



Dee Williamson, the father of Wendell Williamson, talks with media outside Orange County Courthouse immediately after his son was found not guilty by reason of insanity.

WILLIAMSON FROM PAGE 1

After the verdict was announced, Williamson was released from the custody of the Orange County Jail and transported to Dorothea Dix Hospital in Raleigh for commitment. Williamson will return to Orange County on Dec. 27 for a commitment hearing to determine whether he will remain in custody at the hospital or be released. Defense attorney Kirk Osborn said at the future hearings, the double murder would be entered into evidence to determine whether Williamson was a danger to himself or society. "There isn't going to be a judge anywhere that's going to release anyone under that evidence," he said. Osborn repeated, as he had throughout the trial, that defendants found not guilty by reason of insanity often spend more time in mental hospitals than defendants found guilty spend in prison. Orange—Chatham District Attorney Carl Fox said he disagreed. "That may apply to some crimes, but not to murder," Fox said. Fox said he had acknowledged the possibility of the jury returning a not guilty by reason of insanity verdict. "It was definitely an uphill battle for us," Fox said after the trial. Fox pointed to the fact that the defense called friends, family members and 10 mental health experts who all testified to

Williamson's past history of mental illness. "It was the fact that they had so many witnesses," Fox said. "It was just sheer volume." Earlier, in a prepared statement, Fox stated, "These witnesses testified that the defendant had a long history of mental illness and irrational behavior predating these offenses. There was an abundance of expert testimony supporting the defense of insanity." Fox would not say whether a "guilty but mentally ill" verdict would have made his job easier. But in his press release, he stated that "even though the state may prove the defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt, if the defendant proves that he is not guilty by reason of insanity, he cannot be convicted of the crimes he has committed." "That's our law," Fox said after meeting with one of the victim's family. "I, as all citizens, have to live with that law." Fox said he was unsure whether the taped statement Williamson made the night of the murders sealed the decision in the jurors' minds. Fox said he had considered entering the tape in the state's rebuttal case, but the defense chose to enter it instead. "I think the taped statement cuts both ways," he said. After the verdict, public defender James Williams acknowledged the difficulty of the jury's decision. "I think the jury showed courage in reaching their decision," he said. "I certainly feel confident

that the decision they reached is an appropriate one and one they can be proud of." Williams said Williamson was beginning to recognize the severity of his actions. "(Williamson) now understands the gravity of what he did. As recently as today he expressed remorse and concern for what he did," Williams said. He said Williamson remembered the shooting spree, but only in the context of mental delusions chronicled in testimony throughout the trial. Dee Williamson, Wendell Williamson's father, traveled from Clyde to attend most of the trial, including the verdict. "It is a relief to have this over," he said. "I feel very sorry for everybody involved." Suzannah Thomas, Wendell Williamson's sister, said that she also was glad the trial was over, but that the verdict meant the tragedy associated with her brother's crimes was still not over. "Certainly there is no joy in this verdict," she said. In a prepared statement, Karl and Carol Reichardt stated that Williamson had intentionally killed their son and Walker "to call attention to his problem." "We came to this courtroom screaming for justice and accountability. Justice has not been served," the release stated. "Where is the justice if Wendell Williamson is not convicted?" Fox said the community must now accept the jury's verdict. In his release, Fox stated, "The court has accepted their verdicts. We must likewise accept their verdicts."

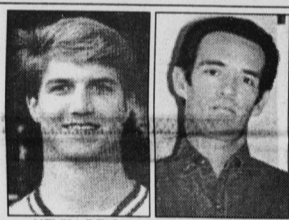
1995 Timeline of Events for the Wendell Williamson Double-Murder Trial

Timeline of events for the Wendell Williamson Double-Murder Trial from January to November 1995. Includes dates, descriptions of events, and small photographs of participants like Joanna Morrissey, Robert Epting, and Dr. Christina Mickewicz.

REACTION FROM PAGE 1

what he did, if he knows he took something away from me that I can never get back." Families expressed disbelief and shock with the verdict, saying justice had not been served in this case. Williamson's statement made to police the night of the shooting was proof that Williamson knew what he was doing, family members said. The statement was also proof he knew the difference between right and wrong, according to family members. "Obviously, the system failed completely. I feel that Carl Fox proved (Williamson) knew right from wrong," Carol Reichardt said. "He is a very sick man. But he knew right from wrong, and he was planning. He picked Kevin out and shot him, then he crawled away and then he shot him again and again." Walker's sister said she agreed that Williamson had planned the shooting. "I

think he knew what he was doing. I think he was so smart he was mad," Iris Walker said. "He planned it so meticulously with so much precision, and he told police. He may be sick, but he is guilty." The pain of the verdict that family members most commonly expressed is that now their ordeal will become an ongoing and recurring process. Williamson was transported to Dorothea Dix Hospital in Raleigh following the verdict. Williamson will be re-evaluated after 50 days and annually thereafter, and will only be released if he proves himself sane at one of the annual hearings. Family members said nothing would stop them from missing these hearings, which will be held in open court in Hillsborough. By attending these hearings, the Reichards said they would be honoring Kevin and making sure that Williamson did not slip through the cracks. "We've been there for Kevin his entire



KEVIN REICHARDT and RALPH WALKER JR. were the two victims in the Jan. 26 shooting spree.

life, and we will continue to be there for him as long as we live," Carol Reichardt said. Her husband, Karl, said, "We have to do it because nobody else will represent Kevin." Iris Walker said she felt she had "no option" but to be present because she feared the possibility of Williamson's release. Both families recounted fond memories of their lost loved ones when discussing the

pain the trial and the verdict had caused them. "We are just going to try to remember the good things, and put these bad memories out of our minds," Iris Walker said as she spoke about her brother, who she described as an aspiring photographer and lover of the natural beauty of the world. The Reichards discussed a scholarship set up in Kevin's honor by his friends for students who excel academically, athletically and bestow other qualities Kevin exemplified. "Kevin, in his short 20 years of life, had a tremendous impact on hundreds of people," Karl Reichardt read in a prepared statement. "He had insight, leadership qualities and the love of life that was contagious." While the trial may be over, Ralph Walker's mother said Wendell Williamson would face justice eventually. "He's guilty, and he doesn't feel sorry for it," Sarah Walker said. "He took a part of me but he's not free. God has his number."

Campus Calendar

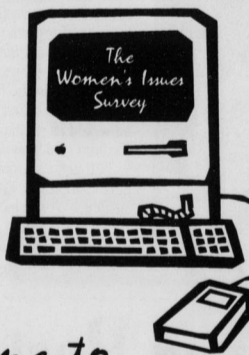
- WEDNESDAY Noon AFRICAN-AMERICAN LUNCH-TIME FORUM for Rape Awareness Week in Union 213. 12:30 p.m. ASIAN STUDIES Luncheon Seminar Series presents Shi Yinong, professor of International History at Nanjing University in 02 Manning Hall. 3 p.m. DISSERTATION SUPPORT GROUP in Nash Hall, 962-2175. 3:30 p.m. RAPE AWARENESS COMMITTEE meeting in Union 226. UNIVERSITY CAREER SERVICES will sponsor "Introduction to Internships" in 210 Hanes Hall for seniors and graduate students, "Job Hunt 103: Interviewing Skills" in 209 Hanes Hall. SUPPORT GROUP FOR WOMEN GRADUATES in Nash Hall, 962-2175. 4 p.m. UNDERGRADUATE SOCIOLOGY CLUB will meet in Union 210. A lecture by Dr. Mann on Medical School Admissions will be given. JAPANESE CONVERSATION TABLE will meet in Lenior. 5 p.m. UNC JAPAN CLUB will meet in Frank Porter Graham Lounge on the second floor of the Union. 5 p.m. YOUTH ANGST SOCIETY will have an evening of students reading their own work in Bull's Head Bookstore. 5:30 p.m. LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRIES would like to invite everyone to worship in the campus center. 6 p.m. WESLEY FOUNDATION invites you to dinner and a program at 214 Pittsboro St. Cost is \$2. 7 p.m. CAROLINA FEVER will meet in 106 Carroll Hall. DIALECTIC AND PHILANTHROPIC SOCIETIES present the Kemp Plummer Battle lecture presented by Dr. Reed on the topic "Reclaiming Robert E. Lee" on the third floor of New West. HABITAT FOR HUMANITY will meet in 111 Murphy Hall. UNIVERSITY CAREER SERVICES will sponsor a presentation by Circuit City stores in 210 Hanes Hall. 8 p.m. UNION CABARET will have Karaoke Night. Admission is free. HEALTH SCIENCES PROGRAM will have a presentation on mental health issues on the second floor of Carmichael Residence Hall. ITEMS OF INTEREST SAF will hold an interest meeting about paid internships working with migrant and seasonal farm workers for summer 1996 at 4 p.m. Thursday in Union 224. BOYS CHOIR OF HARLEM will perform at 8 p.m. Saturday in Memorial Hall. Tickets are \$7 and \$9 for students and \$14 and \$18 for the general public. BSM will have its fall concert at 3 p.m. on Sunday in the Great Hall. Donations are \$2 in advance and \$3 at the door. ELECTIONS BOARD petitions and candidates' packets will soon be available for Nov. 14 special election. Please contact Annie Shuart at 962-5201 for more information.

For the Record

In the Nov. 6 story "Mourners of Many Faiths Honor Slain Israeli Leader," Reverend Richard Edens should have been quoted as saying, "He turned swords into ploughshares." The Daily Tar Heel regrets the error.

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Welcome to The Women's Issues Survey

When: November 7-21, 1995 For: All members of the campus community with an interest in women's issues, but specifically our women faculty, staff, and students. Purpose: To obtain input that will assist the Task Force on Women at Carolina in developing recommendations for the improvement of opportunities and resources available to women at UNC.

You can access the survey from a cluster computer or other computer using NETSCAPE. You can access the survey if you have an e-mail account. Instructions will be posted at all OIT microcomputing facilities. Four sites will be staffed at certain hours by people specifically trained to help people take the survey:

- Greenlaw Hall, room 221: 4am-9am Thursday 11/9, Tuesday 11/14, Thursday 11/16, and Tuesday 11/21 School of Public Health, 2308 McGavran-Greenberg: 4am-8am Thursday 11/9, Tuesday 11/14, Thursday 11/16, and Tuesday 11/21 Teague Residence Hall, basement: 4am-9am Tuesday 11/14 and Thursday 11/16 R.B. House, the Undergraduate Library, will be staffed continuously

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9

11 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. -- stop by our information table in the Carolina Student Union Lobby.

4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. -- attend an information session at Old Carroll Hall in Room 02.

For more information, call 1-800-424-8580 (press 1).

RESUME DROP

November 9 • 8:30am-3:00pm • 211 Hanes Hall

FOR THE ATLANTIC RECRUITING ALLIANCE (NEW YORK CITY INTERVIEWS ON FEB. 26, 1996)

Organizations Participating:

- ADVERTISING BBDO, New York • D'arcy Masius Benton & Bowles (DMBB) • Saatchi & Saatchi RESEARCH / NOT-FOR-PROFIT Social Science Research Council PUBLISHING Conde-Nast • John Wiley and Sons • Penguin USA • Springer-Verlag

*This program requires you to travel to New York at your expense-further information available in 211 Hanes Hall **Information on these organizations is available in 208 Hanes Hall University Career Services • Division of Student Affairs

SPiV