

Class in Session  
Women wax  
Aggies. See Page 7



Happy Turkey Day  
We're going to give thanks for a  
few days off, among other things.  
See ya Monday.



Holiday Fun  
Today: Sunny, 41  
Turkey Day: Sunny, 42  
Friday: Stormy, 53

# The Daily Tar Heel

www.dailytarheel.com

Serving the students and the University community since 1893

Wednesday, November 22, 2000

## Fla. Court Rules Tally Must Include Manual Recount

The Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Florida's Supreme Court ruled unanimously Tuesday night that state election officials must accept amended presidential returns as late as Sunday or Monday.

The court ruling means Secretary of State Katherine Harris may not certify the result of the contested election between Al Gore and George W. Bush

until that time. A statement read by court spokesman Craig Waters did not specify whether — or under what guidelines — manual recounts might continue until the new deadline.

Bush holds a 930-vote lead in the official, but uncertified, vote tallies from Election Day, with overseas absentee ballots included. Gore has slowly been eating into that lead in recent days as recounts have proceeded at his urging in three Democratic counties.

Gore was in Washington, Bush in Texas, as the court issued a ruling that

could determine which one wins the White House.

In a brief statement read on the courthouse steps, Waters said the decision was based on the court's long-standing view that "the right of the people to cast their votes is the paramount concern



Democratic candidate Al Gore and Republican candidate George W. Bush await the results of the recount.

overriding all others."

In recent days, Democrats have pushed three county canvassing boards to count hundreds of punch-card ballots with no holes poked out for the presidential race, giving Gore or Bush a vote when an indentation is

found next to their name. With the Texas Republican clinging to the lead, the vice president's advisers said they almost certainly can't win Florida and the White House unless county officials discern the intent of voters whose ballots were not properly punched.

Gore had picked up 278 votes in recounts by late Tuesday, which because of the court's ruling, will now shave Bush's lead to 652 votes out of 6 million cast. Bush has held his own in at least one of the counties, raising fears among Democrats that they will not overtake

the Texas governor unless every possible ballot is counted.

Gore's lawyers asked the state Supreme Court to set a standard for vote-counting in all three counties.

Bush's legal team replied Tuesday, telling the court it "is without power" to determine which ballots should and should not be tallied in the hand recount. The Gore attorneys, firing back at Bush Tuesday, accused the Republicans of raising a "parade" of objections to keep the court from addressing the matter prior to the court's ruling Tuesday night.

## CHHS to Be Heard at N.Y. Parade

The Chapel Hill High School chorus received an invitation to participate in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

By JAMES MILLER  
Staff Writer

A group of local high school students spent their lunch periods learning to sing with their mouths full.

But they didn't seem to mind. That's because the students, taking part in the almost 100-member Chapel Hill High School choral group, left Tuesday for New York to perform for an audience of millions at this year's Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

And last Friday afternoon's rehearsal was just one of many that took a bite out of lunch break for both the students and choral director Ann Huff. "The kids are quick learners, and they'll get it right," she said. "But they're not ready yet."

The students were preparing to join about 700 members of high school choruses from across the United States at the parade, which will be broadcast nationally on NBC, Huff said.

The student choir will perform three numbers choreographed by renowned show choir choreographer John Jacobson, president of America Sings!, the nonprofit service organization that scheduled the performance.

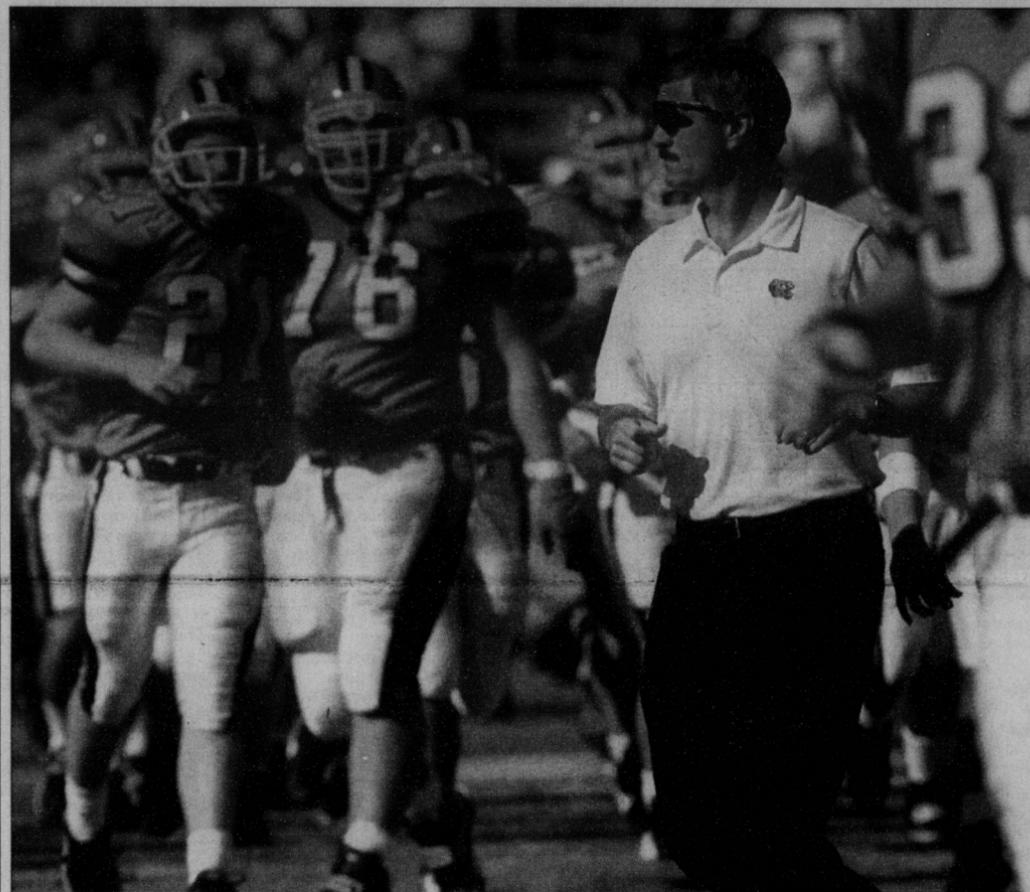
"America Sings! sent us a videotape of John Jacobson doing the choreography so we could begin to teach the students beforehand," Huff said.

"It started out as only two lunches per week, but now it's every day," junior Hallie Zook said at Friday's rehearsal. "We have to be ready or they won't put us on the air."

The performance was not the only thing students prepared for Friday.

As part of the America Sings! Thanksgiving program, students also will support community service projects in New York by donating and preparing

See CHORUS, Page 2



Former head coach Carl Torbush runs onto the field with the 1999 football team. After Monday's firing of Torbush, the UNC athletics program must now turn its attention to finding his replacement.

## Donnan, Walker Take Names Out of Hat

Georgia coach Jim Donnan and Northwestern coach Randy Walker said they are not interested in leaving their current positions.

By BRET STRELOW  
Assistant Sports Editor

North Carolina Director of Athletics Dick Baddour is convinced he has an attractive football program to sell.

But Baddour's task of finding a new coach

might just be a little tougher than planned.

One day after Carl Torbush was fired as UNC's coach, Northwestern coach Randy Walker and Georgia coach Jim Donnan said they weren't interested in the job.

Walker, who was an assistant coach at UNC from 1978-87, released a statement that said he



Northwestern coach, former UNC assistant Randy Walker

would remain the Wildcats' coach.

"I am not interested in the coaching job at North Carolina or any other coaching position," Walker said in the statement. "It is my intention to finish my coaching career at Northwestern."

Donnan, who grew up in Burlington, said he will stay at Georgia as long as he can.

"I'm very happy at Georgia," Donnan said. "I have no interest in going anywhere else."

The athletics directors at Virginia Tech and Southern Mississippi said Tuesday they were

See FOOTBALL, Page 2

## Police to Check For Seat Belt Use, Drunken Drivers

Across the state and the nation, police will be out at checkpoints this Thanksgiving Break aiming to protect children.

By JENNIFER HAGIN  
Staff Writer

As thousands of people hit the roads this Thanksgiving holiday, law enforcement officials nationwide are beefing up traffic checkpoints to catch drunken drivers and enforce seat belt laws.

In North Carolina, the Booze It & Lose It program, which aims to catch drunken drivers, will extend its efforts to include unbelted children as well.

Local law enforcement agencies plan to set up hundreds of checkpoints throughout the weekend along many major state roadways.

Jill Lucas, public information officer for the Governor's Highway Safety program, said the effort is aimed at keeping children safe on state roadways this weekend.

Three children under the age of 16 have died already this year in alcohol-related accidents, and 29 people died in accidents last Thanksgiving on the state's roads, Lucas said.

"The Thanksgiving holiday has, unfortunately, the tradition as the bloodiest holiday in North Carolina," she said.

The new nationwide efforts resulted in part from a joint campaign between Mothers Against Drunk Driving and the Air Bag and Seat Belt Safety Campaign.

Laurie Fink, a spokeswoman for the seat belt campaign, said two of every three children who die in automobile accidents are riding with a drunken driver — a fact that encouraged the group to join forces with MADD to increase the law enforcement presence on roads during holidays. "The main risk kids face are the people in the car with them," Fink said.

Fink said the seat belt campaign's programs, which started in 1997, have had a nationwide effect. "It's been hugely successful," she said. "Child fatalities have dropped 17 percent and restraint use among children jumped dramatically."

Fink said it takes the threat of fines to change some driver's actions. "If they see on the news that law enforcement will be out in their neighborhood, they'll use seat belts," she said. "There is a certain stubborn group of drivers that refuse to buckle up their kids — we call them dead-beat drivers."

A new state law taking effect Dec. 1 will give drivers of unbelted children two points on their licenses, an increase from the current fine of \$116.

Shannon Roberts, N.C. executive director for MADD, said the group's local chapters encourage law enforcement agencies to increase their presence during the holidays. Roberts said 10,000 agencies around the nation have agreed to cooperate over Thanksgiving. "Checkpoints in general have been very effective," she said. "At least one person removed from the road each night

See TRAFFIC, Page 2

## Gov. Hunt Commutes Carter's Sentence; Committee Calls for Moratorium

By PETER JOHNSTON  
Staff Writer

In the final days of his administration, Gov. Jim Hunt did something that he has only done once before during his 16 years in office — halted an execution.

Hunt took Marcus Carter Jr. off death row Tuesday and commuted his sentence to life in prison without parole. Convicted in 1992 of the 1989 murder and attempted rape of Amelia Lewis of Goldsboro, Carter was scheduled to be executed by lethal injection at 2 a.m. this morning.

A press release from the governor's office stated that Hunt still believes Carter is guilty of the crimes he committed, but that there were questions

about the fairness of the trial.

"I am confident that Marcus Carter is guilty of the crime for which he was sentenced, and I also believe that he was mentally competent when he committed the crime and when he stood trial," Hunt stated in the press release.

"But in cases where capital punishment could be imposed, we must go the extra mile to assure there is a fair trial. In the case of



Capital punishment opponent Patrick Frye said Carter did not receive a fair trial.

Marcus Carter, I am convinced that the overall circumstances of this case put that in question."

The governor's office refused to comment any further on the nature of the circumstances that made Carter's death sentence questionable. Sen. Frank Ballance, D-Bertie, said Hunt made his decision based on the evidence alone. Ballance said the fact that Hunt's term as governor is nearing its close did not affect his decision.

But he added that a current social atmosphere promoting death row fairness and the efforts of anti-death penalty groups caused Hunt to be extra careful when reviewing the evidence.

A legislative commission co-chaired by Ballance recommended Tuesday that

North Carolina join 13 other states in banning the execution of the mentally ill and putting a temporary halt to the death penalty. The action came just hours before Hunt commuted Carter's death sentence.

Although the commission will not approve a final report until next month, it voted unanimously to include a proposal banning the execution of anyone with an IQ of 70 or below — the accepted standard for mental retardation.

The group also agreed that a moratorium on the death penalty should be included in its final recommendations to the N.C. General Assembly, along with a proposal that would discourage prosecutors in capital cases from selecting or dismissing potential jurors based on

their race.

Faye Booker, Carter's cousin and a distant relative of Amelia Lewis, said she was thankful Hunt stopped the execution. "We really wanted a retrial or clemency, but I am still thankful," she said.

Patrick Frye, UNC student body treasurer and member of People of Faith Against the Death Penalty, said that in addition to being opposed to the death penalty in general, he specifically opposed it in Carter's case because he believed Carter did not receive a fair trial.

Carter's first trial, in 1991, ended with a hung jury. He represented himself in his second trial and was convicted of first-degree murder and attempted second-degree rape and sentenced to death. Carter's supporters claim that he was

forced to fire his negligent lawyers shortly before the second trial.

Hunt commuted a death sentence for Wendell Flowers last December — the only other time he has taken an inmate off death row during his historic four terms in office.

Tuesday night, a planned vigil to pray for Marcus Carter in Carroll Hall turned into a celebratory gathering. Prayers of various faiths were said, and several speakers voiced their opposition to the death penalty. Nearly 50 people attended the event.

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

Hurrah for the fun! Is the pudding done? Hurrah for the pumpkin pie.

Lydia Maria Child