

CITY BRIEFS

Accident on 15-501 causes third pedestrian fatality

A pedestrian fatality occurred on U.S. 15-501 on Wednesday evening, Chapel Hill police spokeswoman Jane Cousins said.

The accident occurred near the intersection of 15-501 and Manning Drive. Cousins said the case is still under investigation, and more information should be available tomorrow. This is the third traffic fatality in Chapel Hill in three days.

More information released on recent traffic fatalities

A fatal collision involving the bus carrying the Boston College men's basketball team resulted in the death of Harry Weldon Alston, a 39-year-old Carrboro man, a Wednesday press release from the Chapel Hill police states.

Alston was riding his bike Tuesday evening on N.C. 54 when he and the bus collided. He died at the scene.

Another fatal collision on U.S. 15-501 resulted in the death of Arthur McClean, 54, of Chapel Hill, the release states.

McClean was crossing the highway Monday evening when he was hit. The driver of the car, George Arthur Yeoman, of Lillington, was found not to be at fault.

STATE & NATION

Black to recommend changes to new child eye exam rules

RALEIGH — House Speaker Jim Black, responding to complaints about a new law requiring children to have complete eye examinations before attending kindergarten, said Wednesday he will recommend changes to the law.

The changes include: a 180-day grace period so that no child will be prevented from beginning school on the first day; changing the time within which a child has to have an eye exam from six months to one year; and requiring out-of-state eye care providers to perform exams.

Black, an optometrist, had pushed for the law, which was added to last year's budget bill.

Rumsfeld denies reports that military is overstretched

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld on Wednesday disputed reports suggesting that the U.S. military is stretched thin and close to a snapping point from operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, asserting "the force is not broken."

Rumsfeld spoke a day after The Associated Press reported that an unreleased study conducted for the Pentagon said the Army is being overextended thanks to the two wars and might not be able to retain and recruit enough troops to defeat the insurgency in Iraq.

Congressional Democrats released a report Wednesday that also concluded that the U.S. military is under severe stress.

'Reservoir Dogs' actor dies, body found in his L.A. condo

LOS ANGELES — Actor Chris Penn, brother of Sean Penn, was found dead at his condominium near the beach in Santa Monica, Calif., police said.

Police said they discovered the 40-year-old actor's body about 4 p.m. Tuesday, and Lt. Frank Fabrega said there were no obvious signs of foul play.

Chris Penn is best known for his role as Nice Guy Eddie in the film "Reservoir Dogs."

WORLD BRIEFS

Palestinians hit the polls, historic vote too close to call

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — Amid tight security and a sea of green and yellow flags, Palestinians cast ballots in their first parliamentary election in a decade Wednesday — a historic vote that could shape the future of the peace process with Israel.

Both the ruling Fatah Party and its challenger, the Islamic militant Hamas, said they were confident of victory, while pollsters said the race was too close to call. Both parties said they would consider a coalition if no clear victor emerges.

Two more kidnapped in Iraq, search goes on for reporter

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Armed men wearing military fatigues seized two German engineers from a car in northern Iraq in the latest brazen kidnapping to push a foreign government into another desperate race to free Iraqi nationals.

Meanwhile, efforts continued to rescue Jill Carroll, the American freelance reporter kidnapped Jan. 7 in Baghdad. Carroll's appearance last week on a silent videotape aired on Arab TV marked the only sign of her since her abduction.

— From staff and wire reports

North Campus plumbing runs dry

Water main repairs interrupt flow

BY KATIE HOFFMANN
ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY EDITOR

The Orange Water and Sewer Authority stopped water service Wednesday in most North Campus buildings to repair a leak in a Cameron Avenue water main.

OWASA officials learned about the leak Tuesday night, according to a press release, and shut down water service at 11 a.m. Wednesday.

Repairs closed the street to through traffic between South Columbia Street and Raleigh Street.

"OWASA recognizes that the repair and service interruption will involve difficulties for affected customers, and everyone's patience and understanding is much appreciated," Greg Feller, of OWASA public affairs, said in the release.

The construction left 29 campus buildings without water for several hours, forcing people to run across campus to use the bathroom, wash their hands or get a drink.

"Things like this happen," said Shaheen Syal, a journalism graduate student who was in Carroll Hall on Wednesday. "But it is an inconvenience."

Syal said that she had to run to Hanes Hall to use the bathroom and that she was lucky because the building had just regained its water service.

She said there were others in the building who couldn't make it across campus.

"When I walked past the bath-

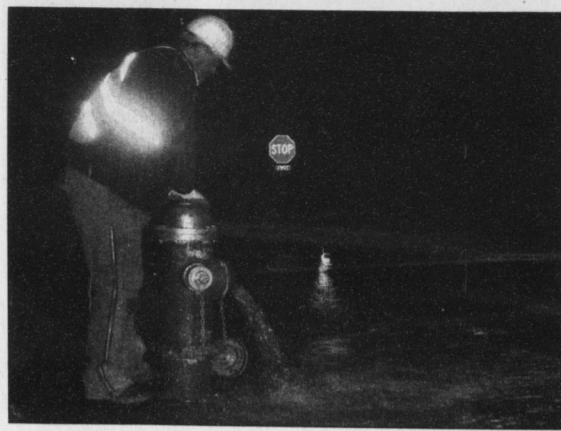
"The water was running brown at one point, and the water was off at one point."

ADRIAN JOHNSTON, SENIOR room, I saw people," Syal said. "They just went. They had to go."

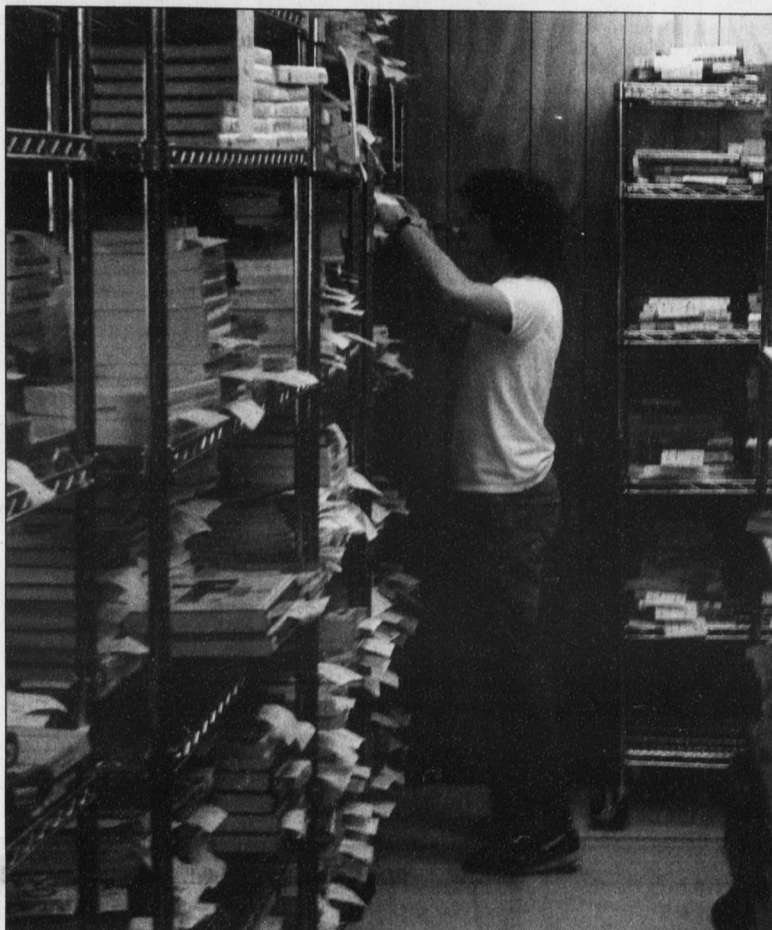
OWASA estimated in a press release that the repairs would take about eight hours. But the leak was located and isolated, and water was turned on in all but one of the buildings by 3:30 p.m.

Cameron Avenue remains closed to through traffic between South Columbia and Raleigh streets.

SEE WATER, PAGE 10



Clay Davis of OWASA shuts a Cameron Avenue fire hydrant Wednesday morning. Davis and others were trying to relieve a broken water line.



Freshman Tony Strow searches for textbooks stored away as construction affects Student Stores.

SALES ANYTHING BUT TEXTBOOK

BY ROBIN HILMANTEL
STAFF WRITER

Students loitered near the apparel section of Student Stores on Wednesday, leaning against counters or sometimes sitting on the ground, waiting for an employee to announce the arrival of their requested textbooks.

The second floor of Student Stores has been closed for renovations since Monday, causing difficulties for students who have yet to buy class reading materials.

Britt Taylor, a junior com-

munication studies major, is among the students who have experienced excessive waiting. He visited Student Stores on Wednesday afternoon in his third attempt to secure books. On the first two tries, Taylor said he waited an hour before leaving empty-handed.

"I've got a new plan of just asking for one book at a time and seeing if that works," he said.

In the three years he has been at UNC, Taylor said he has never before had any problems purchasing textbooks.

A member of the men's track

and field team, Taylor came to UNC with a scholarship under his belt. But for him to be able to use that money on books, all textbooks be purchased at the same time, under the conditions of his award.

Taylor, like other students, said he expected to take his books off the shelves and pay for them at a register. What he found was quite different.

"Most people are in shock," Taylor said. "Nobody I've talked to expected this."

SEE TEXTBOOKS, PAGE 10

Seniors launch drive to fund welcome sign

Leaders: \$40K needed for gift

BY ROBBY MARSHALL
STAFF WRITER

Senior officers are asking their peers to fork over the cash.

Armed with cookies and hot chocolate near the Student Union, senior officials presented a speaker and performers Wednesday to raise money for the senior class gift.

The class's contribution to the University, a welcome sign in front of McCorkle Place, was announced more than two months ago and has been received with criticism.

The long delay between Wednesday's fundraising kickoff and the gift's November announcement is standard procedure, said Jenny Peddycord, senior class vice president, and Ada Wilson, fundraising chairwoman.

"We're on the same timeline as every year," Peddycord said, explaining that an extensive marketing process carried out by the office of development is mandatory prior to fundraising.

Questions surrounding the funding of the senior class address in May also are surfacing.

Senior officials have declined to comment on the state of planning

for a speaker and said Wednesday's event was in no way connected to that effort.

The gift fundraising goal stands at \$40,000, said Katisha Newkirk, assistant director for annual giving.

Wilson said that she doesn't have a specific monetary goal, but that she would like to see 35 percent of the senior class contribute.

"It's kind of lofty, I know," Newkirk said. "Last year they raised over \$49,000, so it's tangible."

Establishing architectural parameters, design and approval require significant time and make cost estimation difficult, Peddycord said.

"Physical gifts are a lot more difficult to set a specific amount for," she said.

On Wednesday, guest speaker Carol Tresolini, associate provost for academic initiatives, spoke to students about the importance of leaving a class legacy after graduation, Wilson said.

In addition, the Black Student Movement's Ebony Readers Onyx Theatre group, along with other performance troupes, provided entertainment for people walking through the breezeway between the new and old sections of the Student Union, Newkirk said.

Officials used an iPod giveaway

SEE SENIOR GIFT, PAGE 10



Jenny Peddycord, senior class vice president (right), jokes with other class coordinators at the kickoff fundraiser for the senior class gift Wednesday.

Holloway earns BSM support

BY COLIN CAMPBELL
STAFF WRITER

The first endorsements of this year's election season are in.

The Black Student Movement announced it would endorse Bernard Holloway for student body president after he and other candidates interviewed Wednesday night in a forum attracting about 80 students.

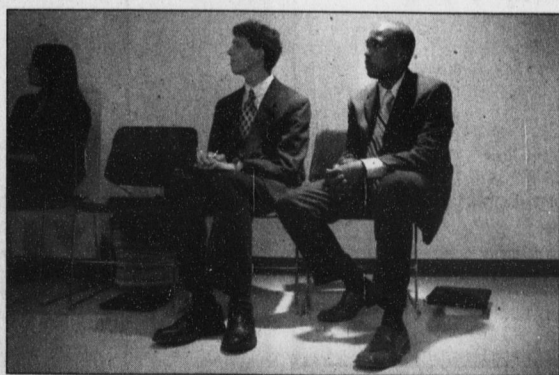
Holloway is a member of BSM. Senior class presidential and vice presidential candidates Doug Weiss and Juelle McDonald were stamped with BSM approval, along with William Thompson for Residence Hall Association president.

McDonald is the only BSM member in the senior class officer race.

BSM members declined to endorse Rachel High, the sole candidate for Carolina Athletic Association president, because they were unimpressed with her address.

The BSM also opted not to endorse a candidate for Graduate and Professional Student Federation president because leaders felt the group was not involved in graduate student affairs.

Julius West, vice president of BSM, said the members chose Holloway because the platform



Student body president candidates James Allred and Bernard Holloway wait to pitch their platforms at the BSM election forum Wednesday night.

DIPHI CANDIDATES FORUM
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Date: Today
Location: 4th floor, New East
Info: www.unc.edu/di_phi/

that his opponent James Allred presented didn't cater to minority issues. Holloway's style of leadership was a major factor, West said.

"He's real big on (programs) that empower the student," West said. Each candidate was given four minutes to speak, followed by a question and answer session with BSM members.

While he said he couldn't discuss all of the more than 80 points on his platform, Allred introduced

SEE BSM, PAGE 10

Students to try to keep mits on Duke tickets

Last year, contest lasted 59 hours

BY BETHANY BLACK
STAFF WRITER

And you thought Saturday morning distributions were rough.

Starting Friday, 20 University students will show just how far they're willing to go for a pair of rarer tickets to the Duke game.

The second annual "Hands on a Duke Ticket" contest, co-sponsored by the student group Keeping Recreational Activities New and Creative and the Carolina Athletic Association, starts at 3 p.m. Friday.

Students selected through a mock ticket distribution will spend the better part of their weekend standing around a table in the Pit.

"One hand must remain on the table at all times," said Mark Smith, president of KRANC.

In order to win the tickets to the Feb. 7 game, contestants cannot lean on the table or sit down.

"I need Duke tickets, and I've had bad luck with distributions in the past."

MATTHEW FLETCHER, JUNIOR

Contestants will have a 10-minute break every two hours and a 15-minute break every six hours.

The last person standing will take home the grand prize.

Interested students can obtain a bracelet from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. today in the Pit. KRANC will announce the selected bracelet numbers at noon Friday.

The idea for the contest came from a documentary titled "Hands on a Hardbody." In the film, contestants competed for a truck by seeing who could keep a hand on it the longest.

Students obtaining bracelets Wednesday had various strategies

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