

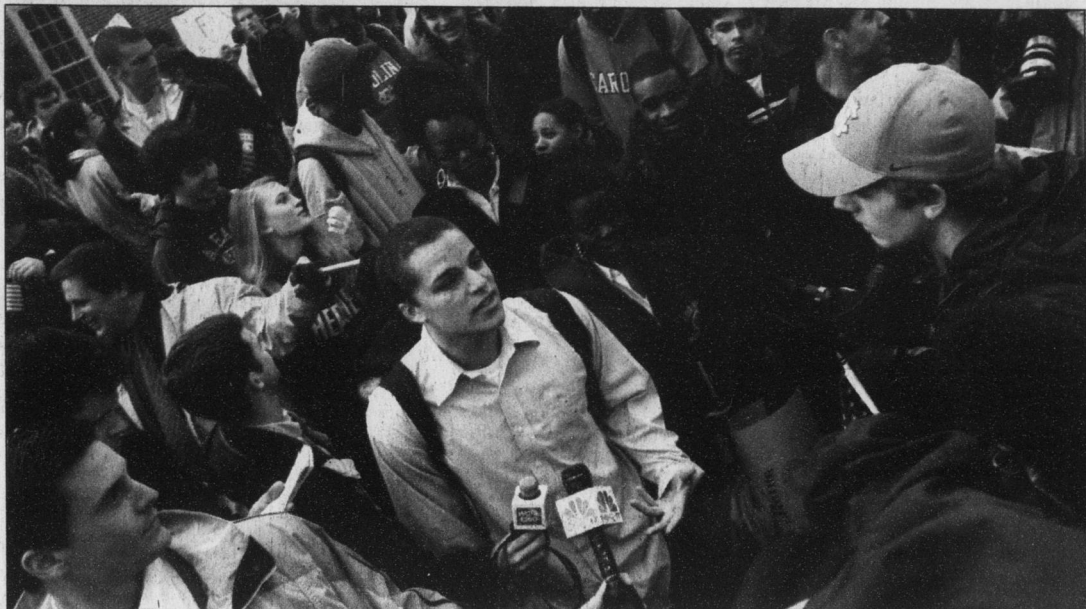
The Daily Tar Heel

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Campus seeks label for Pit incident



DTH/RICKY LEUNG

Sophomore Jonathan Pourzal engages one of the leaders of a rally Monday in the Pit to denounce the Friday assaults at the campus spot. Organizers pushed for media outlets and UNC to label the incident an act of terrorism, a point with which Pourzal and others took issue.

RALLY CALLS FOR ANSWERS WHILE CAMPUS STILL REELING

BY BETHANY BLACK
STAFF WRITER

The Pit was back to normal Monday — sort of.

On the first day of classes since Friday's incident, the heart of campus reclaimed its status as a site of discourse and discussion when about a dozen students gathered to denounce the actions of Mohammed Taheri-azar.

The students, who held signs and distributed American flags, called on the various national and local news media that had assembled and the University to label the incident an act of terrorism.

Taheri-azar was arrested on 18 felony charges after driving a silver Jeep Grand Cherokee through the Pit about noon, striking nine and injuring six.

Monday's group met a small force of people who were opposed to the event's message.

Srinath Jayaram said he feared the protest could increase campus tensions. Jayaram, a doctoral candi-

date in communication studies, held a sign that read "Promote love and understanding, not belligerence."

"This is a time for peace and understanding. What you're seeing in the Pit today is a small minority trying to manipulate other people's emotions," he said. "This is not UNC."

Other students said Friday's incident did not exacerbate campus tensions, which are high after a recent controversy about a Feb. 9 cartoon depicting the Prophet Muhammad in *The Daily Tar Heel* and the accidental death of a Stacy Hall resident one week before.

"I'm glad people are condemning (the Pit incident), but it's a given," said sophomore Atif Mohiuddin, "Who wouldn't condemn it?"

Participants held signs proclaiming that Taheri-azar's actions were terrorism. One read, "They were innocent victims," and another stated, "Terrorism: Violence directed at

SEE RESPONSE, PAGE 6

Pit driver to defend self

BY BRIANNA BISHOP
CITY EDITOR

The pieces of the puzzle finally are starting to come together after the chaos surrounding Friday's events in the Pit left a trail of unanswered questions.

Mohammed Taheri-azar, the UNC alumnus charged with 18 felony counts after plowing a Jeep Grand Cherokee through the Pit, made his first appearance in District Criminal Court in Hillsborough on Monday amid a media frenzy.

Taheri-azar, a native of Iran who went to high school in Charlotte, told the court that he would represent himself on nine

counts of attempted first-degree murder and nine counts of assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury with intent to kill.

BLOGGIN'
with the City Desk

More on this topic online:
<http://apps.dailytarheel.com/blogs/orange.php>

control of the proceedings.

"I could not clearly hear what he said, but he mentioned that he was going

to explain ... the law of Allah," District Attorney Jim Woodall said. "He seemed very calm and composed, seemed to clearly understand what was going on."

He will next appear in court March 16.

In a 911 call released Monday, Taheri-azar calmly confessed the crime to the operator and stated his location, saying he was waiting for police to arrest him.

"I don't have any weapons or anything on me, you can come arrest me now," he said during the three-minute phone call.

SEE TAHERI-AZAR, PAGE 6



DTH/LOGAN PRICE

Mohammed Reza Taheri-azar is escorted Monday morning into the Orange County District Criminal Court in Hillsborough before his first court appearance.

Obstacles to homeownership

Total households in Chapel Hill: **17,982**

Average household size: **2.2 persons**

Median income for a 2-person household: **\$55,840 (in 2004)**

Average sale price of a new home in Orange County: **\$564,568**

Percentage of households falling within 0 to 80 percent of the median income with a severe housing cost burden: **43.4 (in 2000)**

Average cost to build a two-bedroom Orange Community Housing and Land Trust house: **\$90,000**

Average cost to build a three-bedroom Habitat for Humanity house: **\$50,000**

Sources: The Fannie Mae Foundation, Orange Community Housing and Land Trust, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Chapel Hill Board of Realtors.

Seeking: home, ownership help

BY MEGHAN DAVIS
FEATURES EDITOR

Every year, students hunt for places to live, usually focusing on one criterion — proximity to campus.

Meanwhile thousands of working-class residents search for housing they can afford.

As the average price of a new home in Orange County continues to rise, many in the area are looking for ways to

alleviate the pressure of homeownership.

"It's a really desirable place to be,

and there's a really intense competition for housing," Carrboro Mayor Mark Chilton said.

Two well-entrenched institutions address housing in different ways, and they might serve distinct customer bases, stated Edward Ellis, regional field director of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, in an e-mail.

This can range from housing for the very low income to homeownership aimed at the middle-class working family, he stated.

SEE HOUSING, PAGE 6

Manager search proceeds

Council will publicize finalists for position

BY KAYLA CARRICK
STAFF WRITER

The Chapel Hill Town Council made progress in the process of hiring a new town manager Monday, agreeing on critical decisions that previously had hung up members.

Council members continued an unresolved discussion from the Feb. 27 meeting on the subject of Town Manager Cal Horton's retirement, effective September 1, which will end 16 years of service in the town's top post.

Mayor Kevin Foy announced Monday that the search committee, in addition to himself, will include Mayor Pro Tem Bill Strom and council members Ed Harrison and Bill Thorpe.

The committee will announce meeting dates but will go into closed session when evaluating applicants, council members agreed.

The council also supported Foy's recommendation to keep applicants' identities confidential until finalists are chosen — a contentious issue when first brought up.

Foy expects three to five finalists.

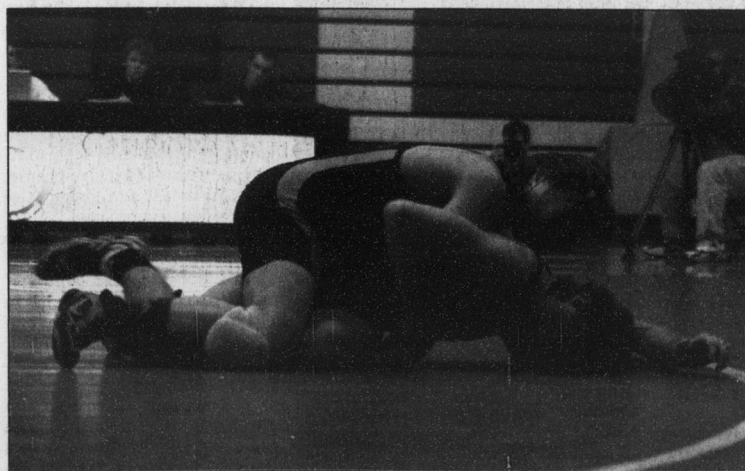
"My idea is a limited number of people, but I don't think we should hold the committee to a number," he said.

The committee might not have to look



Town Manager Cal Horton will retire at the start of September.

SEE MANAGER, PAGE 6



DTH FILE/SAMANTHA LEVY

Freshman Jared Royer, as seen Jan. 31, surprised his 133-pound class in the ACC tournament this weekend, taking the conference crown. Royer was one of three to win his weight class.

WRESTLERS CAPTURE SECOND ACC CROWN

BY AL KILLEFFER
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

North Carolina wrestling coach C.D. Mock is getting a tattoo — but not because he wants one.

He lost a bet he made with freshman Jared Royer a week ago at practice.

"I was yelling at him because I thought he was doggin' it, and he told me he was going to win ACCs," Mock said.

"I told him, 'You win ACCs, I'll get a tattoo.'"

At the conference championships Saturday in Lexington, Va., Royer held up his end of the bargain, conquering the 133-pound class and helping UNC nab its second straight ACC crown.

With two other Tar Heels finishing at the top of their weight classes and four more earning runner-up honors, Mock should be thankful that more of his wrestlers didn't take him up on his offer.

And when the six Tar Heels who earned bids to the NCAA Tournament make the trip to Oklahoma City in less than two weeks, it's unlikely Mock will want to make any wagers.

Senior 165-pounder Garrett Atkinson, who won his second conference title in two years Saturday, summed up the team's championship performance.

"Everybody wrestled their (butts) off," he said.

Considering all the obstacles the team

had to overcome en route to the tournament, it's understandable why.

Injuries plagued the Tar Heels throughout the regular season, and when sophomore 174-pounder Alex Maciag hurt his knee in practice just two weeks before the tournament, it looked as if they might have to compete without one of their starters.

Despite hardly wrestling before the contest, Maciag not only competed — he won a conference title.

"He's the kind of guy that can just walk out ... (like) a runner that can run 10 miles not having trained at all,"

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ARTS BLOG Recaps from Hollywood's biggest night, including an alumnus's win

CITY BLOG The transcript from Taheri-azar's call to police after Friday's assaults.

SPORTS BLOG More unofficial picks for All-ACC from a senior sports analyst

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CLUB WITH NO NAME

The owners of the former location of Hector's, where on March 23 a new club will open, want help naming the new business.



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TOOLS FOR LIFE

While well-known for its overall academic prowess, one student wants the city schools district to beef up its vocational training.

today in history

MARCH 7, 2001 ...

A small group of faculty members speak out against the decision to name ESPN sports anchorman Stuart Scott as Commencement speaker.

weather



Sunny
H 55, L 27

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