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Drunk Driver Not at Fault In Death, Officials Report

District Attorney Carl Fox says the driver could not have avoided the accident that killed a UNC student.

By RUDY KLEUSTEUBER
Staff Writer

The driver of the car that struck and killed UNC junior Temple Charles Lee on Sunday will not face further charges, Orange-Chatham District Attorney Carl Fox said Wednesday.

Marcus Damion Hatrick, 26, of 2100 Mary Anne Drive, Charlotte, was driving south on Hillsborough Street when Lee ran across two empty lanes and hit the left fender of Hatrick's car. "There is nothing indicated by any testimonies of witnesses or the driver that the driver did anything to bring the accident on," Fox said. Hatrick was arrested at the scene and charged with driving while impaired. He had a blood alcohol content of .08 at the time of the accident.

Fox said Hatrick had no chance to

avoid the accident because Lee ran into the side of the car, adding that Hatrick was not at fault in the accident. "People have to look out for their own safety within reason," Fox said. "You have to be careful. Looking both ways before you cross the street is just as important now as it was 50 years ago."

Fox said Lee's drinking that night probably contributed to the accident. "The officer conferred with a number of witnesses as well as the driver of the automobile, and all the evidence is that the victim had been drinking a lot."

Toxicology reports on Lee's blood alcohol content will not be available for at least a week, said Gloria Dean, an evidence technician at the Orange County Medical Examiner's office.

However, Fox said Lee's alcohol consumption had very little to do with the district attorney office's decision not to press further charges. "The operator of a motor vehicle doesn't have the responsibility of trying to prevent you from running into the side of his car," he said.

"There has to be approximate causation between the impaired driver's

actions and the victim's death."

Lee was the only one of the group of pedestrians who did not see the car coming, Fox said. "His running into the car is at least, if not more, responsible for his death than the fact that the driver was driving while impaired."

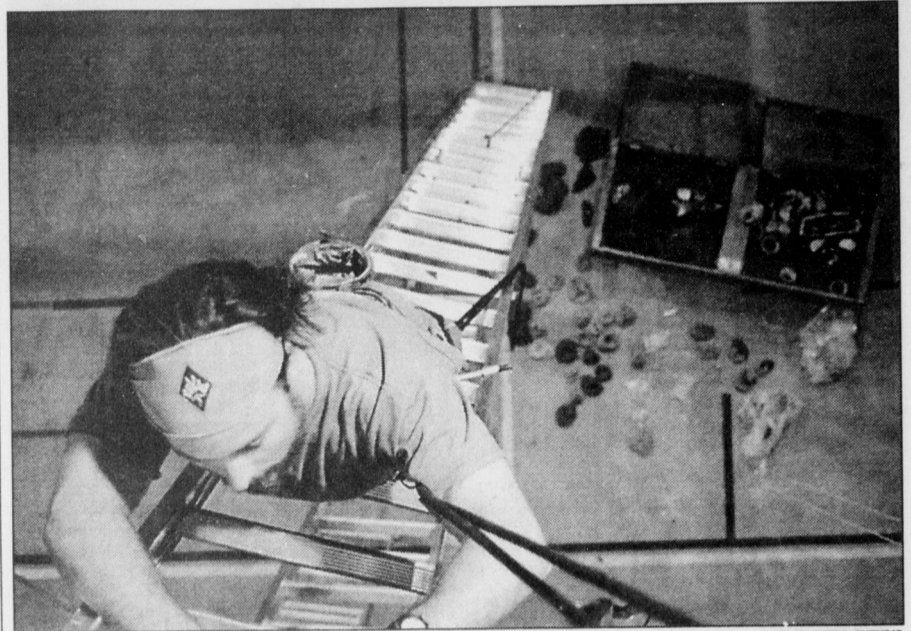
Although Hatrick was traveling at 10 miles over the speed limit at the time of the accident, Fox said speed did not constitute hazardous driving by Hatrick. "In fact, if the car had been going slower, the victim might have been struck by the front of the car," Fox said.

Jane Cousins, Chapel Hill police spokeswoman, said Hatrick had very little time to avoid the accident. "My understanding is that the whole incident took place within seconds," she said.

From his home in Charlotte, Hatrick said he deeply regretted the incident. "My heart goes out to the family. I am truly sorry that this happened. I encourage people to think before they drink — on both sides of the story."

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JUST HANGING AROUND



DTH/JENNIFER GUTHRIE

Mike Lyons, 33, creates handholds for new climbing roots at the indoor wall ropes course in Fetzer Gym on Wednesday. Lyons is the Director of Carolina Adventures Outdoor Education Center and was responsible for establishing the indoor wall ropes course four years ago.

Close Races, Crucial Issues Prompt People to Vote

County results statewide indicate a rise in voter participation from the last off-year elections in 1994.

By HOLLY NEAL
Staff Writer

The hotly contested nature of many of Tuesday's elections and the parties' efforts to get people to the polls contributed to higher voter turnout than expected.

Although the state Board of Elections would not release any numbers concerning voter turnout, 42.4 percent of those registered in Orange County cast

their votes in the ballot box, said Carolyn Thomas, director of elections for Orange County.

"I think the U.S. Senate race and the 4th congressional District race had a lot to do with (voter turnout)," she said.

Teresa Davis, director of elections for Johnston County, also said voter turnout was high with 47.5 percent of registered voters in the county going to the polls.

These numbers indicate a rise in voter turnout from the last non-presidential elections in 1994. Barely 40 percent of registered voters in North



Carolina participated in that election.

"We had a couple of races that were very hot," Davis said. "The candidates really got out this year, and they got voters to participate."

Michelle Wyatt, director of voter registration for the state Board of Elections, gave similar reasons for the high voter turnout.

"Generally voter turnout is higher when the party and the candidates work hard to mobilize the voters," she said. "There were a lot of hot races, close races, and that usually draws voters out."

North Carolinians were not the only ones motivated to vote this election season. The number of black and Hispanic voters nationwide increased by 5 percent from 1994, and women outvoted

men by 12 percent, said Carolyn Jefferson Jenkins, president of the League of Women Voters.

Minorities received a signal that this was an election they should pay attention to, said Perry Hall, a professor in the Curriculum in African & Afro-American Studies. "There were suggestions that minorities might not show up," he said. "That helped alert them as well as the 'get-out-the-vote' campaign."

The issues discussed in campaigns this year were also a significant factor that led to a high voter turnout, some analysts said. "There were a number of issues connected to people's day-to-day lives," Jenkins said. "Education issues were No. 1 with most people."

Hall said minorities paid particular

attention to education issues, which they felt were overshadowed by President Clinton's impeachment proceedings.

"They wanted to send a message that they were concerned with providing education for their children rather than with the personal aspects of peoples' lives," he said.

Though voters in different areas of North Carolina said they had different motivations for voting, Wyatt said the high turnout on Election Day was evidence of the voters' commitment.

"It just showed that people knew who they wanted to vote for, and they were determined to do that."

The State & National Editors can be reached at stntdesk@unc.edu.

Legislators Pledge UNC Allegiance

Despite a changing of the guard in the state House, officials say the UNC system will remain a top priority.

By UMUR TUNCER
Staff Writer

Though changes are expected when the Democrats take control of the N.C. House in January, state legislators say the UNC system will remain high on the agenda.

After Tuesday's off-year elections, N.C. Democrats will now hold the majority in both houses of the N.C. General Assembly.

Republicans say they plan to maintain a strong voice, said Rep. Carolyn Russell, R-Wayne.

"What I think you will see will happen is the minority party ... will place a continued emphasis on what is important: infrastructure and continued com-

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Homecoming King, Queen: Voting for Royalty or Race?

Some students believe that race plays a large part in determining who the next Homecoming Court will be.

By AMY CAPPIELLO
Senior Writer

Homecoming is traditionally considered a time of unity as past Tar Heel generations return to campus to relive the memories of their college days with current students.

But at UNC, Homecoming doesn't just bring back alumni. With the race to elect a Mr. and Ms. UNC, Homecoming also renews a sense of racial politics that controls who ultimately wears the crown.

For the last nine years, UNC has chosen a black Homecoming queen, usually the candidate nominated by the Black Student Movement. Since the University began the Homecoming king tradition in 1996, both winners have also been BSM members.

And on a college campus where only 10 percent of the school's 24,000-member student body is black, having a black Homecoming queen represent the University does not always sit well with students and alumni.

"What I would offer is that at the center we are at a University where everyone gets in an uproar when a minority is crowned queen," BSM President Tamara Bailey says. "I'm looking at the whole Kenan Stadium, and 95 percent is not standing up in honor of the people we just crowned. Hardly anyone else (besides the black

population) is applauding the queen." In this age of political correctness, especially on UNC's campus, it's difficult to find students who will admit they are dissatisfied with the election of Homecoming queen.

But behind closed doors they can hear comments like, "She's not my Homecoming queen; she doesn't represent me," and "Why should I vote? The BSM candidate will win anyway," reverberating off the walls.

In the past, racial tension over the Homecoming queen election has led to vandalism, snubbing and shunning.

Melanie Sellers, the 1997 Homecoming queen who was nominated by the BSM, found it difficult to find volunteers for her service project — serving food in a homeless shelter — because students were upset she had been elected. The 1990 Homecoming queen, Laura Anderson, had racial remarks written on her car.

It is instances like these that both sadden and anger candidates who are competing for the Mr. and Ms. UNC titles.

"It makes me sad because I don't think that I should win because I'm white or that (BSM-nominated candidate) Janora (McDuffie) should win because she's black," Cori Ahrens, the Residence Hall Association-nominated Homecoming queen candidate, says. "I think it should be based on our charac-

ter, our service project and what we've done for the University."

In the past, the BSM has been accused of playing the numbers game, trying to manipulate the candidate pool to include only one black Homecoming queen candidate — the BSM nominee — to give black students one clear-cut choice come voting time. It's a charge BSM President Tamara Bailey strongly denies.

"It's never been the BSM voice to tell anyone else not to run another candidate," Bailey says.

But while the BSM denies any

"If less than 20 percent of people ... vote for president ... how can you expect people to vote for Homecoming?"

LESTER CRAFTON
Homecoming King Candidate

attempts at rigging the ballot, black, non-BSM-nominated Homecoming candidates have gotten the cold shoulder when they decided to run for the University's highest crown. In 1996, the inaugu-

ral year for Homecoming king, Jerry Bright competed for the honor of Mr. BSM. After losing to Eugene Purvis, Bright decided to compete for Homecoming king anyway, this time on the Alpha Phi Alpha ticket. He lost again.

"(His actions showed) he didn't care about the Mr. BSM title; he just wanted to be Mr. UNC," Student Body President Reyna Walters says. "(The BSM title) is not just something you can use for a stepping stone to something bigger and better. It's about respecting

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DTH FILE PHOTO

For the past nine years, students have elected a black Homecoming queen. Most have been nominated by the Black Student Movement.

Festivities to Feature Raffle, Tunes

By CHRIS HOSTETLER
Staff Writer

For students who ignored their alarm clocks early Saturday morning when the Carolina Athletic Association distributed UNC basketball tickets, the CAA will provide a second chance today.

As a part of today's Homecoming festivities, the CAA is sponsoring a raffle for students voting for Homecoming candidates. Prizes include UNC basketball tickets, movie passes, certificates to local restaurants and tickets to the

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After all there is but one race — humanity.

George Moore



INSIDE Thursday

Pop Quiz

This week, Diversions presents its annual Big Quiz, which will test all sorts of useless, trivial knowledge. Hell, it's better than listening to your professor, isn't it? So whip out your pen and see if you can handle the pressure. See Page 5.



Today's Weather

Partly cloudy,
Low 50s;
Friday: Mostly sunny,
Low 50s.