and suggested it would be a more effective peacekeeper if it had a free-standing army. He also said Japan and Germany need more representation. "The world's grown up in the last 50 years."

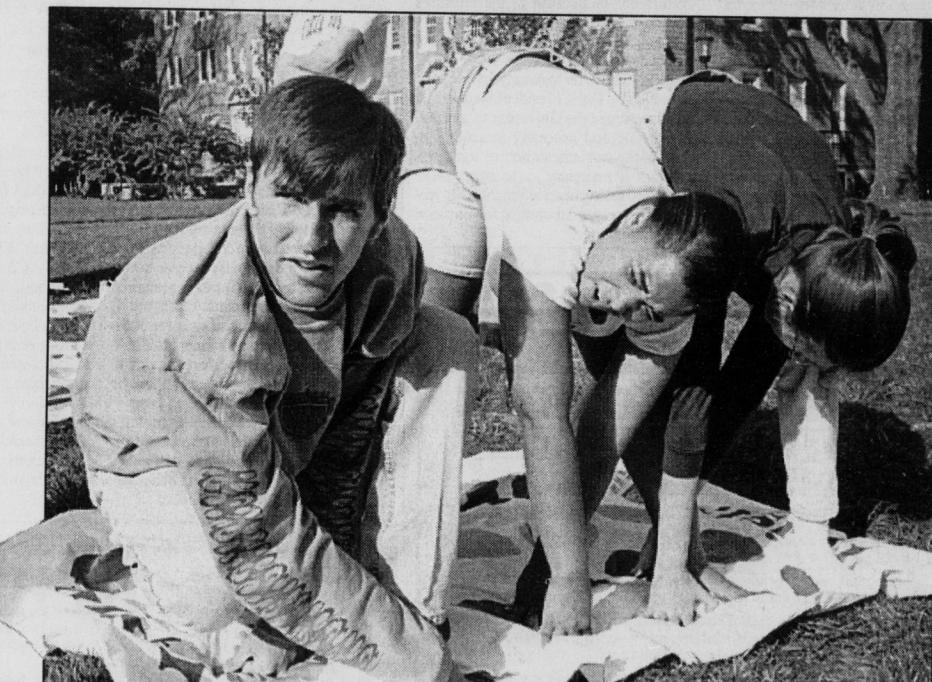
He reiterated the reasons behind the creation of the United Nations. "Some voices in Washington and across the country are questioning why we need the United Nations at all," he said.

Peabody explained the need for the organization by detailing the history leading up to the two world wars, which he said combined left 150 million casualties.

"They tried to learn a lesson and create the League of Nations" after the first world

war, he said. Peabody said Woodrow Wilson, while campaigning for the League of Nations, said if the League faltered, there would be another world war within a generation. After World War II, the United Nations was created. "We know if we have another world war, it's not going to wipe out humans, it's going to wipe out every living thing on the planet," he said. "Fifty years later, we are not in a world war, we have staved it off."

Peabody said the United Nations has done more than police during the last 50 years. "Polio has almost been knocked out worldwide," he said. "For population control, you turn to the United Nations; for nuclear proliferation, you turn to the United Nations; for environmental control, you turn to the United Nations."



Will Turner, Kandyce Ellis and Alice Lincoln compete in the Twister Tournament on Mangum Lawn Wednesday.

The Luck of the Spinner'

BY SCOTT BALLEW
STAFF WRITER

For UNC senior Joe Hensley, Wednesday afternoon's Twister tournament marked the end of a long, grueling comeback.

It had been three years since the Greensboro native had played the demanding sport of Twister. He had no way of knowing if he still possessed the drive, the skill and the coordination of his Twister-tainted youth.

"My basic strategy is to find a way to somehow throw my opponents off balance, physically or psychologically," Hensley said. "I'm planning on slithering like a snake through my competition and winning. But obviously the luck of the spinner will be a factor."

Hensley had gone semi-pro at the game during high school — he even dabbled in a few matches of co-ed naked Twister with his classmates at the North Carolina School for Science and Math — and wanted desperately to regain his past glory.

But the dedication and strategizing of her competitor did little to phase fellow Twister player Hannah Stallings.

"He doesn't scare me," the sophomore Zebulon native said. "But I was very impressed with his toe strength when he warmed up."

"But I don't have a real strategy," Stallings continued. "My main goal is just to not fall down and get something for free. I mean, I'm just here to have a good time."

But after the first of the three rounds of the Twister tournament, Stallings found herself on the sidelines, an obstacle to Hensley's comeback that he wasted no time in removing.

Stallings was not the only competitor who was pushed from the polka-dot playing field in the first round. Anna Edwards, a sophomore from Asheville who also found herself disqualified after the first round, thought her choice of clothes became tiresome and boring to many of the 50-or-so tournament on-lookers. Many spectators shouted at the athletes to go "faster" or said the judges should be more precise.

"What they really need to do is to get some better judges," UNC senior Jacob Bonenburger advised.

See TWISTER, Page 11

INSIDE this issue

Hike at State: Faculty members approve a tuition increase, but not to benefit their own salaries.
State and National News, Page 3

Keep the Beer Inside: Carrboro approves an interim ban without a public hearing.
City News, Page 3

Field Hockey Makes History: UNC is now 17-0, setting a school and ACC record.
Sports, Page 13

Weather

TODAY: Sunny; hi-70s.

FRIDAY: Chance of showers; hi-70s.



Halloween Hoopla: Today's Diversions highlights the holiday happenings from clubs to Franklin Street.
Diversions, Page 5

Get in good physical condition before submitting to bondage. You should be fit to be tied.

Robert Byrne