



The University and Towns
IN BRIEF

Carrboro Gunslinger Foiled By Witness

Donald Troutner, 33, of the Village Apartments, unit L-6, in Carrboro, was arrested in his home early Wednesday and charged with two misdemeanor counts of assault with a deadly weapon.

Police reports state that Troutner drew a gun and threatened to kill a father and son at the Willow Creek shopping center in Carrboro on Tuesday night.

Ed Joyner, 50, of 1508 Jomac Rd., Chapel Hill, was shopping at the Food Lion with his son and daughter, police said, when he sent his son to the drug store.

Joyner and his daughter finished shopping when he saw his son waving in the parking lot and calling him over. The boy pointed to Troutner and said Troutner pointed a gun at him and threatened to kill him. Joyner approached Troutner and Troutner turned the gun and threatened to kill him, too, reports state.

Joyner called 911 at 9:34 p.m. Tuesday and Carrboro police responded and stopped the white Ford Explorer that Troutner was reported to be leaving in. Troutner, riding with three other men, claimed that Joyner had threatened him with a gun. But police did not find a gun. They released everyone and no one was injured.

Then a witness came forward and identified Troutner as the gun-toter, said Carrboro Chief of Police Carolyn Hutchison. Police served a warrant on Troutner later that night.

Troutner was released on \$300 unsecured bond. His trial is scheduled for Feb. 1 at the Orange County District Court in Hillsborough.

College Lights Lectures To Feature Faculty

The spring series of "College Lights" afternoon lectures will begin Feb. 9.

Professor of Marine Sciences Dirk Frankenberg is the speaker for the first lecture in the series.

Frankenberg will discuss "North Carolina Natural Areas and Environmental Tourism."

Each lecture will begin at 4 p.m. in the George Watts Hill Alumni Center.

The series features outstanding teachers from the UNC College of Arts and Sciences.

The talks are free and open to the public.

Drama Companies to Hold Auditions at UNC

Outdoor drama companies from seven states will hold auditions for summer jobs at UNC on March 20.

Companies from Kentucky, North Carolina, Ohio, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia and New Mexico will recruit for 350 jobs at the auditions, sponsored by UNC's Institute of Outdoor Drama.

Auditions are open to anyone over 18 with theater experience. For more information, contact Todd Lidh at 962-1328.

Roe v. Wade Breakfast Planned for Friday

Planned Parenthood of Chapel Hill will host a breakfast on the 26th anniversary of the landmark Supreme Court decision in the Roe v. Wade abortion case.

Rep. David Price, D-Orange, is expected to attend. Contact Planned Parenthood of Chapel Hill for more information.

Late OWASA Bills Mailed This Week

All of Orange Water and Sewer Authority's December bills - some of which were delayed after a computer glitch - were in the mail by Wednesday, an OWASA official said.

About 4,500 accounts were not billed for December last week because of the installation of a new billing and financial management system, OWASA Public Affairs Administrator Vic Simpson said.

Bills are normally mailed on a 10-day cycle beginning on the 10th of the month.

Two-thirds of January's bills would normally have been mailed by now, but Simpson said none have been sent thus far.

OWASA's billing cycle should be caught up by February, but next month's first cycle could also be a couple of days late, he said.

Despite the delay, Simpson said no customers would receive two months' bills at once, and OWASA officials were trying to be as understanding as possible with payment arrangements.

— From Staff Reports

Alderman Approve Cable Rate Hike

Carrboro officials say the cable company has used the wrong inflation rate to calculate its rate hike.

By FERRIS MORRISON
Staff Writer

Despite heated opposition from members of the Carrboro Board of Aldermen on Wednesday, cable customers will see an immediate hike in standard service rates from Time Warner Cable.

Standard service charges will be increased about \$1 for Chapel Hill and Carrboro. Charges for additional channels like HBO will increase anywhere from \$.55 to \$1.55.

Time Warner Cable announced in October that it would decrease its basic

service rate by \$.04 for customers in Carrboro and \$.54 for customers in Chapel Hill.

Basic cable includes local channels, and standard service includes channels like MTV, ESPN and Lifetime.

According to an analysis headed by Robert Sepe, Carrboro's cable consultant, Time Warner incorrectly used the Federal Communications Commission inflation percentage when the cable rates for Carrboro and Chapel Hill were calculated in October. Had Time Warner used the current inflation rate,



Carrboro Alderman Alex Zaffron said he was not satisfied with the standard cable service rates.

the basic cable rate would have been \$1.02 less for Chapel Hill and \$.16 less for Carrboro, the analysis states.

Sepe said Time Warner followed FCC guidelines because the cable company's officials announced its rate changes the day before the FCC released 1998's inflation factors.

The board voted 5-2 to approve a basic rate adjustment. Aldermen Alex Zaffron and Jacquelyn Gist said they voted against the adjustment because they were not satisfied with the standard service rates. "Technically, it's correct," Sepe said. "It has to be allowed."

Town Manager Robert Morgan said this same problem occurred last year.

"Last year, they used the wrong inflation factor," Morgan said. "What we're recommending is that they correct that."

Mayor Mike Nelson said the board could only vote on the adjustments made to basic cable, not to the standard

service or individual channels. Effective April 1, no agency will regulate rates beyond basic service, giving Time Warner and other cable companies the ability to raise their rates without justification, according to town documents.

Zaffron said he found it disturbing that cable rates would not be regulated after March.

Alderman Allen Spalt said the board should send a letter to Rep. David Price, D-N.C., concerning a legislative inquiry on the deregulation of the cable rates beyond the basic service. The board also discussed the possibility of exploring other options for Carrboro's cable service.

"We all know basic cable doesn't offer anything," Zaffron said. "It's so insubstantial, it's comical."

The City Editor can be reached at citydesk@unc.edu.

Group's Funding Yanked

Congress Speaker Morayo Orija says Common Sense failed to meet conditions attached to the funds.

By ANDREW MEEHAN
Staff Writer

A conservative group Wednesday night lost \$10,000 it received from Student Congress last semester to bring Charlton Heston, president of the National Rifle Association and an actor, to speak on campus.

Speaker Morayo Orija and Finance Committee Chairman Ryan Schlitt said they decided to take back the funds after Common Sense - a conservative group that brings speakers to campus - failed to meet conditions attached to the funds.

On Oct. 27, Congress gave \$10,000 in speaker fees to the group, but attached a condition to rescind the money "if a legal contract is not shown to the student body treasurer and acknowledgement of that forwarded to the speaker and finance committee chairs by the last day of classes for the fall semester." The last day of classes was Dec. 7.

Former Speaker Brad Morrison, who resigned Dec. 1, said he was never informed of a contract. Orija also said she heard of the contract after Dec. 7 last semester, but she never saw it.

In a telephone interview Wednesday, Dasher said he had been told that a contract existed, but he had never seen a signed contract.

"To my knowledge, Common Sense completed their contract before the deadline," he said.

"I didn't see signatures because you can't see them on e-mail, and you can't hear them on the phone."

But in a later interview Wednesday, Dasher said he had made a mistake. He said he had seen a contract at the end of November or beginning of December. He also said he had told the speaker about the contract.

"I did see the actual contract, signatures to boot."

Schlitt said he was told of the contract on Dec. 8, and he saw the contract, dated Dec. 7, early this semester, which was the last day of classes in the fall.

Congress allocated the funds after debate in two separate meetings. The debate stemmed from questions about

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Think Tank Targets Student Concerns

The half-hour session allowed students to talk about concerns to a student body presidential candidate.

By CARRIE CALLAGHAN
Staff Writer

Students aired their concerns about student government's ability to provide information and representation Wednesday during a think tank sponsored by "Amanda Greene for Student Body President."

The forum provided an opportunity for students to reach student body president candidates and for Greene to solicit platform ideas, said Kristen Campbell, a worker for Greene's campaign.

About 18 students came and went throughout the hour-and-a-half period and had an unfacilitated discussion where their ideas were recorded on poster board in front of the group.

Voiced concerns included issues such as the overall availability of information on student resources, parking and the operating hours of University facilities.

Shawn Frost, a junior from Raleigh, expressed dissatisfaction in the availability of information. "The resources that women have on campus aren't publicized," he said, citing the Orange County Crisis Center as an example.

Jodene Akeung, a freshman from Trinidad, said the lack of accessible information for international students bothered her. "Things don't always work as fast in other countries as they do here," she said, citing how the difference affects mail services.

A letter that takes two days in the United States might take three weeks to reach an international student, she said. "I had nothing (in the way of classes) when I first got here," she said. Akeung recommended a better support system for international students.

Others discussed how the availability of information concerning advising and enrichment programs would benefit students, particularly freshmen.

Frost said using resident assistants to disseminate information would all students. "When you're getting slammed with so much information (at the beginning of the year), it's really easy to throw stuff aside."

"When you're getting slammed with so much information, it's really easy to throw stuff aside."

SHAWN FROST
UNC Junior



Candidate for student body president Mandy Greene (right) listens to freshman Abi Sommer at Wednesday's "think-tank" meeting.

In addition to concerns about freshmen, students complained about the lack of privilege accorded to seniors in the parking process. "I was thinking maybe we should have some sort of seniority system because people have the spot they want as a sophomore but then they're off to the PR lot as a junior," Frost said.

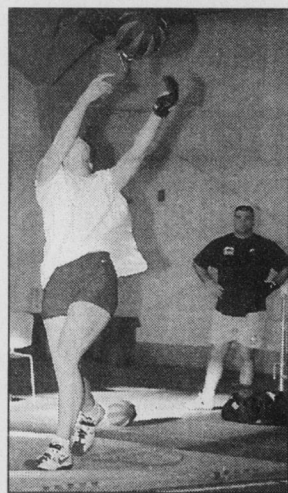
Another major student gripe was the operating hours of UNC facilities, including the libraries and dining halls. "At an academic institution, I think it's ridiculous not to have a library at your disposal at all hours," Campbell said.

Abi Sommer, a freshman from Austin, Texas, said the inconsistent hours of campus dining halls were inconvenient. "I think Lenoir and Chase (dining halls) need to set up an eating schedule and set it in stone, regardless of holidays," she said. "If the University's open, they need to be available."

Almost every issue boils down to students being aware of information and how to access things, said Erik Mikysa, a junior from Oklahoma City, Okla.

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UP IN THE AIR



Senior track team member Regan Leahy, who has been on the team for four years, throws a medicine ball during practice.

Search Continues for Law School Dean

Richard Cole, chairman of the search committee, says members will meet today to discuss further options.

By CHRIS HOSTETLER
Staff Writer

A committee charged with recommending a new law school dean will meet today to mull over the remaining five candidates chosen as finalists for the position.

University of Arizona School of Law Dean Joel Seligman, the leading candidate to replace outgoing dean Judith Wegner, announced Monday he would accept the deanship at Washington University School of Law in St. Louis, Mo.

School of Journalism and Mass Communication Dean Richard Cole, chairman of the law school dean search committee, said committee members would meet this afternoon with Provost

Dick Richardson to discuss further options.

Although UNC officials were disappointed that Seligman turned down the University's offer, the decision did not come as that much of a surprise, Cole said.

"He was being courted by a number of different schools," he said.

Seligman, in a letter faxed to Chancellor Michael Hooker, said he chose Washington over UNC only because his family wanted to live in a larger city.

Cole said the committee had made no decision yet as to the next candidate, and might not decide anything concrete in today's meeting.

"It's just a discussion meeting," Cole



University of Arizona Law School Dean Joel Seligman said his family wanted to live in a larger city.

said. After the committee decides who to recommend for the position, it will present the recommendation to Hooker and Richardson.

The committee had suggested six candidates, but had recommended Seligman as their top choice.

Cole said the other finalists were well-qualified for the position.

"We have outstanding candidates," he said. "We're really fortunate to have such a sterling group of finalists."

One of those finalists, University of Iowa Vice Provost W.H. Knight Jr., said he was unaware of Seligman's decision to decline UNC's offer.

"If (search committee members) have tried to contact me, I have not gotten their message," Knight said.

He also said UNC would find a qualified person to take the job.

"The person who is ultimately selected will be of star quality and will do an excellent job at UNC," Knight said.

Cornell Law School Professor Stewart Schwab, another of the six final candidates, said although he had not been informed of Seligman's decision, he was still interested in taking the post at UNC.

"I think it remains a very attractive position," Schwab said.

The other candidates are Emory University Professor Frank Alexander, UNC Professor John Conley and Ohio State University Professor Nancy Rogers.

"We have outstanding candidates. We're really fortunate to have such a sterling group of finalists."

RICHARD COLE
Search Committee Chairman

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Local Officials Criticize Mega-Mall Zoning Approval

A resolution passed by the Chapel Hill Town Council failed to convince Durham to stop the mall project.

By MATT LECLERCQ
Assistant City Editor

Local officials said they were disappointed but not surprised after the Durham City Council rezoned 243 acres of land Wednesday morning for a mall and office complex, passing on a Chapel Hill Town Council request to delay the move.

A resolution passed last week by the Chapel Hill Town Council asked the Durham City Council to weigh the impact of a 1.3-million-square-foot mall

on area traffic and air pollution.

"To have that many added cars is going to be a real impediment to getting around efficiently," Chapel Hill Town Council member Flicka Bateman said. "We all lose when our major traffic arteries get too much cholesterol in them."

The mall would mean an additional 24,000 cars traveling on Interstate 40, the resolution states.

Durham City Council members gave a nod to the proposed Southpoint mall and an adjacent office-residential complex at a heavily attended meeting Tuesday night that lasted past 1 a.m.

Slated to open in 2002 on I-40 near Fayetteville Road, Southpoint will be Durham's largest retail complex with five anchor stores and an outdoor shopping plaza, said Paul Norby, director of Durham City-County Planning.

The developers will pay about \$14 million to improve surrounding roads, Norby said. "The developer of the mall offered significantly more traffic improvements to the intersection of I-40 and Fayetteville Road and also more intersection improvements of Fayetteville and N.C. 54."

Durham City Council member Floyd McKissick Jr. said fellow council members considered the Chapel Hill Town Council's request, but that other issues prevailed. "A spontaneous weighing-in on an issue will not receive a great deal of consideration," he said, adding that local governments should form a mechanism to share ideas in the future.

"I do believe there is an absolute need of a greater level of regional cooperation for land and transportation issues."

"You enter Durham city limits, and it's a world of asphalt, steel, glass and concrete."

STEPHEN HALKIOTIS
Orange County Commissioner

Orange County Commissioner Stephen Halkiotis called the vote "horrible" and said it would chill the working relationship between Orange and Durham counties' governments.

Durham is pursuing "false dreams" when considering the 3,000 retail jobs Southpoint is predicted to generate, he said. "Low-paying sales jobs are the engine driving the whole project. If

that's economic development in Durham, more power to them."

Halkiotis also questioned the way Durham had allowed growth along U.S. 15-501. "You enter Durham city limits, and it's a world of asphalt, steel, glass and concrete. This will look like the Baltimore-Washington corridor, but they seem hell-bent on doing it."

But critics of Durham's decision should review the proposals more closely, McKissick said.

Chapel Hill Town Council member Joyce Brown said the two governing bodies would continue joint efforts to develop around along U.S.15-501. "I think we'll continue to work together as much as we can in a cooperative spirit."

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