

Woman shot at Scroggs

A woman was killed outside Mary Scroggs Elementary in May.

By Chessa DeCain
City Editor

A shooting outside of an elementary school in May left one woman dead and many residents in Chapel Hill shaken.

On May 25 at 2:06 p.m., Chapel Hill police responded to reports of a shooting outside Mary Scroggs Elementary School, according to reports from the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools.

The victim, Chahnaz Kebaier, 40, of Copperline Drive in Chapel Hill, was shot multiple times in the head and body.

Scroggs Elementary was locked down immediately after the gunfire was reported until Ali Cherfaoui, 49, was taken into police custody.

Neither children nor school personnel were harmed during the shooting, which occurred outside the front door of the school.



Ali Cherfaoui has been charged with first-degree murder for the slaying of Chahnaz Kebaier.

Kebaier was admitted to UNC Hospitals Emergency Room and died from her injuries two hours later at 4:08 p.m.

Kebaier worked as a research associate at the UNC Center for Infectious Diseases.

Shortly after the shooting was reported, officers found and stopped a man driving a black Chevy Impala on U.S. Highway 15-501 near Raleigh Road and found a gun inside the vehicle.

The driver, Cherfaoui, was arrested and later charged with first-degree murder for the death of Kebaier.

Cherfaoui and Kebaier had previously been romantically involved and had two children.

Chapel Hill police said they believed the incident to be related to an ongoing domestic dispute between Cherfaoui

and Kebaier.

One week later, on May 31, Cherfaoui appeared before District Court Judge Beverly Scarlett for an arraignment hearing.

Cherfaoui is being held without bond in the Orange County Jail.

If convicted, Cherfaoui, whose address is listed as N.C. Highway 54 in Carrboro, could face life in prison or the death penalty.

Orange County has not successfully pursued the death penalty in any court case since its reinstatement at the county level in 1977.

The last man from Orange County to be executed was John H. Breeze, who was convicted of murder and executed by the state in 1948.

At the hearing, Scarlett upheld a domestic protective order that prevents Cherfaoui from having any contact with the children he had with Kebaier.

Cherfaoui is also not allowed to have any contact with Kebaier's family.

Cherfaoui qualified for a public defender and a review date for the probable cause

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Mark Kleinschmidt, mayor of Chapel Hill

hearing was set for June 11. He is being represented by James Williams.

Chapel Hill Mayor Mark Kleinschmidt released a statement shortly after Kebaier's death was announced, expressing his sympathy for those who knew her in person.

"We are in shock and grieve for the loss of a resident, and for the family, friends and acquaintances of Chahnaz Kebaier," he said.

"Our prayers go up for them and the entire Scroggs School family," Kleinschmidt said.

"We are deeply saddened and are very sorry this happened."

Cherfaoui is scheduled to appear in court on Sept. 4.

Contact the City Editor at city@dailytarheel.com.



DTH FILE/MELISSA KEY

Mary Rowland (left) and Geraud Staton (right) perform in the play "It's What's For Dinner" during the opening show.

Plays straight to the point

By Colleen Ni
Staff Writer

For director Sylvia Mallory, a 10-minute play is more powerful than a full-length, multiple-act production.

Mallory directed "It's What's For Dinner," one of 10 short plays featured in the annual 10 By 10 in the

Triangle one-act festival competition produced by the Carrboro ArtsCenter.

"The 10-minute play is not any different from a full-length play," said Mallory. "In fact, it can pack a bigger punch."

More than 500 entries from around the world for the festival were whittled down to 10.

"All 10 of the plays are really strong plays, whether they are light romantic plays or really absurd plays," said Jeri Lynn Schulke, producer of the festival.

Many writers said despite the brevity of their works, they still treat short plays as full-length plays.

"For me, a fully realized 10-minute play is contained and more than just a scene," writer Jonathan Yukich said.

Jonathan Graham, who has been a playwright for 25 years, said he has seen the popularity of 10-minute plays increase.

"There is a certain impatience in our culture," Graham said. "(Theater) is very old fashioned; the art form needs to continue to evolve to be relevant to people."

Contact the Arts Editor at arts@dailytarheel.com.

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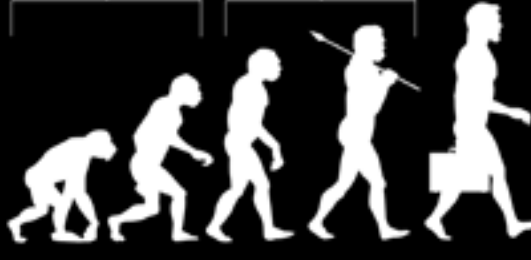
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