

# UNC Alumnus Honors Kuralt's Legacy

By BROOKE ROSEMAN  
Staff Writer

After one famous Tar Heel alumnus died in 1997, another Tar Heel graduate decided to eternalize him in the pages of a new book.

Ralph Grizzle, a 1990 graduate of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, will soon release his new book, "Remembering Charles Kuralt," in celebration of the well-loved broadcaster's life.

"This is not hero worship or anything on my part; I just have a great admiration for him," Grizzle said.

The book, which will roll off presses at the end of next week, is a collection of nearly 100 interviews with friends, family and colleagues of Kuralt.

Grizzle will be signing his book April 6 at Bull's Head Bookshop.

"The book starts in North Carolina and ends in North Carolina because that's where he ultimately came home to," Grizzle said.

He met Kuralt in Lisbon, Portugal, in 1994 when he was a reporter covering Kuralt's keynote speech at the American Society of Travel Agents' Annual World Congress.

Grizzle interviewed Kuralt for an hour after his speech and told Kuralt about his cross-country bicycle trip before he began his college career. Grizzle said the tables turned when Kuralt ended up interviewing him.

"It was so in keeping with his character," he said. "I think he expressed great admiration for what people had done."

This meeting with Kuralt inspired Grizzle to volunteer with the Kuralt Collection archivists and a group of fundraisers after the broadcaster's death to col-

lect an oral history of Kuralt told by his friends, family and colleagues in 1998.

Grizzle said he had little difficulties contacting Kuralt's former acquaintances. "I started by opening his books, and I looked at people he mentioned. I actually used the Internet to find people and call them up," Grizzle said.

Grizzle said that throughout the interviewing process, he never encountered an enemy of Kuralt.

"I've never talked to anyone so universally loved. Everybody had such good things to say about him," Grizzle said.

Grizzle said many stories shared with him were fascinating glimpses into Kuralt's life.

"My favorite chapter is probably about his first girlfriend — and for a lot of different reasons," Grizzle said.

He said she had won first place in a sportswriting contest for boys, a contest

in which Kuralt finished second.

Grizzle said he also liked Kuralt's commemorative speech for the 40th anniversary of the Swinging Bridge at Grandfather Mountain in North Carolina's Appalachian Mountains.

The book's companion Web site contains information about Grizzle's book and information about Kuralt not contained in the book, and can be found at [www.rememberingcharleskuralt.com](http://www.rememberingcharleskuralt.com).

Grizzle said the ease and thoroughness with which Kuralt reported was reflected in the pages of his book.

"In one way this book sort of provides a link to the past and a sense of continuity," Grizzle said. "It's just a pleasant remembrance. It's a sweet book. He was a sweet person."

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## IN THE NEWS

### Md. Hostage Situation Grows Tensely Quiet

DUNDALK, Md. — Police entered a house where a murder suspect had been holding three hostages since Friday and all of the hostages were safe Tuesday night, police said.

"All of the hostages are safe. That is all the information I right now," police spokeswoman Vickie Warehime said. "Again, all of the hostages are safe."

The standoff began Friday when Joseph Palczynski allegedly forced his way into a home in a Baltimore suburb and took three people hostage, including the mother of his former girlfriend.

Palczynski is accused of kidnapping his ex-girlfriend, Tracy Whitehead, on March 7, killing four people over a two-day period and leading police on a manhunt for more than a week.

The standoff is wearing down the patience of residents in the four-block area surrounding the home where Palczynski was holed up.

Police cordoned off the area but allowed some residents to leave the neighborhood Sunday.

One resident was arrested Monday while trying to sneak back into the area.

Others have found ways to reach their families without getting in trouble.

Using a police escort, one neighbor tossed plastic bags of groceries over a fence to his wife and two children trapped in their home.

### Fed Ups Interest Rates, Warns of High Inflation

WASHINGTON — Expressing concern that inflation could spoil the country's good economic times, the Federal Reserve on Tuesday nudged interest rates up for the fifth time since last June.

Wall Street took the increase in stride, but economists warned borrowers to expect even higher interest rates in the months ahead as the central bank keeps struggling to cool down the red-hot economy.

The Dow Jones industrial average, up by more than 100 points before the Fed action, soared higher following the mid-afternoon announcement, finishing the day up 227.10 points at 10,907.34.

As with the previous Federal Reserve increases, the nation's commercial banks, led by Bank of America and Wells Fargo, followed suit by boosting their prime lending rate, the benchmark for millions of consumer and business loans, by a quarter point to 9 percent, the highest level in five years.

While investors were relieved that the Fed stuck to a quarter-point increase instead of the half-point that some had feared, many economists detected growing worries about inflation in the agency's one-page announcement.

The central bank dropped past references to the fact that increased productivity has helped to keep prices in check and concentrated instead on potential inflation problems from the super-charged economy.

"Fed policy-makers clearly intimated that inflation risks are high and rising," said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Regional Financial Associates in West Chester, Pa.

"They are turning more hawkish and growing more fearful that the economy is getting away from them."

### Alleged Oscar Thief Maintains Innocence

LOS ANGELES — A trucking company employee pleaded innocent Tuesday to stealing 55 Oscar statuettes that later turned up in a trash bin.

Roadway Express employee Lawrence Edward Ledent, 38, charged with grand theft, was ordered held in lieu of \$20,000 bail.

His attorney, Jay Jaffe, said outside court that Ledent was "a dupe in this matter" and did not steal the Oscars. Jaffe said he believed that police thought there were at least five people involved in the theft.

Another Roadway Express employee arrested in the case, Anthony Keith Hart, 38, was not charged because there was insufficient evidence, said Sandi Gibbons, a district attorney spokeswoman.

The Oscars were manufactured by a Chicago company at a cost of about \$18,000 and were shipped on March 3. They arrived at Roadway Express' warehouse in Bell, Calif., on March 8 and then disappeared.

Fifty-two of the gold-plated statuettes were recovered last weekend by a man who was scavenging in a trash bin. Whereabouts of the other three Oscars remained unknown Tuesday, but there were plenty of statuettes available for Sunday's ceremony.

### Mich. Shooter's Mother Faces Neglect Charges

FLINT, Mich. — A woman accused of leaving her 6-year-old son in a "flop-house" where police say he got a gun used to kill a classmate will stand trial on a child neglect charge, a judge ruled Tuesday.

Tamarla Owens, 29, asked for a non-jury trial, which will determine if she will regain custody of the boy, her 8-year-old son and 5-year-old daughter.

The Family Independence Agency brought the neglect complaint and challenged her custody of the children after the Feb. 29 shooting of 6-year-old Kayla Rolland at Buell Elementary School.

Owens' sister was given temporary custody and will keep the three children until the trial, which was set for May 3. If the court is given jurisdiction, the agency could seek to terminate Owens' parental rights.

Prosecutor Arthur A. Busch wants the court to be able to direct evaluations and counseling for the boy.

"I think the serious matter here is helping this little boy and his little brother and sister. We were hoping the mother would work with us," Busch said after Tuesday's hearing. "They want their dirty laundry hung out there for all the public to see and we'll do that."

Owens and her husband, Dedic Owens, who is in jail on an unrelated probation violation, were charged with child neglect after the shooting. A date for him was not set because he is in jail.

The Family Independence Agency petition alleges that the mother allowed her sons to live in a "dangerous environment" by taking them to her brother's residence. Police have said the residence was used for drug dealing.

Jamelle James, who shared the house with Owens' brother, Sir Marcus Winfrey, has been charged with involuntary manslaughter in Kayla's death.

# India Rejects Clinton's Plea to Slow Arms Race

Associated Press

NEW DELHI, India — President Clinton won India's pledge Tuesday to pursue peaceful means of resolving tensions with Pakistan in the face of new bloodshed in Kashmir. "There is no threat of war," said Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

But India rejected Clinton's call to slow its nuclear weapons program.

The president was pressing his case for stronger U.S. ties with India in an address before a joint session of Parliament, his last appointment in the capital before heading into farther reaches of this vast land.

"We have neglected this relationship for more than two decades," Clinton said after talks with Vajpayee. "It is too important to ever fall into disrepair again." India aligned itself with the Soviet Union during the Cold War while the United States tilted toward Pakistan.

The president joined Vajpayee in denouncing the massacre of dozens of Sikhs in Kashmir and promised to press the point to Pakistani leaders — as he has to India — that violence is not the solution to their dispute over the Himalayan territory.

Although India is one of the poorest countries in the world, Clinton was not exposed to the gritty side of New Delhi.

Looking out from his armored limousine, he saw instead a city of tree-lined boulevards and lush gardens and fountains, gated mansions and colonial palaces. He also stopped to pay respects and drop rose petals at a marble memorial to Mohandas Gandhi, the revered pacifist and freedom leader.

Leaving New Delhi, Clinton begins three days of sightseeing. He will tour the Taj Mahal, go tiger watching in a game preserve and perhaps ride an elephant at a historic palace.

Vajpayee called the killing of 40 villagers in Kashmir an act of "ethnic cleansing" and said, "We have the means and the will to eliminate this

menace." India blamed the massacre on Pakistani-backed separatist organizations; those groups denied involvement.

Clinton said he would urge military-ruled Pakistan in his visit there Saturday to respect the line of control that separates the portions of Kashmir held by India and Pakistan, to show restraint and to "stand against violence, restore the dialogue."

Pakistan has asked the United States to try to help settle the Kashmir dispute but India has rejected outside mediation. In Islamabad, Pakistan Foreign Minister Abdul Sattar said he hoped Clinton could use his "healing touch" to find a peaceful resolution.

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