

# IN OTHER NEWS

## Eight dead in explosion fire at pharmaceutical plant

KINSTON - An explosion and fire at the West Pharmaceutical factory near

Raleigh killed eight people and left at least 100 unaccounted for Jan. 29 in what appears to be an unexplained disaster. The factory, which employs about 225 people, makes syringe plungers and Intravenous fitments. According to the Federal Aviation

Administration in Atlanta, no aircraft were involved in the explosion.

Police indicated at least 100 employees at the factory had failed to contact their families as of 3:30 p.m. Jan. 29.

According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the West factory was inspected in October and cited for a number of safety violations and fined \$10,000.

A spokesman at the company's headquarters in Lionville, Pa., declined to comment.

## Slaying may be connected to Ku Klux Klan

CLINTON - A decomposed body found buried in Sampson County is the work of the Klan, according to Sheriff Jim Thornton.

The investigation began after the sheriff was given a tip that there had been a murder and burial in the county.

Thornton said he doesn't know of any

recent Klan activity in the area.

According to Thornton, the victim was a white male who died of two gunshot wounds to the head.

Four people arrested in the killing are connected to an unsuccessful attempt by a Klan member last summer to bomb the Johnson County Courthouse.

Thornton said the sheriff's department has reason to believe the two crimes are linked.

All four suspects were jailed without bail.

# Scouts: Funding questions

Continued from Page A1

United Way strove "to operate by policy and practice without discrimination based on age, race, religion, gender, physical or mental disability, economic status, cultural heritage, national origin or sexual orientation."

The adjusted policy, in effect since 2000, merely states that the United Way will "operate by policy and practice according to federal non-discriminatory guidelines."

The mention of "sexual orientation" no longer appears.

According to senior Sangya Trivedi, in an editorial that appeared in the Dec. 5 issue of the *Old Gold and Black*, the purpose of this policy change is so the United Way can continue to provide funding to groups such as the Boy Scouts.

In the editorial, Trivedi asserted that the university and its students are partly to blame for this support of discrimination, which is in direct conflict with the university's anti-discrimination policy.

As part of a project for their fall 2002 political science seminar on Gandhi, Trivedi, senior Lili Vo and senior Kelley Dean conducted research and set goals to fix this problem.

In the seminar, taught by Charles Kennedy, a professor of political science, the students learned about Gandhi's achievements based on his constant fight for the moral high ground.

According to these students, those tied to the university should demand that our funds be withheld from groups like the Boy Scouts of America, which do not share the values of the university.

"Whether or not we individually believe that homosexuality should be allowed in the Boy Scouts, or should be practiced at all, is irrelevant to the issue at hand," Trivedi said. "We must acknowledge that those of us affiliated with the non-discriminating entity of this university are being hypocritical in allowing our funds and names to be attached to organizations that do not uphold our institutional claims."

As a first step in correcting this issue, the three seniors urged the United Way to alter its donation sheets to allow area donors to have the option of preventing their money from going to certain organizations.

United Way has expressed interest in conducting a trial run on this procedure.

Recently, the Research Triangle and at least 10 other communities around the country forced local United Way organizations to halt their support of the Boy Scouts.

A similar movement emerged in the Winston-Salem area, but the Forsyth County United Way continues to support the Scouts.

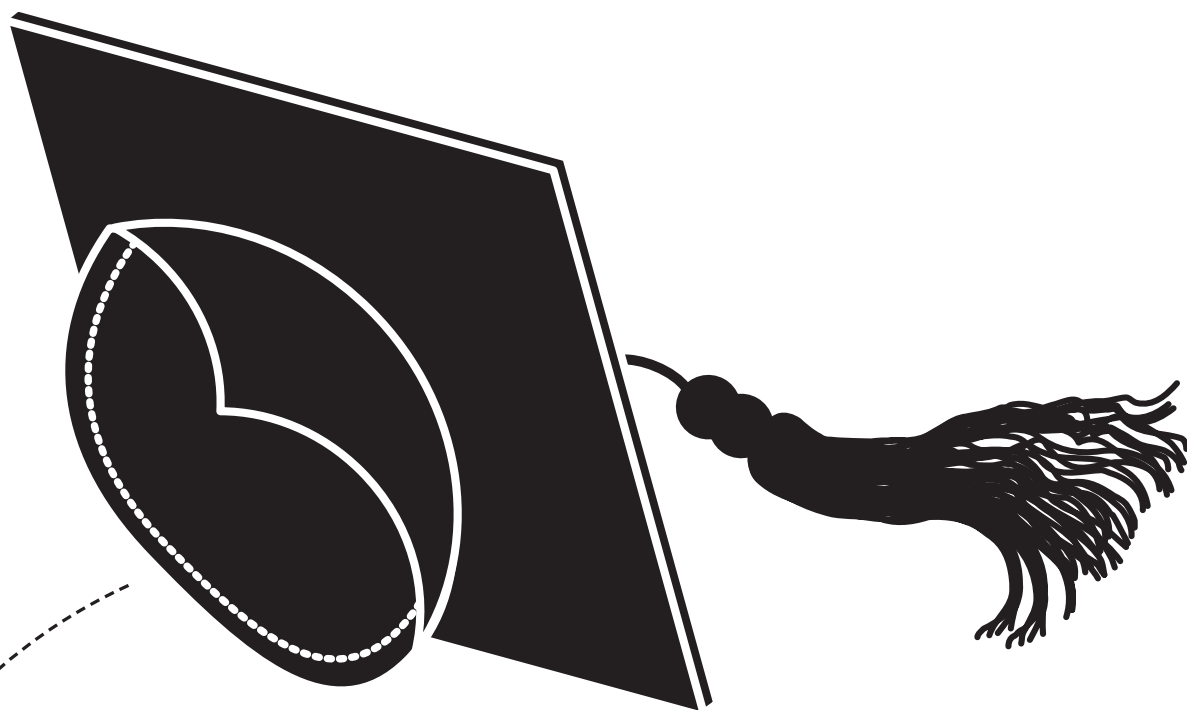
Trivedi, Vo and Dean stress that the university, the United Way and the Boy Scouts should all be targeted in order to end the discrimination.

The university's Student Life Committee published a report in December 2000 on the campus climate for gay and lesbian students.

The report made various recommendations to the administration for cultivating an environment appropriate for students of any sexual orientation.

Groups stressing equality are a constant presence on campus, including the Gay-Straight Student Alliance.

A new GSSA lounge was recently opened in the Benson University Center.



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