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2 found dead at UNC building

APPARENT MURDER-SUICIDE OCCURS NEAR FRIDAY CENTER



BY EMILY STEEL
UNIVERSITY EDITOR

An ongoing domestic dispute between a UNC Health Care employee and her estranged husband climaxed early Monday morning in what police are calling an apparent murder-suicide.

UNC police have identified the victims as Shennel R. McCrimon McKendall, 37, of 612 Mitchell Chapel Road in Pittsboro, and Randy Leverne McKendall, 34, of the same address. The victims were married and reportedly estranged.

"There is no indication whatsoever that this is anything other than a domestic-related murder-suicide," University police Chief Derek Poarch said Monday. University police received a call at 7:41

a.m. that reported gunshots being fired outside the James T. Hedrick Building, located at 211 Friday Center Drive, about 3 miles from the main campus.

Officers from the UNC Department of Public Safety and the Chapel Hill Police Department responded to the call and pronounced both victims dead at the scene.

Police reported that Shennel McKendall was walking into the Hedrick building, where she has worked as a support assistant in the employment office since Aug. 6, 2000, when an altercation ensued with her husband.

Randy McKendall then allegedly shot and killed his wife with a 9 mm handgun before committing suicide. Officials have yet to confirm the registration of

the weapon or to determine if drugs or alcohol were involved.

At least two shots were fired, and the findings of ongoing investigations, including medical examinations and interviews with witnesses or people close to the couple, will uncover more clues to the incident, said Randy Young, spokesman for University police.

About 10 a.m. Monday, the victims' bodies were wheeled away from the murder scene. About half an hour later, officials had towed Randy McKendall's 1988 black Ford truck, which had run over a tree lining the driveway, and Shennel McKendall's 1999 green Honda Accord.

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DTH/LAURA MORTON

University police investigators examine the scene of an apparent murder-suicide outside the James T. Hedrick Building early Monday.

Police reports state that Pittsboro man Randy McKendall shot his wife, Shennel, and then turned the gun on himself.

"Chuck is a paragon, and he has done a stunning job. He has helped put us on the map." RICHARD COLE, DEAN OF THE JOURNALISM SCHOOL



DTH/JUSTIN SMITH

Journalism professor and civil rights activist Chuck Stone speaks to a reporter in his office Monday evening. Stone has announced that he will retire after next semester.

STONE TO SIGN OFF AFTER YEARS AT UNC

BY RACHEL BROCK STAFF WRITER

One of the University's most honored professors, who created a legacy through his involvement in the civil rights movement and his tenure at UNC, announced his retirement Monday.

Chuck Stone, Walter Spearman professor in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, will complete his final semester this spring.

"I have been very gratified," he said. "What defines you is what your colleagues, friends and family think of you."

Stone's presence as a full-time professor will be missed, said Richard Cole, dean of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

"Chuck is a paragon, and he has done a stunning job," he

said. "He has helped put us on the map."

Phil Meyer, a professor in the journalism school, said he has been a close friend of Stone's ever since they were neighbors in Washington, D.C., during the 1960s.

Meyer said that at the time, he was a journalist covering Congress, while Stone was working for Adam Clayton Powell Jr., an outspoken congressman.

"I would ask tough questions about his boss and he would just stonewall me," Meyer said. "That's how we became friends."

A close friend of both Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X, Stone also worked as a journalist during the civil rights movement.

During the 13 years he has worked at UNC, Stone has served as a role model and a legend for many students.

At 80, he is the third-oldest professor at

the University and earns a base salary of \$126,025 — the third-highest salary in the journalism school as of the end of October.

His course on censorship is one of the most popular on campus.

Justin Lyons, co-president of the Carolina Association of Black Journalists, said he admires Stone for all he has done to pave the way for minority journalists.

"He really opened doors in the journalism industry," he said.

"The University will definitely miss him. We just have to take what we learned from him."

Although he is retiring as a full-time professor, Stone said the move only represents a conceptual retirement.

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Awards policies frustrate faculty

Fulbright winners, others seek supplemental funds

BY CHARLOTTE MURPHY
STAFF WRITER

University faculty members have expressed heated concerns about a policy they say discourages them from applying for prestigious awards, such as the Fulbright Scholar grant.

Three members of the University community received the Fulbright award, which allows faculty the opportunity to teach and lecture abroad, two weeks ago. Since then, several professors have come forward with complaints about UNC's policy not to supplement the salaries of faculty members who receive the award.

"UNC has done everything it can to discourage faculty from applying for and accepting this award," said Jodi Magness, one of this year's Fulbright recipients.

The College of Arts and Sciences subsidizes, or "tops up," the salaries of professors who win awards that meet certain criteria, said Darryl Gless, senior associate dean of the college. To qualify, the award must be nationally recognized, pay 50 percent of the professor's salary and be a research or scholarship grant.

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Student's rights lie at heart of open case

BY BRIAN HUDSON
ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY EDITOR

A UNC sophomore has opted to publicize a case before the University Hearings Board, marking the second time in recent weeks that a student has opened an appeal of an Honor Court decision.

Katherine Milan will appeal a decision at 3 p.m. Wednesday in 331 Rosenau Hall on the grounds that she was denied basic rights during her hearing.

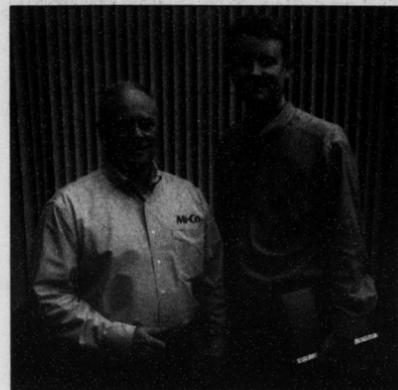
Before this month, four years had passed without any students deciding to open a single honor system proceeding.

University police were called to Milan's room in November 2003 and found marijuana after receiving permission to conduct a search.

She was charged with an honor violation for possessing marijuana and aiding others in purchasing it, said senior Glenna Goldis, Milan's defense counsel.

During an Oct. 27 hearing, the Honor Court

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DTH/BRANDON SMITH

Jim Clary (left) and his son, Greg, are co-founders of Mobile Information Corp., one of the many information technology firms in the Triangle.

RTP drives changing economy

BY MEGAN MCSWAIN
STAFF WRITER

The Research Triangle Park, established in 1959, has become a hub for the information technology industry, making the IT industry a main sector of North Carolina's economy.

"The park has really helped lead the transition of North Carolina's economy to a technology-based economy," said Rick Weddle, CEO and president of the Research Triangle Foundation of North Carolina. "It is one of the most significant success stories in economic development experiments."

North Carolina has the seventh-fastest growing IT industry in the

nation. The industry is projected to employ 69,950 North Carolinians by 2006, according to Deloitte & Touche's Tech Fast 50 annual rankings.

This continued growth can be attributed to new companies coming to the area, staying and expanding.

IBM originally started looking at locations in North Carolina during the early 1960s, and the research network in the state was an attraction, said John Lucy, an IBM spokesman.

IBM began at its RTP location as a small manufacturing center. But

over the years, it has changed into a full-fledged IT center and is the company's largest site in the world.

"IBM pretty much was the catalyst for growth of the IT industry in the state," Lucy said.

The educated workforce in North Carolina — fueled by major universities such as UNC-Chapel Hill, N.C. State University and Duke University — draws technology companies to the state.

"North Carolina is one of the largest states where (IBM) recruits employees not just for here, but globally," Lucy said.

Large international corpora-

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STEPPING forward
A four-part series on North Carolina's efforts to rekindle its struggling economy.

ONLINE

Amid recent controversy in Carrboro, Chapel Hill takes a close look at potential additions for 2005. For this story and more, visit www.dthonline.com.

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New wings restaurant to open in former Inside Scoop locale PAGE 7

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Former UNC hoops player looks to the business world with portable bar PAGE 7

WEATHER

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THURSDAY Mostly cloudy, H 58, L 33

