

# The Daily Tar Heel

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## Jury Awards Williamson \$500,000 in Negligence Suit

**Dr. Myron Liptzin was found negligent and ordered to pay Wendell Williamson for his pain and suffering.**

By AMY CAPIELLO  
Senior Writer

HILLSBOROUGH — Jurors in the medical malpractice case against former Student Health Service psychiatrist Dr. Myron Liptzin found the doctor negligent in his care Monday and ordered him to pay Wendell Williamson \$500,000.

"I'm very pleased with it," Williamson said after the verdict was announced.

To award Williamson money, jurors had to find that Liptzin damaged Williamson through his negligence. They also had to find that Williamson did not contribute to his own damage.

Williamson, a former UNC law student, claimed Liptzin's medical negligence led to Williamson's January 1995 near-campus shooting rampage that killed UNC lacrosse player Kevin Reichardt and Chapel Hill resident Ralph Walker.

In November 1995, Williamson was found not guilty by reason of insanity for the killings. He is now indefinitely confined to Broughton State Hospital in Morganton.

Williamson's mother, Fonda, said the family was very pleased with the verdict. "We are just gratified that the jury saw

it our way," she said. "We have nothing but good will for everyone as we go on and try to fight mental illness."

Fonda Williamson said she believed the verdict would have an impact on the medical community by raising the standard of care used to deal with people with psychotic illnesses.

Liptzin, who has medical malpractice insurance through UNC Hospitals, contends he not only met but exceeded the requisite standard of care while treating Williamson.

"I know that I did the right thing and the best I could," Liptzin said. "In retrospect there isn't anything that I would have done differently."

Liptzin said he believed an appeal would probably be filed to contest the amount of money Williamson was



Jurors said Dr. Myron Liptzin was negligent in his 1994 medical treatment of Wendell Williamson.

awarded, but he said the decision to appeal wasn't his. Even if it was, Liptzin said he wasn't sure he would appeal.

"It's a tough call," he said. "I've decided I've done the right thing, and I don't need a court telling me I've done

the right thing."

Although Liptzin is retired, he still works part-time with psychiatric patients across the country. Being found responsible for committing medical malpractice could interfere with his work, Liptzin said.

"To the extent I may be excluded from doing that because I'm covered by their malpractice insurance and with a judgment against me they may decide not to hire me," he said.

As the court recessed, both the Williamson family and Liptzin went out to talk to jurors — Fonda Williamson to thank jurors and Liptzin to find out where he went wrong.

"It was really just puzzling for me to understand what they did," Liptzin said. "They explained what parts of the evi-

dence they weigh most heavily. I really didn't agree with them, and what it makes clear to me is that I didn't make points clearly to them."

Following the verdict, most of the jurors hurried out of the courthouse, refusing to talk. One juror, Carol Sparrow, was visibly distraught.

"It was the most difficult decision I've made in my life," Sparrow said as tears welled in her eyes. "We believe we listened to the law."

Forewoman Stephanie Wissinger called the decision "gut-wrenching" for all the jurors.

"I don't think any party could end up totally happy," Wissinger said.

While the verdict was a difficult one  
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### TALE OF THE TAPE

## Unedited Tapes Air, Fuel Criticism of Case

The president's grand jury testimony aired nationwide Monday, drawing both criticism and speculation.

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Congress laid before a wary nation Monday the raw footage of President Clinton's grand jury testimony and 3,183 pages of evidence chronicling his relationship with former White House Intern Monica Lewinsky in explicit detail.

"It's an embarrassing and personally painful thing," Clinton told the grand jurors.

The videotape of Clinton's testimony began playing unedited on television sets across America shortly before 9:30 a.m. EDT.

White House press secretary Mike McCurry blamed the tape's release on "rank partisanship" and dismissed most of the new material as irrelevant to the case.

McCurry said the videotape shows

"repeated efforts by Starr and his prosecutors to browbeat and badger" Clinton into discussing intimate details of his relationship.

The materials released Monday provide one side of the story: the evidence that Starr said supports his case for 11 possible impeachable offenses against the president.

McCurry's responded to the evidence presented.

"That the president's conduct does not rise to the level of an impeachable offense should now be clear to everyone," he said.

With the House not in session, few lawmakers were on hand at the Capitol.

Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., said it was "unfortunate" that Republicans insisted on releasing the tape over Democrats' objections.

As for its impact, he said, "how damaging is not something anybody can assess right now."

Rep. John Conyers Jr., ranking

Democrat on the House Judiciary Committee, decried the release of "irrelevant, unnecessary disclosure of salacious and lurid details" meant to embarrass the president.

But Republican members of the committee said the videotape revealed Clinton's legal maneuvering. Committing perjury before the grand jury would be grounds for impeachment, said Rep. Charles Canady, R-Fla.

The president "understands the obligation to tell the truth and the whole truth," Canady said. "And we'll have to make a judgment about whether he has done that."

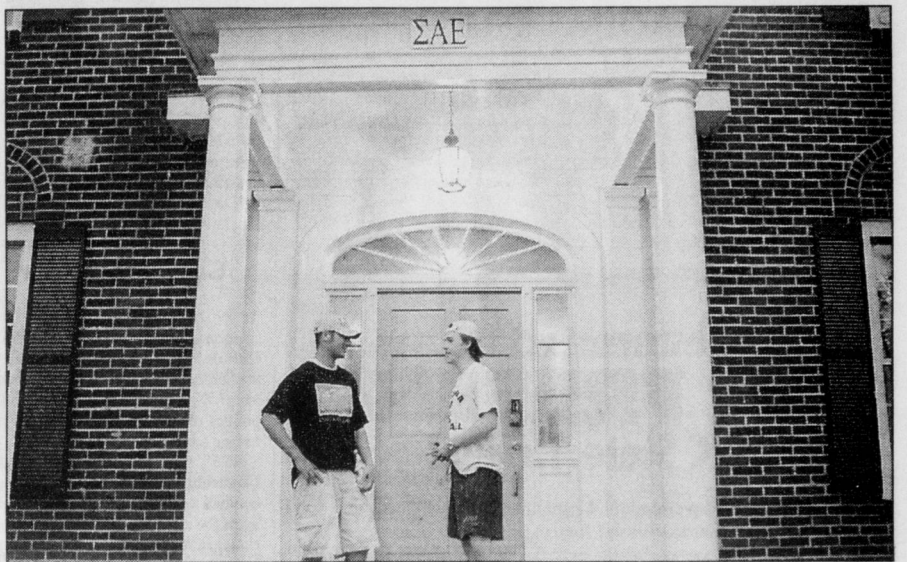
The two-volume set of evidence made public Monday includes Lewinsky's own account to prosecutors and the grand jury, in which she calls the president her "sexual soul mate" and testifies about her frustration that the president had not taken their sexual activity further.

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*"That the president's conduct does not rise to the level of an impeachable offense should now be clear to everyone."*

MIKE MCCURRY  
President Clinton's Press Secretary

Details About Tape, New Evidence Released See page 7



John Clark (left), vice president of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity talks to the fraternity's President Chaz Lusk outside their fraternity house Monday night. Clark and Lusk are members of the new pledge class.

## SAE Searches for Fresh Start

By STUART CRAMPTON  
Staff Writer

Petrified couches. Holes in the walls. The putrid carcasses of aging pizza boxes and beer cans.

None of these oft-remored trappings of fraternity life can be found in the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity house, located at 112 Fraternity Court.

The \$60,000-worth of newly painted walls, carpeted stairs, plush La-Z-Boys and other improvements are in fact only a small part of the much larger renovations going on at

the fraternity house.

The fraternity's real facelift involved the fraternity members themselves.

The chapter's membership dropped to 24 in January after 14 members were convicted of theft of local Christmas decorations. The remaining members opted for an early alumni status when faced with Greek judicial board hearings and a semester of close supervision from members of the fraternity's national headquarters.

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## Printings On Decline In Libraries

Reference Assistant Lucy Holman says she has found fewer wasted printouts at the Undergraduate Library.

By SHANNON CLUBB  
Staff Writer

Week-old laser-printing charges in UNC libraries have cut down on wasted printings at campus libraries, officials said.

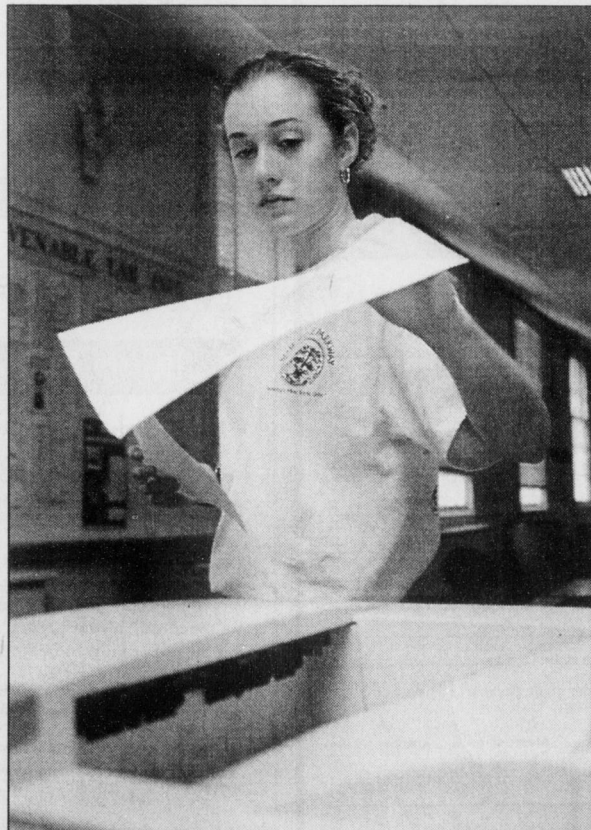
Since the charges took effect last Wednesday, students receive the first page of every print job free with a five-cent charge for each additional page.

The charges affect computers located on the first floors of the Undergraduate and Davis libraries and now includes items on electronic reserve.

"There's certainly a decrease in wasted printing," said Lucy Holman, a reference assistant who maintains the computers on the first floor of the Undergrad.

Holman said that before the charges were installed, she collected hundreds of wasted printouts every day but now

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Julie Schlenker, a junior chemistry major, sent many pages to the printer before leaving the Venable Hall computer lab Monday afternoon.

## UNC Graduate Students Push for Tuition Break

The e-mail campaign says academic assistants should not pay tuition fees while working for the University.

By KEITH TAYLOR  
Staff Writer

University graduate students are merging new technology with old-fashioned lobbying to get the state legislature to eliminate tuition costs.

The Graduate and Professional Student Federation is in the midst of an e-mail lobbying campaign designed to convince the N.C. General Assembly's Budget Conference Committee to give a full tuition remission to teaching and research assistants in the UNC system.

The remission would mean that teaching and research assistants would not pay tuition fees while they work for the University, said Bryan Kennedy, GPSF president. The e-mail campaign began as an easy way for graduate students to show their support of the line-item budget proposal.

"I knew it was something graduate and professional students could take a few minutes to do, that it would be easy to do," Kennedy said.

This is the first time the student federation has tried lobbying through e-

mail, he said.

There are two different plans floating through the General Assembly.

The Senate proposal would provide \$8 million statewide to pay for graduate students' tuition. UNC would receive half that amount because the University has about half of the system's teaching and research assistants, Kennedy said.

He said the House voted to provide \$1 million for tuition, which will force the budget committee to determine the final amount.

If passed, the tuition cut would include this semester, he said.

N.C. Sen. Howard Lee, D-Orange, who helped create the budget proposal, said the tuition remission was extremely important for the UNC system.

"It's important we demonstrate a commitment to enhance our graduate schools," he said.

"Demonstrating this kind of support can at least let people know there is a broad interest in the matter," he said.

The GPSF and the executive branch of student government have been working together to lobby for support of the tuition remission, said Student Body Secretary Minesh Patel.

Patel said the campaign could make the University more attractive to potential graduate students.

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## INSIDE Tuesday

Griffith Joyner Dies

Olympic track star Florence Griffith Joyner died Monday at age 38 due to a heart-related illness. "Flojo" burst on the national track scene when she won three gold medals at the 1988 Summer Olympics. See Page 9.

Double Time

In an effort to increase security after last week's assault, the Orange County Board of Commissioners has assigned a second sheriff's deputy to patrol the Superior Courthouse in Hillsborough. See Page 5.

A Head Start

The Department of Psychology will start the University's first program based on the Carolina Computing Initiative. Set to start Nov. 2, the plan will include 121 new computers. See Page 2.

Today's Weather

Cloudy, scattered showers; Upper 80s  
Wednesday, Mostly sunny, Mid 70s.

*I don't like money actually, but it quiets my nerves.*

Joe Louis