

Windy

Low tonight in the 40s with a 20 percent chance of rain. Windy and warmer Friday with a high in the mid 70s.

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Taxes

Having trouble telling your W-2 from a 1040-A? Consult the DTH income tax story on page 6 to add to your confusion.

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Nuclear accident results in damage to reactor core

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP)—An accident at the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant apparently damaged the reactor core and allowed radioactive material to leak into the atmosphere, the government said Wednesday.

Officials said their readings indicated there was no immediate danger to the public, and there were no plans to evacuate the 15,000 people living within a mile of the plant.

Edson Case, a Nuclear Regulatory Commission spokesman, said radiation levels inside the plant's reactor building registered at 1,000 times normal.

But George Troffer, manager of generation quality assurance for Metropolitan Edison, one of the consortium of companies that runs the plant, said he thought that figure was too high. He said employees and NRC officials worked at the plant to reduce the temperature and pressure inside the reactor dome to allow engineers to enter and check the reactor for damage.

A plant spokesman said "a handful" of workers was exposed to radiation in the accident, but no one was seriously contaminated or hospitalized.

In Washington, Sen. Gary Hart, D-Colo., said human error appeared to have been a factor in the incident.

"I am informed by the NRC that the emergency core cooling system was turned off prematurely—resulting in partial blockage of water needed to cool the nuclear core and keep it under control," said Hart, chairman of the Senate subcommittee on nuclear radiation.

"Some human error seems to have been involved in responding to the emergency situation," he said, adding the NRC had told him radiation levels outside the plant did not pose a health hazard.

Case said radioactive gases from the plant's nuclear fuel may have leaked out of the plant, which was shut down by the accident. There was no word when the electric facility would resume operation.

A statement from General Public Utilities, the consortium which operates the plant, said there was "some low-level release of radioactive gas beyond the site boundary....Despite this release, the company does not believe the level constitutes a danger to the health and safety of the public."

Earlier, the consortium said the accident may have damaged the fuel cladding, metal tubes which contain the pellets of radioactive uranium fuel.

The cause of the accident—or the precise sequence of events that led to the radiation's release—could not be immediately determined.

But Lt. Gov. William Scranton III said steam containing radioactive material was released into the air for over two hours to "relieve potentially dangerous pressure" in the reactor.

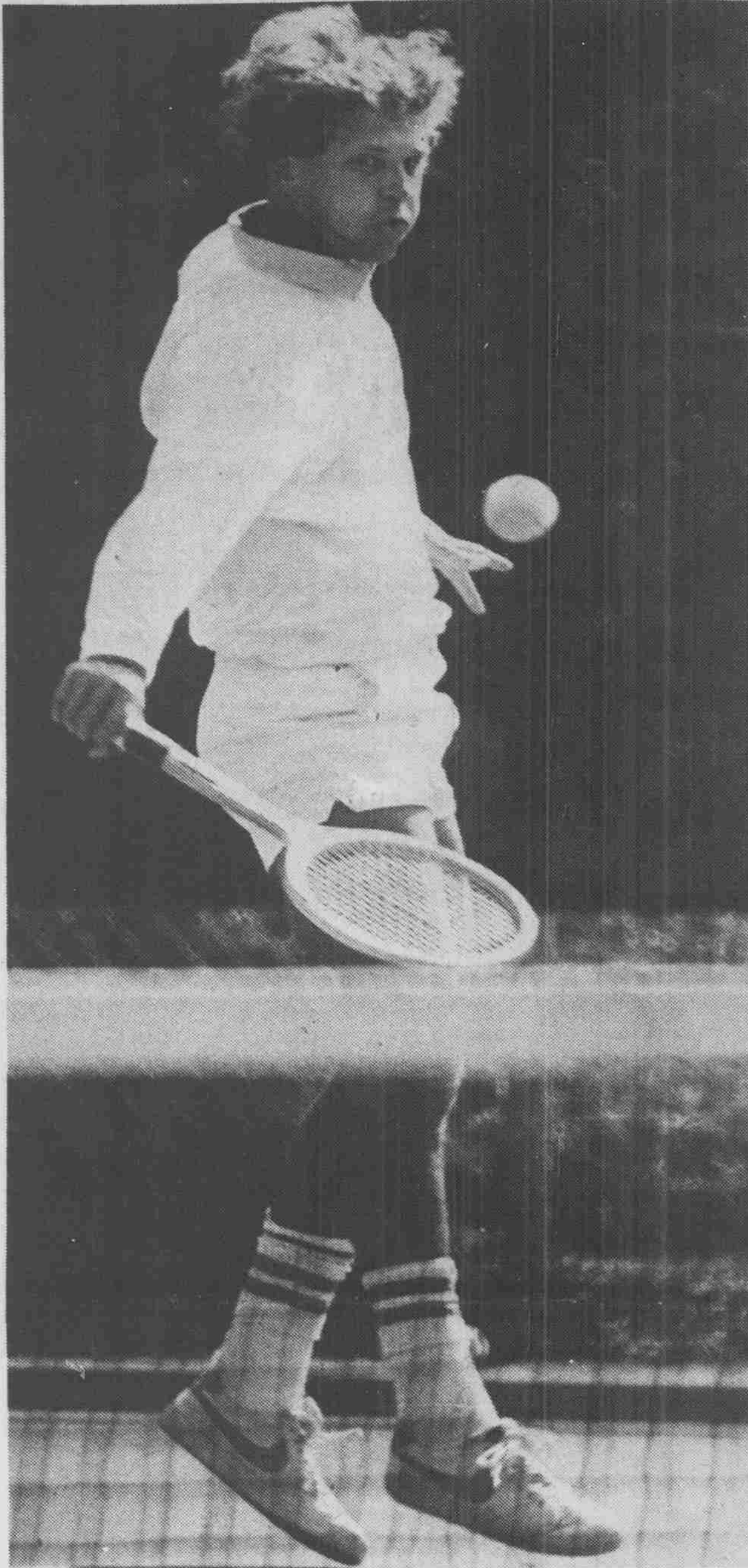
"The situation is more complex than the company first led us to believe," Scranton said.

"It (the release of the steam) was done to relieve potentially dangerous pressure in the reactor chamber," Scranton said.

Case said heat-caused pressure inside the dome had risen temporarily to four or five pounds per square inch above outside atmospheric pressure—enough to cause leakage. The leaking gases may have included iodine and xenon, he said, but not uranium or plutonium.

Plant officials said some workers may have been contaminated. "I'm sure some of them got exposure, but positively none were over-exposed," said Jack Herbein, vice president for generation at Metropolitan Edison. The plant employs 500 persons.

Plant spokesman Blaine Fabian said, "There is absolutely no danger of a meltdown. We are not in a China Syndrome-type situation." He referred to a movie that dramatizes the possibility of an uncooled nuclear reactor core melting and burying into the earth.



Maybe if I blow on it—Chris Fenichell gives all ...Carolina vs. N.C. State tennis story on page 9.

ABC police investigate local bars for minors

By ANNE-MARIE DOWNEY
Staff Writer

Between six and ten Chapel Hill establishments are under investigation by the Orange County Alcoholic Beverage Control police for serving liquor to minors, ABC Police Chief Burch Compton said.

After receiving complaints that some area restaurants have been serving liquor to people under the age of 21, the ABC police began an investigation of the suspected businesses, Compton said. Compton refused to name which establishments were under investigation.

The ABC police conduct investigations of establishments by dropping in at the restaurants at least once a week, or possibly for several consecutive days if the restaurant is suspected of violations, he said.

If an ABC agent sees an employee serving a mixed drink to a minor, both the minor and the person serving the drink could be arrested, he said. A report of the arrest would then be sent to the state ABC Board. After a hearing on the case, the state board could reprimand the owner, or suspend or revoke the establishment's liquor license.

Compton said serving mixed drinks to minors is more of a problem in Chapel Hill than in some other areas.

"It really is a burden on the places in Chapel Hill

because there are so many people that are underage," he said.

The ABC agents have not seen much checking of identification in local establishments, which makes serving liquor to minors likely, Compton complained.

"If these places want to keep their liquor licenses they ought to make an effort and have someone supervise them (mixed drink sales)," he added.

But Adam Bergmann, bar manager at Tijuana Fats, said serving liquor to minors is not a problem because identification is automatically checked whenever anyone is suspected of being under 21.

"Most of us would rather play safe than sorry. Serving minors is not worth the risk.... I've carded people who are 37," Bergman said.

Mickey Ewell, owner of Spanky's, said it is almost inevitable that some minors will slip through and be served mixed drinks, but he added that his staff does its best to prevent it.

The ABC police do not plan any arrests immediately since the establishments are still being educated about liquor by the drink, Compton said. But he cautioned that officers will begin to try making arrests very soon.

Liquor-by-the-drink was approved by Orange County voters in a September 12 referendum. The first drink was poured in Chapel Hill on November 22.

Extension plan undetermined

By ANNE-MARIE DOWNEY
Staff Writer

A meeting of the Orange County Board of Commissioners and the Chapel Hill Board of Aldermen ended in a stalemate Tuesday night when neither board showed any sign of yielding on the proposed planning district extension for Chapel Hill.

The boards did agree however to reconvene in Hillsborough April 17 to discuss the practical aspects of a joint planning process for the county and the town.

Over the past several years the Board of Aldermen has unsuccessfully tried to obtain an extended planning district at the northern end of town. But the Orange County commissioners have been unwilling to grant the extension requested by the aldermen.

On March 8, the Board of Aldermen voted to ask the General Assembly for an extension of the planning district that would include the northern area, but the request for extension was submitted too late, and Sen. Charles Vickery (D-Orange) did not introduce the bill.

If the General Assembly had approved the bill, the Board of Aldermen would no longer require the consent of the Orange County commissioners for the extension.

The board of Aldermen wants control over northern growth. See EXTENSION on page 2



Sen. Charles Vickery ...extension submitted late

After chem, carnivals Wheaties owns Shack

By GERLIND YOUNTS
Special to the Daily Tar Heel

"When I was four years old my mother won a year's supply of Wheaties and I had to eat them," said the 38-year-old man behind the bar. The name stuck with him throughout his life, and John Lawrence Richardson was to be known by his college friends the same way he's known today. "Wheaties," owner of the longtime Chapel Hill drinking establishment, the Shack.

Although Wheaties has owned the Shack since 1971, the establishment has been a bar since 1945. Prior to that, it was a jitney garage, housing the "taxi" which hauled students back and forth to the Durham train station. During World War II, the Shack housed a bicycle shop. Today, it still stands in its original form.

"In the old days a lot of professors used to hang out here and also a lot of politicians used to hang out here in the 1950s before it got to be a real popular place for students," he said. "A lot of

famous athletes have been in here also, and other people, too, but no one world famous," said Wheaties. As proof of its innumerable visitors, the interior of the bar hosts thousands of autographs on the walls and ceiling.

Born in Albemarle, Wheaties spent four years at UNC where he was a member of the Kappa Alpha Fraternity and majored in chemistry. He said he intended to go into a pre-medical or pre-dental program, but after graduation in 1962, Wheaties went to Canada instead, where he worked with his uncle in a traveling carnival. While managing three rides in the carnival—the airplanes, bumper cars, and the whip—he waited for his notice from the draft board. Then came two years in the army at Fort Benning, Ga.

Wheaties reminisced about UNC in the '60s. He said the University was very much like it is today, with a few exceptions. "Everyone was a little bit wilder when I was here. Things were

See WHEATIES on page 2



Wheaties ...cereal namesake

Metrics not in style

Conversion efforts grind to halt

By JIM HUMMEL
Staff Writer

OK folks, it's time for your metric quiz. How many kilometers are there in ten miles? How many milliliters are in a quart? Or better yet, how many grams are in a pound?

If you failed the quiz, don't worry; you're not in danger of having to know conversion factors in the near future. According to state officials, moves to convert to the metric system have ground to a halt.

"I have just introduced legislation for the state to go no further in enforcing change to the metric system," Rep. John Brown of Wilkes County said Wednesday. "There are a million reasons why we shouldn't go metric."

"Never has anything happened, short of an all-out war, that would be as expensive as this thing. I've heard it would take billions of dollars to convert. It's just pitiful."

Brown's views echo a growing sentiment, both in North Carolina and across the country, that a conversion to the metric system is not worth the cost.

"We're at a low plateau right now," said Robert Jones, chairman of the Task Force for Metric Conversion, established in 1977 by Gov. Jim Hunt.

"The last couple of years have shown a lot of interest, but it has declined in the last six months," Jones said. "In education we're still shooting for 1981 to have all the material converted to metric."

"Industry is moving right along in this direction, but in terms of highway conversion we're still a long way off. I wouldn't dare take any legislation to the General Assembly at this point because it would be shot right down."

"It's not a politically attractive subject. We're not going to get anywhere, outside of education, until the U.S. Metric Board takes action towards conversion."

The U.S. Metric Board is one of three main forces currently working towards conversion, according to Howard Segermark, assistant to U.S. Sen. Jesse Helms. Joining the board are a 1975 National Metrication Act that calls for voluntary conversion and the National Bureau of Standards, which also has been involved in the conversion process.

"Sen. Helms is considering legislation requiring that statistics be kept as they are now or at least prevent a total changeover," Segermark said.

The main point of opposition to conversion lies in the cost, said Dr. Louis Gasper, an adviser to the U.S. House Committee on Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs in Washington. "I wrote a paper eight years ago on the cost analysis of metric conversion," Gasper said. "My estimates were that it would take from \$75 billion to \$100 billion to convert. I'm sure the cost has gone up since then."

The National Federation of Independent Businesses recently took a poll asking how its members felt about metric conversion. In North Carolina, 72 percent were opposed and 20 percent were in favor. Nationally, 69 percent expressed opposition and 26 percent were in favor.



Another poll, conducted by the Federal Highway Administration, showed an overwhelming opposition to metric conversion on the highways, said Dick Riley, public information director for the U.S. Department of Transportation.

"The FHA inserted a notice in the Federal Register asking for public reaction to a metric conversion," Riley said. "They received 6,000 responses and out of those, 98 percent were opposed, so since that time we've dropped our efforts."

Riley said since Congressional action has no specific conversion requirements and is on a voluntary basis, metric conversion will come only with public support.

Another hindrance to highway conversion has been the Surface Transportation Act of 1979, which prevents federal funds being earmarked for road sign conversion.

"A state can't make a total change from our present system to metric," Riley said. "If they want to, though, they can put up metric signs at their own expense in addition to those already up."

The N.C. Department of Transportation several years ago experimented with metric road signs along I-40 on a limited basis. Efforts in other parts of the country have been equally limited.

Ontario, Canada phased in metric road signs over a two-year period, with the total conversion coming a little over a year ago. The fast changeover forced residents to learn conversion immediately, something Jones says will be the only way to get Americans to convert. "When all your signs are in kilometers you learn very quickly how fast you should be going by the metric system," he said.

Board schedules public meeting

By MARTHA WAGGONER
Staff Writer

The student Elections Board met Tuesday night and set April 2 as the date for a public meeting on possible reforms in campus elections laws.

The meeting will take place at 7 p.m. in Suite C of the Carolina Union.

Jil Linker, Elections Board chairperson, said the purpose of the meeting will be to discuss proposed changes in the General Elections Law and ideas for alternative voting procedures. "This is not a gripe session," she said. "We're looking for constructive ideas that are legally feasible."

The hearing is partly a result of the Student Supreme Court opinion handed down Monday on the controversy

surrounding the editorship of the *Daily Tar Heel*. The court suggested changes in election laws such as earlier poll openings, better planning for runoff and greater diligence on the part of the Elections Board. "It's what I wanted to do all year," Linker said. "Everything mentioned here is stuff I already had written down even before the election began."

Linker said some of the ideas that will be discussed included expanding the size of the Elections Board, extending poll hours, more clearly defined campaign expenditure regulations and establishing stricter guidelines on when the Elections Board may take the initiative to make decisions, especially regarding certification of election results.

In addition to plans for changing

elections laws, the board will discuss alternative voting procedures, such as computerized voting. Linker said Orange County might buy two voting machines, and the Elections Board may ask to borrow them.

Proposals by the Elections Board will be sent to the Rules Judiciary Committee of the Campus Governing Council, Linker said. The committee will send its proposals to the full body of CGC. Linker said the earliest that CGC will consider the proposals will be the end of this semester. "I'm sure they won't take our proposals at face value; they'll want to work on it," she said.

Copies of the current elections laws are available to anyone planning to attend the public hearing in Suite C of the Union.