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Victims identified in crash; cause unknown

Aviation officials said the plane appeared to be in flight-worthy condition.

BY HUGH PRESSLEY
STAFF WRITER

Local officials have identified the passengers of Wednesday's late-night plane crash at Horace Williams Airport, but the cause of the accident is still unknown.

Dean Essig, 37; David Allen Powell, 37, both from Illinois, and Christopher Volny, 34 (no hometown available), suffered injuries in the crash.

The last known stop on the flight was in Montgomery County, Ky.

Essig, the pilot, did have a valid pilot's license, officials said.

The single-engine Cessna 195 plane crashed at 8:05 p.m. while landing on the northwest end of the airport and flipped after it hit the ground.

Shortly after the crash a neighbor called 911, and the three men were taken to the emergency room at UNC Hospitals, said Lt. Angela Carmon, University Police crime prevention officer.

She said officials from the Chapel Hill Fire Department had to cut through the wreckage of the plane to rescue the victims.

As of Thursday afternoon, Essig and Powell were listed in fair condition, while Volny remained in serious condition, according to a press release.

Lauren Vesilind, a public relations receptionist at UNC Hospitals, said Essig's condition had improved from serious to fair Thursday. Doctors also upgraded Volny's condition from critical to serious.

Officials from the Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board said they did not know what caused the plane crash.

However they did not suspect a mechanical error or safety problems with the airport.

The 300-horsepower, tail-loader airplane was a rare vintage aircraft from the 1940s, said Rick Stockton, an FAA air operations inspector.

"If the plane was built in 1949 and it is still flying, then it is a good aircraft," he said.

"Although the plane was a tail loader, it's not much different than flying other planes."

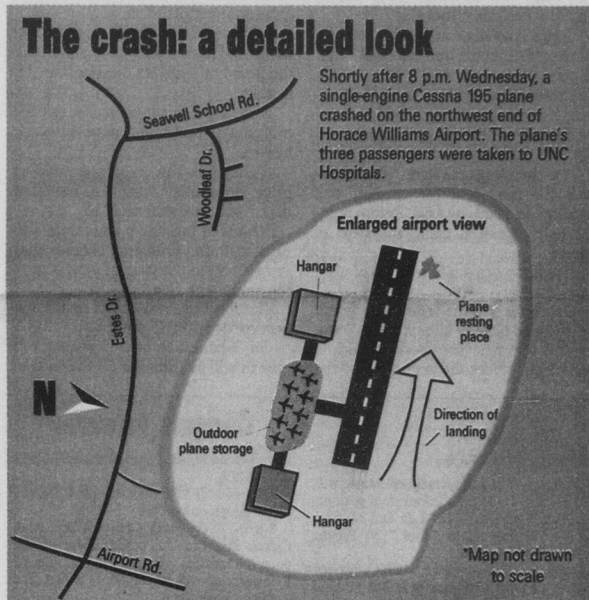
A tail-loader plane has a wheel on the back of its tail, Stockton said.

The Cessna had a Feb. 9, 1998, reg-

SEE CRASH, PAGE 5



A member of the Chapel Hill Fire Department escorts the remains of the Cessna 195 plane that crashed while landing at Horace Williams Airport on Wednesday. The Federal Aviation Administration completed its inspection of the accident scene Thursday morning.



The crash: a detailed look

Shortly after 8 p.m. Wednesday, a single-engine Cessna 195 plane crashed on the northwest end of Horace Williams Airport. The plane's three passengers were taken to UNC Hospitals.

Enlarged airport view

Plane resting place

Direction of landing

Map not drawn to scale

DTH/JAKE ZARNEGAR AND BRIANNA BUSCH

Rivals ready for round 2 of showdown

Duke and UNC will play for the No. 1 seed in next week's ACC Tournament.

BY AARON BEARD
SPORTS EDITOR

Only 22 days ago, North Carolina dispatched of Duke in Chapel Hill.

Now it's Durham's turn to host college basketball's throwdown of the year, as No. 3 UNC travels to Cameron

Indoor Stadium to face the top-ranked Blue Devils at 2 p.m. Saturday.

The winner will claim the top seed in next week's ACC Tournament in Greensboro. Duke can win the title outright by defeating the Tar Heels, while UNC can force a tie by sweeping the Blue Devils.

"I think both of these teams have been in a lot of big games," UNC coach Bill Guthridge said. "I don't know if there's more pressure on any team or if it will be a factor."

If the chance to win the ACC regular-season title doesn't motivate the Blue Devils (26-2, 14-1 in the ACC), then memories of a 97-73 thumping at the hands of the Tar Heels on Feb. 5 will.

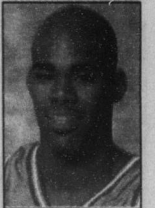
Since the defeat, Duke has won six straight by an average of 20.7 points.

"They'll come out on all cylinders just for the fact that we beat them (at UNC)," North Carolina guard Shammond Williams said. "... They'll come out with a big punch. That's the biggest thing we'll have to do, being able to withstand that first punch."

In that streak, Duke's tandem of guard Trajan Langdon and forward Roshown McLeod has run roughshod over the opposition, combining to average 39.5 points during that stretch.

But it's the return of freshman center Elton Brand that has Durham buzzing. Brand, sidelined since December with a foot injury, returned to action against Sunday against UCLA, adding 14 points and seven rebounds in 16 min-

SEE DUKE, PAGE 5



UNC forward ANTAWN JAMISON blasted Duke for 35 points on 14-of-20 shooting and pulled down 11 rebounds in the first meeting.

University plans review of airport-safety policies

Neighbors reported the crash to police after they heard cries for help.

BY PAUL HOBSON
STAFF WRITER

The University plans to evaluate safety procedures at Horace Williams Airport after a plane crash Wednesday night injured three passengers.

Executive Vice Chancellor Elson Floyd stated Thursday in a press release that the University, which owns the airport, planned to investigate the reasons behind the crash.

"Any accident involving an aircraft at the Horace Williams Airport gives the University reason to review its procedures and protocol," he said. "We will begin that immediately."

The plane, a single-engine Cessna 195, crashed at the northwest end of the airport at 8:05 p.m.

The passengers were rescued from the plane and taken to UNC Hospitals after neighbors reported hearing cries for help. On Thursday, two passengers were listed in fair condition and one was listed in serious condition.

There are no known eyewitnesses to the crash, and the passengers could not answer questions, so the cause of the crash is still undetermined.

The airport's operations policy states that aircraft can use the airport for normal operations between 6 a.m. and 9 p.m.

The airport closes at 6 p.m. and officials turn off the runway lights at that time.

Approaching planes must manually

SEE AIRPORT, PAGE 5

Cross-country trek to help local center

Michelle Dieter's biking will benefit branches of the American Lung Association.

BY MARY-KATHRYN CRAFT
FEATURES EDITOR

Michelle Dieter spends all her week-ends biking around Chapel Hill, but as she conquers the town's roads and trails, another journey lingers in the back of her mind.

Dieter plans to ride from Washington, D.C., to Seattle this summer. A fifth-year pharmacy student from Roxbury, Conn., she is

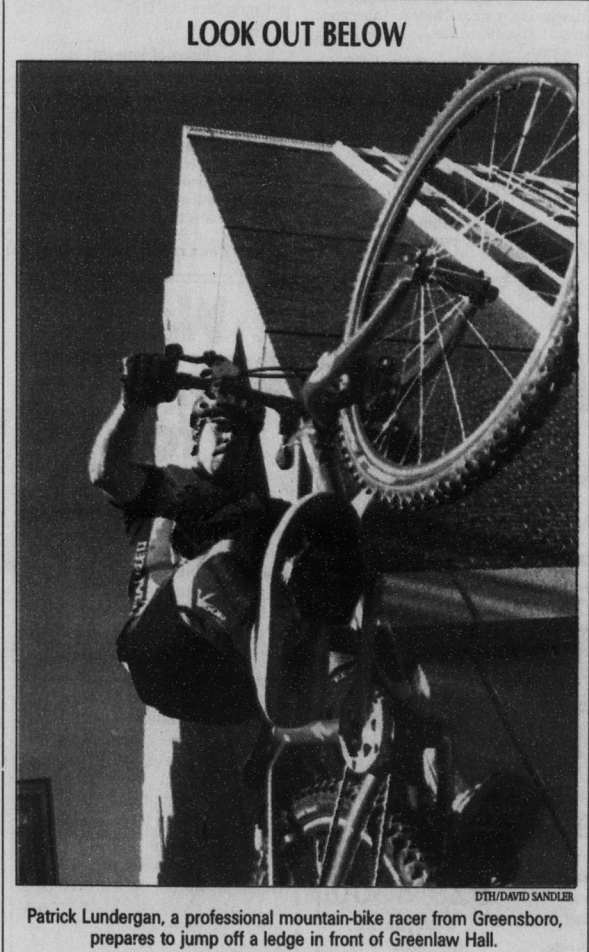
one of over 1,100 riders from around the United States who will put the pedal to the medal in the GTE Big Ride Across America to benefit the American Lung Association.

"I have asthma, and it's for a good cause," Dieter said explaining why she decided to attempt the 3,000-mile trek.

"I graduate in May, and I thought it's now or never," she added with a smile.

Dieter, a member of the UNC diving team for three years, said she found she had too much time on her hands this

SEE DIETER, PAGE 5



Patrick Lundergan, a professional mountain-bike racer from Greensboro, prepares to jump off a ledge in front of Greenlaw Hall.

Student parking posing problem for Chapel Hill

BY CAROL ADAMSON
STAFF WRITER

Crime at UNC and around Chapel Hill could mean red lights for students looking for a safe place to park.

With parking on campus severely limited, students often turn to town-operated park-and-ride lots.

However, a string of break-ins, most recently three weeks ago, at the Southern Village park-and-ride lot might indicate that off-campus parking is not the safest alternative.

Carolyn Elfland, associate vice chancellor for auxiliary services, said the demand for student parking spaces on campus was high and that many of the available spaces were not attractive to students.

"There are definitely not as many (campus) spaces available for student parking as there are students who desire parking spaces," Elfland said. "We have space, just not where people want to park."

But Elfland said the University had made efforts to provide alternatives to campus parking.

"There are park-and-ride lots designed specifically for students who don't use their cars every day," she said.

"The town also has park-and-ride lots."

But the problem of crime in park-and-ride lots could be attributed to the lack of campus parking, said Scott McClellan, administrative analyst for Chapel Hill Transit.

He said the increase in student parking off campus created the need for parking fees and contributed to the crime in the park-and-ride lots.

"Several years ago we noted cars were being stored in the N.C. 54 lot," he said.

"Initially, this was not a problem. There was enough space to accommodate commuters in addition to the cars being stored, but word spread quickly about the free parking."

"Once the lot started filling up and we could not handle all our intended customers, we established the permitting process to control the cars being stored. Commuters still park for free, only the people storing their cars are charged a fee, ranging between \$10 to \$20 per month."

McClellan said the car break-ins began when cars started being stored in the lots.

In the last 12 months, Chapel Hill Transit has spent \$180,000 on improving lighting and installing security cameras in the Southern Village and N.C. 54

SEE TRANSIT, PAGE 5

INSIDE Friday

March Madness begins

The basketball tournament season kicks off today with the ACC Women's Basketball Tournament. The UNC women will match up against Virginia at noon. Page 7

Pulling the plug

New innovations in wireless communication technology make it even easier and more affordable to keep in touch with the world. Page 4

Make an impact

The time has come to pick the next DTH editor, and you can be a part of the process. You can apply to be DTH editor or to be on the committee that selects the editor. Pick up an editor application at our front desk in Suite 104 of the Student Union. Pick up a selection committee application at the Union front desk, the DTH front desk or in the Undergraduate and Davis libraries. Call 962-0245 with questions.

Today's weather

Showers; High 60s
This weekend: Chance of rain; mid 60s

I learn by going where I have to go.

Theodore Roethke