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## RDU hub boasts outstanding safety statistics

By MICHAEL JORDAN  
Staff Writer

Despite national frenzy over airline safety and crowded air space, the skies over Raleigh-Durham (RDU) airport have been free from incidents, airport officials said.

Since the opening of the new American Airlines hub last June, traffic at RDU has increased but the hazards of flying have not, said Hugh Sawyer, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) control tower chief at RDU.

Sawyer said RDU now averages

between 800 and 1,000 flights each day, an increase of about 130 flights per day since June. To cover the extra flights, RDU has hired six additional air traffic controllers, Sawyer said.

The last fatal accident at RDU involved an experimental aircraft and occurred a little over a year ago, Sawyer said. In the last six months, RDU has had only two minor accidents. One resulted in injuries, he said.

While near mid-air collisions have nearly doubled in the United States over the past few years, RDU has

reported a consistent average of fewer than one per year for the last five years, said Jo Anne Sloane, an FAA spokesperson.

Sawyer said he credits reliable equipment and capable controllers for RDU's good safety record.

"This is about as up-to-date an airport you'll find in the southeast," he said.

RDU has spent about \$8 million over the past few years for its new tower and computer equipment, said Tom Davenport, an RDU controller. In an effort to improve safety

technology, RDU will receive test radar as an FAA experiment. The new radar, part of the administration's \$16 billion modernization program, will help air traffic controllers guide pilots during bad weather, said John Layden, an FAA spokesman.

Initially, only two airports, RDU and an airport in Memphis, Tenn., will receive the new radar, Layden said. The FAA wanted to try it at airports which have parallel runways closer together than the 4,500 feet required by regulations for simultane-

ous take-offs and landings, he said.

RDU's runways are 3,500 feet apart at the center line, Layden said. Despite the new radar system and the modernization program, the FAA has drawn criticism for not keeping up with technology.

Greg Lafet, spokesman for the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, said the FAA lags about five years behind current technology.

"They have not gone on and developed a new generation of technology," he said.

Lafet criticized the FAA for not

spending \$6 million in the Aviation Trust Fund, which comes from an 8 percent tax on airline tickets.

The FAA was supposed to use the money to advance technology, build new control towers and construct new airports, Lafet said. Instead the administration has tried to use the money for its own purposes, he said.

But Layden said the money has been tied up by debate and restrictions.

Lafet also said the FAA has not

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## UNC chancellor to resign his post

By JEAN LUTES  
University Editor

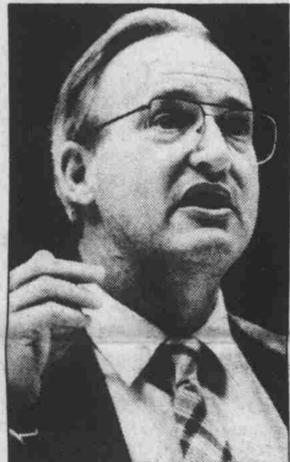
Chancellor Christopher Fordham, 60, told UNC's Board of Trustees at a meeting Friday that he will resign his position at the end of this academic year.

After announcing his intention to step down June 30, UNC's sixth chancellor said he felt the time had come for a new era in University leadership.

"When I leave, I'll have been in office between eight and nine years, and we are coming up to a major new juncture at the University," Fordham, a Greensboro native, said Sunday.

"We're getting ready to embark on a major celebration and capital campaign," he said, speaking of the University's upcoming Bicentennial celebration and fund-raising campaign. "It's something that somebody ought to start and stick with all the way, and I felt that the six years needed to complete the campaign would be too much for me."

Fordham, who was appointed chancellor in 1980, described his



Chancellor Fordham

decision as very recent, but said he felt "very comfortable" with it. His health was not a factor in his decision

to resign, he said.

"There comes a time when fresh leadership is needed," he said. "I had the instinctual feeling and judgment that the time had come."

Fordham asked the trustees to begin to prepare the way for his successor, conducting a search process and making an orderly transition in leadership.

Newly elected board chairman Robert Eubanks said the board members respected Fordham's decision, but were saddened by it. He said he would establish a committee to begin the search for a new chancellor.

Fordham, the first medical doctor to serve as UNC's chancellor, began working for the University as an instructor in the School of Medicine in 1958.

From that time, he served in various administrative positions at the University, including dean of UNC's School of Medicine and vice chancellor for health affairs.

For two months in 1977, Fordham served as acting surgeon general of

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## Anti-contra activist to speak today in the Student Union

By KIMBERLY EDENS  
Staff Writer

John Linder, whose brother was killed by Nicaraguan contras earlier this year, will speak on U.S. policy in Nicaragua at 3 p.m. today in the Student Union's Great Hall.

Linder's brother, Benjamin, an engineer from Portland, Ore., was building a hydroelectric plant in Nicaragua when he was shot in the head point blank on April 28.

Two other Nicaraguan engineers were also killed during the incident.

Linder's mother, father and brother are now touring the country trying to raise \$200,000 to finish Benjamin's hydroelectric project. They are also trying to find out why

the contras are murdering civilians, according to Bruce Key, a member of the Committee on Central America.

Key said Linder's death was a murder, but it has not yet been prosecuted. "The U.S. government and its effectors — the contras — are guilty of this crime," he said. "It's the essence of U.S. policy."

Linder's speeches will educate many people on the war in Nicaragua, Key said. "His speech will serve an important function: to personalize a war that has been deliberately de-personalized by the Reagan administration."

Carlos Serezo, also a member of the Committee on Central America,

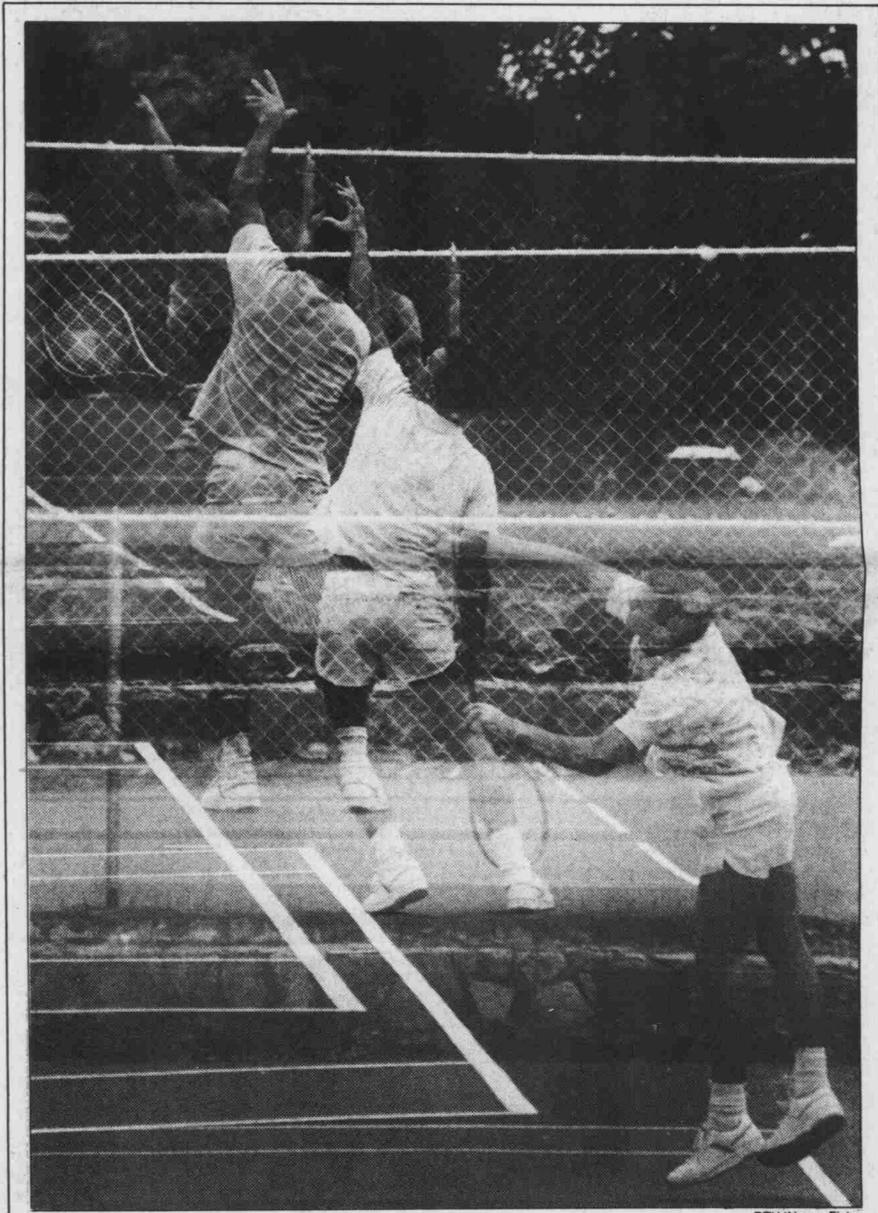
said the group is trying to focus attention on the 15,000 civilians killed since the guerrilla war began five years ago.

"Linder's death serves to highlight what's been going on in Nicaragua for the last four or five years," Serezo said. "A lot of other people have been murdered in much the same way, and they haven't been publicized."

Our role isn't to defend the Sandinista government, but to highlight what is happening to civilians," he said.

Benjamin Linder was employed as an engineer by the Nicaraguan Institute of Energy until October

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DTH/Nancy Fister

### Triple whammy

Roger Nelsen, area director of Morrison Residence Hall, serves an ace during a Sunday

match on the tennis courts near Cobb and Joyner dormitories.

## New name

### Volunteer escort program strives to improve image, services

By KRISTEN GARDNER  
Staff Writer

RAPE Escort, UNC's volunteer escort program, has changed its name and expanded its services.

The service has been renamed SAFE Escort, for Students Averting Frightening Encounters, according to the program's director, senior Frances Turner.

The service's old name, Rape and Assault Prevention Escort, fostered a negative image for the program, Turner said. The new name is one of several changes Turner said she hopes will broaden the service's scope and give it a more positive image.

In the past, the escort service has not been used to capacity and has not been publicized enough, Turner said. Part of the problem was that the name "RAPE Escort" empha-

zied the women's vulnerability, she said.

"Prevention in the name implies protection," Turner said. More than escort services will be offered by the organization, she said.

"All students aren't going to use the escort program," Turner said. "We want to increase personal security. If you're going to walk alone, we want you to know what to do."

The group plans to offer educational programs to raise awareness of safety issues and to teach students how to deal with potentially dangerous situations.

"My goal is to increase the feeling of security around campus," Turner said. "I want all students to feel safe."

Planned programs include a lecture by a female police officer on

how women can appear less vulnerable to attacks, and another lecture to teach new students about the high-risk areas on campus, Turner said.

The group will also work with University Police to offer a program on how to deal with an encounter with a potential attacker, she said.

Members of the program will be available to speak in residence halls.

Changes will also be made in the escort program, Turner said. She said she wants to make using the service easier for students, and to increase its visibility on campus.

"Too many females are walking alone," she said. "We want the service to be used at an optimal level."

Turner said she wants to implement a four-stage training program for escort volunteers.

Escorts will be instructed in the history of the program and in the correct attitude escorts should have, she said. The training program will also inform escorts about dangerous areas of campus, she said, and a program offered with the campus police will teach them how to deal with encounters.

Tom Boydell, the program's assistant director, said that while the escorts in the past have all been male, the service will also use female escorts working in pairs.

"We hope to get as much participation as possible, from as broad a base as possible," Boydell said. "It's the only true way to build support for the service and effectively promote the service."

SAFE Escort will also introduce

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## Budget woes worry Board of Governors

By JUSTIN MCGUIRE  
Staff Writer

The increasing tendency of N.C. legislators to appropriate money to the UNC system for projects the Board of Governors has not requested is threatening to undermine the board's work, a board member said Friday.

William Johnson said that although he believes the legislators were allocating funds in good faith, such action is a problem that must be dealt with.

"It's something we (the BOG) need to look at seriously," Johnson said during Friday's board meeting.

The Board of Governors was created in 1972 to avoid arguments about legislative funding among the 16 individual campuses in the UNC system. Such arguing tended to favor traditionally white universities.

Generally, the N.C. General Assembly has followed the board's

lead in setting the system's budget. Johnson's concern comes from recent actions of some N.C. legislatures, putting unrequested projects into the board's budget.

The assembly has approved several projects this year which were introduced by lawmakers, rather than by board members. Among these was a \$7.2 million family physicians center for UNC-CH.

Johnson said the board has to work with legislators to avoid the problem of unrequested funding in the future. Board Chairman Philip Carson said Sunday that Johnson's comments were worth exploring.

"We should work with the General Assembly, so that they can have their input, but so that it will be in the BOG's package," he said.

But Carson said he didn't think it was necessary to have a specific policy

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The closest to perfection a person ever comes is when he fills out a job application form. — Randall