

The Daily Tar Heel

Weekly
THURSDAY, JULY 25, 1996

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Escaped Mental Patient Found on Franklin Street

Clifford White, who was indicted in 1984 for a double murder, was found Monday.

BY AMY CAPIELLO
CITY EDITOR

Of all the people at the Greyhound/Trailways bus station Monday afternoon, there was one man wandering around who was very far from home.

Clifford Leslie White, 45, an escaped mental patient from Cherry Hospital in Goldsboro, was found walking around the Franklin Street station at about 1 p.m. and was promptly taken into custody by Chapel Hill police.

White, who was indicted in the murders of his aunt and uncle, escaped from a locked ward at Cherry Hospital late Friday evening.

Marshall Smith, chief of Standards Management at Cherry Hospital, said White's escape happened within a 15-minute time span. "A check was made at 11 p.m., and (White) was observed by staff to be in his bedroom," Smith said. "At approximately 11:15 p.m., the staff indicated they heard a door close."

The door the staff members heard leads to the outside. Smith said a search was made outside the door and no movement

was observed. He said the door also appeared to be properly locked.

"We conducted a check of the population and (White) was not evident on the unit at that time," Smith said. "We then proceeded with a search and (White) was not found in the immediate hospital facility."

Smith said law enforcement agents were called and an All Points Bulletin was released on the police information network. Three days later, White was spotted and picked up by Chapel Hill police.

Jane Cousins, spokeswoman for the Chapel Hill Police Department, said White was not armed and acted cooperatively when the police took him into custody.

White has been placed on a higher security level until hospital administrators can determine how he escaped and got to Chapel Hill, Smith said.

White was admitted to Cherry Hospital in 1984 after being indicted in the murder of Johnny and Bertha Howze, his aunt and uncle. The two were found inside their Wilmington home, which had been set ablaze. Both had multiple stab wounds.

White was found incompetent to stand trial and has been in the state psychiatric system ever since, Smith said.

When asked whether White had ever been a danger to the community while he was free, Smith said, "I would not be in a position to qualify that."

New Task Force Faces 'Huge Responsibility' in Battling Substance Abuse

BY SHENG LEE
STAFF WRITER

The 31 members of the Chancellor's Substance Abuse Task Force held their first meeting on Wednesday, July 17, but many said it was still too early to see any results.

Amy Bowles, a committee member and second-year graduate student in the School of Social Work, said she emerged from the meeting feeling a great sense of duty to the campus.

"I came out overwhelmed, but I think we have a huge responsibility ahead of us," Bowles said.

She said she felt overwhelmed because the committee was larger than she had expected and because she had not been aware of the amount of work the University had already put into addressing substance abuse.

At the meeting, Chancellor Michael

Hooker said although he created the task force, it did not mean he was discounting past efforts, Bowles said.

Hooker said one of the reasons he created the committee was because he was particularly concerned about the events of the past year such as the May 12 Phi Gamma Delta fraternity house fire, Bowles said.

The fire killed five students, four of whom had high blood alcohol content levels, according to toxicology reports.

Hooker said he wanted the task force to collaborate with a Faculty Council committee on intellectual climate, Bowles said.

William Jordan, chair of the substance abuse task force, could not be reached for comments.

At the meeting, Jordan directed the task force to concentrate its energies on tackling all substances, Vice Chancellor Elson Floyd said.

"Dr. Jordan made it clear that the task force would focus on (all forms of) substance abuse," Floyd said.

Floyd said the task force would explore the problem through subcommittees, which would function as the stepping stone toward combating the problem.

"We are going to tackle this through subcommittees," Floyd said.

He said the subcommittees would investigate the effectiveness of existing regulations like alcohol policies and enforcement mechanisms.

Floyd said he thought the task force's preliminary work would help formulate a realistic approximation of the problems residing on the campus scene.

"I think it will provide a very good inventory of what (problems) currently exist on campus," Floyd said.

Floyd said the information would be used to create an accurate survey to submit to the chancellor.

Laddell Robbins, committee member and senior class president, said his goal was to make a difference in students' lives.

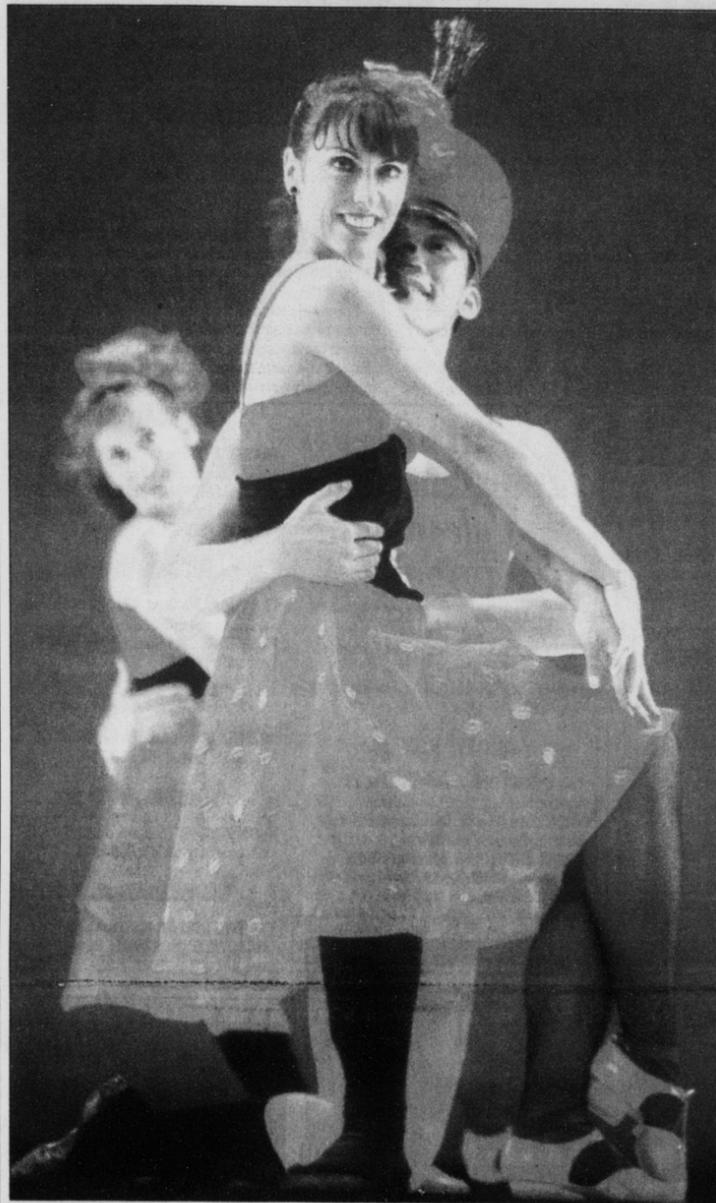
"My personal goal is to make sure that what we do will have the greatest benefits for students," Robbins said.

"Students can reach me at the senior class office in the Student Union with their concerns."

After the subcommittees have determined their findings, the larger committee will compile reports.

This report will go to Hooker.

Two Left Feet



The Paul Taylor Dance Company performs "Offenbach Overtures" at Duke University. The performance ended the month-long American Dance Festival. See story on page 4.

GPSF President Calls Insurance Plan 'Misleading'

BY JOHN SWEENEY
UNIVERSITY EDITOR

Graduate and Professional Student Federation President Katherine Kraft cautioned students this week to be aware of possible problems regarding a new health insurance policy.

The policy, mailed to students through the U.S. Postal Service, is underwritten by the Mid-West National Life Insurance Company of Tennessee and offered through the American College Students Association.

Kraft said Tuesday she had never heard of the American College Students Association, nor had Association of Student Governments President John Dervin.

Dianne Clemens, an ACSA official, said the group was originally created by insurance companies to offer students insurance they might not otherwise be able to obtain.

"It was formed especially for college students so they could have things college students can't normally get, like health insurance, car insurance," Clemens said. "We also offer student loans."

Students can join the ACSA by purchasing an insurance policy from the group or paying a small membership fee, Clemens said.

Kraft said she was concerned the policy's claims would lead students unfamiliar with insurance regulations to make erroneous assumptions about the policy.

"I do believe (the policy) is very misleading," Kraft said.

Kraft cited one section, where the brochure states, "The Master Policy at the school becomes effective at 12:01 a.m., September 1, 1996."

Kraft said she had not found any "Master Policy" on file at the University.

"That line implicates a campus body as a Major Policy holder, which is not the case, as far as I know," Kraft said.

Paul Ilecki, administrative assistant to the dean of the Graduate School, confirmed that the University had no connection to the policy.

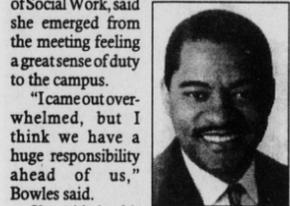
In addition, Kraft has sent a letter to the N.C. State Department of Insurance, requesting advice on several legal questions she thought the policy brought up.

Kraft questioned the policy's claims that policy holders could pay their premiums by credit card.

"I am totally confused by the offer of (the credit card) option," Kraft stated in the letter. "According to information I have received from other insurance companies, they cannot offer this option due to restrictions on the use of credit cards for the purpose of purchasing insurance in the General Statutes of the State of



Graduate and Professional Student Federation President KATHERINE KRAFT said the policy could mislead students.



Chief of Staff ELSON FLOYD said the committee was going to discuss abuse of all substances, not just alcohol.

The End of the Road

Today marks the last summer edition of The Daily Tar Heel.

The staff wishes summer school students the best of luck with final exams and hopes everyone enjoys the remaining days of summer — even without the help of the weekly DTH to get through them.

Be sure to pick up the DTH when we resume printing on Aug. 19 with our welcome back issue.

With our Aug. 21 paper on the first day of fall semester classes, the DTH will return to its normal Monday through Friday printing schedule.

We will be accepting applications for writers, designers, photographers, graphic artists and other key positions from now until Aug. 30. Stop by the DTH office in the Student Union and pick up an application, or call 962-0245 for more information.

Construction Begins on New Road Through Coker Woods

Biology professors say the loss of Coker Woods will be felt in the classroom.

BY JOHN SWEENEY
UNIVERSITY EDITOR

Construction crews began work on an entrance road to the Bell Tower parking lot that will run through Coker Woods, effectively ending the three-year fight to save the tiny hardwood forest.

The demolition is the first step in the construction of the freestanding Sonja H. Stone Black Cultural Center, which will be built where the current entrance road is located.

A notice from the Department of Transportation and Parking stated some spaces in the BG and S2 zones of the Bell Tower parking lot would be blocked because of the construction for about 120 days. The notice stated the DTP did not expect any overcrowding in the two zones, located in the northernmost section of the lot.

That project, in addition to the Kenan Stadium enhancements approved last fall, will result in the complete demolition of Coker Woods.

Alan Stiven, associate chairman of the

Department of Biology, said some members of the biology department would be saddened to see the area razed.

"It was certainly a pleasant place to have on campus, the last uncut hardwood area," Stiven said. "It will certainly be missed by the department."

Robert Peet, a professor in the biology department, said the effects of the demolition would be felt in the classroom.

"(Coker Woods has) played a modest role (in teaching) in that I would take classes there for field exercises," Peet said. "It will mean a lower quality of what we do, but we'll be able to carry on."

Peet said the small excursions to Coker Woods would have to be replaced by less regular trips off campus.

"We have before and will continue to go to the botanical garden properties, but that's not practical for a 50 minute class period," Peet said.

Seth Reice, chairman of the curriculum in ecology, said he would miss Coker Woods for both academic and educational reasons.

"On the first day of class last fall, I took 150 students out of Coker Hall and conducted my class right there," Reice said. "That's not practical at any other area on campus."

"It's too small to be an important re-

Construction Cuts Coker Woods

Construction began Monday on a new entrance road to the Bell Tower parking lot through Coker Woods. The entrance will also serve the future Sonja H. Stone Black Cultural Center. Some professors and students have criticized the choice of this site, traditionally used as an outdoor laboratory for biology classes.



search area, but it's still an important area for the spirit of our students," Reice added. Reice said he was dismayed at the casual manner with which he thought the

University had approached the issue. "We should have higher environmental See COKER WOODS, Page 6

TWA Flight 800 Crash Affects Triangle Air Travel, Airport Security

BY AMY CAPIELLO
CITY EDITOR

After the July 17 explosion of Paris-bound TWA Flight 800, which killed all 230 passengers, questions about the effect on air travel still linger, even locally.

"Air travel is at a record level," said Steve Leslie of Travel Associates.

Leslie said the necessity of flying ensured it would not be affected greatly — either now or in the future.

"People are tough. They're shaken, but life goes on," he said. "People have got to get from point A to point B."

However, Kevin O'Gorman, the manager for ITG Travel Center, said he was seeing a decrease in air travel reservations.

"With leisure travel, I think people who were thinking about traveling or just making travel plans are backing off," O'Gorman said. "Leisure travel will be down for the next month or so."

TWA would not be the only airline affected, O'Gorman said.

"People know that it could happen to any airline," he said. "The odds are next time that it won't be TWA."

O'Gorman said he thought the number of people traveling abroad would decrease

the most, especially if terrorists caused the TWA crash. No matter what caused the crash, however, it will affect business, he said. "Regardless of terrorism, pilot error or mechanical failure, a crash is a crash," O'Gorman said.

With rumors of terrorist involvement, including speculation that the plane was felled by a bomb, airport security has tightened, especially with the Olympic Games being held in Atlanta.

O'Gorman said he wasn't sure how much safer airports could get. "What else can they do? They're already at level one security at most major airports," he said.

O'Gorman said he thought the airports would probably just increase the frequency with which they conduct security checks.

"I would say there are probably many more procedures in terms of checks and double checks, more bomb-sniffing dogs around the cargo," he said.

Rick Martinez, the public affairs manager for Raleigh-Durham International Airport, said RDU had not increased its security measures. "We went to a higher level of security in January, and that was without it being in response to an event,"

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The surest way to make a monkey of a man is to quote him.

Robert Benchley