

Partly cloudy

High 50-55

Friday: Rain
High in 40s

The Daily Tar Heel

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Geneva talks' failure spurs new efforts

PARIS — New diplomatic initiatives by France, the European Community and possibly the United Nations gained momentum Wednesday after U.S.-Iraqi talks failed to bring a breakthrough in the Persian Gulf crisis.

The European Community proposed high-level talks with Iraq.

France pledged a last-ditch diplomatic effort to avoid war. And officials at the United Nations said Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar stood ready to travel to Baghdad for talks.

Pope John Paul II urged prayers for peace "in these so critical days."

The talks in Geneva between Secretary of State James Baker and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz had been billed as the last, best hope of resolving the crisis. But Baker emerged from six hours of talks with a gloomy assessment.

"Regrettably, I heard nothing today that suggested to me any Iraqi flexibility whatsoever," he told reporters.

Remaining diplomats to leave Iraq Saturday

GENEVA — All U.S. diplomats will leave Baghdad on Saturday, three days before a U.N. deadline for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait, Secretary of State James Baker said Wednesday.

Baker told reporters that Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz assured him during their more than six hours of talks here that the five remaining diplomats would be allowed to leave then.

Saturday is the day Iraq had proposed for a meeting between Baker and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. The United States rejected the date as being too close to the U.N. deadline.

Baker said U.S. contacts with Iraq would continue until Saturday.

Deep change in store for banking system

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration is working furiously to finish the most massive overhaul of the nation's banking system in a half century in hopes of avoiding a taxpayer bailout that could dwarf the savings and loan cleanup.

The proposal, which President Bush plans to present in his Jan. 29 State of the Union address, is designed to halt banking's long decline and end the wave of failures and loan losses that have undermined national economic health.

With less than three weeks to go before Bush's speech, officials have yet to make key decisions. But Bank of New England Corp.'s failure last week lent new urgency to the effort.

160 foreigners escape Somali violence

NAIROBI, Kenya — Two Italian planes and a warship rescued more than 160 foreigners from Somalia's capital Wednesday, and President Mohamed Siad Barre appealed for peace.

Rebel groups, meanwhile, rejected an Italian peace plan because it would allow Siad Barre to stay on as a figurehead leader.

In a broadcast monitored in Nairobi, Siad Barre told of "huge problems" resulting from 11 days of fighting between the rebels and government. Rebels say the capital is littered with decomposed corpses and rife with disease.

The rebels have said more than 1,500 people have died in the fighting.

— From Associated Press reports

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Commission reverses edict in Edwards case

By STEVE POLITI
Staff Writer

The State Personnel Commission reversed an administrative law judge's earlier ruling when it found Dec. 18 that the University did not discriminate against University police officer Keith Edwards in promotion practices.

The three-page decision submitted by Richard Lee, director of the commission, said the decision to promote another officer instead of Edwards was "a legitimate, non-discriminatory business action."

The decision also stated that Edwards failed to provide information indicating that the University's decision not to promote Edwards to the position was "a pretext for illegal discrimination on the basis of her race, her sex, or her race and sex."

Alan McSurely, Edwards' attorney, said the commission's decision was identical to the position the University had held throughout the case.

"Their decision said that the sergeant position, that Keith was by far the most qualified for, which they gave to a white male officer with less experience, was really not a promotion because they were not giving him a pay raise for six months down the road," McSurely said.

Administrative Law Judge Delores Nesnow ruled in favor of Edwards in July. She awarded reasonable attorney fees to Edwards and ordered the University to promote her to lieutenant in the campus police department for four months. The University appealed the judge's decision to the state personnel commission.

Edwards said she knew earning a favorable decision from the State



Keith Edwards

DTH file photo

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Airport employee files suit alleging discrimination

By MATTHEW EISLEY
Assistant University Editor

An African-American, 13-year employee of the University's Horace Williams Airport has filed a lawsuit against the airport's manager alleging racial discrimination and defamation of character, court records show.

In the lawsuit, filed Dec. 26 in Orange County Superior Court, Paul Fearrington Jr. said Paul Burke, the airport manager, and other unnamed University employees discriminated against Fearrington on racial grounds when considering him for job promotions and salary raises between 1979 and 1989.

The lawsuit accuses Burke of telling Fearrington he was operations supervisor, but keeping his actual employment classification "general utility worker" and paying him an unfairly low wage.

Fearrington, who was reclassified as labor crew leader last March, has acted as deputy airport manager since 1979, the lawsuit states.

The lawsuit also alleges that Burke made racist and untrue remarks about Fearrington during a December 1989 conversation with an airport employee who was a friend of Fearrington.

Burke's alleged comments hurt Fearrington's ability to raise money for youth activities he organized, the lawsuit states.

Fearrington is seeking at least \$10,000 for defamation, unspecified back pay plus interest appropriate for the position of deputy manager, unspecified compensatory and punitive damages and attorney fees.

Burke declined to comment about the lawsuit.

Laurie Charest, associate vice chancellor for human resources, did not re-

Suit seeks:
- At least \$10,000 for defamation
- Unspecified back pay plus interest
- Punitive damages

turn telephone calls Wednesday.

Fearrington was not able to comment at the time when reached by telephone Wednesday.

His lawsuit states that Burke's alleged discussion with Fearrington's friend Lorne Long was intended to impugn Fearrington's morality and his ability to handle money, a key part of his job at the airport and the youth activities he organized.

The suit also states that word of the alleged conversation spread and defamed Fearrington's character, damaging his ability to raise money for the youth activities.

Fearrington and his family subsequently suffered emotional distress, the suit states.

It names "other unknown employees" of the University who allegedly denied Fearrington his legal right to be free of racial discrimination, but gives no clues about who they might be. It says those people are not presently identifiable.

Fearrington's lawyer, Alan McSurely, could not be reached for comment. McSurely is representing several other employees who have filed grievances against the University.

Supervisors admit housekeepers may join NAACP

By SOYIA ELLISON
Staff Writer

Housekeeping supervisors who told employees that they would be fired if they discussed the NAACP at work have admitted they cannot stop employees from talking about or joining the organization.

Several housekeepers said they were told in a Dec. 19 meeting that they could not join or discuss the NAACP because the University employee handbook forbids affiliation with political organiza-

tions.

The employees, who asked that neither they nor their supervisors be identified because they feared retaliation, said the supervisors told them they could not talk about the organization, even during breaks, because they were being paid during that time.

One housekeeper said the meeting took place after some employees discussed contacting the NAACP because of "unfair working conditions."

After the contents of the meeting

were reported in several local newspapers, employees said the supervisors told them they could not take any action against them for joining the organization.

Charles Davis, University housekeeping assistant administrator, told The Chapel Hill Newspaper that he did not know that the meeting occurred and was not familiar with the policy banning affiliation with political organizations.

But James Brittain, president of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro chapter of the

NAACP, said several people had complained to him.

"Three different people from three different groups (areas of campus) said they heard the same thing from three different supervisors," he said.

University officials have not given him a statement about the NAACP's political status, but he will demand such a statement, Brittain said.

Action should be taken against the people who issued the statement, he said. "I think that if someone issued those orders to them they should be reprimanded ... in fact, I think they should be terminated because that's violating constitutional rights."

He plans to meet with University

officials Friday to discuss the incident, Brittain said. He also wants to meet with officials to present documentation about the housekeeping staff's poor working conditions.

Harold Wallace, vice chancellor of University affairs, said he was not aware of all the facts surrounding the incident because he was out of town at the time the meeting took place and has not been contacted by Brittain or any of the housekeepers involved.

"If I don't hear from either party soon, I'm going to take the initiative and at least talk to the NAACP and see what their concerns are," he said. "I've never viewed them (the NAACP) as a partisan political organization."

Minority scholarships thought safe despite threatened policy change

By ELIZABETH BYRD
Senior Writer

Despite a scare from the U.S. Education Department last month, financial aid for minority students appears to be safe for the time being, University and U.S. government officials said Wednesday.

In early December, Michael Williams, head of the Education Department's civil rights division, announced that it was illegal for any uni-

versity receiving federal funding to reserve scholarships solely for minority students.

Such an interpretation of government policy, if implemented, would significantly affect scholarship programs at many schools, including UNC-Chapel Hill.

The declaration met with outrage from members of the Bush administration and members of both parties in Congress. Some officials called for

legislation preventing such a measure from passing.

A week after the Education Department announcement, White House Chief of Staff John Sununu called for a reversal of the ruling. But as of Jan. 9, the White House had not declared an official position on the matter, said Rachel Perry, press secretary for Rep. David Price, D-N.C.

See SCHOLARSHIP, page 11

Suspect in shootings indicted for murder

By CULLEN D. FERGUSON
City Editor

Luis Antonio Olivera Rodriguez of 43 Sheffield Ave., Brooklyn, N.Y., was indicted on two counts of first-degree murder by an Orange County Grand Jury Tuesday.

Rodriguez is suspected of fatally shooting Barbara Cindy Quirindongo of Brooklyn and Loreda Yvette Burnett of Carrboro on Dec. 11. A third woman was wounded in the incident and was transported by taxi to a nearby hospital.

Police said drugs may have played a role in the shootings.

"Drugs were found at the various

scenes of the crime," said Jane Cousins, Chapel Hill police planner.

The shootings probably occurred after a drug deal went bad, police officials said.

Rodriguez was arrested shortly after police received his name and description from Celenia Garcia, the third woman involved in the incident. Garcia was shot in the leg the same night the other two women were killed.

Rodriguez was picked up in Fairfax, Va., after police received a tip that he was on his way to New York. He was subsequently charged with two counts of first degree murder and one count of

assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury with intent to kill. A small amount of crack cocaine was confiscated from Rodriguez after police discovered it when he was searched, police officials said.

The first body was found after police responded to a call at 751 Pritchard Extension Apartments. Police found Burnett's body lying in the parking lot at around 1:45 a.m. The second body was found later that morning when police stopped to investigate Burnett's abandoned car that was parked at the

See SHOOTINGS, page 11

DTH seeking writers, photographers, copy editors

So you're not happy with the new telephone registration system that was supposed to make your life easier? So you didn't get that class that you have been trying to pick up for three semesters now? Just have those new semester blues?

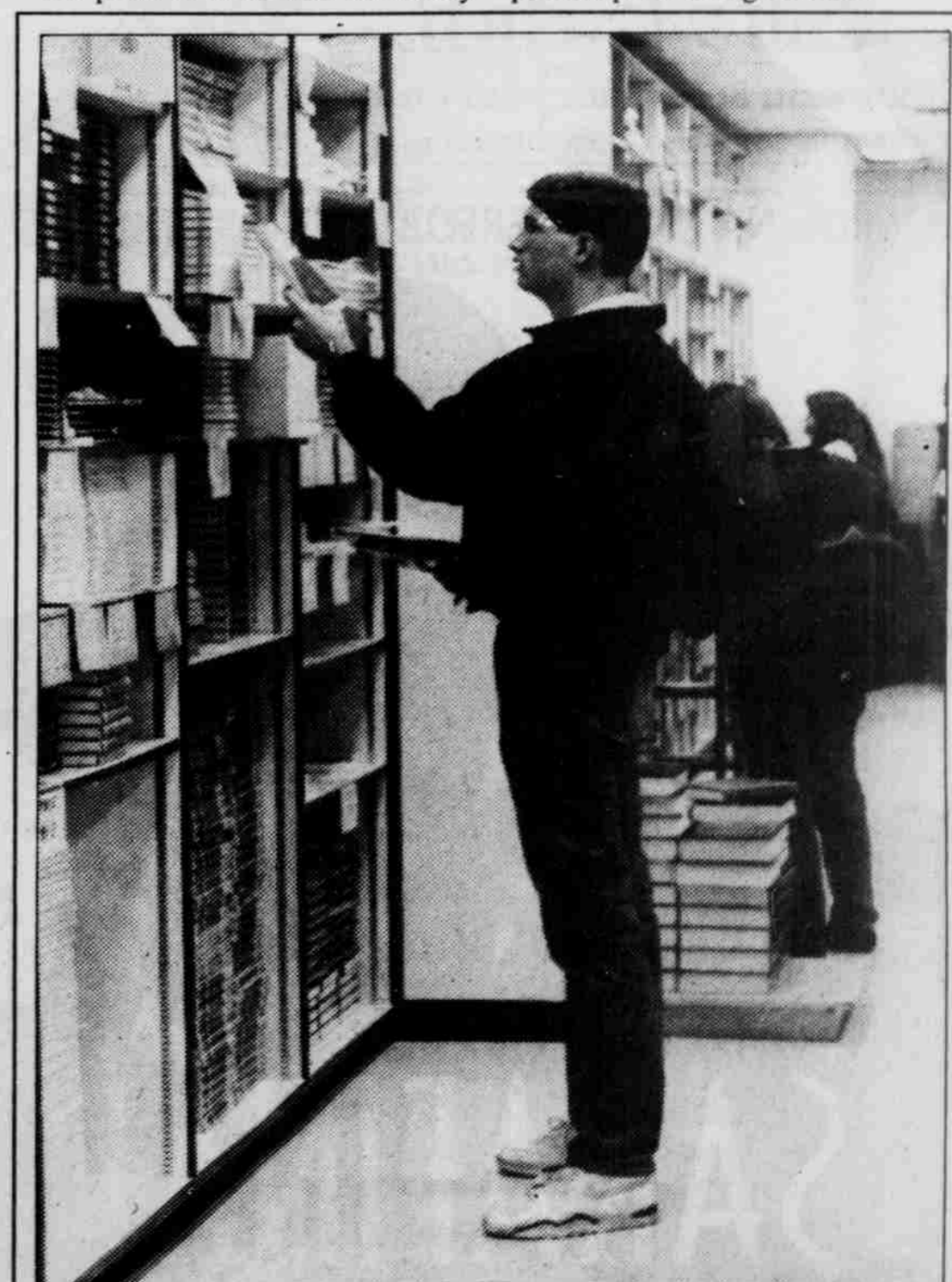
Come join the DTH! We are looking for some talented, hard-working and creative souls who have some extra time and want to get some experience writing for a daily paper. Experience or a journalism major is not required, but

we do ask that you prove yourself worthy. Come to one of the following interest sessions to pick up an application to be a writer or take a copy editing test: Monday, Jan. 14 at 4:30 p.m. in Student Union rooms 208 and 209 or at 8:30 p.m. in Student Union rooms 205 and 206.

We need writers for all desks: University, state/national, city and features. Writers will be asked to write a story and meet deadline. Those wishing to be copy editors on the news desk should

plan to take the copy editing test following the 4:30 p.m. meeting. Those who wish to write sports should attend the meeting, but also contact sports editor Mark Anderson at the DTH office. Future photographers should contact photography editors Grant Halverson or Kathy Michel at the DTH; darkroom experience is required.

We are also looking for new columnists. Interested writers should submit three samples of their work to the DTH office by Jan. 17 at 5 p.m.



DTH/Kathy Michel

Book binge

John Brady, a sophomore from Rocky Mount, peruses the Italian textbook section in the Student Stores Wednesday afternoon.

The success of any great moral enterprise does not depend upon numbers. — William Lloyd Garrison