

A false identity: getting an official alias isn't very difficult

By TONY GUNN
Staff Writer

"Hi, my name is Tony Gunn. I'm a student at the University of North Carolina, and I'm working on a project concerning average life spans. I'd like to look at your birth and death certificates."

The woman behind the desk at the Wake County Health Department smiled and asked what dates I needed to see.

"January 1956," I replied, trying to be calm. She led me into a small room adjoining her office, which contained bound volumes of birth and death certificates. Deaths are in red books, births in black ones.

"I'll look at the deaths first," I told her. For births and deaths, the records are divided into the City of Raleigh and Wake County. She handed me both the city and county deaths.

"Let's see if I can find you a place to work." I followed her into an office full of secretaries. "You can use that desk for a while," she said, pointing to one. "The girl won't be back for 30 or 40 minutes. We'll move you some place else if

your work takes longer."

Thanking her, I sat down and began to leaf through the Raleigh death certificates.

Sigh; the first part was over. I had access to the records. I smiled to myself. There I was, feeling dishonest. You see, I didn't give a darn about average life spans. What I needed was a good excuse to go through the records. And it worked.

Several months ago, Mike Wallace on CBS' *60 Minutes* filmed a woman in the process of establishing a false identity. She started by obtaining a copy of a dead person's birth certificate.

From there she obtained a driver's license, a Social Security number, a checking account, credit cards and even a U.S. passport.

Using her fake identity, she bought a camera and clothes on credit, plus an airline ticket to South America. She was never caught.

CBS returned the documents and the goods, of course. It had proved its point: it is easy to get a false identity, for no notice of death is put on the birth certificate.

If she could do it, I could, too.

I discovered that two copies of a North Carolinian's certificate are kept. One is in Raleigh. The other is in the county of birth, usually at the register of deeds office.

In at least three counties, however—Durham, Mecklenburg and Wake—the records are at the county health department.

There I quickly skimmed through the pages of deaths. The criteria were simple: white and male with a life of only a few days.

I wanted someone fitting my description. White and male were close enough. Better get someone over 21, too—some places might still consider you a minor if not at least that age.

And I needed someone dead. I didn't want to get a living person in trouble.

It didn't take long to find one. Peter Wayne Simpson was born Jan. 21, 1956, and died the next day. He was perfect.

Now don't be too quick about this, I thought. You're here to do research, so look busy. I flipped through more certificates, wrote down a few figures, then left to get the corresponding births.

I walked back into the small room, reshuffled the death records, then pulled the birth certificates for the same time. I wanted to assure myself that there was no record of death on the certificate of birth.

More flipping. Then I found the certificate. No record of death. It was just as if he were still living. Beautiful.

"Thank you so much for all your help," I told the woman.

"Glad to." "Oh, while I'm here, I'd also like to pick up a copy of my roommate's birth certificate." My heart beat faster.

"Was he born in Wake County?" "Yes, his name is Peter Simpson."

"On what date was he born?" she asked, writing all the information down on a piece of paper.

"January 23, er... 21." I stammered. "1956." I haven't had that much practice in being dishonest. My heart was going crazy.

Then I almost kicked myself. Why didn't I tell

her I needed to see some other dates besides January 1956 for my research?

Quite a coincidence, I can almost hear her thinking. I should have asked for some other dates, then checked the books later when I was in the room alone.

"Do you know what his father's name is?" "Ah... he wrote it down for me," I said, quickly turning the pages of my legal pad. At least I wrote that down somewhere. There it was. "John Andrew," I said.

"All right." She went into the records room and pulled out what was apparently an index. "John Peter Simpson?" she asked.

"Yes. He's going to Europe in a couple of months, and he needs it for his passport."

"Yes, my son is going to England in April," she told me.

"Oh, England's beautiful," I said. She pulled out the same book I had used just five minutes ago and turned right to the certificate.

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Carolina Relays

The women's track team took five first-place finishes while the men took three at the Carolina Relays hosted here Saturday on Fetzer Field. For details see page 7.

The Daily Tar Heel

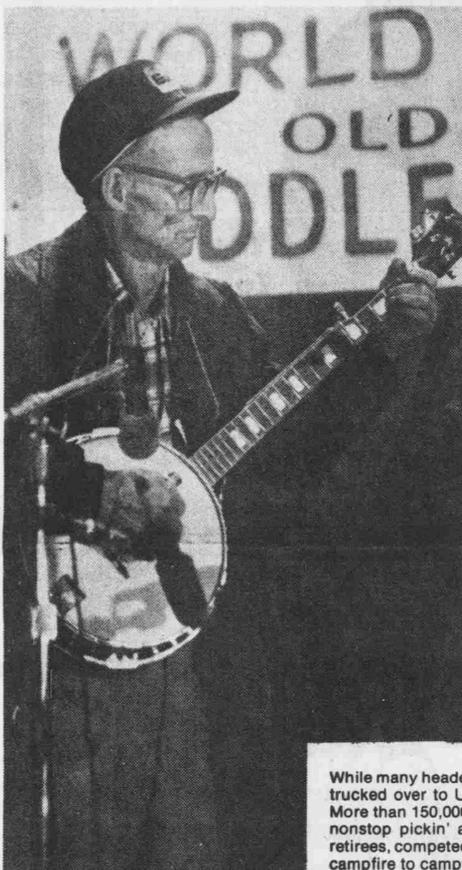
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Tuesday, April 12, 1977, Chapel Hill, North Carolina

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Sunny, warm

Today and tomorrow will be sunny and warm with highs in the mid 80s. The overnight low will be in the mid 50s.

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While many headed to the beach for the weekend, Photography Editor Rouse Wilson trucked over to Union Grove for the 53rd-annual Old Time Fiddlers Convention. More than 150,000 bluegrass fans, mostly college age, clapped and stomped to the nonstop pickin' and fiddlin'. Hundreds of musicians, ranging from preteens to retirees, competed on the stage for the \$1,000 first prize, while others wandered from campfire to campfire on the 150-acre site trading songs and smoke.



Friday: UNC system needs to know how to comply with act

By TONY GUNN
Staff Writer

FAYETTEVILLE—The UNC system should insist that the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) specify what the University should do to comply with the 1964 Civil Rights Act, UNC President William C. Friday said on Friday.

Addressing the UNC Board of Governors at Fayetteville State University, Friday said that HEW should clearly state its understanding of the meaning of Title VI of the act and also specify the deficiencies in the state's current plan to eliminate racial duality in higher education.

"In short, North Carolina should not place itself any longer in the position of attempting to formulate and implement specific commitments in response to vague, confused and unexplained directives from HEW," Friday said.

On April 1, District Court Judge John H. Pratt directed HEW to invalidate the desegregation plans of North Carolina and five other states. The plans had been approved by HEW in 1974.

But Pratt ruled that the plans were in violation of Title VI: no U.S. citizen shall be excluded on the basis of race, color or national origin from participating in any program that receives federal financial assistance.

Pratt also ordered that HEW require these states to prepare and file desegregation plans this summer which conform to guidelines prepared by the department.

The federal agency has 90 days to draft the guidelines and submit them for approval to Pratt.

Friday said that Pratt, HEW and the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, who are the plaintiffs in the case, have failed to come to grips with a central issue:

"What does Title VI of the Civil Rights Act require that the state do ultimately with respect to its predominantly black public institutions of higher education?"

"Must the state truly accomplish the goal of eliminating the vestiges of racial duality? Or, alternatively, must the state preserve those predominantly black institutions as predominantly black institutions for the indefinite future and enhance them?"

"We have tried to maintain and improve all of our constituent institutions—historically black and historically white—recognizing that time is required to change the racial identifiability of institutions since there is, in higher education, no authority for student assignment."

HEW general counsel Peter Libassi called Friday last week to arrange a conference. Friday, however, suggested that the meeting be requested in writing and include specifications of what it would concern.

Friday has said that at this point in the proceedings, all correspondence must be formal.

"We tried hard," Friday told the board. "We were the state that was cited as doing the job it was supposed to. This is the consequence."

Marijuana decriminalization under Carter?

By DAVID WATTERS
Staff Writer

A nationally known advocate of changes in drug laws says there is a good chance marijuana will be decriminalized by the Carter administration.

Erich Goode, a member of the national advisory board of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML), warns, however, that students are naive to think they will not be arrested for possession of marijuana.

Goode is a visiting professor of sociology at UNC. During 1971-72 he was a consultant to the National Commission on Marijuana and Drug Abuse.

Before the 1976 election, Carter was among eight of 10 Democratic presidential candidates who told NORML they favored decriminalizing marijuana. "Since becoming president, Carter has publicly come out in favor of decriminalization, and the mood in Washington is very favorable to a change," Goode said.

Seven states have decriminalized marijuana, and similar

bills have been introduced in other state legislatures, but Goode said federal decriminalization would speed up state reforms.

Only 5,000 people are busted per year under the federal law, so the numerical importance of a national change is low, but it would be significant because a lot of states would follow," Goode said. "State legislatures would use it as a justification for changing their own laws."

Goode said that even without a federal change, he expects marijuana to be legalized within 20 years in all but a few states. But Goode said that until marijuana is decriminalized in North Carolina, UNC students must take precautions against arrest.

"Students feel that marijuana is already decriminalized, but that's just not true. There are still over 400,000 arrests per year on marijuana charges, and just a few weeks ago some guy got busted by the Chapel Hill Police Department for having a few roaches (marijuana cigarette butts) in his ashtray."

Goode said a liberal public attitude toward marijuana has decriminalized the drug in the sense that police recognize the futility of arrests, and in 1975 the number of Americans arrested on marijuana charges dropped for the first time in more than a decade.

But he added that until the drug is decriminalized, "The law gives the police discretion to bust people who are unpopular. It can be used as a convenient excuse to control the population, like political radicals were pressured during 'the '60s.'"

There is a contradiction in decriminalizing marijuana, Goode said, because while a change in the law would reduce the charge for possession of a small amount of the drug (usually less than an ounce), buying or selling marijuana, or possessing more than the specified amount, still would be illegal. But Goode said he believes this is a necessary compromise between legislators who want to legalize marijuana and those who do not.

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Soviet fishing vessels seized by Coast Guard

BOSTON (UPI)—Gleaming white Coast Guard cutters brought in a seized Soviet trawler Monday and shepherded the huge mother ship of a Russian fishing fleet toward port for violating the U.S. 200-mile fishing limit.

The 275-foot trawler *Taras Shevchenko*, taken on the high seas at 1 a.m. Sunday, was the first foreign vessel seized under the Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976. Some of its 93 crewmen waved to newsmen as a single tugboat nudged the ship to a berth at the Coast Guard station.

"Tons and tons and tons" of fish in the

massive holds of the mother ship *Antanas Sniechkus* were to be seized by the federal government, said Capt. Robert Russell, commander of the Boston Coast Guard District. The 503-foot transport-refrigerator vessel, seaborne headquarters of the Soviet fleet off New England, was boarded Sunday morning by guardsmen and National Marine Fisheries Service agents about 160 miles southeast of Nantucket Island.

Coast Guard officials said it was possible the mother ship, as well as its cargo, may be seized after arrival in Boston late Monday or early Tuesday.

Williamson gets board's approval as college dean



Samuel R. Williamson

appointment. "The position to which Dr. Williamson has been appointed is one of central importance in the University at Chapel Hill, and I am confident that he will fill it with distinction."

In a press release, Williamson listed some of his goals as arts and sciences dean:

- "The faculty of arts and sciences must begin to participate more actively in its own affairs.

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Law school to appeal court ruling

By DAVID STACKS
Staff Writer

The UNC School of Law will appeal to the N.C. Supreme Court a lower-court decision ordering the law-school faculty to open its meetings to the public, N.C. Deputy Atty. Gen. Andrew Vanore said Monday.

Vanore, who represents the law school said he will ask the high court to ignore precedents by the Tennessee Supreme Court in 1976 and a Washington state court in 1975. The law schools of those two states' universities were ordered to open their faculty meetings to the public by the courts.

"We're going to ask the Supreme Court to say the other states' courts were wrong," Vanore said.

"Just because another state's court says a law is right that doesn't mean the North Carolina Supreme Court has to say a similar law is right in North Carolina."

The UNC Student Bar Association (SBA) filed the original suit in April 1976, challenging Law School Dean Robert Byrd's right to close faculty meetings. They claim the meetings are covered by a N.C. statute prohibiting governmental bodies from meeting in private.

According to the statute, the law will "allow the public to view the decision-making process at all stages."

The focus of the case is whether the General Assembly, in passing the open meetings law, meant for it to apply to University agencies.

"A university traditionally is not a governing body, so we don't think the statute applies to us," Byrd said.

Byrd said that if the lower-court decision is upheld, the law faculty would be forced to discuss such matters as a professor's

performance and a student's admission in the presence of those under consideration.

"When the faculty meets to discuss students who have petitioned the law school for admission, such a discussion need not be aired in front of those students," Byrd said.

"Likewise, the faculty should not have to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of a professor in front of that particular professor."

The SBA contends that because the law school faculty sets policies and procedures that govern the law school, the faculty

constitutes a governing body.

Superior Court Judge Edwin Preston agreed with the SBA on June 4, 1976, when he ruled that the law school must open its meetings. Preston cited the faculty's authority to establish curriculum, scholastic standards, admissions requirements and law-school size.

Byrd, Vanore and SBA President Ray Owens said they were unsure of the effect a Supreme Court decision upholding the lower-court rulings would have on other University schools and departments.

Transcript company to cease service

The president of Triangle Transcribers Inc. said Friday that his company will discontinue transcribing lectures after the spring semester.

Crawford Gilligan, president of Triangle Transcribers, cited lack of student interest and "continued and unceasing pressure from the faculty" as reasons for discontinuing the service.

"We are making money on our printing

operations but losing on transcripts," Gilligan said. "The biggest problem is that students are sharing the transcripts with four or five friends."

Triangle Transcribers began the transcription service in the fall semester of 1975 and since then has had difficulty getting enough users and courses to make the service

unable to increase our number of courses," Gilligan said. "We expected to get 50 but were only able to get 14 due to a lack of student interest and faculty fears."

Gilligan said the remaining transcripts will be sold for \$6 for an entire semester's transcripts.

"Contrary to our expectations, we were

—CHUCK ALSTON