

The Daily Tar Heel

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

Wednesday, September 22, 1999
Volume 107, Issue 79

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

Death Toll From Flood Reaches 40

By LUCAS FENSKE
Staff Writer

Even though Hurricane Floyd ruined thousands of homes and billions of dollars of property, citizens are counting on community support to pull them through. Thousands are still homeless from the flooding brought on by the storm. Forty flood-related deaths have been confirmed, but

N.C. Farmers Fear Worst When Floods Subside
See Page 9

officials expect the number to rise. The eastern two-thirds of the state has been declared a federal disaster area, including Alamance, Bertie, Franklin, Pamlico, Person, Rowan and Wake counties. Tony Rogers, director of the Martin County Emergency Team, said estimating the damage was difficult because the storm affected so much of the county. "We've had some severe flooding," Rogers said. "Anywhere from 50 to 100 homes are uninhabitable, and another 500 will probably need a lot of repairs." He said Martin County was depen-

dent upon agriculture and expected to lose 50 percent of its crops. "We were already economically stressed from the tobacco cutbacks," Rogers said. "This will just make things worse. People here are community-based and that pulled us through." Rogers said Martin County was accepting evacuees from neighboring counties and sending them spare supplies. Tarboro received spare supplies from Martin County. Jean Pettaway, currently staying in the temporary shelter at Tarboro County

High School, said she and her husband were forced to evacuate their home. They were able to drive to the shelter, but the journey was harrowing, she said. "The water was coming in (the house) as we were going out," Pettaway said. "On the way to the shelter, we had to cross a bridge. Water was flowing over it and on the highway." Pettaway said she was thankful for making it to the shelter, but she did regret having to leave her home. "I'll miss the things that can't be replaced the most," she said. "I had a son, who's now lost to me, and he gave

me a desk he made while in high school. I'll probably never see that desk again." Phyllis Talbot, who is volunteering at the Tarboro shelter, said the majority of the evacuees were airlifted from the roofs of their homes. She said the shelter was housing about 3,000 people, even though Tarboro shelter was built for 900 students. Tarboro has a population of roughly 10,000. It was difficult to maintain a count, officials said, because as some people left others were arriving.

See DEATHS, Page 10

UNC Group New Niche For GLBTs

Some graduate gay and lesbian students say they often feel isolated from the rest of the University.

By KATE MACEK
Staff Writer

When Glenn Grossman came to UNC's graduate program last year, he was expecting more resources for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender students.

A few groups already existed within certain schools, but Grossman and fellow graduate student Frederick Isasi thought something more extensive was needed.

They created Carolina Alternative Meetings of Professional and Graduate Students, to serve the graduate and professional communities.

"Most other universities have programs (for GLBT students)," said Grossman, CAMP co-chairman. "I was surprised to come down here and find there wasn't one."

"We realized a program was needed for graduate and professional students that covered the entire campus."

Graduate students often feel more separated from their communities than undergraduates, but this is especially true for GLBTs, Grossman said.

"Graduate students tend not to interact with students from other schools. This presents another set of barriers (for GLBT students)," he said.

"There might not be any other gay or lesbian students in your department or there might be only one or two."

Dental student Deb Conner has felt this kind of isolation.

"I'm so buried in the bowels of Tarrson Hall that I never see the light of day," Conner said. "There's no way, unless your 'gaydar' is completely in tune, that you can tell just by looking at somebody (that they are gay). It's just so tremendously helpful to have that ready-made support group."

CAMP aids the GLBT community in finding available resources and services, Grossman said. It also helps create a safe environment, encourages communication and organizes events.

"(We aim to) build bridges between GLBTs and the rest of the community," Grossman said. About 160 people currently belong to the organization, and monthly social receptions draw an average of 45 people, Grossman said.

They have held movie nights and

See GLBT, Page 10



The Rev. Mary Gooding, mother of convicted murderer Harvey Lee Green, and Frank Ballance, D-Gates, discuss the clemency hearing they attended with Gov. Jim Hunt. Although Hunt was noncommittal, supporters of Green remain hopeful.

Laws of LIFE

Green, Supporters Make Final Push To Halt Execution

By KRISTIAN KORDULA
Staff Writer

RALEIGH - After a hearing with death row inmate Harvey Lee Green's trial lawyers and anti-death penalty activists Tuesday, Gov. Jim Hunt remained noncommittal in granting clemency.

An exhausted-looking Hunt refused to comment on the day's proceedings after the hearing. The families of Green's victims and state attorneys also met with Hunt on Tuesday but were unavailable for comment.

Stephen Dear, executive director of People of Faith Against the Death Penalty, voiced his frustration at a press conference outside the state Capitol Building after the hearing.

"It's discouraging. We are hopeful that Governor Hunt will do the right thing," Dear said. "There are so many reasons to grant clemency. The racism, his repentance, an unfair judicial process and other issues we've raised."

At a pre-hearing press conference, religious leaders focused on what they feel is the immorality of the death penalty. Diane Corlett, rector of the Episcopal Church of the Nativity in Raleigh, said the death penalty was not an acceptable form of punishment.

"It is not our right to take a life," Corlett said. "We don't wish to participate silently in his execution." Green is scheduled to be executed at 2 a.m. Friday for the November 1983 clubbing of church organist John Michael Edmondson and 17-year-old clerk Sheila Marlene Bland, both during an attempted robbery.

Dear said racial prejudices played a major part in Green's sentencing.

"This case was infected with racism," Dear said. "In 1983, there were over 500 homicides in the state."

But the death penalty was only imposed in Green's case that year, Dear said. He said the jury, which consisted of 11 whites and only one black, was biased against Green, who is black.

Some supporters feel that Greene, after 15 years on death row, is genuinely remorseful and has been rehabilitated.

"He has changed as a human being," Corlett said. "He is not the same man. When you give the death penalty, you are saying that people can't change."

Green's mother, Rev. Mary Gooding of an AME Zion Church in Jones County, was present at the hearing. One of her four children, Green's sister Brenda Sims, was also in attendance.

See CLEMENCY, Page 10

Appeals Prolong Death Row Wait

By WILL AIKEN
Staff Writer

Harvey Lee Green, the convicted murderer scheduled to die early Friday morning, has been on death row for 15 years.

For many North Carolinians, the road to his execution has been far too long. The state's average condemned inmate sits on death row for 8 1/2 years, said Patty McQuillan, director of public information for the N.C. Department of Correction.

Under current state law, the death penalty is only a form of punishment for people guilty of first-degree murder.

When the U.S. Supreme Court abolished the death penalty in 1976, it applied to a variety of crimes.

In 1978, North Carolina adopted the current first-degree murder criteria. The revised law met constitutional standards, and 12 people have been executed since 1984. Lethal injection is the only form of execution allowed by the state.

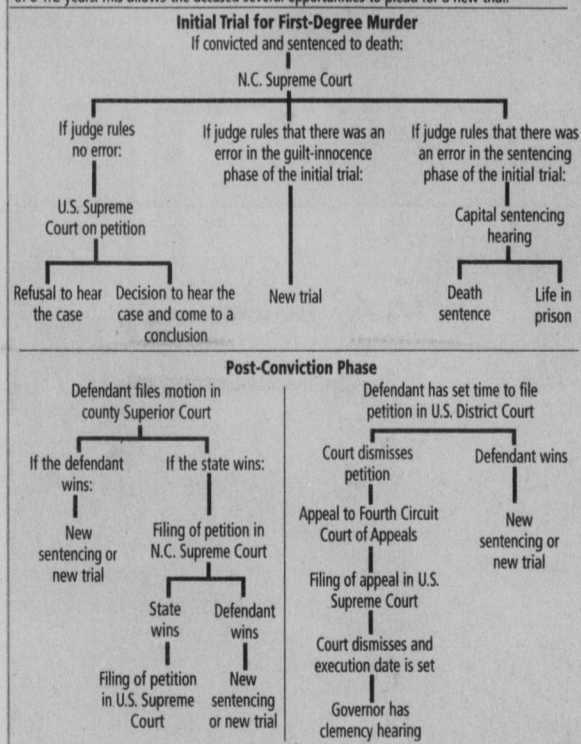
But critics claim the low number of executions carried out by the state indicates the inefficiencies of the process.

"In North Carolina, we really don't have a death penalty," said Rep. Larry Justus, R-Henderson. He complained that he could count on his hands the number of people executed during his 15-year tenure in the N.C. House.

See LAWS, Page 10

How the System Works

A death sentence in North Carolina is followed by an appeals process that lasts an average of 8 1/2 years. This allows the accused several opportunities to plead for a new trial.



SOURCE: N.C. SUPREME COURT

DTH/ DANA CRAIG

CAA Officials to Accentuate Academics in Elections

By GEOFF WESSEL
Staff Writer

Students will no longer have the only voice in the traditional Mr. and Ms. UNC elections during Homecoming.

In efforts to make the contest more academic, the Carolina Athletic Association has instituted a faculty

review board, whose recommendations will count for 25 percent of the selection process.

Student elections will count for 75 percent of the decision, rather than being the entire process as in the past.

The review board along with several other changes, such as the setting of a 2.8 minimum GPA, are intended to give

academics a more important role in the contest.

The application process for Mr. and Ms. UNC this year will be different in many ways from the one used to choose the Homecoming king and queen in years past.

"There was a definite room for improvement in the process of the past,"

said CAA president Tee Pruitt.

"It was a goal of this year's (CAA) Cabinet to take a step back and look at ways we could make this process a more efficient and fair system for those involved."

The decision to take a closer look at the Homecoming Court process was prompted in part by a great deal of con-

troversy that surrounded last year's elections.

Pruitt said because the selection procedures were unclear, some students took actions which were considered to be unethical.

In one case, e-mails circulated urging

See HOMECOMING, Page 10

INSIDE Wednesday

Dealing With Disaster

Though Hurricane Floyd caused little damage to Chapel Hill, the storm ravaged other parts of the state. The Daily Tar Heel wants to hear from any UNC students with family or friends in eastern North Carolina who are struggling to recoup after the storm. Contact Editor Rob Nelson at 962-4086 or at rnelson@email.unc.edu.

Uncovering UNC

Applications for the Joanna Howell Fund, which honors the memory of a DTH editorial writer who died in the 1996 Phi Gamma Delta fraternity fire, will be available at the DTH front desk in Suite 104 of the Student Union and are due by Oct. 4.

The fund provides \$250 for a student to write an in-depth article about an issue affecting the University community. Issues explored in the past include recycling and race relations on campus. The article will be published in the DTH in November.

Today's Weather

Sunny;
High 60s.
Thursday: Sunny;
Low 70s.

Nobody is poor unless he stands in need of justice.

Lactantius