

Computer conference to focus on hypertext system

By JENNY CLONINGER
Staff Writer

Hypertext, a system of storing and retrieving information using computers, will be the subject of a conference held in Chapel Hill Nov. 13 to 15, sponsored by the UNC Department of Computer Science.

Hypertext is a general term given to the concept of storing individual pieces of information in a computer, according to John Smith, associate professor of computer science at UNC. The pieces of material are electronically linked, he said, and they can be chosen and organized in

different ways by individual users.

Topics of the conference, the first ever devoted completely to hypertext, will include the development of new systems, applications of the system and social implications such as copyright laws and ownership of concepts, Smith said.

Hypertext systems could be implemented in a wide range of fields, and the conference attendees "are not all computer scientists by any means," Smith said. Classics, economics, literature, history, law and religion are disciplines with potential uses for

hypertext.

The concept of hypertext was proposed about 40 years ago by Vannevar Bush, but computer technology has only developed enough to make the system practical for widespread use in the last two to three years, Smith said.

And use of hypertext is about to become widespread, Smith said. "There are a lot of indications that this concept is really poised to take off."

He said Apple Computers is now giving away free copies of its hyper-

text program, Hypercard, with each purchase of a Macintosh computer. This will increase the number of hypertext users from hundreds to millions of people, Smith said.

Hypertext is already accessible to students, he said. One practical use would be to "take notes" on a computer using material from textbooks and class notes. As the student reviewed for a test or researched a paper the material could be organized to fit the student's individual needs, Smith said.

Hypertext makes extensive cross-reference systems simple to create and

use, he said. Having an individualized data base and research collection would allow students to see patterns and connections in their courses that would not otherwise be obvious, Smith said.

Smith predicted an active use of hypertext systems on college campuses in the future. He said the University of Southern California and Syracuse University are investigating systems for organizing and structuring material in composition classes.

Two stages of use will soon become

common at universities — the organization of information and the presentation of course material in hypertext, he said.

"This is going to have a profound influence on the way we study, learn, think and do work," Smith said.

Corporations such as IBM, Xerox, Apple and Bell Laboratories will be represented at the conference. About 180 people will attend, including people from Australia, England, Japan, South Africa, Canada, the Middle East and Scandinavia, Smith said.

Convicted murderer to be resentenced for other crimes

By LEIGH ANN McDONALD
Assistant City Editor

The N.C. Supreme Court voted 4-2 last Thursday to uphold the murder conviction of George Fisher for the 1985 slaying of Jean Kar-Har Fewel of Chapel Hill, but he will be resentenced for the first-degree kidnapping and attempted first-degree rape convictions.

An Orange Superior Court judge had sentenced Fisher in August 1985 to life imprisonment for 8-year-old Fewel's murder, plus a 40-year sentence for first-degree kidnapping

and a 20-year sentence for attempted first-degree rape.

Fisher's defense attorney, Ann Petersen, said one element of a first-degree kidnapping conviction is proving sexual assault. Sentencing Fisher for both first-degree kidnapping and attempted first-degree rape constituted double jeopardy, or two convictions for the same crime, which is a violation of the U.S. Constitution.

Fisher had been convicted of attempted first-degree rape because Fewel was under 16 years old, Petersen said.

Orange-Chatham District Attorney Carl Fox said the Superior Court judge had not allowed the jury in 1985 to consider a rape conviction because of the lack of incriminating evidence.

Fox said he disagreed with the court's double jeopardy decision. He pointed out that the two dissenting justices on the court agreed with the first-degree murder conviction, but questioned the validity of the double jeopardy decision.

"The state has a choice of one of two things," Petersen said. "They can dismiss the rape conviction or change the first-degree kidnapping to second-

degree kidnapping and keep the rape conviction."

Fox said he will push to sentence Fisher for second-degree kidnapping and attempted rape convictions, which would remove only 10 years from Fisher's sentence of life plus 60 years. A second-degree kidnapping conviction, which involves an abduction where no sexual assault occurs, carries a maximum sentence of 30 years in prison.

If Fisher is resentenced for the first-degree kidnapping conviction without the attempted sexual assault

conviction, he will receive a sentence of life plus 40 years. "That's a big difference," he said. "That's taking 20 years off his sentence."

Petersen said taking years off Fisher's sentence would not make much difference in his parole because he must serve his sentences consecutively.

"He is not eligible for parole for 20 years on the murder conviction," Petersen said. "The parole for the other offenses starts from that (parole)."

Fox said he would not want Fisher out on parole because assailants who

choose children as their victims tend to be repeat offenders.

"You never can tell," he said. "I'd rather be safe than sorry."

Fewel was a Chinese native being adopted by a local couple when she was abducted on her way to Ephesus Elementary School Jan. 30, 1985. Police found her body that day hanging from a tree near Finley Golf Course. She had been strangled and sexually assaulted, according to police reports.

The Superior Court is scheduled to resentence Fisher Dec. 7.

County school system will be recognized by governor's program

By KARI BARLOW
Staff Writer

Orange County will be among 15 state school systems recognized for exceptional education programs by the Governor's Program for Excellence in Education in January 1988.

Each county has recognized a need in its educational system or related areas and has worked to fulfill that need. Orange County will be recognized for its Diagnostic, Prescriptive, Helping Teacher (DPH) program.

About 70 applications were submitted for the program.

The individual programs must meet certain criteria to receive recognition, said Alean Miller, state coordinator for the National Diffusion Network. The programs must display an identified need, cost effectiveness and replicability.

The Orange County DPH teaching program was primarily established to ease the workload of the county's exceptional education teachers, who work with gifted or handicapped students.

"We created these positions to handle the referral process," said Betty Matthews, exceptional child program administrator for the Orange County school system. "They serve as case managers."

These teachers help determine what could be done to assist the

child's learning, Matthews said.

The helping teachers conduct academic screening tests on all exceptional children before placing them in the program, said Millie Hunter, an Orange County DPH teacher. A school-based committee, which includes the school psychologist, places a handicapped student into one of about 15 categories that require psychological counseling.

The helping teachers also meet frequently with the students' parents and explain the test results.

The DPH program has operated for about seven years, and Orange County teachers believe it is making a positive difference.

"It has meant a lot in terms of the children getting full-time educational services," Matthews said.

With the helping teachers sharing the workload, classroom teachers can devote more time to teaching.

"We'd love to see it expanded," Matthews said. "It gives me the assurance that the procedures the law requires us to follow are being followed."

The Governor's Program for Excellence in Education, established in 1983, is sponsored by Gov. James Martin, the State Board of Education and the Department of Public Instruction.

Police reject officer's request for riot masks

By LYNNE McCLINTOCK
Staff Writer

Despite a request from a campus police lieutenant that officers be issued face masks to wear when patrolling large crowds on Franklin Street, police officials agreed that officers do not need to wear the riot masks.

The officer, Lt. Walter Dunn, made the request after he was assaulted on Franklin Street on Halloween night.

Dunn said that while he was patrolling Franklin Street Oct. 31, two passersby informed him that

someone was breaking into University United Methodist Church.

"When I was calling in (to the police department), I got knocked on the blind side and for a few seconds was out," Dunn said.

Dunn said he received three to five stitches on his face, and doctors tried to straighten his nose. He said he might have to have more extensive work done on his nose.

Dunn said he was not told he could not wear a riot mask, but he said, "I guess if I was allowed to wear it (the mask), I would have been issued it."

Robert Sherman, director of security services, said Franklin Street on Halloween is not considered a riotous situation. He also said Dunn's injury occurred on a routine breaking and entering call, not in the middle of a crowd.

Sherman said the decision not to wear riot masks was made in agreement with the Chapel Hill Police Department.

Maj. Arnold Gold of the Chapel Hill Police Department said Franklin Street celebrations do not warrant the use of riot masks. Gold said officers did not even wear the

masks on Aug. 31, 1986, the night before the drinking age changed from 19 to 21.

Gold also said that since Chapel Hill police asked University police to help patrol on Halloween night, it was actually the Chapel Hill department which decided that the officers would not wear masks.

Dunn said he expects the University to give him workman's compensation to pay for his medical bills, but he had to take sick leave for the two days he missed because of his injuries.

Scientists may have clue to common cold

By LISA WYNNE
Staff Writer

A recent study may hold the clue to the historic gripe of sniffling virus victims: the common cold.

In a study to be released in January 1988, researchers reported that cold sufferers produce kinins, substances that inflame blood vessels and induce pain. The cure, they said, lies in finding something to block the kinins.

Bob Naclerio, associate professor of medicine and otolaryngology at

Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, said he and the other researchers looked for something in the nose that might cause colds.

The researchers infected 20 volunteers with one of the rhinal viruses, which cause 40 percent of all colds, Naclerio said. Of the 20 volunteers, 11 became ill and nine did not develop the virus, he said. Five volunteers, who served as the control group, did not receive the virus, he said.

The infected volunteers had high

levels of the kinins in their nasal secretions, Naclerio said. If later research indicates that the kinins cause colds, a cure would inhibit them, he said.

"We hope it's a clue," he said.

Since kinins also induce pain, they could be related to sore throat pain and the aches and pains associated with colds, said Jack Gwaltney, a professor in the department of internal medicine at the University of Virginia.

Gwaltney, who conducted the study in conjunction with Naclerio and David Proud of Johns Hopkins, said compounds that would inhibit the kinins are being developed and will probably be available for use in humans in the next year.

However, he said, even if these findings point researchers in the right direction and kinins do cause colds, a cure would still be at least several years down the road.

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Campus Calendar

Tuesday

10 a.m. APO/American Red Cross Bloodmobile will be in the Union until 3:30 p.m.

11 a.m. Senior Class Trip Committee will have information about the Senior Class Cruise to the Bahamas in the Pit until 2 p.m.

12:30 p.m. Career Planning and Placement Services will hold a resume writing workshop in 306 Hanes.

5 p.m. Career Planning and Placement Services will sponsor a presentation by Aetna Life and Casualty in 210 Hanes.

5:45 p.m. Anglican Student Fellowship will meet at the Chapel of the Cross for dinner, then go ice skating in Hillsborough.

6:30 p.m. Students For Bob Jordan will meet in 224 Union. Betsy Jordan and Lee Ann Powell, college coordinator, will attend.

7 p.m. Order of the Bell Tower will meet in 206 Union. AED will have a meeting in 209 Union. All members and rushers must attend.

8 p.m. STV Executive Board will meet in the Union. UNC Young Democrats will host State House Representative Joe Hackney in 224 Union in an open discussion of environmental issues and other topics of interest.

AIDS

from page 1

"Today, because of worldwide travel, no infection will remain isolated," he said.

Other scientists believe political upheaval in Central Africa in the early 1960s forced African political leaders to move to Haiti, carrying the disease with them, said Dr. Bernard Branson, an instructor of infectious diseases at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. These people spread the disease among the Haitians, who eventually spread AIDS to American and European tourists, he said.

Although the first cluster of cases did not appear in the United States until the late 1970s, the nature of the disease may account for the delay. HIV often lies dormant in the blood for more than five years.

But there is evidence that a male Midwesterner died from the disease as early as 1969, Branson said.

To account for the initial preponderance of AIDS in the gay population, scientists have targeted the male homosexual lifestyle, Schwartz said.

Since the disease primarily infects through sexual contact, the chance of getting any sexually transmitted disease depends on the number of different sexual partners, he said.

"Gays, early on in the (AIDS) epidemic, had a large number of partners," he said. "The average number of different contacts was incredible. Many gays also had the highest rates of other sexually transmitted diseases."

Studies also found that anal intercourse, practiced by many homosexual men, has the highest risk of bringing on the disease because of an immoral lifestyle, he said.

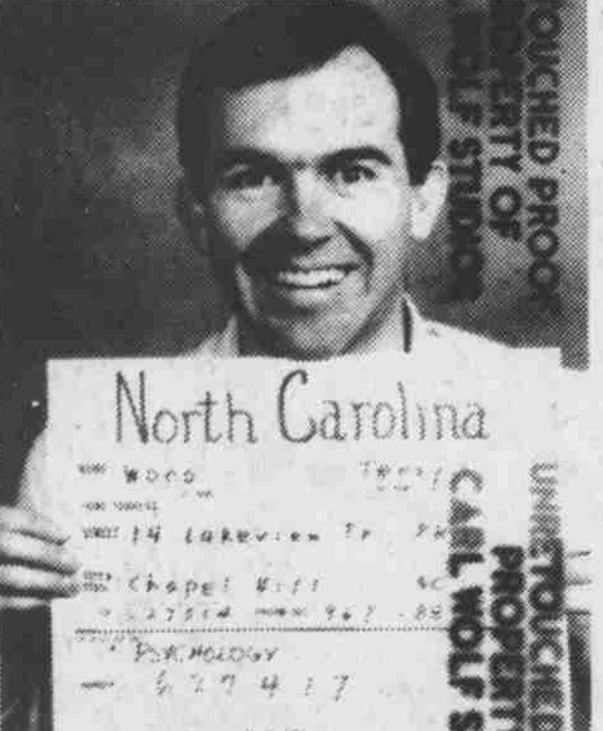
"Nature is not omniscient," Lane said.

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