

The Daily Tar Heel

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Reactions vary to relaxed FCC regulations

BY ELLIOTT DUBE
STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

There has been mixed reaction to the Federal Communications Commission's decision, made Monday, to revamp existing media broadcast rules.

The FCC's changes include an increase in the national cap on a single company's ownership of television stations from 35 to 45 percent of TV households in the United States and a new rule guiding cross-ownership of television and radio stations and newspapers.

The commission voted along party lines. Republican commissioners Kathleen Abernathy and Kevin Martin and FCC Chairman Michael Powell, also a Republican, supported the changes. Democrats Jonathan Adelstein and Michael Copps opposed them.

In a press statement, Powell said one of the FCC's goals has been to adopt modern rules that consider the growth of new media such as cable and the Internet rather than "perpetuate the graying rules of a bygone black-and-white era."

Kenneth Ferree, chairman of the FCC's Media Bureau, said the commission has studied how consumers use and substitute among different types of media as part of its biennial review of broadcasting rules as mandated by the 1996 Telecommunications Act.

It was clear to the commission that changes were necessary, Ferree said, because most of the rules were adopted decades ago.

"They've not been comprehensively overhauled since then and they've grown increasingly creaky

in their old age," he said.

"If you like restrictions on ownership, then you like the vote, because we actually adopted some restrictions that are legally enforceable now."

Ferree said he didn't think viewers would see "one iota of difference" in television news coverage now that the changes have been passed.

Others think differently. Organizations as politically antonymous as the National Rifle Association and the National Organization for Women publicly

have opposed the changes. Bipartisan measures have been introduced in both the House and Senate to return to the 35 percent cap on national TV ownership.

"There's a chance that this could become a more prominent part of the public policy debate," said Mark Cooper, director of research for the Consumer Federation of America.

He said any claim that the rule changes are moderate is "utterly deceitful."

Jim Heavner, owner of Chapel Hill's WCHL-AM, said the largest

media companies stand to gain from the rule changes.

The farther away the ownership of a station is located from the community, he said, the less "concern and care" for that particular community will be reflected in the station's news coverage.

"We're likely to see more consolidation of ownership," Heavner said. "And in the course of that the local ownership is threatened."

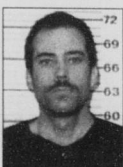
Contact the State & National Editor at stntdesk@unc.edu.

Rudolph pleads innocent in attack

Clinic bombing killed Ala. officer

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Eric Rudolph, the Olympic bombing suspect who told jailers he survived five years on the run eating wild game, acorns and lizards, pleaded innocent Tuesday in a deadly bombing at an Alabama abortion clinic.



Famous fugitive Eric Rudolph evaded capture for 5 years in western N.C.

Rudolph pleaded innocent before federal Magistrate Judge Michael Putnam for the bombing of New Woman All Women Health Care, where a police officer was killed and a nurse critically injured on Jan. 29, 1998.

He could face the death penalty, but Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael Whisonant gave no indication whether the government will seek such a sentence.

The judge asked Rudolph whether he understands the possible penalties, to which Rudolph

SEE RUDOLPH, PAGE 5

Report disclaims inequities

Sole disparity in clinical medicine

BY ARMAN TOLENTINO
STAFF WRITER

In a follow-up analysis of an October faculty salary equity study, University officials found no evidence that salary differences can be attributed to ethnicity and that gender is a significant predictor of salary in only one division — clinical medicine.

Since the initial study was conducted at a campuswide level, officials reanalyzed the data at the school level to determine if salary disparities are influenced by localized effects in specific schools and divisions, according to the final report, which was submitted to the Faculty Council on April 25.

"It's good news to everyone that (clinical medicine) is the only place where we have a problem," said Sue Estroff, chairwoman of the Faculty Council. "The fact that there was only a difference in one school shows that everyone has been making an effort to show

SEE EQUITY, PAGE 5

NORTH CAROLINA SPECIAL OLYMPICS



DTH PHOTOS/BRIAN CASSELLA

Jamarreo Biggers (above right), 18, of Mecklenburg County congratulates other Special Olympians after an awards ceremony Saturday in which all three earned recognition for competing in the 100-meter dash. The 2003 Summer Games of the N.C. Special Olympics were held Friday to Sunday in Raleigh on the N.C. State University campus. More than 1,200 athletes from 62 counties competed in events including powerlifting, aquatics, softball, volleyball, and gymnastics.

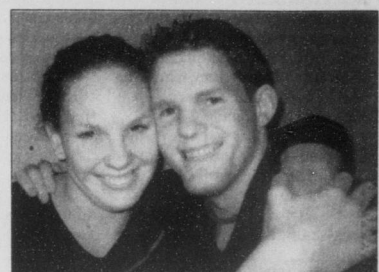


PHOTO COURTESY OF ROBBIE BLUE

Andrea Erben (left), a junior, died May 27 from the tick-borne disease Rocky Mountain spotted fever. She is pictured with friend Robbie Blue.

Swimmer dies at 19 from rare disease

Erben remembered as lively, compassionate

BY BRIAN CASSELLA
STAFF WRITER



Andrea Leone Erben

Andrea Erben was supposed to be swimming in a meet in Charlotte this weekend. After walking onto the UNC varsity swim team last fall, Erben planned to spend the summer living and competing with teammates on the North Carolina Aquatic Club.

Erben's plans were cut short last week when she died of Rocky Mountain spotted fever, a rarely fatal disease transmitted by tick bites.

Erben, a junior international studies major, likely contracted the disease in the Rocky Mountain area only a few weeks before her death. She became ill during the final days of the spring semester, and her condition worsened after she returned home to Panama City, Fla., on May 10.

A delay in the diagnosis of Andrea's condition hurt her chances for survival, said her mother, Julia Erben. Andrea Erben died May 27 at the University of Alabama-Birmingham Hospital after spending more than a week in intensive care.

Four hundred mourners, including about 20

SEE ERBEN, PAGE 5

UNC takes on USC for shot at World Series

BY TIM CANDON
SPORTS EDITOR

North Carolina baseball coach Mike Fox hasn't been to Omaha, Neb., since 1978, when he was the starting second baseman on a Tar Heel team that reached the College World Series.

And while he's had the chance to go back for coaching clinics and other functions in the last 25 years, he said he wouldn't go back until he takes one of his teams to Rosenblatt Stadium for the CWS.

Now, Fox stands just two wins away from his return to the Cornhusker State. The only thing in the Tar Heels' way is a best-of-three series in Columbia, S.C., against the team that ended their 2002 season — South Carolina.

While UNC is fired up to play the Gamecocks (42-20), Fox said his team won't need to use the rematch as a motivational tool.

"I don't know if you're going to need any more motivation than to play to get to the College World Series," Fox said. "To me, that should be enough. It may help us a little bit, but we're not really focusing on them. We just need to keep trying to play our best and know that there's another really good team standing in our way."

Last year, the Tar Heels (42-21) pushed USC to the decisive elimination game in the Columbia Regional but lost 3-1.

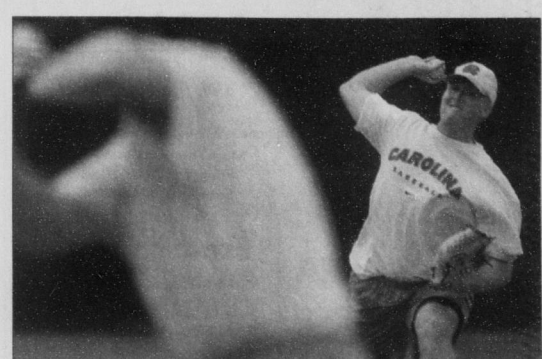
While no one has dwelled on that game or the way the season ended, some have begun to recall

what happened last June since discovering they'd be playing South Carolina again this year.

"It's just now coming back since we heard we were matched up with South Carolina," said shortstop Chad Prosser. "Now we're thinking, 'Maybe we have a chance to get revenge on them a little bit.'"

Leftfielder Sean Farrell said: "Ever since we finished our ACC regular season, we've had a list of people that we've checked off that we owed. We got Florida State back in the ACC Tournament. South Carolina is a big checkoff for me."

Spearheading that charge will



DTH/BRIAN CASSELLA

UNC pitcher Whitley Benson practices at Boshamer Stadium on Tuesday before the team left for the NCAA Super Regional in South Carolina.



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RESIDENTS READY FOR HURRICANE SEASON
Lowe's plays host to regional event to teach storm season preparedness PAGE 3



SPORTS

UNC LACROSSE STAR EARNS HONORS
North Carolina midfielder Austin Garrison prepares for life in the professional ranks PAGE 2

WEATHER

TODAY Partly cloudy, High 82, Low 60
FRIDAY, JUNE 6 Cloudy, High 82, Low 65
SATURDAY, JUNE 7 Rain, High 79, Low 64