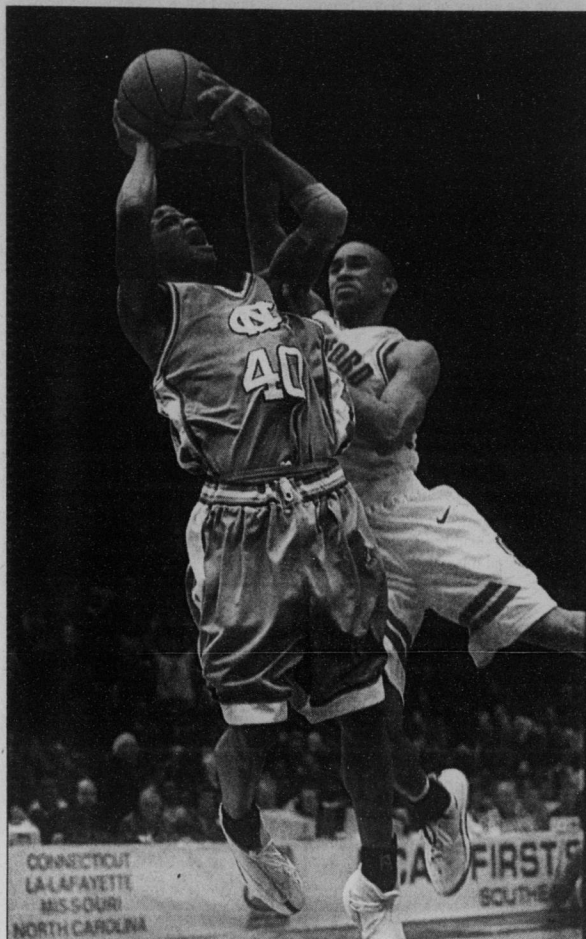


EN 'GUARD'



DTH/MILLER PEARSALL

Stanford guard Michael McDonald attempts to block a shot by UNC's Joseph Forte in the second half of the Tar Heels' 60-53 win. Forte finished the game with 17 points including two clutch 3-pointers that helped secure the victory. See story Page 7.

# Assault Prompts Stricter Screenings

By ERICA COLEMAN  
Staff Writer

An assault on a Chapel Hill High School student by a temporary cafeteria employee has prompted school officials to examine the process for screening potential workers.

David Paul Merritt, 19, of Durham, was arrested and charged with simple assault on an alleged attack on a 14-year-old female student. The attack occurred March 9 in a cafeteria restroom at the high school, police reports state.

Steve Scroggs, superintendent of support services for Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools, said school officials must try to find out how this incident was able to occur. "We need to reexamine our

steps," he said.

"We need to look at the temp agency, how they screen temp employees, and we need to make sure they are up to our standards."

Merritt was hired by Labor Force Temporaries, a Durham temporary agency, which does criminal background checks of all applicants.

He was identified by the student as the man who followed her into the cafeteria bathroom and attacked her, Scroggs said.

Chapel Hill police Lt. Tim Pressley said anybody could buy their own criminal history from the Chapel Hill Police Department to give to businesses when applying for a job.

However, he said, only crimes committed within the city limits of Chapel

Hill would be on the record that the department released.

"For example, someone could have shoplifted in Carrboro and then come over here and bought a clean record to give to their employer," he said.

Pressley also said it is not required for police departments to report records to the FBI for misdemeanors.

He said this could mean that misdemeanors would not be on a person's record at all.

Scroggs said the next move was for district officials to find out how the incident was allowed to occur and then to discuss with employees ways to prevent such incidents from happening in the future.

"We are just at the looking-in stage," he said. "I will meet with the adminis-

trators and with human resources. Then we will take it to the employees."

CHHS Assistant Principal John Birkholz, to whom the victim first reported the incident, said he was satisfied with the way the administration handled the incident.

He said the faculty had practiced quick and safe reactions to emergencies by following the N.C. Safe Schools Program, which Birkholz called "the Bible of what to do in a crisis."

"The rapid response to this incident shows that we have put a lot into our Safe Schools program," he said. "We had the whole situation handled in a couple of hours."

The City Editor can be reached at citydesk@unc.edu.

# Wake Forest Fumes Over Holocaust Ad

By ALEX KAPLUN  
Staff Writer

Minority groups at Wake Forest University have spoken out against an advertisement the campus newspaper ran recently denouncing the Holocaust.

Last Thursday, WFU's student newspaper, the Old Gold and Black, included a 28-page insert titled "The Revisionist."

The pamphlet has also run in the college newspapers at Hofstra University, Boise State University and Valdosta State University.

According to an Associated Press article, part of the pamphlet claimed significantly fewer Jews were killed in the Holocaust than the historically accepted number of 6 million.

Julie Eling, president of Wake Forest

University Hillel, a Jewish student group, said her organization was only in the initial stage of response to the article.

Eling said it was unfair for the pamphlet to be published and not give other groups an opportunity to respond. "We're forced to take a responsive stand instead of a proactive one," she said.

She added that various organizations had hosted forums on campus, and a petition demanding an apology from the paper had been circulating.

Bradley Smith, the publisher of the pamphlet and president of the Committee for Open Debate on the Holocaust, was quoted in the AP article as saying that "the idea that there was a state program for the mass murder of all European Jews on the basis of the evidence is stupid. The pamphlet also claimed gas chambers were not used in

concentration camps.

Smith, responding to questions via e-mail, wrote that his goal was not to offend people but merely to spark debate on the Holocaust.

But Smith wrote that he anticipated school newspapers would be criticized for running "The Revisionist."

Smith's e-mail also said opponents of the pamphlet had little factual evidence and were simply trying to suppress discussion about the Holocaust.

"(Opposition to 'The Revisionist') is forwarded by those who do not want to see an open debate on the Holocaust because they are afraid they have something to lose," he wrote.

Laura O'Conner, Old Gold and Black business manager, said the opinions in the pamphlet did not express the opinion of the newspaper or its staff.

O'Conner said that while she anticipated some negative response from the student body, the public outcry had exceeded her expectations. She said the Jewish and gay and lesbian groups on campus had led most of the protest against the pamphlet.

"I knew there was going to be controversy, but I didn't expect this much controversy," she said.

But Eling said in some way, everything published by the Old Gold and Black represented the newspaper. "There are many people here who feel the Old Gold and Black is responsible for appearing to endorse those beliefs."

The Associated Press contributed to this article. The State and National Editor can be reached at stntdesk@unc.edu.

# N.C. Schools Find New Ways to Cope With Influx of Foreign Students

By GAVIN OFF  
Staff Writer

While the number of non-English speaking students continues to grow throughout the state, N.C. schools are hiring more language teachers and implementing new programs to help children learn English.

Statistics show the number of non-English speaking people immigrating to the United States rising each year. The N.C. Department of Public Instruction recently reported that the number of stu-

dents with limited English proficiency rose to 37,251 in 1999, an increase of nearly 8,500 from the previous year.

Limited English proficiency exists when children need assistance with the standard school curriculum because English was not their first language.

Fran Hock, head of the DPI's English as a Second Language program, said it was important to hire new teachers to aid students who did not speak English and retrain old teachers who could help adapt curriculum to the students' needs. She said teachers were encouraged to

use pictures, simple language and body language to convey messages to the children. She also said classmates were asked to help children from other countries feel welcome in school.

"We also talk about the importance of having the other kids in school help the students adjust, particularly with peer tutoring," she said.

Hock also said both the elementary schools and universities were responsible for promoting foreign language teachers.

"Local school districts have to recruit

teachers and make (teaching English as a second language) more attractive to them," Hock said.

Audrey Heining-Boynton, an education and romance languages professor at UNC, said the University had taken steps to educate teachers about the skills needed to teach English as a second language.

Heining-Boynton said UNC provided two full-tuition U.S. Department of Education grants for teachers who returned to school to learn methods of teaching English as a second language.

"In North Carolina we don't have bilingual education," she said. "We're interested in increasing the level of competency in English."

Frank Dominguez, chairman of UNC's Department of Romance Languages, said that while the department did not concentrate on molding future public school teachers, it helped the community in other ways.

"We do have students working with immigrant workers," Dominguez said. "We have students doing translation work, too. We also have students

involved with the (language barrier during) the Special Olympics."

Despite the difficulty involved with teaching English to young children, Heining-Boynton said she was optimistic about the future of the programs.

"I think (teaching English as a second language) is already attractive," she said. "People are interested in helping and becoming involved in working with these students."

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

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