

Civil case dismissed against NCCU in dorm murder

By JULIE GAMMILL
Staff Writer

A civil case filed against N.C. Central University by the mother of a student who was murdered in his residence hall was dismissed by a Durham Superior Court judge Wednesday.

Asking for \$10,000 in damages, attorneys for Mazelle Bullock of Oxford said the university breached a contract with her son, Anthony Wayne Bullock, 20, was found dead in a stairwell of his residence hall on Aug. 30, 1986, with a bullet wound in his face.

As a resident of Chidley Hall, the only men's dorm on the NCCU campus, Bullock had to pay a \$100 fee to

help fund security guards for the residence hall, said Bill Goldston, one of Mrs. Bullock's attorneys. On the night of his murder, there were no security guards on duty in Chidley.

The guards that were paid for with the Chidley security fees were in female dorms at the time of the murder, Goldston said. Residents of other campus residence halls were not charged a fee for security guards.

"If they followed the security plan that was in place before Wayne Bullock was killed, this could have been prevented," Goldston said.

N.C. Assistant Attorney General Lars Nance, NCCU's attorney in the suit,

requested the dismissal on grounds the court did not have jurisdiction in the case, said Edwin Speas, N.C. special deputy attorney general.

The written version of the dismissal will probably be released sometime this week, Speas said.

An appeal will be filed after the written dismissal is released, Goldston said. He said he would probably not try to file suits against specific NCCU employees because the claim of negligence in Bullock's death has already been pursued in other legal arenas.

Mrs. Bullock received \$100,000 from NCCU and the UNC system last April in a negligence suit brought before the

N.C. Industrial Commission, said Alex Churns, another of Mrs. Bullock's attorneys.

The Industrial Commission usually hears worker's compensation cases against state agencies, but it also hears tort negligence cases against the state, said Diane Sellers, chief deputy commissioner.

One trial judge reviews cases when they first come before the commission, Sellers said. If appealed, cases are sent to a three-member Industrial Commission board, known as a full commission. An appeal of the full commission's decision would be forwarded to the N.C. Court of Appeals, she added.

NCCU and the UNC system have filed an appeal of the Industrial Commission's first decision, Goldston said.

A decision from the appeal will probably not come out until the spring of 1990.

Mrs. Bullock's attorneys pursued the breach of contract claim because they felt the first settlement was inadequate. "Certainly \$100,000 is no compensation for a human life," Goldston said.

Bullock's murderer, Edward Teet of Durham, was convicted of second-degree murder in June and sentenced to life in prison. Goldston said Teet received the maximum penalty for that

charge. Since Bullock's murder, security on the NCCU campus has improved, said Fred Seely, NCCU student body president.

A night escort service staffed by student volunteers will start Oct. 1, Seely said. The university has also increased the number of resident assistants and graduate assistants in the residence halls and has positioned them in strategic areas on each floor.

"Measures have been taken to limit campus access to outsiders," said Seely, who believes that much of the crime on campus can be attributed to the community surrounding the school.

Bill to allow some N.C. students to take PSAT for no charge

By JENNIFER BLACKWELL
Staff Writer

The N.C. General Assembly passed a bill recently which will allow all eighth- through 10th-grade students to take the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT) free.

The legislature has authorized the N.C. Board of Education to allocate \$365,000 for fiscal year 1989-90 and \$396,000 for fiscal year 1990-91 to administer the test.

The General Assembly hopes stu-

dents will become more comfortable and more prepared for the SAT by taking the PSAT.

"We hope all students who want to take the SAT will take the PSAT," said Kay Williams of the state superintendent of schools office.

The bill states that every student in the eighth through 10th grade who has completed Algebra I, or who is in the last month of Algebra I, will be given the opportunity to take the PSAT one time at the state's expense.

Rep. David Diamant, D-Surry, hopes the free tests will encourage more students to take the exam. But he said there is no way to tell if more students will take the test.

North Carolina is the first state to offer to give the PSAT for free, said Suzanne Money, a researcher for the Princeton College Board, the organization that administers the test.

In 1988, 24,259 juniors in North Carolina took the PSAT, and 40,000 took the SAT as seniors. The General

Assembly is trying to help close the gap between the number that takes the PSAT and the SAT. The gap is the largest among the Southern states.

"We're not going to know what impact it is going to have until we look at the strategies for getting the students in to take the test," Money said. The number of students who take the PSAT in the eastern part of the state is especially low, she noted.

The General Assembly has also set up a task force that will set up programs for students to help them raise their scores. In 1987, the state began funding remedial summer school programs to help students with the SAT.

There is no way to determine right now if the summer school program is helping students raise their scores since it is still in its early stages, said Rep. Aaron Fussell, D-Wake, a former state superintendent of schools and former

chairman of the House's committee on education.

The General Assembly's task force will begin investigating new programs next month and will release its findings in May. The new programs will be implemented the following fall.

The state superintendent's office is exploring the idea of coaching students individually for the PSAT and SAT. South Carolina started using a coaching program last year, and it was helpful in raising some students' scores. No statewide program exists in North Carolina, but some individual school systems and individual schools provide preparatory classes.

The average combined SAT score of N.C. students dropped to 836 this year, putting the state in last place in SAT scores.

But the free PSAT program was not the result of the state's SAT scores.

"We've known all along that we haven't had very good scores," Fussell said. The budget was completed a few months ago before the results of the scores were released.

The PSAT normally costs \$9 for students.

At Chapel Hill High School (CHHS), an average of 350 to 400 10th- and 11th-grade students take the PSAT each year.

Ruth Reid-Coleman, a counselor at CHHS, doesn't think offering the PSAT free will significantly increase the number of high school students taking the test, but she said it will probably increase the number of eighth and ninth graders taking the exam.

The PSAT is a good indicator of how well students will do on the SAT since it exposes them to the type of questions and the time constraints that are on the SAT, Reid-Coleman said.

Program to explore increase in Southern tornado activity

By WAGNER DOTTO
Staff Writer

The U.S. House of Representatives recently approved an amendment that will provide \$650,000 for an academic research program to help meteorologists forecast and understand why tornadoes have been occurring in North Carolina and other Southeastern states more frequently.

North Carolina has averaged 10 tornadoes a year in previous decades, but 36 tornadoes were reported this year to the National Severe Storm Research Center.

Last November an unexpected tornado hit northwest Raleigh killing two people, seriously injuring several others and damaging or destroying hundreds of homes, businesses and cars.

"The increase in severe storm ac-

tivities in the Southeastern states makes the research program vital," said Rep. Tim Valentine, D-N.C., in a press release. Valentine and Rep. David Price, D-N.C., proposed the amendment.

The money for the research was part of a \$863 million bill for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The research will be administered by NOAA and some Southeastern universities with qualified research capabilities. No institution has been chosen yet, according to sources at NOAA.

Tornadoes in North Carolina and other Southeastern states have been particularly devastating because they occur under weather conditions that make detection and advance warning more difficult.

In Southeastern states, storm cells are smaller and are harder to detect,

said Rachel Perry, a spokeswoman for Price. Traditionally, tornado and severe weather research has been limited to the Midwest, where severe weather is more prevalent.

The research will help meteorologists understand more about these weather phenomena and enable the public to take necessary safety precautions, Price said in a press release.

"It is clear that weather patterns are shifting and that North Carolina is suffering the consequences. It is more critical than ever that we focus on these unique Southeastern storms and develop research to better understand them," Price said.

The bill must be considered by a House-Senate conference committee, and if the research program remains intact, funds should be available after Oct. 1.

Tar Heel State popular filming site

By JESSICA YATES
Assistant Arts Editor

The heroine suddenly slaps her insensitive but charming lover. The entire audience gasps.

Well, everyone except the North Carolinian, who turns to his friend and says loudly, "Hey, I pass that place going to work every day!"

OK, maybe he doesn't say it aloud, but it's not uncommon for North Carolinians to recognize the streets and buildings in movies.

The state now ranks third in the nation (behind California and New York) for the amount of revenue — \$297 million — which video production brings to the state annually, according to Bill Arnold, director of the N.C. Film Commission.

Popular films such as "Dirty Dancing," "Bull Durham," "The Color Purple" and "Weekend at Bernie's" have been made here, and many more are to follow, he said.

"Two movies that were shot here early this year have already been called strong candidates for the Academy Awards," Arnold said, referring to "The Handmaid's Tale," shot in Durham, and "Everybody Wins," shot in Wilmington. Both are due for release late this year.

In addition, the films "Loose Cannons" and "Living Monsters" — both shot in North Carolina — should be released in the next month, he said.

More producers are considering North Carolina for shot locations in their quest for quality, money-making films. The N.C. Film Commission is talking with a number of future movie prospects for the Triangle and for Greensboro, Arnold said. The names of the film companies cannot be released until final decisions are made.

While most producers would agree that the state lacks the glitter and glamour of Hollywood and New York City, the advantages of cost and geography attract many to the Tar Heel state.

"I came here in 1980 to make films to save 30 percent of my budget since this is a 'right-to-work' state," said Chuck Ison, owner and chairman of the board of Creative Network, a production studio in Charlotte. "There are no union problems here."

Arnold agreed, explaining that the cost of living in general is less in North Carolina. "Labor is relatively cheap, such as in hiring actors, extras and crew."

Geographic variety and climatic stability also make the state an attractive place for film makers. "It's basically good weather all year round, with the exception of the mountains in the winter," Ison said.

Arnold further explained the benefits of filming in North Carolina. "We have the highest mountains in eastern America and more than 300 miles of coast line. A film company that wants a European or New England look can come here instead."

Most North Carolina residents love not only the excitement of the film process, but also the employment opportunities film companies bring into the area.

"When producers first started coming here, they were hesitant to trust local people, and they didn't expect to find competent technical people and actors," Arnold said.

But many changes have taken place in the past 10 years.

"Crew people have proven themselves," Arnold said. "Some of ours are even being called to work in other places."

According to Arnold, it may take time for other elements in the business to fully develop here.

Ison is highly selective in choosing employees, but he said he has found a lot of talent in the state. "A lot of my key people are local, but a lot of that is due to people relocating. People come here to work on a project and decide to stay, so it sort of breeds into the community." Even so, Ison has a staff ratio of about three local workers for every out-of-state worker.

As well as offering a supply of skilled employees, North Carolina has more studios and sound stages than any state with the exception of California, Arnold said. There are studios in Wilmington, High Point, Shelby and Charlotte, and plans for building others in Caswell County, just north of Burlington, he said.

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