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Welcome to Springfield

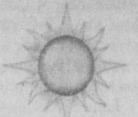
Long-running animated classic "The Simpsons"
hits 300th episode mark.
See Page 5

Payback

Tar Heels avenge earlier
loss to UVa. in 81-67 romp.
See Page 11

Weather

Today: Sunny; H 51, L 29
Friday: Light Rain; H 48, L 30
Saturday: Rain; H 46, L 46

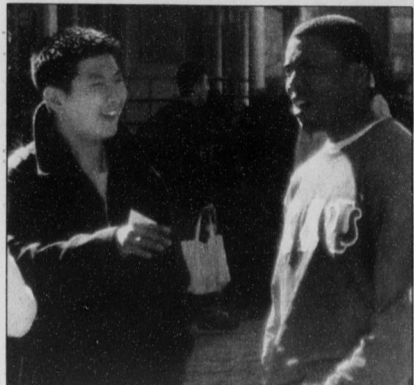


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Sing, Tepper Kick Off Final Push



DTH/ALLISON MONEY

Candidate Sang Shin (left) speaks with sophomore Brandon Neal about his campaign goals.

By RACHEL HODGES
Staff Writer

Student body president candidates Matt Tepper and Sang Shin have another week of campaigning ahead of them, but they definitely aren't complaining.

Because neither candidate received more than 50 percent of the vote in Tuesday's general election, the two will continue to compete until the runoff election next Tuesday. Tepper led all candidates in the general election with 35.35 percent of the vote, while Shin edged Nathan Cherry to finish second with 24.54 percent.

Both candidates said they would con-

tinue to run their campaigns as they had before.

"We're just going to be out there, talking to people one-on-one and just making sure that I get my campaign out there," Tepper said.

"We worked really hard for this; everybody did, so I was pleased. I was happy."

Tepper said he was going to emphasize the things that set him apart from other candidates, such as his proposed student wish list, because they are unique to his platform.

Shin said he will focus on raising his visibility and being available to students.

"You can always better a lot of things," Shin said. "I'll be getting my face out there."

See CAMPAIGNING, Page 13



DTH/ALLISON MONEY

Candidate Matt Tepper (left) talks to junior Dusty Heist while campaigning Wednesday in the Pit.

Sing Gains Support of Former SBP Candidates

By BILLY BALL
Staff Writer

Former student body president candidates Nathan Cherry and Ben Pickett and former write-in candidate Dan Pickel all announced Wednesday that they will endorse Sang Shin for the coveted office in next Tuesday's runoff vote.

Cherry, Pickett and Pickel all said that they had become friends with Shin during the campaign and that they think he is the best choice

for president.

Pickett, who said he sat down with Tepper earlier in the day to break the news to him, said he thinks the student body needs a president who will work for the interests of all students.

"I feel that Sang can best represent the University as a whole," Pickett said.

Cherry said he is throwing his support behind Shin because he thinks Shin would be a leader who would get things done. "I see (Shin) as a fire," Cherry said. "I see him as the type of leader this University needs."

Cherry also offered any part of his platform to either of the candidates for possible absorption and said that he hopes students will understand the importance of one eliminated candidate supporting a remaining candidate.

Meanwhile, former senior class president candidates Zack Mansfield and Haroun Habib have weighed in on opposite sides of the two remaining tickets for the position, while Jordan Campbell declined to weigh in at all.

Mansfield said he would endorse the team of Liz Manekin and Doug Sue for senior class president and vice president, and Habib said he was endorsing George Leamon and Doug Melton.

Campbell declined to endorse either of the candidate pairs but said he would endorse Shin for student body president. "I feel like a lot of things I stood for, Sang stands for," he said.

Campbell said that among those qualities was Shin's effort to be visible and open with the student body and that such visibility was one of Campbell's own goals for the senior class president office.

Mansfield said he was impressed that Manekin and Sue had not tried to change their ideas to play to different venues. "I feel like they have a good platform that's been consistent," he said.

Mansfield also said he would send an e-mail to his supporters encouraging them to vote for "Liz and Doug" and would share some of his platform ideas with the two runoff candidates.

"Our whole platform revolves around the idea that senior class officers are servants of the senior class," he said.

Habib said he was endorsing Leamon and Melton because their platform is the closest to his own agenda and that, through endorsing them, he would be able to help the rising senior class despite having lost the election.

"I thought their platform was the closest to what I had," he said.

Habib added that he would do what was necessary to help Leamon and Melton win, including wearing a T-shirt supporting the duo or simply telling his supporters to vote for them.

Running mates Kimberly Turner and Jordan Hardy are not sure who they will be endorsing and are planning to discuss the issue.

The effect of losing candidates' endorsements had significant results last year. Jen Daum received all of the losing candidates' endorsements before the runoff and ended up beating out Will McKinney for student body president.

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Gates Sentenced To 3 Life Terms For July Murders

By JOHN FRANK
City Editor

HILLSBOROUGH — An Orange County man was sentenced to life in jail for a triple murder as part of a plea agreement that spared him from the death penalty.

Alan Douglas Gates, who was charged with the July 1 slayings of his daughter, her friend and her friend's 2-year-old son, was sentenced to three consecutive life sentences in Central Prison.

District Attorney Carl Fox said a month after the crime that he intended to pursue the death penalty, but Wednesday in Orange County Superior Court, he said he was satisfied with the plea agreement.

After five family members of the victims read poems and spoke tearfully about the tragedy, Judge Wade Barber accepted Alan Gates' guilty plea.

"It was a sad day," Fox said. With the sentence, Alan Gates, 50, will die in prison. The first time he even could be eligible for parole would be 2078.

During the hearing, Fox entered an evidentiary report from a psychiatrist that declared Alan Gates competent to stand trial.

Alan Gates' defense attorneys argued

that he is not the monster he was made out to be.

They said Alan Gates was drunk at the time and did not intend to kill anyone in his estranged wife's mobile home, located in southwestern Orange County. Alan Gates has a history of alcohol abuse problems and was highly intoxicated at the time of the killings.

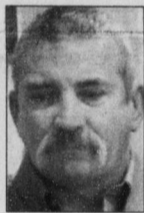
Court records show that Alan Gates told prosecutors he went to the trailer to have sex with his estranged wife one last time before he killed himself.

The separated couple had a long history of domestic issues, and Alan Gates' wife had a domestic order against him. At the time of the incident, Alan Gates was waiting for his wife, who he believed had a new boyfriend, Fox said.

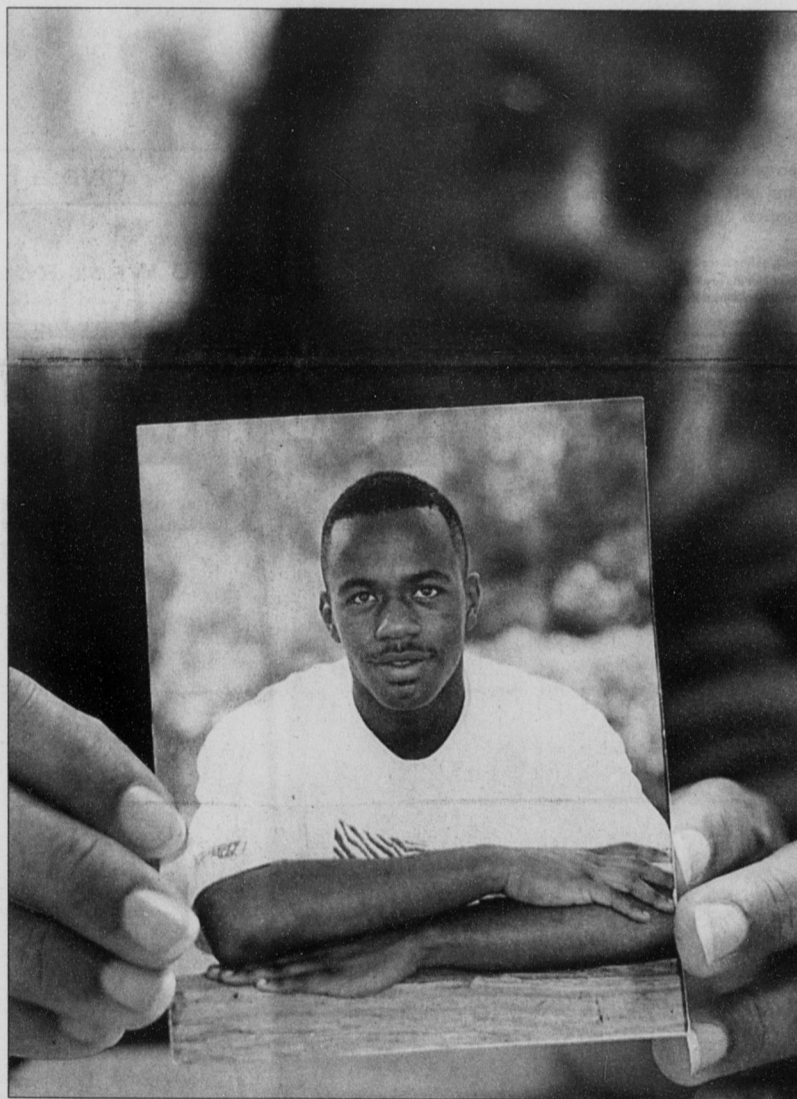
Instead, his daughter, Valerie Gates, 24, her friend, Cordae Lee, 21, and Lee's son, Kendall Dianis, came to the residence.

Alan Gates surprised them and

See GATES, Page 13



Alan Gates



DTH PHOTOS/JESSICA FOSTER

Kathleen Fuller holds a photograph of her son, Robert Earl Fuller, 29, who was injured in January's explosion at the West Pharmaceutical Services plant in Kinston. Robert Fuller is now at UNC Hospitals.

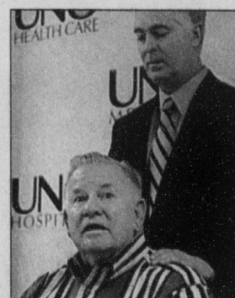
VICTIMS' FAMILIES SHARE PAIN WITH EASLEY

By LINDSEY WHITE / Staff Writer

Gov. Mike Easley visited victims of the Kinston pharmaceutical plant explosion, along with their friends and family, at UNC Hospitals on Wednesday.

While touring the N.C. Jaycee Burn Center facility, Easley commented that he was surprised by the patients' upbeat attitudes given the severity of their injuries. He said he never had seen burns as extensive as those of the victims of Kinston's West Pharmaceutical Services plant explosion. Easley attributed the patients' high morale to the burn center's caring and committed staff.

See BURN VICTIMS, Page 13



James Edwards, father of a victim, is comforted by Easley.

Apartments Warned Of Possible Terrorist Threat

Complexes, hotels may be insecure

By JENNY HUANG
Staff Writer

With the recent national terrorist threat level raised to "high risk," the National Apartment Association has notified local apartment complexes of a possible terrorist threat targeting apartments and hotels.

On Friday, Attorney General John Ashcroft, Director of Homeland Security Tom Ridge and FBI Director Robert Mueller elevated the national terrorism threat level to "orange," indicating a "high risk" of terrorist attacks.

Ashcroft announced Friday that recent intelligence reports suggest that al-Qaeda might attack "apartment buildings, hotels and other soft or lightly secured targets in the United States."

The NAA alerted its members of the potential threat last Friday, including Highland Hills of 180 BPW Club Road, Rock Creek Apartments of 100 Rock Haven Road and Laurel Ridge Apartments of 1100 N.C. 54 Bypass.

Highland Hills property manager Lindsey Waudby said that she received the NAA's official notice Monday and that she sent letters alerting residents to the potential threat on Tuesday. "(But) at this point, we haven't been notified by our home office to take any additional precautionary measures," she said.

Vicki Schudel, Rock Creek and Laurel Ridge property manager, said that she received the NAA alert and that she is considering the next steps in resident notification.

In light of the increased risk, NAA officials want apartment residents to remain alert and to take action if they notice anything out of the ordinary.

See ALERT, Page 13

When will I learn? The answer to life's problems aren't at the bottom of the bottle; they're on TV.

Homer Simpson