VIOLENCE From Page 3

The next day, two McDougle Middle School students were suspended for telling other students that there were bombs in the school.

Monday, April 17, 2000

But on May 20, 1999, exactly one month after the Columbine shooting. the threats of violence that had spread throughout the country's schools became a reality once again – this time at Heritage High School in Conyers, Ga.

Fifteen-year-old Thomas Solomon Jr. broke into his parents' locked gun cabinet and obtained a .22 caliber rifle and a .357 Magnum revolver. He snuck the weapons into Heritage by concealing them in the leg of his baggy blue jeans and in his book bag. Solomon entered

the school and opened fire in the com-But the tragedy did not end with the

On Aug. 10. 1999, Buford Furrow Ir. entered a Jewish day-care center in Granada Hills, Calif., shooting and wounding three children and two adults.

And when the school year resumed in the fall, the threats and shootings still

In December 1999, Columbine high school faced another scare and closed its doors two days early for the Christmas holiday when a Florida man sent a Columbine student an Internet message, threatening to finish the April massacre.

As one school violence episode after another made headlines, the public was shocked again - this time by the age of a school-vard assailant.

On March 29, the danger progressed from middle and high schools to an ele-mentary school in Mount Morris Township, Mich., when a first-grade boy brought a .32 caliber semiautomatic gun to school with him and shot his 6-yearold classmate, Kayla Rolland, point-blank in the chest.

And only a few days ago, on April 14, two 17-year-old boys from Summerville High School in Tuolumne, Calif., were arrested for planning an attack on their high school to kill students and teachers

on the Columbine shooting anniversary.

This string of events, along with the magnitude of public attention given to school violence after the rampage in Columbine, prompted many officials to ask themselves and the nation who was

responsible for these acts.
Some blame the media. Some blame

the government, calling for them to re ine gun-control laws. Others blame the parents, teachers and school

But officials from violence prevention groups said it was more important to focus on how to react to these incidents,

instead of trying to place blame.

Jane Grady, assistant director of the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence at the University of Colorado-Boulder, said that after the Columbine shooting, school authorities were anxious to put metal detectors and security guards in schools. But she added that these methods were not addressing the root of the school violence problem

"(The metal detectors and security guards) aren't going to change what's going on," Grady said. "These things are only serving the symptom.

Dr. Pam Riley, director of the Center for Prevention of School Violence at N.C. State University, said the answer lay in community involvement. "Most importantly, we need to talk to students and get them involved in safe-school

can no longer be accepted."

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

From Page 3

ed to get our agenda on the minds of

ASG delegates."
Payne said his agenda included making ASG more issue-oriented. Gardner said many of Payne's outreach ideas would be incorporated into Webster's agenda.

Outgoing ASG President Jeff Nieman hailed Webster as a leader, cit-ing his experience as a student representative and his administrative

"Aside from the platform, if you just look at the man, he's got it."

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LANDFILL From Page 3

today's transfer to take place

"Issues of how to handle that particular asset have (now) been resolved," he

said. "It's all systems go."
Chapel Hill Town Council member Kevin Foy said the decision was part of a long negotiation between all the involved parties.

"It's been about a 10-year process," he said. "Everyone is very pleased with how smoothly the process has gone so far."

Foy also said landfill users would not be greatly affected by the change.

Things have been well-planned," said. "The change should be pretty

Wilson expressed similar expecta-

tions for the impact of the switch on the

county government.
According to Wilson, the landfill has its own annual budget of \$6 million as part of an enterprise fund and will not add any burden to the county govern-ment. "I don't think it will affect county government," he said. "It's a unique operation.'

Wilson also said the transition was going smoothly for landfill employees, despite initial concerns over different

benefits and compensation packages.

"There has been some anxiety," he said. "All in all, we've worked through most of the issues."

Waldorf also commented on the changes for the landfill employees as a result of the switch. "The main matter is that the employees who run the landfill system will become county officials," she said. "But their day-to-day operations will be the same.

Waldorf also added the Town Council was relieved that the negotiations were complete.

"We won't have to deal with solid waste issues anymore," she said. "I'm

All Natural

AGJERRY

sure the county commissioners will do a

great job." Carrboro Alderman Jacquelyn Gist said she felt a similar sense of relief, though she did not view the changeover in such a positive light.

"We're all exhausted," she said. "Nobody is 100 percent happy. This is the best solution that well-thinking people of integrity have been able to come up with. Until we as a society are able to reduce, reuse and recycle - trash exists.'

However, Gist said she thought concentrating the landfill under the man agement of a single party rather than the separate bodies of Chapel Hill, Carrboro and Hillsborough would better equip the site to deal with waste management issues. "There's nothing harder than a landfill," she said. "All issues come to a head."

Wilson summed up the sentiments of finally coming to a conclusion about the issue. "It's been nice working for Chapel Hill," he said. "But that's history.

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inning - they are the ones who are in that environment on a day-to-day basis."

But with the one-year mark of the

But with the one-year mark of the Columbine shooting approaching, the country is still looking for answers about how to squelch this deadly trend.

Riley said it was important to realize that the seemingly random shootings and rampages of the last year could not be viewed simply as isolated incidents.

"The 'it can't happen here' mentality can no longer be accepted."

PROJECT UNC From Page 3

mud and several wore oversized leather work gloves after a day of painting, filling deep trenches with dirt and replac-ing the wood chips that lined the floors

of the animal cages. But even with shoes caked with mud and dirt, Cheshire admitted that the service project was a fun way to spend a

"The cool thing about Project UNC is that it put me in contact with a group

I never knew existed," Cheshire said.
Junior Dee Byers joined Project
UNC with several of her sorority sisters. Byers' project was to help the Orange County Women's Center with

gardening and general housekeeping.
"With the enthusiasm we have, we'll have a good time and help people in the process," she predicted early Saturday

Byers' prediction rang true, as was evident in the broad smile on her face after a day of pulling weeds and washing windows.

"It was great," she said. "It gave me a chance to see Carolina students pull together for a common cause, and it showed that students really care.

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GROUNDBREAKING

dent groups as well as lounges, snack bars and computer rooms.

"We spend more time here than we do in our apartments or dorm rooms,

Sacks said "Ten thousand students walk through

(here) every day."

But the construction will present

roadblocks for students' daily traffic patterns, so plans have been made to detour them around frequently walked

Once the construction is finished on the addition is completed a year from now, student offices will be temporarily moved into the new section while waiting for the old part of the Union to be renovated.

Although some students had been working on the project since its incep-tion, they said they did not feel the groundbreaking signified the conclusion of their plans and vision.

"Once things are in the ground and become an inconvenience, then it will feel like something's happening," said Tommy Koonce, Union president from 1995-1996.

"And we will be challenged to fill it with the creativity and energy of (the existing Union)."

Calling the Union the "living room of the University," Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Sue Kitchen stressed that it was the one place on campus that belonged solely to students.

Kitchen said students had voted overwhelmingly in favor of increasing student fees to fund the expansion in a spring 1998 referendum.

She emphasized the Union's tradition of nurturing student leadership, and pointed out that its namesake, Franklin Porter Graham, had been an accomplished student leader himself during his time at UNC.

Koonce summed up the leaders' hopes in the future Union by quoting Graham's epitaph: "We had faith in our youth, and they responded with their

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