

Smokin' Out
Students "die" for
cause. See Page 3



35,123
That's the magic number for men's
basketball ticket distribution.
The range is 34,001 to 39,721.



Weekend
Today: Cloudy, 49
Saturday: Clear, 47
Sunday: Rain, 49

The Daily Tar Heel

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Friday, November 17, 2000

Fla. Court Makes Ambiguous Recount Ruling

The Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Florida's high court gave the go-ahead Thursday to ballot recounts in the state's chaotic presidential election but left unanswered the question of whether the results will matter.

"There is no legal impediment to the recounts continuing," the court said in a case brought by Palm Beach County. Within minutes, county officials announced they would join adjacent Broward County in reviewing hundreds

of thousands of ballots by hand.

The Palm Beach count began Thursday evening. A state judge was to decide as early as Friday whether to overturn the Republican secretary of state's decision to reject any further recount totals from Democratic-controlled counties.

In the overtime campaign between Bush and Al Gore, the ruling was a victory for the vice president, who had pressed for manual recounts in four counties in hopes of overturning the Texas governor's 300-vote lead. About

2,600 overseas absentee ballots remain to be counted, but so far there is no dispute about them.

"The Supreme Court's clear and unambiguous ruling that the counties are authorized to proceed with a manual recount is a victory for everyone who wants to see the votes counted clearly and fairly here in Florida," Gore campaign chairman William Daley said.

Republicans called the decision minor. "The one-paragraph, interim order of the Florida Supreme Court has just been presented to you as the best

thing since night baseball," said Bush's recount manager, former Secretary of State James A. Baker III. He said, in fact, the order "does nothing more than preserve the status quo."

Bush running mate Dick Cheney said the state's official count and recount showed Bush was the winner — with the overseas absentees still to come — and barring any change he expected Secretary of State Katherine Harris to declare Bush the winner on Saturday.

Cheney said in an interview with Fox News Channel that recounts by hand do

not give a more accurate result. "It is no longer really counting, it is manipulation."

The seven-member Florida court, all chosen by Democratic governors, issued its unanimous, one-paragraph order as Bush lawyers looked to a federal appeals court in Atlanta to halt the recounts.

One of the four counties, Volusia, completed its new tally in time to meet a 5 p.m. Tuesday deadline established by Harris. She has said the state will not include any of the post-Tuesday recount figures in its official tabulation, which she intends to announce Saturday.



A decision concerning the Florida recount could give Republican **George W. Bush** or Democrat **Al Gore** a win in the state as early as Saturday.

In the Wake

By GINNY SCIABBARRASI
City Editor

It all began in the early 1970s, when energy giant Carolina Power & Light Co. decided it wanted a nuclear power plant in Wake County.

When the plans were unveiled, a group of residents joined together and formed Citizens Against Shearon Harris to protest the opening of the nuclear power plant.

Allen Spalt, a member of the Carrboro Board of Aldermen, said he recalls a Chatham County

Commissioners meeting where the vote to rezone, which would allow the plant's creation, went against CP&L.

"The commissioners came out; people were cheering the decision; it was remarkable," he said.

But a vote the following week reversed the decision, construction began in 1978 and Shearon Harris went into operation 11 years later.

"The Shearon Harris complex came out of a pro-nuclear mentality — it was planned at a time when concerns for safety were much less and the cost was much less," Spalt said.

Now the company wants to expand its nuclear waste storage capacity, and those who fought the plant's opening have once again joined the fray.

"Since we didn't want (the Shearon Harris plant) to begin with, we certainly don't want it to expand," said Sen. Ellie Kinnaird, D-Orange.

CP&L wants to open two more existing cooling pools at the site for storage of spent fuel, thus making it the largest storage for nuclear waste in the country.

"The capacity of radioactive material

See ACTIVISTS, Page 2

nuclear
reaction

Today: The People

A three-part series probing the controversial proposal to make Wake County's Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant the largest nuclear waste repository in the country.



DTH FILE PHOTO

Mark Marcoplos of N.C. WARN carries the state flag in a protest march at the CP&L building in Raleigh.

Plant Neighbors Eye Expansion With Caution, Concern



DTH/MILLER PEARSALL

Woodrow Goodwin of New Hill fears that the potential Shearon Harris plant expansion might take over part of his land. Goodwin was born and raised on his farm since 1933.

By KELLIE DIXON
Assistant City Editor

With the possible on-site expansion of a nearby nuclear plant forthcoming, residents say they are less concerned with potential safety hazards than with the expansion itself.

The expansion would fulfill Carolina Power & Light Co.'s desire to open two existing cooling pools to store spent fuel, making the Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant home to the largest amount of nuclear waste in the country.

CP&L's plan would not entail physical expansion, at least for now, and many residents say they have learned to coexist with the plant.

But some, such as Woodrow Goodwin, say they are concerned about how their own property would survive if the plant began looking beyond its own boundaries. "I just hope they don't expand (the plant) because if they do, they might get me," he said.

Goodwin's farm, located at 4300 Shearon Harris Road, stretches across 190 acres. Born and raised in New Hill, he has farmed in the same area for 67 years. "Daddy bought the place in 1915,"

he said. "I've been down here 67 years and farmed (the land) all my life. I always milked cows and grew tobacco."

Goodwin said plant officials first approached him in 1970 when they initially thought more land would be needed for plant construction.

"They said they were going to (take my land) before now, but they run upside a bad stump when they hit me," he said. "I told him, 'You might take it, but I'm not going to sell it to you.'"

Beth Goodwin, Woodrow Goodwin's daughter-in-law who has lived in New Hill for seven years, said she was not concerned about expansion of the plant, as long as it was contained.

"I don't really have a problem with (the expansion) as long as they don't come across the new U.S. 1 and keep a buffer zone," she said.

But Beth Goodwin said there are signs the plant won't stay put for long.

Her home at 4232 Shearon Harris is only two miles from the plant itself, and with each day, more trees are being cut down, she said. "It's bad enough they've cut down these trees," she said. "You used

See RESIDENTS, Page 2

BOT Talks Of Growth, Tuition

Some UNC professional schools could see tuition increases as large as \$8,500 over the next four years.

By RACHEL CLARKE
AND STEPHANIE HORVATH
Staff Writers

Trustees approved tuition increases and discussed Master Plan blueprints at the Board of Trustees meetings Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning.

The BOT approved large tuition increases for five of UNC's professional schools Wednesday, and the matter will now be put before the Board of Governors, which will meet in January.

Chancellor James Moeser articulated the need for the increases to the board members at Thursday's meeting.

"Ultimately, the tuition increases will benefit the state of North Carolina by continuing to produce the quality professionals the state needs," Moeser said.

If they pass, the tuition increases will affect the Kenan-Flagler Business School, the School of Dentistry, the School of Law, the School of Medicine and the School of Pharmacy.

In-state increases would range from \$2,202 over three years for the pharmacy school to \$8,500 over four years for the business school.

Out-of-state increases would range from \$1,200 over three years for the pharmacy school to \$8,000 over four years for the business school.

The funds from the increases would go toward student financial assistance, faculty salaries and hiring new professors.

The trustees reconvened Thursday to discuss the Master Plan with architects and Chapel Hill neighbors. The BOT must approve the Master Plan before it can be made a reality.

While much of the meeting was spent

BOT, Page 2

Executions Lead Activist to Campaign

By DANIEL THIGPEN
Staff Writer

Capital punishment made Robert Meeropol an orphan at the age of 6.

And in his lecture "Fatally Flawed: The Death Penalty From the Rosenbergs to Mumia Abu-Jamal," Meeropol was able to offer a deeply personal perspective to the ongoing debate over the death penalty.

Meeropol's parents, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, were convicted in 1951 and executed in 1953, during the height of anti-communist sentiments in the United States, for charges of espionage and attempting to transmit the secrets behind the atomic bomb to the Soviet Union.

Meeropol has spent the last three decades as an anti-capital punishment activist. His speech focused on drawing parallels to the execution of his parents to the case of Philadelphia journalist Mumia Abu-Jamal, who faces the death penalty for the murder of a police officer.

Senior John Johnson, who coordinated the event with the Campaign to End the Death Penalty, said he hoped Meeropol's words would encourage students to unite for an end to capital punishment. "We like to have people who can tell personal stories and motivate people to get involved here," he said.

Johnson said Meeropol and his brother are the only people in the United States to have both of their parents executed by the government. "The lecture

puts a human face on the death penalty, one you don't often see," he said.

Meeropol vehemently expressed his opposition to capital punishment and made strong ties between his parents' situation and Abu-Jamal's. "As with my parents, Mumia has a family," he said. "What does it feel like to have a parent on death row?"

Because Abu-Jamal was a radio journalist who frequently exposed police brutality, Meeropol said many believe he was unfairly convicted and will be sent to death for political motives, just as the Rosenbergs were. "He is the first political prisoner in this country to face execution since my parents," he said.

Meeropol said international movements to save his parents' lives were

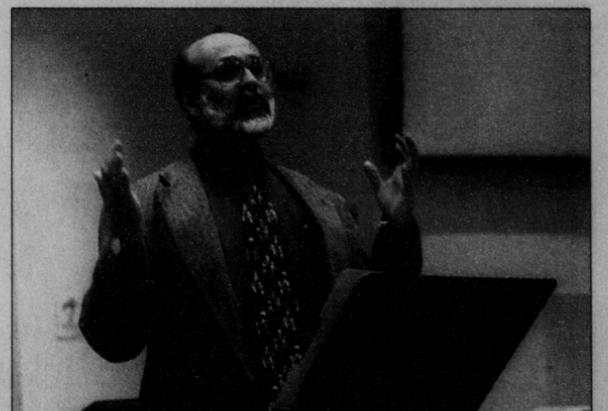
sparked prior to their execution and said the same is happening with Abu-Jamal's case.

While explaining people's various justifications for opposing capital punishment, Meeropol explained his personal ideology. "The system has to be perfect," he said. "The problem is human beings are incapable of perfection. You get the inevitability of innocent people being executed."

Meeropol said the greatest problem facing the movement to end capital punishment lies within the government. "It's a national system that is in force by primarily our elected officials."

He said this reflects the ideals of the

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DTH/SOMMER BASINGER

Robert Meeropol speaks about capital punishment on behalf of the Campaign to End the Death Penalty on Thursday night.

A man likes marvelous things; so he invents them and is astonished.

Edgar Watson Howe