

O say, does that star-spangled banner wave left or right?

A president of France once noted that Old Glory is the only flag in the world that is not dipped before the head of another state, providing a clue, he said, to the unique character of America.

"The symbol of the nation cannot salute even the president of the United States and cannot salute any other ruler of state," said Raymond Poincare, president of France in World War I. "In that fact is the revelation of a principle which has made it possible for the United States to draw its citizenship from every quarter of the world." The rule about not dipping the flag to any person or thing is included in a code enacted by Congress in 1942 regarding the display of the flag in public places.

A booklet distributed by the N.C. National Guard describes the proper placement of the flag:

- It should be displayed at night only if properly illuminated. Otherwise, the flag should be hoisted briskly at

sunrise and lowered ceremoniously at sunset. Only all-weather flags should be flown outside during inclement weather.

- On a staff, the flag's blue union field should be on top next to the staff. When hoisted out from a building on a rope, it should be hoisted union field first.

- When displayed against a wall or from a window, the union field should be to the observer's left.

- When hanging over the middle of the street, it should be suspended vertically with the union field to the north in an east-west street or to the east in a north-south street.

- When carried in a procession with another flag or flags, it should be either on the marching right, or, if there is a line of other flags, in front of the center of that line. On a car, the flag's shaft should be fixed firmly to the chassis or clamped to the right fender.

Groups file federal suit against Hyde peat mine

By JERRY ALLEGOOD
Staff Writer

Environmental and commercial fishing groups allied against peat mining in coastal North Carolina filed a federal lawsuit Thursday that contends federal agencies had failed to properly regulate plans to mine peat on a 7,500-acre tract in Hyde County.

The lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court in Raleigh, contends that a peat mining operation on White Tail Farm east of Fairfield would take place in wetlands that are important to fish and wildlife. The wetlands were illegally drained with ditches, the complaint said, and federal agencies have refused to assert jurisdiction over the site.

The groups asked the federal court to declare that the site is a wetland and to order the peat mine operators to restore the altered areas.

"This suit is necessary to ensure that proper environmental review of the project is carried out prior to any decision to allow the destruction of 7,500 acres of wetlands," David W. Carr Jr., a lawyer for peat opponents, said in a prepared statement. He said the destruction of the wetlands would "affect the productivity of the Pamlico and Albemarle sounds."

Carr, a lawyer for the Southern Environmental Law Center in Charlottesville, Va., represents

the N.C. Coastal Federation, the N.C. Wildlife Federation, the N.C. Fisheries Association and the Sierra Club.

The suit named as defendants officials of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency, the federal agencies responsible for wetlands under federal law; and Samuel J. Esposito, a Chicago businessman who is a partner in companies that own the farm and plan to mine the peat. Esposito has proposed to mine peat from White Tail Farm and ship it by barge to a power generating plant to be built near New Bern.

Esposito could not be reached for comment.

A corps spokesman said in March that the farm had been drained and developed for agricultural use before the agency was given specific jurisdiction over the wetlands. He said the corps considered sites such as White Tail Farms examples of land being used under "normal" rather than natural circumstances.

The corps maintains that the farm is no longer a wetland because of the ditching, so it and the EPA have no authority to regulate the project.

Peat opponents said in the complaint that there were no field

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Training continues at Fort Bragg as Air Force studies C-130 crash

By TOM MATHER
Staff Writer

Air Force investigators said Thursday that it could be months before they determine the cause of a cargo plane crash that killed five servicemen and injured two others during a military demonstration at Fort Bragg.

As investigators studied the crash site, the Army and Air Force performed the same maneuver that led to Wednesday's crash, continuing their joint exercises before 4,000 ROTC cadets at Fort Bragg. A parachute malfunction caused the mission to be aborted, however.

"What happened yesterday [Wednesday] is tragic," said Capt. Donald M. Sensing, public information chief at Fort Bragg. "But we still have to train our soldiers to do their jobs. ... To cancel the training would not have helped the accident investigation."

As many as 4,000 civilians were watching when the crash occurred Wednesday morning. The Lockheed C-130 Hercules aircraft skidded past the viewing bleachers

before exploding in a grove of pine trees at the end of a dirt landing strip.

One of four Air Force crewmen killed in the crash was from Sanford. First Lt. John B. Keiser III, the plane's flight navigator, was a 1977 graduate of Lee Senior High School and received a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1981.

Keiser, 28, enlisted in the Air Force in January 1982 and later completed three months of training on C-130 aircraft at Little Rock (Ark.) Air Force Base. He was graduated from a navigators' instructional school in March and was attached to the 40th Tactical Airlift Squadron at Pope Air Force Base near Fort Bragg.

Two Air Force crew members injured in the accident remained in critical but stable condition late Thursday. They were being treated at Brooke Army Medical Center at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

An Air Force safety official arrived at the base Thursday to assemble a five-man accident

board to investigate the accident. The board would not discuss causes until the investigation is complete and even then might not release all of its findings, said Sgt. Robert W. Fortenberry, spokesman for Pope Air Force Base.

The C-130's flight recorder was found intact Wednesday and was sent to the National Transportation Safety Board, Fortenberry said.

The accident occurred as the cargo plane was dropping a 17-ton Sheridan tank in a LAPES, or low-altitude parachute extraction system, during an annual display of military capability. In a LAPES, a C-130 descends to about five feet above the ground with the rear door opened, and a parachute attached to the tank pulls the tank out. The plane ascends sharply after dropping the load.

During the accident Wednesday, the aircraft struck the ground as it descended and tried to level off at five feet.

On Thursday, a similar tank drop was aborted when a parachute, or drogue, failed to open.

The plane's crew cut the rigging connecting the parachute with the tank. The cargo plane roared past 4,000 ROTC cadets watching from bleachers beside the runway, but it didn't drop the tank.

Air Force officials said the two cases were not related. They said Thursday's incident showed that the crews had followed safety procedures correctly.

"When [the parachute] gets out in the airstream behind the plane, it's supposed to balloon out — and it didn't," Fortenberry said of the malfunction. "Instead it went into a cigar roll. That's an acknowledged possibility every time you do a demonstration. It just goes to show that the [abortion] technique works."

Fortenberry said the investigation of Wednesday's crash would focus its efforts on trying to prevent recurrences, rather than trying to fix blame to anyone involved.

In addition to Keiser, the dead crew members were identified as: Capt. Garry M. Bardo Jr., 31, the

See TRAINING, page 2D

Hernia measure endorsed

House still honing workers' comp law

By STEVE RILEY
Staff Writer

The state House, over strong objections from business interests, voted tentatively Thursday to retain improved treatment of hernia victims in a bill that includes other broad changes in the state's Workers' Compensation Act.

The House rejected, 58-56, an amendment to eliminate part of the measure that would make it easier for workers who suffer hernias on the job to win compensation. Sponsored by Rep. William G. Alexander, D-Cabarrus, the change also would have eliminated a new provision spreading coverage to more workers in small businesses.

But the fight isn't over in the House, which will vote again today on the bill — and likely on another amendment similar to Alexander's. Another battle awaits in the Senate, which could

See HOUSE ENDORSES, page 2D



Rep. Daniel T. Blue, D-Wake, speaks in favor of workers' compensation proposal

Pitt GOP officials say Hawke ignored wishes

GREENVILLE — The chairman of the Pitt County Republican Party said Thursday that state GOP Chairman R. Jack Hawke had ignored the wishes of local party officials by recommending a moderate, not a conservative, for the county board of elections.

The chairman, Carlton P. Smith Jr., said at a news conference that Hawke had ignored a slate of nominees recommended by local party leaders because state GOP officials were unhappy that conservatives had been elected to Pitt County GOP leadership posts this year.

Pitt County GOP officials have been "repeatedly singled out for punishment," Smith said. "Jack Hawke is generally excluding and ignoring the conservative voice of

North Carolina."

Hawke was elected state GOP chairman in May despite opposition from the party's conservative wing. Hawke was supported by Gov. James G. Martin, a mainstream Republican, but was opposed by the National Congressional Club, a conservative group that is U.S. Sen. Jesse A. Helms' political organization.

Hawke could not be reached for comment Thursday. A spokesman for the state GOP headquarters said he was traveling in Pitt County and was unavailable. An assistant to Hawke did not return repeated telephone calls.

The State Board of Elections, following Hawke's recommendations, Tuesday appointed Republicans Andy Andrews and Nelson Crisp to two Republican seats on the county board of elections for two-year terms. Myra Cain, a

Democrat, was reappointed to a third seat.

Under North Carolina law, the state board must select members for local boards from a list of three registered voters submitted by the chairmen of state the Republican and Democratic parties. Republicans control the state board, but must by law appoint one Democrat to the three-member local board.

Smith said that the local GOP's top choice was Paul Rasberry, a retired school principal who supports Helms and identifies himself with the conservative wing of the party. But Hawke put Rasberry third on his list, and only two Republicans were chosen.

The local GOP's second choice was Andrews, who was appointed. But Smith said, "It is unprece-

ented for a state chairman to ignore the board of elections nominees of a county chairman."

Rasberry said, "We feel like we're being kicked around because we were identified as being anti-Hawke and we never were."

Rasberry said he had been a supporter of Martin, who is generally regarded as a moderate, but that he was also identified with the party's conservative side.

Smith said that since the state GOP convention, four prominent Republicans in Pitt County had reported that if the state GOP continued "punitive actions" against Pitt County they would form a "Republicans for Bob Jordan Committee." Lt. Gov. Robert B. Jordan, a Democrat, is expected to face Martin in the 1988 governor's race.

— JERRY ALLEGOOD

The grass is always greener when the kids do the yard work

Letters and leftovers:
Parents who are about to go crazy with their out-of-school kids underfoot can take some comfort in the knowledge that when the little ones finally do grow up and move away from home, there are things they will miss about having them around. "I know, you think I'm pulling your leg. But hard as I try to believe right now, you will actually miss them in time to time, most often when you have to do the chores you used to make them do. Like yard work. I used to make my girls do a lot of yard work. I don't do it to teach them responsibility or help them get a sense of worth by earning their allowances or make them feel like an important member of the family by helping take care of our home. I made them do most of the yard work because it is easier work and better they do it than me. We had the Golden Rule at our house: He who has the gold, rules. The gold, besides, I was bigger than they were. I taught them to operate a lawn mower and a rake early as it was safe and then sat inside and watched baseball games on TV and drank beer while they sweated in the broiling summer heat. My conscience did not hurt me one bit.



Dennis Rogers

Here is a letter on the subject of yard work. It comes from Nancey Lindsey of Raleigh:

"Recently you wrote on the agonies of trying to keep your lawn up to North Raleigh standards, and I've been anxiously awaiting the sequel, but to no avail.

"I can only conclude that you've licked the problem, the problem licked you, Gail took over or you threw up your hands and hired a lawn expert.

"I want you to be a charter member of a new club I'm forming which will be called either 'HAH' (Humans Against Horticulture) or '3-H' (Horticulture is Hazardous to Humans). For a small monthly fee, we'll all get together and spray your yard once a year with Roundup, help you plant half a dozen kudzu

sprigs and, for the finicky who insist on a splash of color, contribute 12 artificial gladiolus bulbs to stick in your yard. Join me?

"I am not a yard person. I am a hausfrau (that's German for she who washes the socks). There are creepy, crawly, slithery, slimy, slinky things outside that should remain undisturbed. My hubby, Ed, disturbs them constantly in his never-ending battle to master the forces of nature. He's losing, incidentally.

"Squirrels burp contentedly from their diet of Dutch bulbs and then see how many bomb craters they can dig to burn off the calories. Birds chirp happily as they denude our cherry trees of every single luscious berry. Moles raise hills back and forth between the bomb craters. And we won't discuss crab grass.

"Ed has invited (nay, begged) me out to enjoy the fall ritual of raking billions of leaves, which I have graciously declined. I told him that if leaves ever fall in my kitchen, I will cheerfully rake them up.

"I did take pity on him last week and bestir myself to weed out the periwinkle bed, only to discover poison ivy therein. No sweat. I wallowed in the stuff as a kid and nary a pimple did appear.

"Has anybody in the Guinness Book of Records ever grown single blisters larger than three inches in diameter? How do I get in touch with Mr. Guinness?"

"Upon partial recovery, I tackled the ivy in the back yard, little knowing an unfriendly tribe of yellow jackets had established squatters' rights. Well sir, those little suckers not only yanked in the welcome mat, but they insulted my person. Not being satisfied with attacking the visible flesh, they got me where I'd rather not say. I could have been writing this tale of woe from a cell in the county jail as my neighbors are not very tolerant of old ladies stripping in sight of God and everybody. But I was close enough to the basement door to settle for a classy flash act."

I feel I must defend myself against the expected attacks from those who will say that I mistreated my lovely children by making them do yard work. I'll have you know that my eldest, who hated yard work as a mere lass, is now a professional lawn maintenance technician in Winston-Salem and loves it.

Now she comes home and tells me what I ought to be doing in my yard. Smart aleck kid.

Briefly

North Carolina

Washington, N.C., band to represent the state

For The News and Observer

WASHINGTON, N.C. — While many of their classmates have been sleeping late and enjoying summer vacations, members of the Washington High School band have been practicing. The 76-member band left Washington, N.C., Thursday morning to represent North Carolina in two national parades during the Independence Day weekend.

The band will play in the National Freedom Festival parade in Philadelphia today and in the National Independence Day parade in Washington Saturday. Band director Joe Sizemore said the band would be one of about 40 groups from across the nation participating in the parades. The Washington band earned an invitation to the parades after topping all bands in its class in regional competitions in last fall in Roanoke Rapids.

N.C. police find truck of missing Va. man

The Associated Press

Police in Nags Head found a pickup truck Friday belonging to a Newport News, Va., man who has been missing since human organs and a large amount of blood were found in his apartment last week, police said.

Police at the North Carolina beach resort notified Newport News police about noon that they had found the dark green 1979 Chevrolet truck, said Maj. James Ledford, a police spokesman. The vehicle belongs to Charles William Brownell, 43, a brick mason and Civil War buff who was last seen by neighbors Tuesday. Police said it was unclear whether Brownell had been the victim of a homicide or whether he was a suspect.

Postal Service to honor state zoo this weekend

ASHEBORO, N.C. (AP) — The U.S. Postal Service will put its stamp of support — and a special cancellation that reads North Carolina Zoological Park Station — on letters mailed at a mobile post office at the park Friday through Sunday.

Zoo-goers also will be able to buy a set of 50 stamps commemorating wildlife of North America. A special cancellation was available at the zoo during the grand opening of the North America exhibit in 1980. These one-time cancellations are used only a dozen or so times each year across the country.

Knightdale workers walk off their jobs

KNIGHTDALE — All four of Knightdale's maintenance workers have walked off their jobs after a salary dispute with the Town Council.

The workers, who operate the town's water and sewer systems, quit after the council voted Tuesday night to give pay increases of about 10 percent to all town employees except the maintenance department. The three full-time workers and one part-time worker were given a 3.5 percent raise in the town's \$921,000 budget for fiscal 1987-88.

"We just want to have all employees treated fair and equal, so we took a walk — permanently," said E. Ray Eddins, the former maintenance supervisor, in a telephone interview Wednesday.

Durham development not worrying officials

DURHAM — A housing development under construction in rapidly growing southern Durham could bring in as many as 4,000 families by 1994, and city officials are confident they've made sufficient plans to handle the growth.

When complete, Hope Valley Farms — the largest planned residential development in Durham's history — will occupy 763 acres between Hope Valley and Fayetteville roads.

Ground-breaking ceremonies were Tuesday, and construction is expected to take five years to seven years. Officials have said the development could mean as much as \$4 million in future tax revenues for city and county coffers.

Mayor of Durham says he'll run for re-election

The N&O Orange Bureau

DURHAM — Mayor Wilbur P. "Wib" Gulley announced he would run for a second two-year term at a news conference Thursday afternoon at Durham Hosiery Mill. Gulley, an attorney, first was elected mayor in November 1985.

In late June, Durham City Council member A.J. Howard Clement III announced his candidacy for Gulley's seat. Mayor Pro Tem Chester C. Jenkins also is expected to seek the seat.

Cut in cable disconnects some phone services

About half of North Carolina was without operator-assisted long distance and directory assistance phone services for most of Thursday after an electrical contractor cut a cable that connects the 919 area code with Southern Bell's computers in Charlotte.

All customers within the area code except in Wilmington lost the services after 11:30 a.m. when the contractor cut the cable while digging a trench. Full service was restored by 7:15 p.m.

The contractor, who was working between Winston-Salem and Greensboro, was not identified.

"If you called our business office today after 11:30 we would have been unable to call up your computer records," said P.E. Upchurch, manager of community relations for the company. "It also affected directory assistance for a great deal of the state and some people attempting to make calls using the operator."

The cable connects the majority

of Eastern North Carolina with Southern Bell offices in Charlotte. Wilmington was not affected, however, because that area is routed through South Carolina.

"It just makes it difficult for us to provide information to our customers," Upchurch said. "It's extremely uncommon. You just can't access the information you need to have."

Upchurch said there was no way of knowing how many callers had been affected or how much busi-

ness the company had lost. He also said the cost of repairs could be substantial.

"Repair cost can be fairly significant, especially a cable like this," he said. "The electrical contractor that cut it, under some circumstances, could be billed for the cost of the repair. Our legal people will investigate to see what happened. If the contractor was negligent, he will be billed."

Upchurch said direct-dial long distance service also might have been affected.

"Very often when one part of the network is having a problem, the other fills up," he said. "There may have been delays in direct-dial long distance."

However, the biggest problems were for callers seeking help or information.

"Many customers who dialed direct would not have known anything about it," Upchurch said. "But if you needed to talk to an operator or call directory assistance, you would have encountered problems."

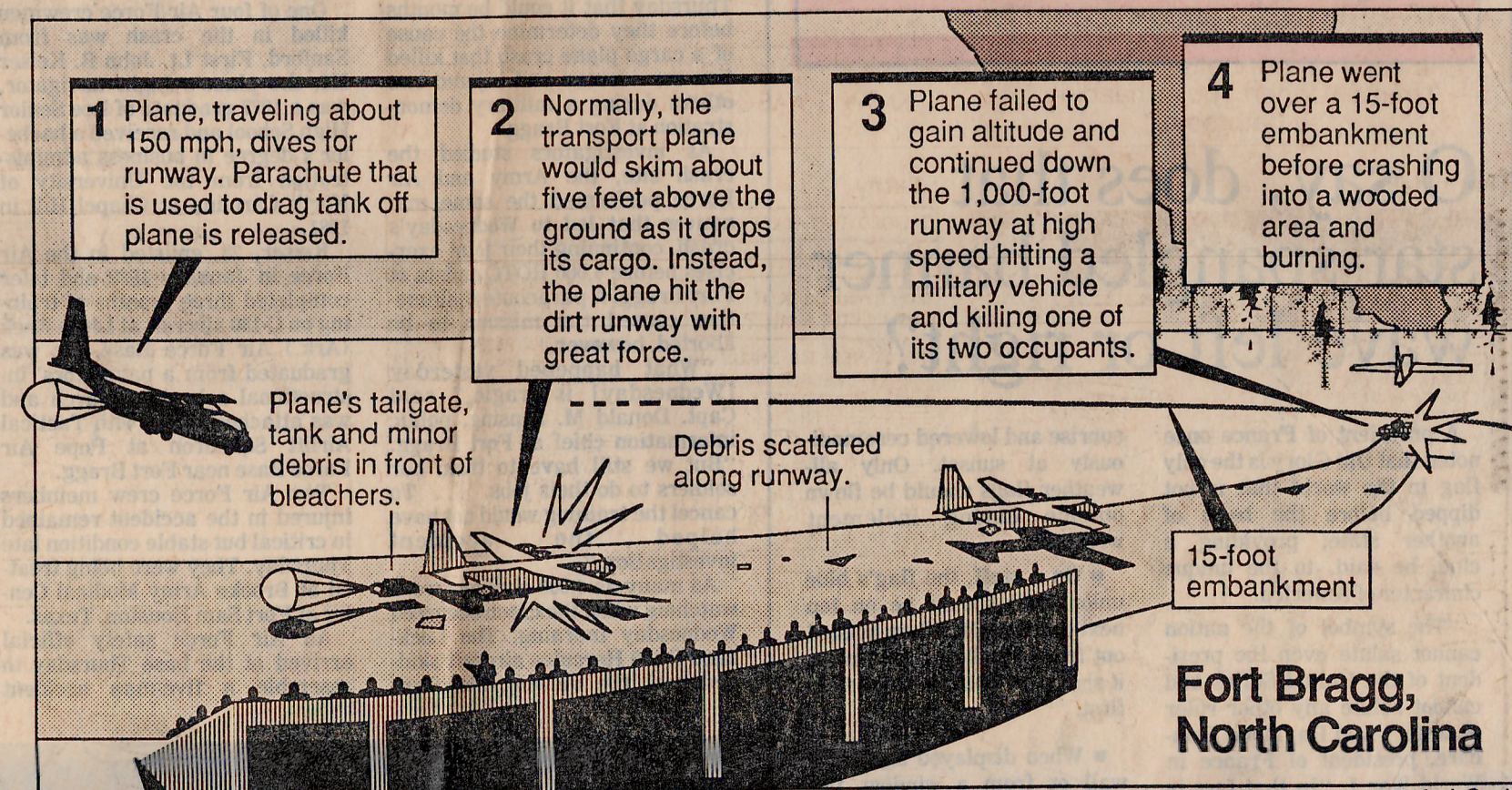
Training at Bragg continues

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pilot, born in Bloomsburg, Pa.; Tech. Sgt. Timothy A. Matar, 32, loadmaster, born in Mansura, La.; and Airman 1st Class Albert G. Dunse, 23, loadmaster, born in Savannah, Ga.

An Army soldier, Staff Sgt. Douglas L. Hunter, 25, of Charlotte, Tenn., was killed when the exploding plane hit his jeep parked at the end of the runway. He was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 73rd Armor Regiment at Fort Bragg.

Those injured were 1st Lt. Marc A. Lenke, co-pilot, and Sgt. Tony T. Holmes, flight engineer. Their ages and hometowns were not available.



AP/Karl Gude

Carnegie Commission honors 19 people for heroic deeds

PITTSBURGH (AP) — When Darrell Van Etten saw a man slumped at the wheel of his burning car, he moved instantly to save him, "just as any other American, any other human being, would have done."

Now Van Etten, 46, of Hamburg, is among 16 Americans and three Canadians recognized as heroes by the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission. Four of the people honored Thursday died in the performance of their deeds.

The heroes or their survivors receive \$2,500 each and a medal from the commission, founded by industrialist Andrew Carnegie in 1904 to honor heroism in the United States and Canada. The Pittsburgh-based fund has recognized 7,124 people and has awarded more than \$16.7 million.

For Van Etten, a Coca-Cola Co. production foreman, heroism came unexpectedly as he was going to dinner in Hamburg Dec. 23 with his daughter, Air Force Airman Kimberly A. Daly of Sumter, S.C.

Suddenly, Van Etten recalled Thursday, they heard a crash, and a car driven by Marlin E. Morgan Jr., 46, came careening in flames toward their car. Morgan was unconscious and his car was in flames, Van Etten said.

"There was no thought whatsoever," Van Etten said. "I saw the man wasn't moving. ... Instinct takes over. Nobody wants to see a human being suffer."

Van Etten said he tugged at the car's door, but it was jammed. Finally, he and his daughter yanked it open. The commission said Van Etten entered a car quickly filling with fire.

"I remember telling my daughter to get back and that it was going to blow up at any moment," he said. "I reached in and I had a hard time getting his seat belt loose. I just grabbed him under the armpits and dragged him away."

"We got about eight or 10 feet away and the car blew up. I think my daughter finished helping me pull him back," Van Etten said.

Van Etten said he had suffered minor burns on his forehead and hands. Morgan was treated for minor burns.

Others recognized by the commission were:

■ The late Jonathan David Kinder, 28, of Chester, Pa., who died trying to save a woman from drowning in Chester Creek Aug. 16, 1985. She also drowned.

■ The late Rose M. Griffith, 26, of Vancouver, Wash., who died trying to save a woman from

drowning in the Clackamas River at Gladstone, Ore., June 30, 1984. The woman survived.

■ The late Anthony J. Middleton, 22, of Beaverton, Ore., who died trying to save a man from drowning in the Clackamas River at Estacada, Ore., May 26, 1986. The man also died.

■ The late Dan Smith Vail, 68, of Grenada, Miss., who died trying to save his mother from her burning bedroom in Booneville, Miss., Dec. 21, 1985. His mother also died.

■ Carnell Johnson, 29, of Richmond, Calif., who saved a man from an assault in Oakland, Calif., Oct. 9, 1985.

■ Thomas M. Harrington, 34, of Chicago, who saved a 1-year-old girl from her burning bedroom on Feb. 4, 1985.

■ Timothy Michael Hickey, 23, of Toledo, Ohio, who saved a man from an assault Oct. 21, 1985.

■ David Ubiles, 27, of Pembroke Pines, Fla., who saved a 7-year-old girl from an attacking shark at Sanibel, Fla., Oct. 4, 1986. Both were injured.

■ James A. Phillips, 35, of Pittsburgh, and Kevin John Ging, 26, of suburban Coraopolis, who were injured when they helped save a woman and a man who were trapped in a natural gas explosion

July 10, 1986.

■ Ralph R. Bemis, 29, of Medway, Mass., who saved a man from a burning truck in a traffic accident Dec. 5, 1986.

■ Edward K. Yellman Jr., 29, of Alexandria, Va., who saved an elderly woman in her runaway car May 20, 1986.

■ Grant Merlin Miller, 43, of Newark, Calif., who saved a 7-year-old girl from a burning car in Oakland, Calif., July 29, 1986.

■ Daniel E. Maher Jr., 33, of Chesapeake, Va., who saved a 7-month-old girl from a burning

car Sept. 10, 1986. Maher was injured.

■ Gerald Marshall Fatula, 26, of St. Clairsville, Ohio, who saved a 3-year-old boy from a burning house in Blaine, Ohio, March 12.

■ Dale Joseph Furlotte, 31, and Bernard Joseph Duke, 55, both of Beresford, New Brunswick, and Yvan Leger, 31, of Bathurst, New Brunswick, who helped save a man from his burning car at Bathurst July 30, 1985. Furlotte and Leger suffered minor injuries.

Mallard hen, ducklings find haven near animal-rights teachers' offices

AMHERST, N.Y. (AP) — A mallard hen wound up with an unusually secure spot to raise 11 ducklings when it chose a courtyard outside the offices of Alan D. Freeman and Betty B. Mensch.

They are law professors at the State University of New York at Buffalo, where they teach a course called Nature, Ecology and the Law, which delves into the subject of animal rights.

The duck landed in the two-story courtyard of O'Brien Hall

and laid her eggs in the lush ivy at the base of the wall.

"The first we knew about it was when we saw the fuzzy balls following her around," Freeman said.

Large roasting pans that might hold ducks in other circumstances were provided for the ducklings to splash around in.

The couple also scatter cracked corn and duck pellets so the birds don't have to forage for food.

House endorses hernia measure in workers' comp law

Continued from page 1D

react angrily to having its long-discussed compromise altered.

"I'm not sure" how the Senate will vote on the bill, said Sen. Thomas F. Taft, D-Pitt, sponsor of the bill. "I'm hopeful there won't be any opposition to it."

The bill, approved 70-44 after Alexander's amendment was defeated, is a rewrite of a Senate-approved measure that emerged after lengthy negotiations. After the Senate passed Taft's bill, a House committee tacked on the hernia provision.

The hernia statute is identical to

a bill the House passed easily earlier in the session, but it has languished in the more conservative Senate. Business lobbyists who had agreed to support Taft's bill have been fighting hard against the combination of the two.

"It goes beyond that which the [textile] industry thinks it should go," said J. Melville Broughton Jr., a Raleigh lawyer who is lobbying for the N.C. Textile Manufacturers Association. "There are a lot of changes in the bill that the Senate originally passed. Perhaps that's as far as you should go in one session."

Alexander, whose district has heavy textile employment, took that stance on the House floor. He argued that all the proposed changes would be too expensive for industry and that the hernia provision should rise or fall on its own, not be combined with the other revisions.

"These are comprehensive changes, and those changes give additional benefits to employees," Alexander said. "Any time you have additional costs, somebody has to pay those costs."

But others argued that industry should pay for all the damages it inflicts to avoid having state

social programs pick up the cost.

"The human body gets worn and torn in the workplace," said Rep. Daniel T. Blue Jr., D-Wake. "Who is going to pay the cost of industrial injuries? If there is carnage, either you and I, as taxpayers, are going to pay for it or the employers will pay for it."

The skirmish Thursday was the latest about the state's workers' compensation laws, considered among the nation's worst for workers in several key areas.

The original Senate bill raised benefits for workers, took steps to allow them to get the benefits more quickly and eliminated

long-standing barriers for collecting money for work-related injuries. The hernia measure would allow workers to collect benefits if the injury was caused by a "specific traumatic incident" during the course of their work. Currently, they must prove they were injured as a result of a slip, trip or a fall.

Some lawmakers were fearful, however, that the hernia bill would open the door to frivolous claims. "Do you know what my doctor tells me is a major cause of hernias?" Rep. Vernon G. James, D-Pasquotank, asked Blue. "Sneezing."

Environmental, fishing groups file suit against peat mine plans

Continued from page 1D

ditches in the property when the developers bought it in March 1979. Numerous ditches were built in the next three years without a permit, the complaint said.

The complaint said construction of the ditches involved illegal discharge of dredged or fill material into wetlands "which the corps recognizes were wetlands

prior to the construction of the ditches."

Todd Miller, a spokesman for the coastal federation, said marsh wetlands bordering Albemarle and Pamlico sounds already have been lost because of conversion of corporate farms or other development. "We cannot let these last individual projects go unregulated or the overall efforts to protect water quality will be undermined," he said.

Authorities searching for suspect in police shooting

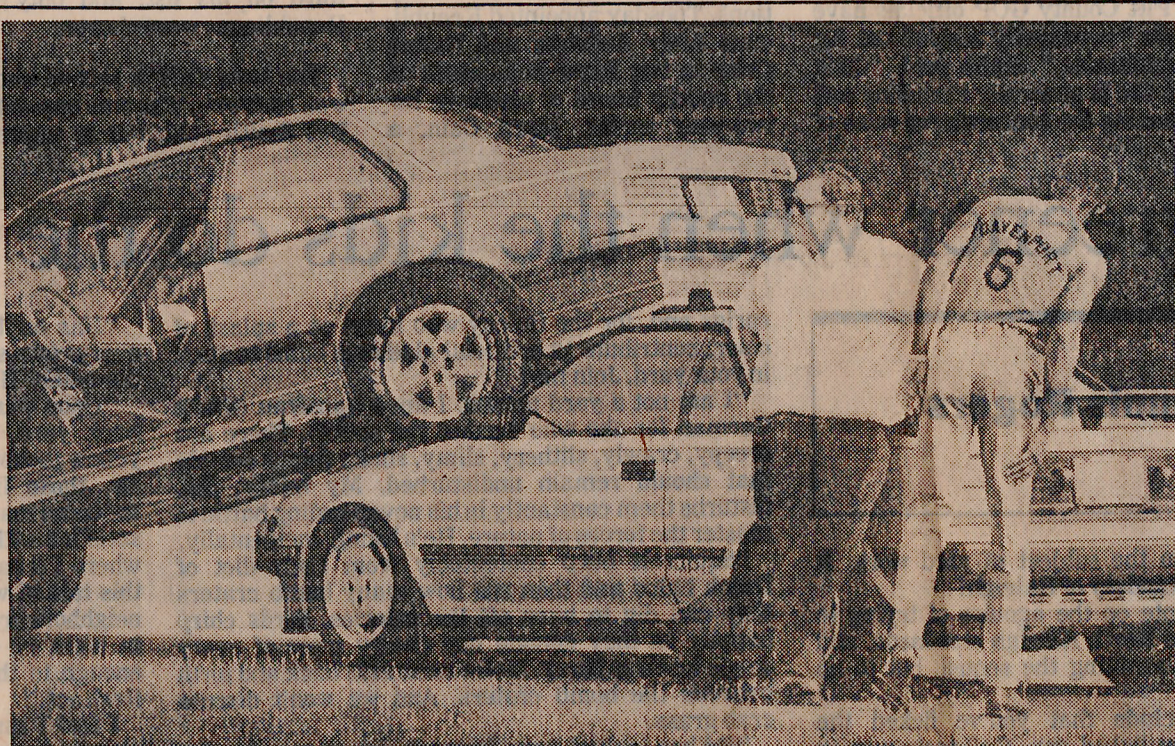
The N&O Orange Bureau

CHAPEL HILL — Authorities continued to search late Thursday for a man who shot a Durham police officer Wednesday during an apparent robbery attempt near Straw Valley shopping center on U.S. 15-501 near the Orange-Durham county line.

Durham police Sgt. Tony Roop said Thursday that he hoped to get a composite drawing of the suspect to aid the search today. The wounded officer, Daniel Gilbert,

31, was shot once in the left lower abdomen and remains in stable condition Thursday at ham County General Hospital.

More local news
pages 18A, 19A
6C and 8C.



The Associated Press

Traffic jam

James Davenport, right, owner of the car that "came out on top" in this collision, surveys the damage as Joseph Frazier awaits a wrecker.

The accident, which involved three vehicles, occurred on the Silas Creek Parkway in Winston-Salem Wednesday.