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Murder concluded violent saga

Couple had history of strife, domestic violence

BY RYAN C. TUCK
CITY EDITOR

The murder-suicide that shocked the University campus Monday morning was the finale in an ongoing battle with domestic violence.

Shennel McCrimon McKendall, 37, of 612 Mitchell Chapel Road in Pittsboro and a UNC Health Care employee, was shot and killed early Monday in front of the James T.

Hedrick Building by her estranged husband, Randy Leverne McKendall.

Randy Young, spokesman for University police, said Tuesday that police are investigating the incident as a murder-suicide.

Young said police are processing eye-witness accounts to gain more information.

According to police reports, Randy McKendall shot his wife as she was walking into the Hedrick building where she worked.

He then turned the gun on himself.

According to information from the Chatham County Sheriff's Office, Shennel McKendall had been in and out of courts during the past month in an attempt to distance herself from her husband of more than five years.

On Nov. 9, she received an ex parte against her husband, which he was served Nov. 15 in Domestic Violence Court in Chatham County.

Melissa Averett, director of Domestic Violence Legal Services in Chapel Hill, who

appeared with Shennel McKendall that day, said her client exercised every legal option.

"The system did not fail her this time," she said. "She did everything she could do."

On Nov. 16, Shennel McKendall reported to Chatham County sheriffs that her husband had called her from her home to say he was going to commit suicide.

She said she heard two gunshots on the phone and then nothing.

Officers responded to the scene and did

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Ridge set to resign post

Security secretary is 7th resignation

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge, whose name became synonymous with color-coded terror alerts and tutorials about how to prepare for possible attack, resigned Tuesday.

Ridge submitted his resignation in writing to President Bush on Tuesday morning but indicated that he will continue to serve until Feb. 1. "I will always be grateful for his call to service," Ridge said.

Ridge said that for the future he intends to "raise some family and personal matters to a higher priority," including attending his son's rugby games.

In an e-mail circulated to Homeland Security officials, Ridge praised the department as "an extraordinary organization that each day contributes to keeping America safe and free." He also said he was privileged to work with the department's 180,000 employees "who go to work every day dedicated to making our country better and more secure."

Among those mentioned as possible candidates for Ridge's replacement are Bernard Kerik, interim Minister of the Interior

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EDWARDS BIDS FAREWELL

Says he'll still fight for North Carolina

BY HILARY HELLENS
STAFF WRITER

RALEIGH — Fresh from a presidential campaign and at the end of his term in the U.S. Senate, Sen. John Edwards, D-N.C., made it clear that he will not stop fighting for North Carolina.

There was no talk about the possibility of Edwards running for the presidency in 2008. But the state's senior senator, who long has been considered one of the front-runners for the Democratic nomination that year, made it clear that he is not done fighting for the Tar Heel state.

"This fight is not over," he said. "... We are going to fight for the people. People that worked in that mill — they deserve someone fighting for them."

Edwards didn't say specifically how he plans on doing that. But he says he'll return home to North Carolina and spend more time with his family.

The family has lived in Raleigh and recently bought property outside Chapel Hill.

Edwards' parents sat in the front row, and behind them a cheering crowd of 200 leapt to its feet when the senator came down the steps at the North Carolina Museum of History.

Edwards was there as a part of his six-city, three-day "Tar Heel Thank You Tour" of North Carolina.

Edwards thanked the crowd for its support during his term as senator and continued support during his bid for vice president.

"I am very proud of the work that you have done," he said.

The senator expressed pride in his successes while in office, such as fighting for lower prescription drug costs and the tobacco buyout program for farmers.

He also said his first priority is the health of his wife, Elizabeth, who was diagnosed with breast cancer late last month.

"She's doing great. She's going

to beat it," Edwards said.

He added that Elizabeth Edwards wanted to make her plight known to the public in order to save other lives.

"There are millions of women that are just like me," Edwards quoted Elizabeth as saying.

"They have fought and been successful."

Edwards also spoke of his work with Gov. Mike Easley and said he was proud of the governor's success at keeping jobs in North Carolina and bringing educational reforms to the national level.

Easley, who introduced the senator, said Edwards' strength was in reaching the poor and oppressed. He said Edwards worked his way from trial lawyer to vice presidential candidate because he knew he could do more.

"He elevated the level of debate. ... He put North Carolina on the map in a way we have never seen," Easley said.

"He has given North Carolina more than \$100 million worth of publicity."

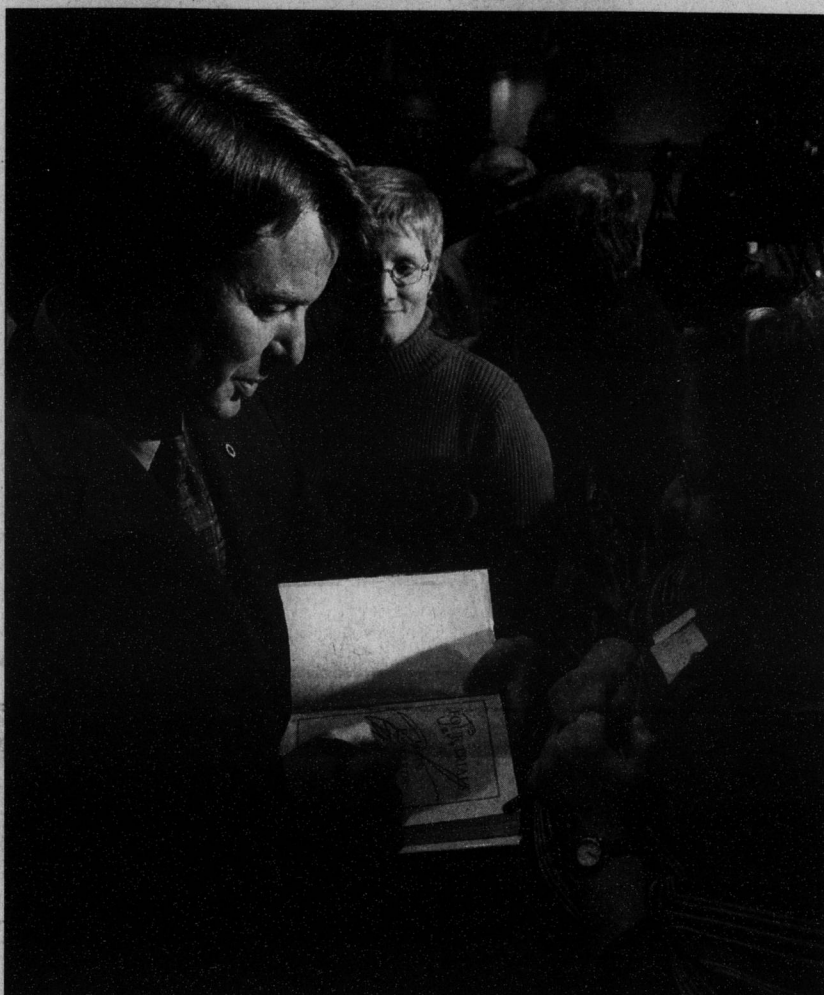
Edwards referred to Sen. John Kerry, a Massachusetts Democrat and his running mate, as a great American. He said the Democratic presidential candidate's campaign was never about politics or ideology but about fighting for average Americans.

Other Democrats were on hand to sing Edwards' praises as well.

"I think you know this already, but this was one turned-on state and one turned-on country. What we have seen this year is democracy at its finest," said Rep. David Price, D-N.C.

Edwards said there is still more work to be done on the national level.

"Politics have been the politics of division. American people have so much more in common," said Edwards. "There is a common set of values that we can unite this country on."



Sen. John Edwards, who did not seek another term this year in order to run for president, signs an autograph Tuesday night at the Raleigh Museum of History. Edwards' stop came on the second day of a six-city state tour.

Darron Stover of Raleigh echoed the senator's words.

"We are deeply divided, financially and politically," he said.

"I think the middle class is disappearing under this administration — the tax policies, for-

sign trade. There is a wider gap between those with and those without," he said.

Others said they were enthusiastic as well.

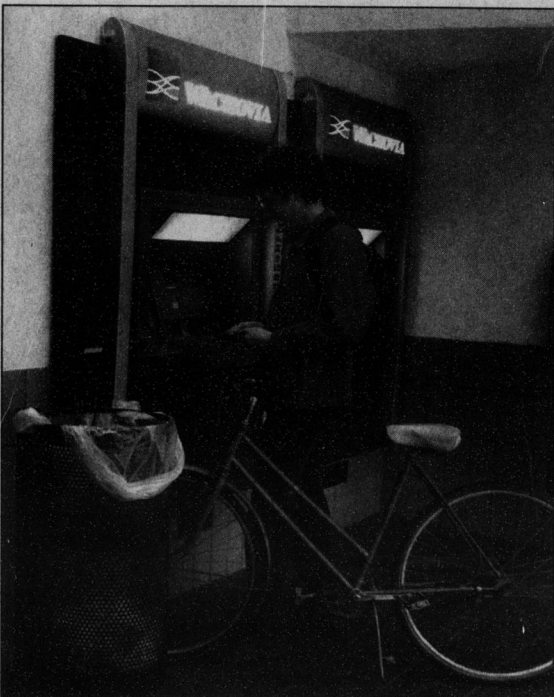
"I like John (Edwards), and while his candle may be dim, it is

a long way from being out," said Dewey Sheffield.

"I think it is going to get brighter in the days to come."

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

Charlotte vaults state to world banking scene



Brooke Budy uses an ATM at the Franklin Street Wachovia branch on Tuesday afternoon. Wachovia is based in Charlotte, a major banking hub.

BY KRISTIN BOSTIC
STAFF WRITER

In a state heavily troubled by job losses in industries such as farming and manufacturing, Charlotte's banking industry is playing a major role in revitalizing North Carolina's economy.

Charlotte has long been considered a major player in the national banking industry, but as the city moves further into the 21st century, it is becoming a force on the international banking scene.

Michael Walden, professor of agricultural and resource economics at N.C. State University, said Charlotte's prosperity in the financial services industry dates back to the 1930s.

"There were laws that restricted the ability of banks to operate branches outside of their headquarters," he said.

"North Carolina didn't have these laws (and was able to have) branches across the state. (This gave them) practice and expertise in operating banks across wide geographic areas."

Walden said that once these

"A banking industry headquartered in Charlotte will require a need for vendors." ELOISE HALE, SPOKESWOMAN, BANK OF AMERICA

national laws changed, North Carolina's banks already were more experienced than those in other states.

Charlotte now is considered the second largest financial hub in the country, surpassed only by New York City. Bank of America Corp. and Wachovia Corp., two of the nation's largest financial institutions, both are headquartered in the city.

Bank of America is the fifth largest corporation in the world behind Citigroup Inc. and oil companies, said Eloise Hale, spokeswoman for the bank.

She said the reason Charlotte has remained such a powerhouse in the financial industry is that the headquarters for corporations such as Bank of America and Wachovia remain in the city despite mergers with other corporations.

"It takes a huge support system to handle the needs that a bank of our size, and Wachovia's size, will have," Hale said.

"A banking industry headquar-

tered in Charlotte will require a need for vendors such as legal firms, accounting firms, audit firms and printing companies."

Such needs stimulate the economy and add to the job growth of the region.

And Bank of America has stakes in the international banking industry that only add to the worldwide success it enjoys and passes on to the Queen City.

Bank of America (Asia) Ltd. is the largest and most profitable subsidiary of Bank of America Corp. outside the United States. It employs 15 branches in Hong Kong and Macau combined.

Robert Lamy, professor of management at Wake Forest University, said there are two things to consider when eyeing the impact that banking has on the N.C. economy: molding new business models and consolidating to grow stronger.

"(The banks) must cut back to become more efficient," he said.

SEE BANKING, PAGE 4

Moerer asks for study of fees

Activity fee hike may help athletics

BY JENNY RUBY
STAFF WRITER

When the Chancellor's Committee on Student Fees begins talks on the 2006-07 fee increases next year, members might pay more attention to funding for the Department of Athletics if they follow Chancellor James Moerer's advice.

During the most recent UNC-Chapel Hill Board of Trustees' meeting, Moerer encouraged future committees to eye raising the Student Activity Fee to pull more money for athletics.

"The fee committee looks at what the various fees are and if they're justified," Trustee Nelson Schwab said Tuesday. "It was brought up in the context that our fee was very low compared to the ACC. That probably warrants looking into why that's the case."

UNC-CH and N.C. State University have significantly lower fees than other UNC-system schools, Provost Robert Shelton said.

This year's committee recommended a \$2 increase, bringing the

SEE ACTIVITY FEE, PAGE 4

INSIDE WESTSIDE
Business owners on Franklin's west end support one another **PAGE 6**

INSIDE PACKIN' IT
During renovations, those centered in Campus Y will move to Union **PAGE 7**

INSIDE DEAN'S LIST
Legendary coach hits Franklin Street to tout book, sign memorabilia for about 250 fans **PAGE 6**

WEATHER
TODAY A.M. showers, H 62, L 32
THURSDAY Sunny, H 58, L 32
FRIDAY Sunny, H 54, L 29

