

N.C. drug deaths may be increasing

By PAUL CORY
Staff Writer

The total number of deaths by drug overdose in North Carolina rose by 10 in 1986, but that is within experimental limits and luck, said a UNC professor of pathology and pharmacy.

"If the trend continues for two or more years, then it can be considered significant," said Dr. Arthur McBay, also the state's chief toxicologist in the office of the chief medical examiner.

The medical examiner's staff examines about 20 percent of the approximately 53,000 deaths that occur yearly in North Carolina, McBay said.

"We only have four people for about 7,000 cases," he said. "We look for drugs only if there is no other obvious cause of death. If we had more extensive testing, we would probably find more (drug-induced deaths)."

Last year, 46 people died from overdoses of anti-depressant drugs, according to figures published by the office of the chief medical examiner. Of those deaths, 31 are believed to have been suicides.

However, McBay said using drugs to commit suicide was not very popular in North Carolina.

"We have very few suicides by drugs, probably less than 100 a year," he said.

Most people who commit suicide seem to prefer to use a gun, McBay said, noting that in 1984, 608 people

committed suicide with firearms, and 573 did the same in 1985.

Cocaine deaths more than doubled in 1986, rising from 11 in 1985 to 27 in 1986, the medical examiner's figures showed.

The rise in the number of deaths by cocaine overdose is probably due to the increased popularity and availability of cocaine, McBay said.

Overall, he said, alcohol kills more people yearly than any other drug. In an article submitted to the Journal of Forensic Sciences, McBay and Dr. Page Hudson, chief medical examiner and UNC professor of pathology, said, "alcohol has a greater adverse affect on health, safety and performance than all of the other drugs."

There are 80 to 100 deaths from alcohol overdoses each year, McBay said, and last year there were another 3,000 alcohol-related deaths.

Charles Dunn, deputy director of the State Bureau of Investigation, said there is an oversupply of cocaine in North Carolina, including the derivative known as "crack."

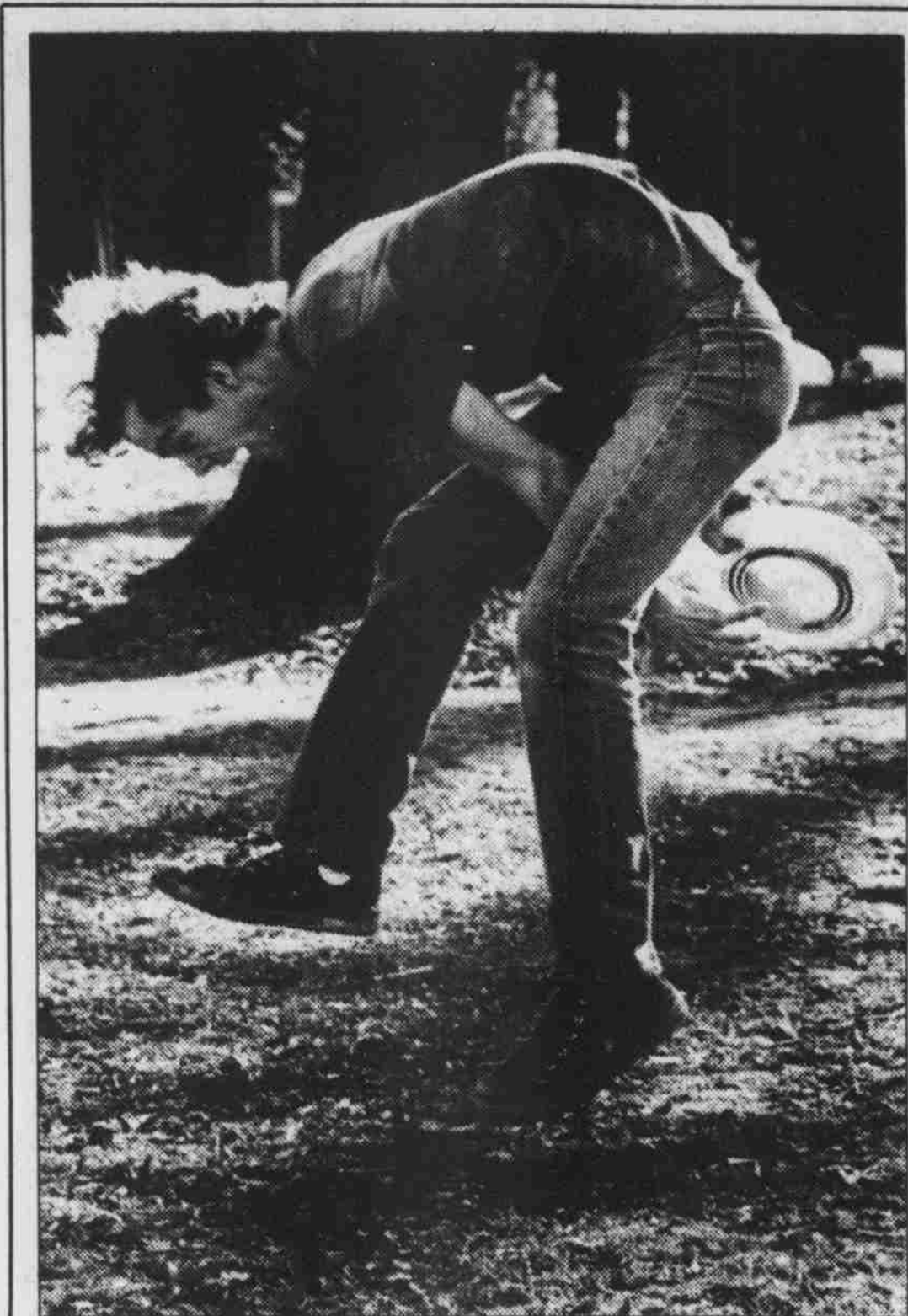
"Cocaine prices have dropped precipitously," he said.

Dunn said there has been a 44 percent increase in the number of cocaine cases sent to the SBI labs.

Dunn also said crack has begun to catch on.

"We had our first crack case late last year," he said.

But by the end of the year, the SBI dealt with 74 cases involving crack, Dunn said.



Ultimate Frisbee

Toby Gray, a sophomore from Marion, practices his form during a lively game of Frisbee Saturday in McCorkle Place.

DTH/Charles Carriere

Weinberger, Schultz take stands favoring 'Star Wars'

From Associated Press reports

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger on Sunday continued to press for phased deployment of the "Star Wars" anti-missile shield starting as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, Secretary of State George P. Schultz defended a broad interpretation of the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty with the Soviet Union as necessary before further Star Wars testing, which is needed for deployment, can proceed.

Weinberger, in an interview broadcast by the British Broadcasting Corp., said the United States is not yet ready to make a final decision, but he added that

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he has always backed the idea of a phased deployment starting as soon as possible. During congressional hearings last week, he said the Pentagon was "close to being able to recommend deployment decisions to President Reagan."

Philippine truce ends

MANILA, Philippines — A 60-day truce with Communist rebels formally expired Sunday without hope of extension, and the government said it would step up military patrols while pursuing peace talks on a regional level.

CASH's lawsuit goes to Virginia appellate court

By CHRIS CHAPMAN
Staff Writer

The Coalition for Alternatives to Shearon Harris took their fight against Carolina Power and Light Co. to the Fourth Federal District Court of Appeals in Richmond Thursday morning.

CASH filed an emergency motion to stay the full-power license of Shearon Harris nuclear plant outside of Raleigh, granted by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to CP&L last year. The full-power license allows CP&L to gradually bring the Shearon Harris facility to maximum output, said John Conway, accounting manager at the plant.

Conway said the plant is operating at 10 percent of capacity. When Shearon Harris is fully on-line, nuclear plants will provide 40 percent to 50 percent of CP&L's power, he said. CP&L also operates the Brunswick plant in Southport, N.C. and the Robinson plant in Hartsville, South Carolina.

Billy Cummings, a member of CASH's regional steering committee, said CASH's petition was based on two issues.

CASH is protesting an exemption that the NRC granted CP&L regarding emergency procedures, Cummings said. The company has not conducted a full scale exercise of its emergency response system since May 1985, Cummings said. The

NRC usually requires that these tests be conducted within a year of the granting of the full scale license.

CASH also alleged that the NRC has yet to resolve issues concerning the safety of Shearon Harris' construction.

"The NRC has failed to follow up on information in their hands about construction defects and safety defects," Cummings said. "This information was given them by us and by confidential informants."

At the hearing Thursday, Bob Epting, counsel for CASH, presented arguments and submitted briefs.

A decision on the hearing is expected soon, Cummings said.

Even if CASH loses this appeal, Cummings said the organization will continue its efforts to stop Shearon Harris with a multi-faceted approach.

"We have a lot planned as far as the return of the legislature and to reform the public utilities commission," Cummings said.

He said the group also has other appeals planned for the courts. The nature of these appeals is not certain, he said.

"This reflects the depths of opposition and determination, to employ all possible routes to stop what is an accident waiting to happen," he said.

Abuse-prevention program in the works

By MICHAEL JORDAN
Staff Writer

To prevent drug abuse within the UNC system, Dr. Lloyd V. Hackley, UNC-system vice president, said Friday that he is drafting a new program policy which would provide prevention programs to students, administrators and university employees.

Late last year the U.S. Department of Education directed all universities receiving federal funding to set up such programs or face the possibility of losing federal funds.

But that directive came after the

system had already begun work on the program, UNC-system President C.D. Spangler said.

Hackley, vice president of student services and special programs, said the system "had already surveyed other institutions up and down the East Coast" before the directive was issued, in order to research the drug prevention programs of other colleges and systems.

The policy is still in outline form, and both men said they could not anticipate what the final result would look like.

"The Board (of Governors) was concerned that we have some consistency at the bottom line," Hackley said. "The Board is going to set some minimum guidelines."

All of the schools in the UNC system have some sort of drug prevention policy, but the many in the administration feel that too many gray areas are left under the current policies, Hackley said.

No decisions have been made yet about specific punishments for violations of drug policies, but Hackley said he hopes to establish a graduated system so that different

degrees of offenses will have different punishments.

He said, "There's nothing in there (the outline) about mandatory drug testing."

Hackley said no school in the UNC system would face cuts in funding as a result of the federal directive.

The proposal, in outline form, will be presented to the 16 UNC system chancellors this month for their reactions. Spangler said he hoped to present a finalized version to the BOG in March.

Investigation

showed nothing, he said. Although investigating officers knew that the person making the allegations was a potential drug dealer and therefore not a credible witness, the investigation was carried forth.

"Anytime you hear any charge of drugs there's an obligation to investigate it," Massengale said. "But you'd have to have more than one person's testimony to be in a position to charge or proceed."

Normally, whenever marijuana or cocaine is taken in a drug bust, the judge orders it to be destroyed, Massengale said.

The correct procedure is for the property officer to take it out and burn it in front of a witness, but Chapel Hill officers have been

destroying the evidence on their own.

At a press conference Thursday at the post office on Franklin Street, Fox stressed the need for the police department to tighten up its procedure for destroying drug evidence, Massengale said.

But when contacted Sunday, interim Police Chief Arnold Gold said the destruction system was a good one and had been in effect for quite a while.

"The only thing we need to do is use a little scrutiny," Gold said. "We need to go back and look at it closer."

Massengale said the investigation did not take long compared to some others.

"The SBI is very busy. Sometimes it takes four, five, six weeks to get an investigation return processed

and collated," he said.

SBI officials began their questioning around Christmas at the request of Fox and former Police Chief Herman Stone.

The police department has never

been investigated for drugs before, he said.

"They had a big bust in Durham two or three years ago, though," he said. "Their vice squad got wiped out."

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Theft

have to give your name."

Secondly, Comar urges students not to carry money into the gym.

"Leave your valuables at home," Comar said. "Starve the thieves out of their \$20 fix. Don't provide them with anything and maybe they'll go someplace else . . ."

Comar said the thefts show no pattern. "Mornings and evenings, when people are in class, even during class changes; that's when the thefts

have occurred," he said.

Comar said that catching these thieves and actually convicting them of the crime has been difficult for University Police. "Unfortunately, the law doesn't give us a good tool with dealing with this type of theft," he said.

"The gym is public property and a person has to be disruptive or in an unauthorized area for us to have reason to suspect him or her of any wrong-doing. Too many of them get away," Comar said.

Comar expressed confidence that if students help with the problem it can be stopped. "Put the word out that we're alert, the students and the police," Comar said. "We have the authority, but the students have the eyes."

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Virginia

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players to give UNC a 67-65 lead, but the sophomore guard fouled out on UNC's next offensive possession. Andrew Kennedy tipped a shot in to tie, and Reid hit two free throws to give the Tar Heels a 69-67 lead with 57 seconds left. Mel Kennedy was fouled and scored on two free throws to tie the game with 33 seconds left. Smith missed a double-pump jumper in the lane and Reid a tough tip-in as time expired.

There was no more scoring until the 2:27 mark in overtime, when Williams made both free throws. Mel Kennedy followed a missed shot to tie the game again, and Reid then hit his jumper in the paint and was fouled.

It was the only UNC field goal during OT as the Tar Heels missed six of seven attempts. The freshman's first free throw attempt bounded off the rim, but the whistle had already blown because Kennedy had fouled out of the game and had not left the court. Reid's second attempt swished in to make the score 74-71.

John Johnson, who had 16 points and withstood the UNC defensive pressure well, popped a jumper from

the lane with 46 seconds left, setting the stage for Hunter's errant toss and Morgan's final miss.

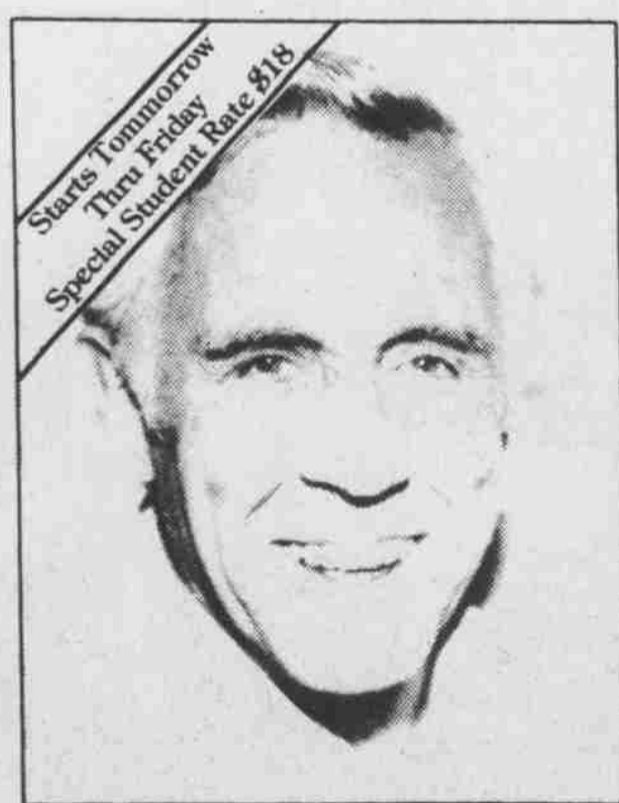
"Obviously, we're disappointed with the loss because when you do have the basketball and a chance to win the game you'd like to think that you could go ahead and take advantage of that," Virginia coach Terry Holland said, whose team dropped to 14-7 and 4-5. All of Virginia's losses have been to top 20 teams.

UNC began the game with two quick three-pointers for a 6-0 lead, but never were able to mount any type of run after that. UNC led only 35-34 at the half, and had committed nine turnovers to Virginia's three.

"We were sluggish in the first half," Reid said. "Maybe it was because of the flu. Coach got on us at halftime."

The Tar Heels jumped out to a 43-36 lead early in the second half, but Holland called a timeout to settle his team and they slowly fought their way back. "I thought we gave ourselves every opportunity to be in the game and have a chance to win it," Holland said.

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