

The Daily Tar Heel

Monday, August 30, 1999
Volume 107, Issue 63

News/Features/Arts/Sports 962-0245
Business/Advertising 962-1163
Chapel Hill, North Carolina
© 1999 DTH Publishing Corp.
All rights reserved.

106 years of editorial freedom
Serving the students and the University
community since 1893

Dennis Digs Into Carolina Coast

By KATHLEEN HUNTER
Assistant State & National Editor

WILMINGTON — Hurricane Dennis, packing winds in excess of 105 miles per hour, threatened to slam into the N.C. coast with full force late Sunday night as it crept north from the Caribbean.

The Category Two storm forced the evacuation of the North Carolina and South Carolina coasts, moving North-Northeast at about 14 mph at 11 p.m. Sunday.

Meteorologists at the National Hurricane Center in Miami predicted the storm would move east into the Atlantic Ocean. The only questions for coastal residents hoping to be spared the brunt of the hurricane were how soon and how fast it would turn, said Bob Chartuk, a spokesman for the center.

The storm prompted Gov. Jim Hunt to declare a State of Emergency and a State of Disaster in North Carolina, allowing the state to fully respond to damage left in the hurricane's wake.

Wrightsville Beach and Carolina Beach completed mandatory evacua-

tions by 9 p.m. Sunday.

UNC-Wilmington's campus was also deserted by 3 p.m. Sunday with blockades barring its eight entrances, and UNC-W police standing guard at its front gate.

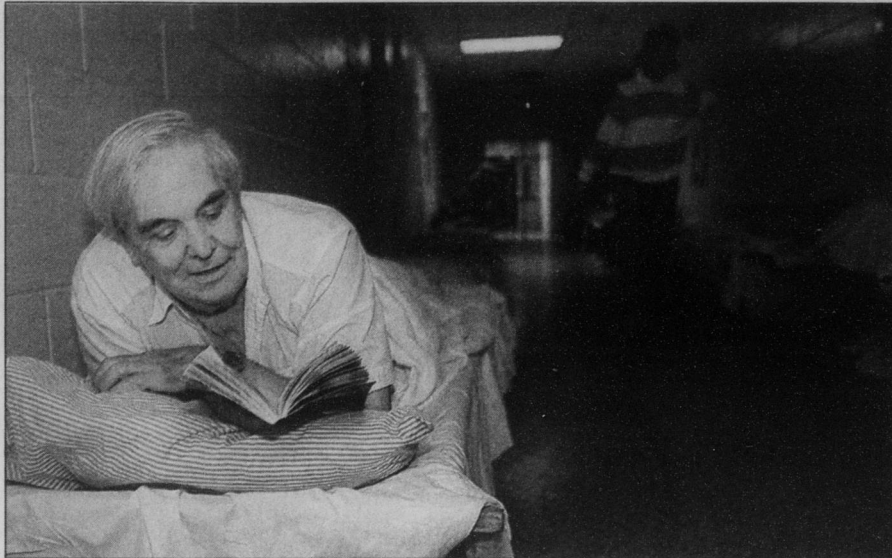
Officials throughout the town said the evacuation ran smoothly, as citizens were eager to avoid the path of the encroaching storm.

Ronnie Worley, a N.C. Highway Patrol officer based in Raleigh, said he was present to aid local officials with the evacuation of Wrightsville Beach.

Worley said the majority of residents near the shore had left already, but Highway Patrol officers were on the island to ensure the safety of those residents who had decided to stay in town. Randy Moreau, also of the N.C. Highway Patrol, said residents were busy Sunday preparing for the storm before evacuating.

Most were boarding up the windows, moving furniture off ground floors and getting water and other supplies in a central location in their house, he said.

See HURRICANE, Page 4



DTH/DAVID SANDLER

Gus Henderson, who has lived in Wilmington for six years, rides out Hurricane Dennis at Trask Middle School.

Police Find Weapon in Apartment

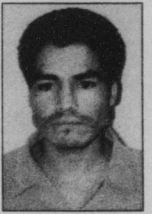
University Police searched the apartment of assault suspect Jesus Alvarez-Ramos and found a large knife.

By LAURA STOEHR
University Editor

University Police found a knife in a sexual assault suspect's apartment similar to the one reported missing by his employer and the one described by a victim as used in her attack.

Police searched the residence of Jesus Alvarez-Ramos, 23, of Apt. Q-12 Royal Park Apartments in Carrboro on Tuesday and found a 13 1/2-inch black-handled knife, according to a search warrant.

Later that afternoon, Alvarez-Ramos was arrested and charged with single counts of second-degree kidnapping, attempted second-degree rape and attempted first-degree rape for assaults on UNC students Aug. 15 and Aug. 17.



Suspect Jesus Alvarez-Ramos took a break from his job just before the time of one assault.

The warrant stated that Carolina Coffee Shop, located at 138 E. Franklin St., was missing a knife described by the owner to police as an 18-inch butcher knife whose blade was 14 inches long and 2 inches wide.

A female UNC student was attacked in the alley between Hanes Art Center and the restaurant Aug. 17, reports stated. She told police her attacker had carried a black-handled, kitchen-style knife with a blade about 14 inches long and 2 inches wide, according to the warrant.

Alvarez-Ramos was working at the shop that night and had taken a break shortly before the attempted assault, the warrant stated. He was not seen again until the officers arrived.

But Alvarez-Ramos' attorney, public defender James Williams, said his client was incorrectly identified by police. Williams would not elaborate on the details that led him to that conclusion.

Alvarez-Ramos' ability to speak English has been questioned throughout the case.

The victim of the first attack, which took place near Grimes Residence Hall, said the suspect had asked her and two friends for directions near the Old Well.

See KNIFE, Page 4

Residents to Weather Another

By CATE DOTY
Assistant State & National Editor

WILMINGTON — The coastal city resembled a stormy ghost town Sunday night as residents and students prepared for yet another hurricane by stocking up on beer and getting out of town.

But some UNC-Wilmington students chose to stay and ride the storm out, while others had no choice but to take refuge at area shelters.

"I've never been in a hurricane before," said Keith Isham, 21, a UNC-W

student from Kansas, as he nursed a cup of coffee on the makeshift smoking porch of Trask Middle School, a disaster shelter.

"I really had nowhere else to go. When the storm's over we're supposed to call some hotline or something."

Isham intended to wait out Hurricane Dennis in the Trask shelter with two college buddies, Damian Miknet and Curtis Austin.

The three described the campus they had just evacuated as desolate and somewhat creepy.

Families damp with Dennis' rain shuffled into the shelter, carrying blankets and coolers.

Sleepy children tightly clutching teddy bears held onto their parents' hands as they registered with the Red Cross officials in charge of the shelter.

Beth Justice, emergency maintenance supervisor for the American Red Cross, said about 80 people had taken refuge from the storm, and a steady stream of those seeking refuge had crowded the

See EVACUATION, Page 4



Dennis the Menace

Hurricane Dennis made its presence felt on the N.C. coast late Sunday night and early Monday, bearing down on Wilmington and the Outer Banks.

■ At press time, Dennis was listed as a Category 2 hurricane with winds of 105 mph and traveling North/Northeast at 14 mph.

■ Most of the coastal areas of North Carolina and South Carolina were evacuated Sunday evening.

■ The storm is expected to be blown back out to sea due to a jet stream flowing from Canada, probably reducing the damage to the N.C. coast.

SOURCE: THE NATIONAL WEATHER CENTER

DTH/MEGAN SHARKEY/DANA CRAIG AND SALEEM RISHAM/WWA

Keeping It 'Real' in Chapel Hill

MTV's "The Real World" and "Road Rules" cast hopefuls lined up at He's Not Here Sunday waiting for a shot at stardom.

By VERA KALE
Senior Writer

Some wore sneakers and T-shirts while others were decked out in the height of slacker fashion. A few even showed up in their Sunday best. However, the people crowded into He's Not Here on Sunday all had one thing in common: they want their MTV.

To be more specific, they want to land spots on MTV, and this single desire drew more than 700 18- to 24-year-olds to an open casting call for MTV's two top-rated shows, "The Real World" and "Road Rules."

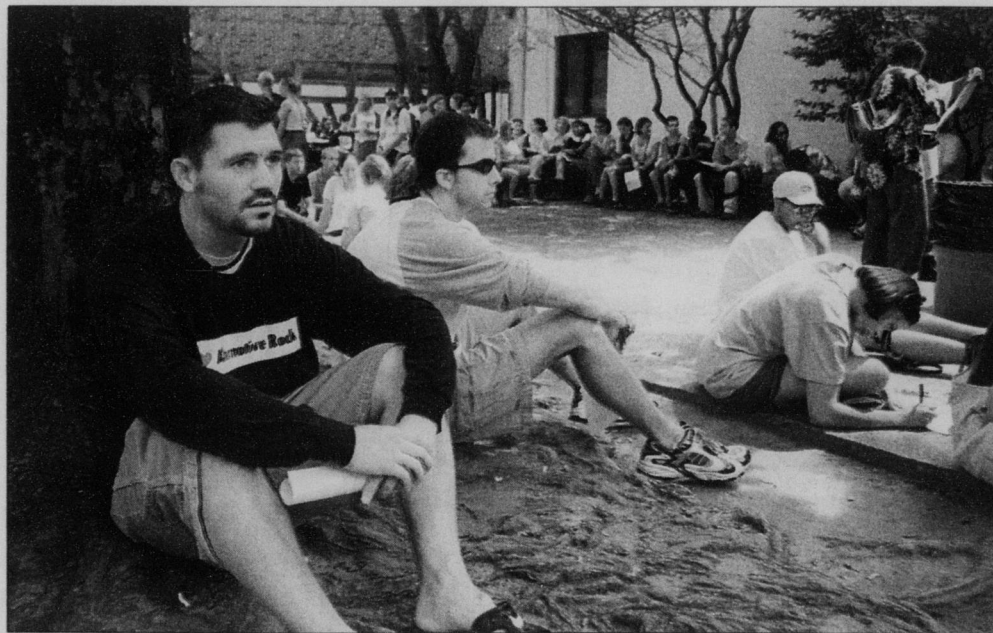
"I want to be on TV," said Claude Lumpkis, a 19-year-old N.C. Central University student. "I'm dying to be in front of the camera."

He was not alone. That sentiment was echoed by the many would-be TV personalities. But others said they came out just because they were bored.

"I didn't have anything else to do today," said Andy Neal, 24, from Greensboro, who said he had spent the last year and a half being lazy and thought it was time for a change of pace.

When participants arrived in the alleyway outside the bar, they filled out a one-page application to give interviewers a glance into their lives — their most embarrassing moment, relationship status and pet peeves.

See AUDITIONS, Page 4



DTH/GREG WOLF

UNC senior Matt McCullough waits in the courtyard of He's Not Here on Sunday afternoon. McCullough, along with nearly a thousand others, auditioned for a spot on MTV's "The Real World" or "Road Rules."

Directors Look for Diversity at MTV's Open Call

By LINDSEY ZUCKERMAN
Staff Writer

Chapel Hill hopefuls had a chance to convince casting directors Sunday that they had the spark to make it on "The Real World" and "Road Rules," but the MTV open call is only the first step to stardom.

Casting directors will sift through more than 35,000 applications before choosing the new casts for next season.

Over the next three weeks, five teams of casting directors will interview potential cast members in 20 cities that have a "diverse community heavily populated with our age demographic," Open-Call Coordinator Rob LaPlante said.

The promise of fame lured more than 700 Triangle residents to He's Not Here Sunday for the open call. MTV made Chapel Hill the first stop on its three-week casting tour because it wanted to target the southern market and because it has a high concentration of people

between the ages of 18 and 24, LaPlante said.

Even though Sunday marked MTV's first open call in Chapel Hill, two UNC students previously found their way onto "Road Rules," including junior Shawn Sealy.

Casting Director Kenny (casting directors keep their last names private to avoid "The Real World" wannabe stalkers) estimated that only 50 to 75 of those who auditioned Sunday would move on to the second level. Casting Director Luis explained the ideal candidate provided a

distinct point of view and a unique personality.

"I think I'm too ordinary," said Meredith Drye, a senior journalism major from Mooresville. "I saw more interesting people than me there."

Luis said potential cast members must not crumble when faced with challenge. They must stay true to themselves no matter what, he said.

Both LaPlante and Luis said a candidate must

See SELECTION, Page 4

INSIDE Monday

Reconstructing R.E.M.

In its Friday show at Walnut Creek Amphitheatre, R.E.M. resurrected old



tunes and gave new interpretations of songs off the album *Up*, giving fans an energetic concert full of energy. See Page 6.

Talk the Talk ...

Applications for the Student Feedback Board are due by Friday, Sept. 3. This is an opportunity to voice your opinions about DTH coverage. The deadline to reserve a space on the Association of Student Leaders, which is open to all campus organizations, and the Faculty Feedback Board is also Friday. More information is available in Suite 104 of the Student Union.

Today's Weather

Rain;
Low 80s.
Tuesday: Rain;
Low 80s.

Nature is not human-hearted.

Lao-Tzu