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News takes wide angle at UNC

Carson's death draws attention

BY ELISABETH GILBERT
STAFF WRITER

To say that the March 5 death of Student Body President Eve Carson has captured the attention of UNC students, employees and supporters is an understatement.

Carson's story has attracted notice from local and national sources, including the media, religious groups and other universities.

News coverage has been pronounced since the initial press conference announcing the identification of her body March 6.

"In Eve's case, the reason that we gave a lot of coverage to her was pretty simple: She's a prominent person," said Linda Williams, a senior editor at the (Raleigh) News & Observer. She added that the newspaper covered the story as though Carson had been the mayor of a small town.

Carson's death has drawn much more attention than other local student slayings such as N.C. Central University student Denita Smith in Jan. 2007 and Duke University student Abhijit Mahato in Jan. 2008.

But Carson's killing also has attracted protest. The Topeka, Kansas-based Westboro Baptist Church has announced plans to picket Carson's memorial service, scheduled for 4 p.m. today at the Dean Smith Center.

The group has a history of staging protests following high-profile tragedies, including the shootings at Virginia Tech and other colleges.

WBC member and daughter of the church's founder, Rebekah Phelps-Davis, said the group believes God punished Carson for not using her position to denounce homosexuality.

WBC affiliates requested permission and police protection March 12 for a protest outside the Smith



Kandis Rich, a junior from Fayetteville, is interviewed by a television news crew Thursday, March 6, following the news of Student Body President Eve Carson's March 5 death. The story has been covered by local and national media outlets and has also been the target of protests.

Center to coincide with the memorial, Lisa Katz, director of UNC news services, wrote in an e-mail.

Officials denied them access to the Smith Center, citing traffic and safety concerns. They proposed a McCorkle Place site instead, which the group declined. Katz said she thinks WBC will no longer protest.

Several Facebook groups have formed with hundreds of students pledging to participate in a coun-

terprotest in which they would silently surround WBC protesters to block them from view.

The memorial has drawn shows of support from other UNC-system schools. At least three — N.C. State University, East Carolina University and UNC-Wilmington — have started campaigns urging their students to wear Carolina blue today in honor of Carson.

"Obviously not everyone is going

to want to wear Carolina blue, but I think most students will understand that this cause is bigger than our rivalry," N.C. State Senior Class President Zach Adams said.

ECU Student Government Association President Keri Brockett said she received phone calls from students wanting to make sure they would be able to obtain one of the Carolina blue ribbons ECU student organizations will distrib-

ute. She said a delegation of ECU student leaders also will attend the memorial service.

"She's really touched a lot of lives — not just at Chapel Hill," Brockett said of Carson.

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Cabinet picks up SBP duties

Two weeks left in leaders' terms

BY WHITNEY KISLING
UNIVERSITY EDITOR

Although the campus community is still mourning the death of Student Body President Eve Carson, the work in her office must continue.

There are exactly two weeks left until the inauguration of next year's student government.

And in the time between now and then, this year's leaders said they will function as a group to finish their work. Next year's leaders are squeezing plans to stay on track.

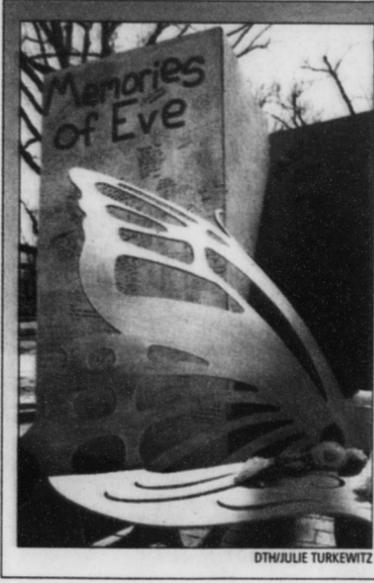
The Student Code calls for the vice president to assume the duties of the student body president if that person cannot continue them. The executive branch decided Monday night to work as a unit in the last two weeks, turning to Student Body Vice President Mike Tarrant for all official duties, as needed.

"We've already started a little bit," Tarrant said. "It's sort of simple things."

SEE GOVERNMENT, PAGE 6



Student Body Vice President Mike Tarrant will lead official duties if needed.



DTH/JULIE TURKEWITZ

Grieving father shares message of hope

FROM BOB CARSON

Editor's Note: The following was written by Eve Carson's father and was read aloud by a minister at her funeral March 9 in Athens, Ga.

I've always cherished the look Eve greeted me with as I held her in the delivery room. She was wide-awake, and she sweetly peered right into my eyes with such pleasure — as if saying thanks and "I'm so glad to be here now, Dad." A specialist would say it was a reaction to the newness or just being unadjusted to the hospital birthing room, but please believe me, something was just a touch different about Eve from birth.

Every parent knows how special their child can be. We know from our own lives that growth and growing up are best continued over a lifetime. But

there seems to be a moment early on, when a parent can look at their child and know that they've got the building blocks and the character for a good life. I feel blessed because I had that moment with both of my loving children at early ages. I call it my Papua New Guinea moment — when, should your child be lost upon a distant shore and even in a different culture, that child would grow up into a fine, helpful, caring person.

The senseless murder of my sweet, sweet Eve is sadness defined, unfathomable and bottomless, but so appreciatively interrupted by each friend or family member who shares our grief.

Yesterday, a red-tailed hawk glided effortlessly close to my car as I drove from my mother's home. It touched more deeply than normal. To me, these moments with nature represent a

circle of everlasting life, but so also, do the friends of Eve and Andrew — and the babies of relatives and neighbors and friends.

The irony of Eve's murder is that she, along with these blessed friends and fellow students, are the ones who can solve the most pressing problems of this time. Please don't attribute this to hyperbole or relate it to a father's sadness. I see a stunningly beautiful convergence of talent and caring in this, our children's, generation. It is the most fantastic realization.

I believe that these kids, along with their peers around the globe, can reach reasoned solutions for mitigating violence and tackling many of the inequities of poverty, prejudice, inadequate health care and under-education. This is no pie-in-the-sky wish! These kids are smart! They're so capable.

They're more productive because they collaborate and communicate like no generation before them. And what is even more wonderful is their generosity. Isn't that tremendous?

There are needs now, and there are reasons for and solutions to those needs. Those dilemmas that keep getting shuffled along by our generation will gain solutions from the student sitting near you, your friends' sons and daughters or the young mentored student from another place.

But I must tell you — even with an aching heart, and yet with such hope and love — that the friends of Eve, and their generation, will not be denied. They've got miles to go, and missions to keep, and we will be so much better for their undaunted perseverance!

May God bless each one of you.

UNC gets tough draw in bracket

Williams claims not to envy committee

BY GREGG FOUND
SENIOR WRITER

As his North Carolina team learned their NCAA Tournament path Sunday, Roy Williams said he was repeatedly shocked.

But he tempered that shock with a dose of relief that he isn't a member of the committee that sets the bracket.

"They have no way of winning completely," Williams said at his news conference Monday.

"It's too confusing. Anybody can stand up and make a case that sounds good. And the next person can get up and make a case that sounds good."

Still, a few things caught his eye — most notably that Tennessee, the coun-

try's top team in the RPI, was dropped to a No. 2 seed and matched with UNC.

"I mean, I thought that Tennessee was going to be a No. 1 seed — I was sure of that," Williams said.

"And yet when they lose on Saturday, it throws that doubt in there. And I'm thinking, my gosh they've proven something over three and a half months, why should this one game throw doubt in there?"

Williams also plugged for the ACC, saying the conference should have received more than just four bids — UNC, Duke, Clemson and Miami. The ACC was the nation's top conference in the RPI rankings, and Virginia Tech narrowly missed the cut.

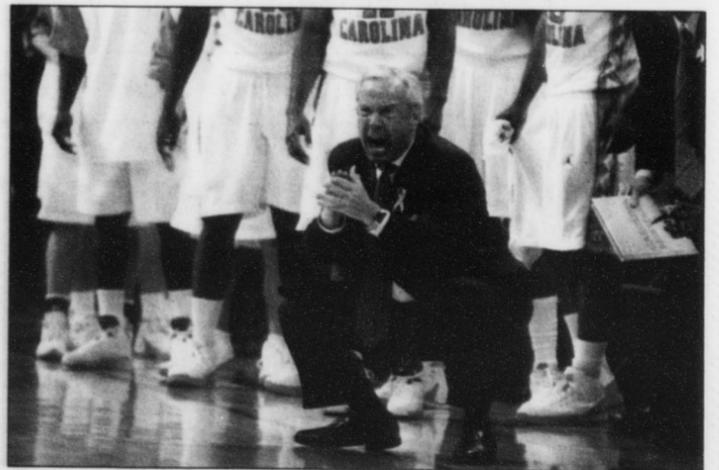
And Williams supported friends with teams on the bubble — Virginia Tech coach Seth Greenberg and former N.C. State coach Herb Sendek, who now coaches Arizona State.

"It's just a hard thing to do," he said. "And so far, knock on wood, I haven't been in the awful position that Seth Greenberg and Herb are in right now about believing that their team is good enough to be playing in the thing and they're not playing."

But more than anything, Williams said, he has reverence and not a drop of envy for the tournament selection committee.

"I have tremendous confidence and faith in how hard they work, but it's impossible to get it right for all of us,"

SEE TOURNAMENT, PAGE 6



North Carolina coach Roy Williams yells during the ACC Championship. He spoke Monday on the NCAA selection committee and the road to San Antonio for his top-seeded Heels.

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BSM ELECTIONS STARTING

Black Student Movement will hold a forum Wednesday to introduce prospective candidates. The offices up for grabs are president, vice president, secretary and treasurer.



WOMEN'S HOOPS NCAA TOURNAMENT

BRACKET ON PAGE 6

The Tar Heels learned Monday that they are the No. 1 seed in the New Orleans regional. They will face Bucknell in the opening round at noon Sunday.

this day in history

MARCH 18, 2002 ...

Members of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Board of Education say they plan to address students with learning disability problems after a survey says they're overlooked.

weather

Mostly cloudy
H 63, L 53

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