



The University and Towns IN BRIEF

Man Injured in Spill From Fraternity House

A 19-year old man was hospitalized early Saturday after a fall from the Beta Theta Pi fraternity house.

Mark Camp Kilcollin, who is not a student at the University, was residing with a friend at the fraternity house located at 114 S. Columbia St. Kilcollin, who is from West Virginia, was listed in good condition Tuesday evening at UNC Hospitals.

The victim suffered head injuries in the accident. He is believed to have fallen 10 to 15 feet from a balcony to the bottom of the basement steps.

Chapel Hill Police Chief Ralph Pendergraph said alcohol was a contributing factor in the accident. Foul play is not suspected, but the investigation will continue.

Kilcollin has not yet regained his ability to speak, and no witnesses to the accident have yet come forward.

Consultant Evaluates UNC Budget Process

A \$11.6 million dollar budget shortfall in the coming fiscal year has raised concern about the UNC budget.

Jim Ramsey, vice chancellor for business and finance, called in a national consultant to evaluate the budget. The consultant, Dennis Jones, is president of the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems in Boulder, Colo. He found that the University lacked a "strategic budget."

State Controller Ed Renfrow, who has authority over all spending by public universities, has asked his auditors to carefully scrutinize UNC spending.

Administrators have asked deans, department heads, and research center directors to trim their budgets by between 1.6 and 10 percent.

UNC Alumni Couple Donate \$1 Million Gift

William and Anne Harrison of Greenwich, Conn., who graduated in 1966 and 1978, respectively, are honoring their parents with a \$1 million gift to the University.

The money will be divided evenly between the Kenan-Flagler Business School and scholarships for the College of Arts and Sciences. The fathers of both Harrisons attended the University, as did their 10 siblings.

ASG President Miris Admits to Plagiarizing

Newly-elected Association of Student Government President Nicholas Miris, currently a student at UNC-Charlotte, admitted to plagiarizing a paper in his Peace, War and Technology class during the spring semester, the UNC-C University Times reported. "It is something I am continuing to learn from and will learn from in the future," he said.

Nominations Accepted For Community Award

The Chapel Hill Community Design Commission is accepting nominations for its Appearance Awards Program.

The award recognizes the efforts of individuals, businesses and community groups who have enhanced the natural or built environment of the town.

Nominations will be accepted in six categories including commercial or institutional development, neighborhood or community development, residential gardens, landscaping, conservation or stewardship and rehabilitation/restoration/preservation. All nominated projects must be within the Chapel Hill planning jurisdiction and visible or accessible to the public.

The deadline for nominations is July 31. Applications can be picked up at the Chapel Hill Planning Department, the Chapel Hill Public Library and the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce.

Four Track Members Travel to U.S. Games

UNC sent four members of the track and field team to compete June 24-26 on University of Oregon in Eugene at the USA Track and Field Nationals.

Twelve-time All-American Nicole Gamble will compete in the triple jump. Gamble has the longest jump in the country right now, between collegiate and non-collegiate jumpers. Other competitors from UNC include senior Allen Bradd (shot put), senior LaShonda Christopher (long jump) and junior Omar Clinton. The top three finishers will go on to the World Championships in Barcelona, Spain. Those finishing four through six will join the Pan-American team in Canada.

— From staff reports

Freshmen Tackle Initiative

Freshmen participating in C-TOPS are the first to use the laptops for the Carolina Computing Initiative.

WILL FOUSHEE
Staff Writer

For the first time, the Carolina Computing Initiative is becoming more than just an idea on paper.

Incoming freshmen participating in C-TOPS are being taught how to use the new laptops in clinics taking place during each C-TOPS session.

The initiative requires all freshmen, starting in the year 2000, to purchase their own laptop.

The Academic and Technology Network's Training Center has been distributing laptops to incoming freshmen and showing them how to use them in preparation for fall semester.

Freshmen have the choice of two different laptop computers, an IBM ThinkPad 390 or 600.

ATN has led three training sessions a day on the last day of each C-TOPS session in Chase Hall, ATN team member Greg Jansen said.

Students' laptops are equipped with Microsoft Office '98 and a Microsoft Office 2000 upgrade free of charge. Students are asked not to use the upgrade until the fall in order to give the training staff time to get oriented with the new software, Jansen said.

Freshmen are introduced to their new laptops, the contents of the box and how to properly operate the computer without voiding the warranty.

The ATN staff took students through



DTH/EMILIA RUIZ

Incoming freshmen attend a two-hour lecture Wednesday afternoon instructing them how to use their new IBM laptops. The University requires all freshmen, starting in the year 2000, to purchase their own laptops.

a step-by-step setup of Microsoft Windows '98, with the exception of the printer setup. Jansen said since students had the choice of buying any type of printer they wanted, ATN did not single out a particular one to introduce.

Students were taught how to set up Internet connections and establish their UNC e-mail accounts.

Jansen said students also took a tour of the ATN Web site to get acclimated to the Residential Networking Program, a

service which provides high-speed Ethernet connections to students living in ResNet-ready residence halls.

But some incoming freshmen said they had mixed feelings about the sessions.

Preston Allmond, an incoming freshman from Denver, said the training session was well worth it. "I might have had problems setting up my computer in the fall without this session," he said.

But Courtney Flaks, an incoming

freshman from North Brunswick, N.J., said it could have been handled differently. "I already knew about Windows. It could have been done faster, and I could have done this by myself."

Jansen said, "They are getting a lot of information, but they are also getting their computers and the entire summer to tinker with them."

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Death Heightens Construction Safety

By JASON SUGAR
Staff Writer

Last week's death of a construction worker at the center has sparked an investigation by the N.C. Department of Labor and increased safety consciousness of campus construction workers.

"Essentially, we know what happened, but we don't know why it happened," Greg Cook, a spokesman for the labor department, said.

According to police reports, on June 16, 41-year-old David Allen Matthews, of Hillsborough, fell 30 feet from a fifth-floor scaffold at the Biological Sciences Research Center in the University's science and medical complex off Mason Farm Road. He was welding steel supports for a brick wall. The accident happened about 8:10 a.m., and police

arrived on the scene at 8:15 a.m., pronouncing Matthews dead, Capt. Mark McIntyre of University Police said.

Matthews worked for J.D. Park Steel Co., a subcontractor working on the center, which is scheduled to open in May 2000. The state Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), a division of the labor department, is investigating last week's accident.

Jim Lutz, a construction worker for more than 20 years, said following OSHA safety regulations virtually eliminated construction accidents. "If workers follow what codes are in effect, there isn't any reason why anyone shouldn't have a safe day on the job," Lutz said at the Graham Memorial construction site.

After hearing about last week's accident, Lutz said he was not deterred from

climbing onto a scaffold again. "Most of the time accidents are brought on by individuals. That's nine-tenths of the problem right there," he said.

Cook said OSHA would spend the next four to six weeks determining the cause of Matthews' fall. OSHA officials will interview witnesses, check on employer safety programs and look over thousands of safety requirements, Cook said.

Any number of factors may have contributed to the fall, Cook said.

"Sometimes scaffolds aren't built properly," he said. "Sometimes they are and the construction employee is not wearing a fall-protection device and gets in a hurry and falls off the scaffolding."

Cook said construction companies must instill safe habits in its workers by implementing safety programs, teaching

proper use of safety equipment and making safety its top priority.

"Most employers are responsible and good players," he said. "Some are not."

While the accident happened on campus property, the University is primarily concerned with hazards outside of the construction site, including debris falling on pedestrians and fences obstructing walkways, said Don Willhoit, director of the UNC Health and Safety Office. "We don't have responsibility for employee safety inside the construction site," he said.

Cook said the tragedy provided an important lesson. "It will serve as a reminder that construction can be a very dangerous business."

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Housing Proposal Meets Opposition

By AMY ANDERSON
Staff Writer

A proposal to build a new affordable housing complex in Chapel Hill has been met with emotional outbursts from concerned and supportive residents.

At Monday night's public hearing the Chapel Hill Town Council received comments on a proposal to build Scarlett Drive Townhomes. The proposal includes the construction of 14 townhomes, a 25-space parking lot and a recreational and garden area at the corner of Scarlett Drive and Legion Road in Chapel Hill.

The proposed site is located off U.S. 15-501 near the Chapel Hill Cemetery and Hardee's.

If the proposal is approved, the town would have to rezone the site to accommodate a more dense living area.

Over 10 residents from adjacent neighborhoods spoke at the hearing.

Many of them shared worries over safety, traffic, property values and recreational facilities.

Margot Wilkinson, a resident who lives near the proposed site, said the proposal had already been approved without regard to the feelings of the neighborhood residents.

"We feel defenseless in our neighborhood," she said. "We feel demoralized and are very, very angry. No one is listening to us — no one is listening to our plight."

Robert Dowling, the director of the Orange Community Housing Corporation, a non-profit organization whose main objective is to build affordable housing, filed the application to build on the Scarlett Drive site. He said discussions about the site had been going on for over a year, and the council had always been very supportive.

"I think the residents brought valid points to the meeting, but I do not agree

with everything they had to say," he said. "While the council members have voiced their support for this project, they are very wise to listen to the citizens."

Linda Tiggen, a resident who lives near the proposed site, also spoke out against affordable housing in the area.

"Affordable housing is a critical need in Chapel Hill, but we need to preserve our existing neighborhoods," she said. "This building will not blend in. It is not a suitable site. There is no parking space or recreation space. This is not acceptable. There are no sidewalks. This is unsafe. There are no acceptable traffic patterns. This is dangerous."

Council member Flicka Bateman said she supported the proposal and wanted the process to get started.

"I respect all of your positions," she said. "But, I am willing to bite the bullet and begin this project."

Nancy Gabrielle, who lives near the

proposed site, was the only resident who voiced support for the proposal.

"We need to foster a true sense of community," she said. "Let's practice what we preach. These homes will increase the value of the surrounding properties. Realize that density is not a dirty word."

The council did not make a decision on the Scarlett Drive Townhomes proposal, but agreed to hold another public hearing on July 7.

Council member Joe Capowski said the main purpose of the hearing was to give the council a chance to hear public opinion regarding the proposed development.

"It is just a chance for council members to listen to the concerns of the people," he said. "We have to treat this situation with sensitivity."

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County Tax Hike Approved

Chapel Hill-Carrboro School officials say a 1.9 percent county tax increase will not cover school expenses.

By TED STOKLEY
Staff Writer

The county budget, which calls for a 1.9 percent tax increase, has elicited concerns from local school officials.

The Orange County Board of Commissioners decided to approve a smaller increase instead of the 3 percent increase members had originally discussed.

Neil Pedersen, superintendent for Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools, said the lower tax increase would negatively impact his request for additional school funds.

"We asked for \$4.96 million (more)," Pedersen said. "The county manager's recommendation cut approximately \$900,000."

Last year's school budget was \$27 million, and Pedersen had requested \$31.96 million for fiscal year 1999-2000. The new budget allocates \$31 million to Chapel Hill-Carrboro schools, reports state.

Pedersen said although this cut would not affect current programs, it would threaten the future of new programs.

"It won't cut existing programs, but we may not be able to implement programs we had requested," Pedersen said. "There may be some reductions in those programs."

Pedersen said these programs included school growth, the opening of a new elementary school, a high school expansion and a proposed salary increase for teachers.

Orange County Commissioner Barry Jacobs said the cut should not be a problem. "This is still an increase of 13.5 percent for the budget on the two school systems," Jacobs said.

Jacobs said Orange County still surpasses other counties in the state in school funding.

"We have the highest school spending in the state," Jacobs said.

Rod Visser, Orange County assistant manager, said the tax rate would rise to 91.9 cents per \$100,000, a 1.7 cent increase from last year.

Visser said approximately half of the county's budget goes to the county's schools.

Pedersen said although the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Board of Education had considered bringing a lawsuit against the county, the board had no plans to do so at this time.

"At this time the Board of Education does not plan to pursue that," Pedersen said.

Visser said lawsuits of this nature were a part of state law.

"There's a judicial provision in state law where if the Board of Education feels the Board of Commissioners has failed to provide adequate funding, they can go through the clerk of court for arbitration," Visser said.

Visser said this kind of lawsuit was uncommon.

"In the 15 years I have been in Orange County, it hasn't been invoked."

Jacobs said he did not expect the school board would bring a lawsuit against the county.

"I don't believe the school system will bring a lawsuit," Jacobs said. "I would be surprised if they did, as well as very disappointed. There has been an increasingly good relation between the two school systems and the Orange County commissioners."

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CONSTRUCTION BLUES



DTH/EMILIA RUIZ

A maze of cones is evidence of Manning Drive's steam-line construction project. Slated for completion in March 2000, the construction will not impede any of the Special Olympics events, officials say.

Pine Knolls Avoids Foreclosure

SOPHIE MILAM
Staff Writer

The town of Chapel Hill has decided to drop foreclosure proceedings on four homes in the Pine Knolls neighborhood after community leaders made final payment on an outstanding debt.

The last of the payments were received from the Pines Community Center Inc. on June 11. Attorney, filing and trustee fees were added to the loan amount of \$105,326.06, bringing the total figure to \$209,950.95 for the four houses.

Lauren Barnes, community development planner for the town, said steps had already been taken to auction off the homes. While town leaders had hoped to sell the homes to low-income families, the necessity of an auction would have made it impossible to regu-

late who bought the houses.

"If the auction had gone through, there is no way to tell who would have gotten the homes," she said.

The homes are located near campus, making them an attractive option to developers seeking to build student housing, reports state.

Separate audits by the town and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in 1996 decided that the group was not delivering on its promises to provide affordable homes.

George Sanford, president of Pine Knolls, said most of their problems started when the town subsequently banned further loans to the Pines Center in the fall of 1996. Until then, center officials had used town-offered money to buy and renovate low-cost homes.

"Saving the homes was our only goal," he said. "We weren't trying to

beat the town out of any money."

At one point, money was so tight that Sanford paid the insurance on some of the houses out of his own pocket just to save the homes.

"That's money I may not get back," Sanford said.

The center took out individual loans and mortgages because it couldn't get grants to complete their project. But Sanford does not regret the years he has worked on the project.

"It's been a good experience for us because we know how to do it now," Sanford said.

Two of the four homes were sold in late May and early June. Families are now living in the homes. The other two homes are still owned by Pine Knolls.

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