

Riot at N.C. State prompts council meeting

By LAURIE DUNCAN
Staff Writer

A throng of 2,000 East Carolina University fans descended on N.C. State's football field Saturday night, causing an unknown amount of damage and prompting N.C. State officials to call an emergency meeting of the school's athletics council today.

The N.C. State Athletics Council will meet today to review the circumstances leading to the disturbance and to give recommendations for action to N.C. State Chancellor Bruce Poulton, said Frank Weedon, senior associate athletics director at N.C. State.

After a 32-14 win over N.C. State, ECU fans treaded on a chain-link fence, uprooted hedges, tore down

goalposts and battled security officers and N.C. State fans in a melee on the field lasting more than 25 minutes before the fighting spilled into the parking lot. The disturbance subsided about one hour later.

Fifty people were treated for injuries, which included broken jaws and dislocated shoulders, at Carter-Finley Stadium's first aid center, Rex Hospital and Wake Medical Center, said Maj. Larry Liles of the N.C. State University Department of Public Safety.

The amount of damages has not been determined, but the goalposts will cost more than \$5,000 if they need to be replaced, and the fence will cost \$2,000, Weedon said. Damage to

hedges and parking lot signs have not been estimated, he said.

Several hundred fans sitting on a grassy bank overlooking the south end of the stadium initially swarmed the field with 10 seconds left in the game. ECU coach Art Baker and other officials promptly evacuated them.

But when the game ended, 2,000 fans clamored onto the field, running from the south end toward the north goalpost, which was torn down.

Liles said one of his officers, whose face was hit from the side as he battled rioters near the north goalpost, suffered the worst injuries — a fractured cheekbone, 10 stitches near his eyes and eye cuts caused by slivers of glass from his eyeglasses, which

were crushed.

The riot, the second Pirate-Wolfpack skirmish in two years, has posed questions about whether the game should be continued.

When Pirate fans stormed the field in 1985 after their 33-14 win, they destroyed a fence.

But the game is considered a tradition. For 17 years the N.C. State Wolfpack has begun its football season playing the ECU Pirates at night.

Liles said that heavy drinking may have been a factor leading to the brawl. He would not comment on measures the university would take to prevent repeat occurrences, such as scheduling the game for daytime.

Jackson plans to join field of presidential candidates

From Associated Press reports

PITTSBURGH — Jesse Jackson, declaring he has a good chance of becoming America's first black president, said Monday he will announce his candidacy for the Democratic nomination on Oct. 10 and pledged to campaign for "jobs, jobs, jobs, peace and justice."

"In a real sense, I'm trying to fulfill the best dimension of the Constitution," he said. "If I can in fact become president, indeed as (John) Kennedy became as a Catholic, indeed as (Franklin) Roosevelt came riding in a wheelchair... every woman can, every man, boy and woman and girl can," he said on ABC-TV's "Good Morning America."

"So in a real sense, I'm giving America a chance to make a choice to fulfill the highest and best of an authentic and honest democracy," he said.

Jackson, who for months has been campaigning around the nation as an undeclared candidate, said he will make his candidacy official in Raleigh, N.C., at the national convention of his Rainbow Coalition.

Jackson, who in 1984 won primaries in Louisiana and the District of Columbia, becomes the most liberal in the Democrats' sizable field of presidential contenders for 1988.

Jews allowed to emigrate

MOSCOW — Officials told Jewish activist Josef Begun and a half-dozen other "refuseniks" Monday that they can emigrate to Israel. Begun, who first applied for an exit visa 16 years ago, was released from prison in February.

"This morning someone from the Moscow visa office called father by telephone and told him that they were giving their permission to go to Israel," Begun's son Boris said by telephone.

News in Brief

The elder Begun, 55, is one of the best-known Jewish refuseniks, the name given to those refused permission to leave the Soviet Union. He had taught Hebrew and Jewish culture in Moscow, which is illegal, and was a leader in efforts for Jewish emigration.

Begun said he went to the visa office to fill out papers Monday and speculated that granting of the exit visas "could be connected to a summit" between Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and President Reagan.

In 1983, Josef Begun was sentenced to seven years in prison for anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda. He served more than three years in Chistopol prison before he was released Nov. 20.

Hostage freed in Lebanon

DAMASCUS — Shiite Moslem kidnappers in Lebanon on Monday freed one of their two West German hostages from seven months of captivity, and the Bonn government said Iran and Syria played a role in the release.

Syrian army officers drove 47-year-old engineer Alfred Schmidt to Damascus and turned him over to West German diplomats.

"It's wonderful to be a free man again," Schmidt said before he was taken to the airport for the flight home.

"They didn't mistreat me. The treatment was all right. I'm OK. I want to see my family and friends."

Schmidt was released at 4 a.m. in the slums of south Beirut, a stronghold of Iranian-backed Shiite militants. His captors, who call themselves the Holy Warriors for Freedom, indicated the agreement was worked out by Syria.

New room occupancy tax raises local motel rates

By HUNTER LAMBETH
Staff Writer

Visitors to Chapel Hill have to pay more for their hotel and motel rooms this fall, since a 3 percent room occupancy tax was levied in July on area hotel and motel rooms.

The General Assembly approved a proposal by the Chapel Hill Town Council in June to impose the local room occupancy tax. Effective since July 1, the tax has increased rates for about 700 local hotel and motel rooms.

"There was no real debating or discussing what the tax would be set at," said Jim Baker, Chapel Hill finance director. "The surrounding areas all have a 3 percent occupancy tax as well."

Raleigh and Durham are among these cities that already have a 3 percent occupancy tax.

The tax is expected to bring the town a yearly income of about \$200,000, according to assistant town manager Greg Feller. The town must spend 10 percent of that money to help fund cultural and visitor information programs.

The remainder of the money must be placed in the town's general fund.

The University opposes the new room occupancy tax, which increases prices at the UNC-owned Carolina Inn as well as local hotels and motels.

Farris Womack, vice chancellor of business and finance, said Chancellor Christopher Fordham sent two letters to the town council stating the University's opposition before the tax was approved.

"Any tax on occupancy reduces income to the University," Womack said, adding, "I do not think the new tax will hurt business at the Carolina

Inn."

The town council needed to raise money through one of three proposed taxes because cuts in federal grants have left holes in the town budget.

Alternatives to the room occupancy tax considered last spring by the town council included a land transfer tax and an entertainment ticket tax on events seating more than 15,000 people.

The University also opposed the ticket tax, which would increase admission prices at the Smith Center and Kenan Stadium. The council temporarily tabled the ticket tax last spring.

After reviewing 11 applicants, the town council allocated more than \$50,000 of the expected \$200,000 income to four cultural and visitor information organizations. In the future, the town could subsidize more

or fewer programs.

"The number of applicants will be decided every year by the council," Baker said.

The four organizations chosen to receive the revenue were N.C. Amateur Sports, the ArtsCenter, the Street Scene and the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce for the Umbria Jazz Festival, which was held in July.

The new tax has drawn mixed responses from University and city officials as well as from local hotel and motel managers. An issue central to the tax controversy is how the town will spend the revenue.

"If they are going to use the revenue for tourism, cultural and visitor information programs, and to better the business bureau, then I think the tax is great," said Blake Nicholson, manager at the Hotel Europa on Europa Drive. "But if they are going to create a monstrosity with it, it's bad."

Gene Walton, manager of the Carolina Inn on Columbia Street, said, "... the tax is an added cost, and I would rather not have it. But if the town of Chapel Hill comes up with good programs for the city, I think the tax is good."

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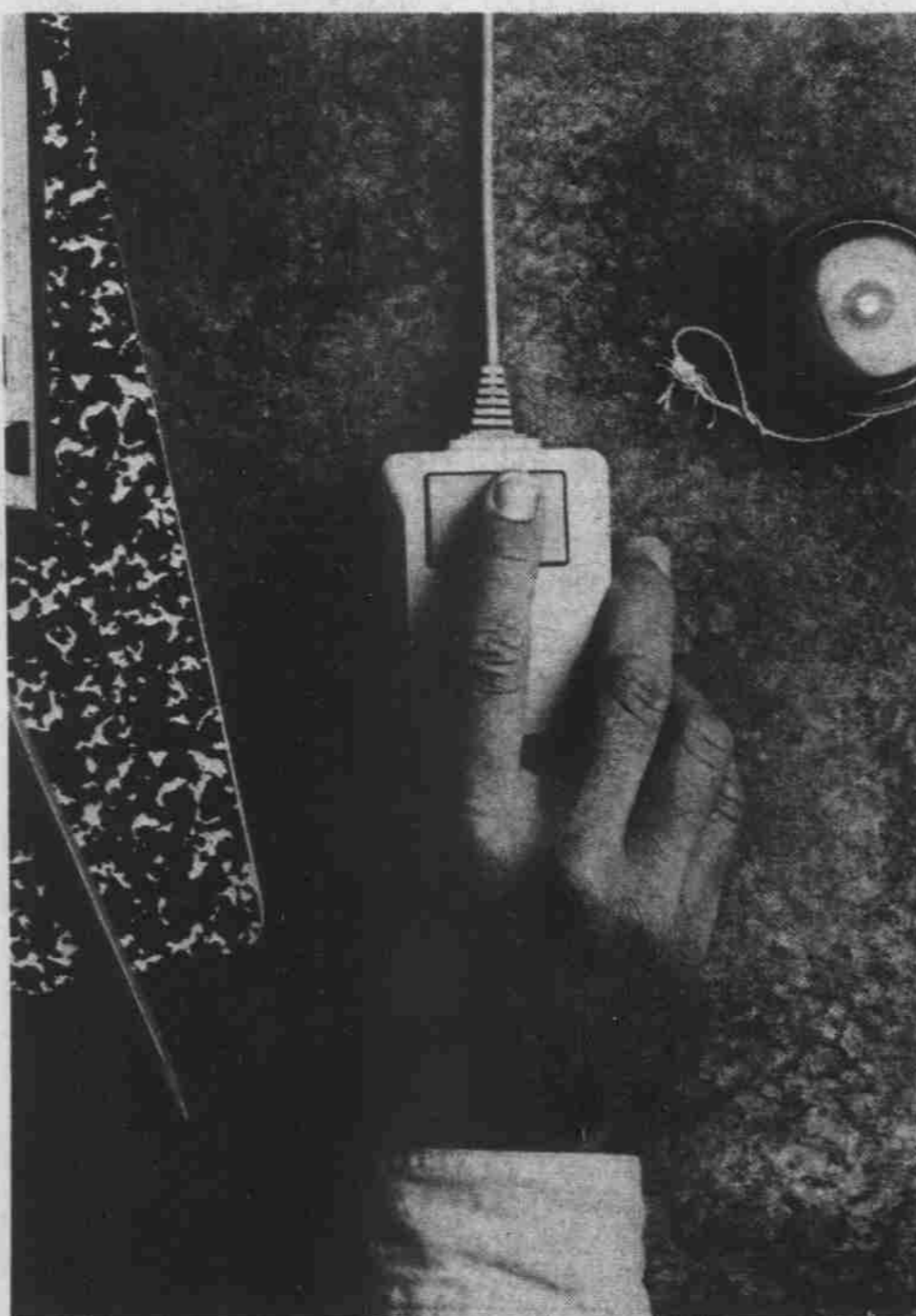
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