

CITY BRIEFS

Test driver takes off with \$53,000 Lincoln Navigator

A black 2004 Lincoln Navigator valued at more than \$53,000 was stolen from the Michael Jordan Automotive Group on Monday during a test drive, according to Chapel Hill police reports.

The suspect was riding with Lindsay Graham, 39, a saleswoman for the company located at 3921 Chapel Hill Blvd. in Durham, when they stopped on 105 Blue Field Road in Chapel Hill to look at the vehicle.

The suspect then jumped in the car, locked the door and drove away, leaving Graham to call the police from the nearest residence.

Graham said that in the more than 2,000 test drives she's conducted during seven years, an incident like this has never happened.

The police still are investigating and have not located the vehicle yet. But they have identified the suspect and have obtained a felony warrant for larceny of a motor vehicle.

"We have a suspect, we have a warrant, we have yet to make an arrest," said Chapel Hill police spokeswoman Jane Cousins.

Armed robbery occurs at Franklin Street gas station

An armed suspect robbed the Etna gas station at 1509 E. Franklin St. on Tuesday in an incident that might be connected to the Sept. 16 robbery of the BP gas station on Airport Road, police reports state.

Reports state that the suspect entered the store at 1:20 p.m. and purchased gum. When the clerk opened the cash drawer, the suspect displayed a gun, grabbed an undisclosed amount of money from the drawer and left, reports state.

The suspect fled in an older model gray four-door vehicle, possibly a Nissan or Honda, according to reports.

The suspect is described as a 20- to 25-year-old black man, approximately 6 feet tall, thin and with a dark complexion, reports state.

His hair is parted in the middle, with loose dreadlocks, and he was wearing a white T-shirt with "GOT HOOP" printed on it and baggy blue jeans with patches on the thighs.

The weapon used was a large frame pistol, black on top and silver on the bottom, reports state.

Anyone with information on the case can call Chapel Hill police at 968-2760.

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Kenan concession employee charged with embezzlement

An employee of the Vincent's Pizza stand in Kenan Stadium embezzled \$2,177.80 during the Sept. 4 football game against William & Mary, according to University police reports.

At about 10:30 a.m., supervisors at the restaurant's permanent location in Raleigh gave the suspect \$2,000 to bring to the Kenan concession stand, reports state.

Reports state that when the suspect returned to Raleigh about 8 p.m., he reported that he had no money from the sales. But sales receipts indicate that more than \$2,177 was missing, reports state.

Police are investigating the matter further.

Applications now available for student body secretary

Applications now are available for the open position of student body secretary at <http://www.unc.edu/studentgovt>.

Interested students interested must submit a completed application and resume by midnight Friday.

The position opened after Bernard Holloway, former secretary, announced his resignation Sunday.

UNC officials seek input on revamping Student Central

The Office of the University Registrar is working with student government to host discussions regarding the improvement of the degree audit and analysis of academic progress functions on the Student Central Portal.

The sessions will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. today and Friday in room 209 of the Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History.

CALENDAR

Thursday — The Advocates for Human Rights, a subcommittee of the Campus Y, and Amnesty International are hosting a teach-in at 7 p.m. in 8 Gardner Hall.

The event will let students discuss the humanitarian crisis in the Sudan. Faculty members Julius Nyang'Oro and Andrew Reynolds also will speak.

Thursday — VoteCarolina will hold its first volunteer meeting at 7 p.m. in 209 Manning Hall.

From staff reports.

Planners, council stress downtown's heart

Town pulse focus of DEDC meeting

BY JON WEINER
STAFF WRITER

The familiar face of downtown Chapel Hill has long had a small-town feeling.

But a proposal to the Downtown Economic Development Corporation — pitched by Town Manager Cal Horton and Chapel Hill Town Council member Bill Strom on Tuesday morning — could

be a step toward modernizing the face of Franklin Street.

At a meeting in the Kenan-Flagler Business School, a four-person team representing the Town Council presented the DEDC with an update on the proposed redevelopments of town parking lots 2 and 5.

Under the plan, parking lot 2, located behind Spanky's, and park-

ing lot 5, across from University Mall, will be converted into mixed-use buildings with new parking facilities.

There are also plans for a bus transit center beneath parking lot 2 and additional parking facilities at the site of the current RBC Centura bank and at the Wallace Deck, both on Rosemary Street.

The group that made the presentation to the DEDC — which included Chris Berndt and Phil Herve of the town's planning

department, as well as Horton and Strom — stressed that the downtown area always has been the heart of the Chapel Hill community.

"Chapel Hill has always been in the process of change," Horton said. "The town has always been willing to take what was needed yesterday and shape it to meet the needs of today."

After the council's presentation, questions arose from the DEDC about the level of input current

residents would have in the planning of these projects.

Strom responded to concerns by stating that the plans were developed with citizens in mind and that the opinions of residents would be welcomed as plans continue to develop.

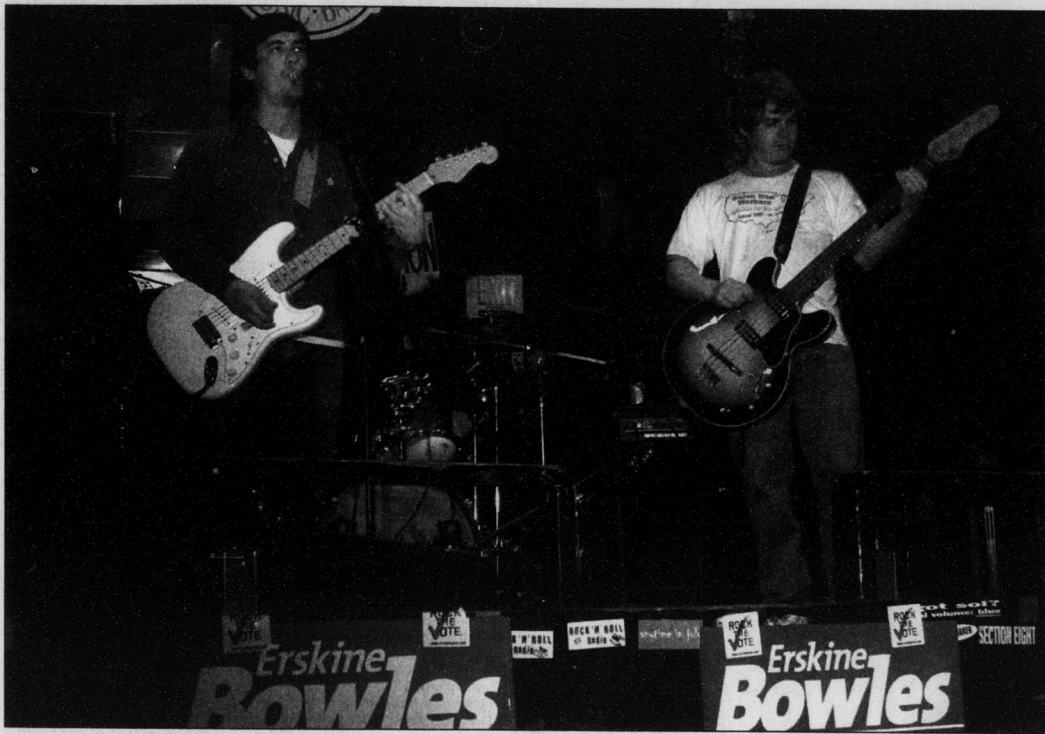
"Citizens have been involved in the downtown planning process since 1997," he said.

"We're working together to

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"Young people and students are great and they have tons of energy. And we really need them to get out and vote."

WILL JOHNSON, UNC BASKETBALL ALUM, BOWLES CAMPAIGNER



Marcus Johnson (left) and Nate Kelly, members of the band People Under the Bridge, play at Local 506 on Tuesday night as part of a benefit concert for Erskine Bowles, Democratic candidate for U.S. Senate. The band was one of five that played for Bowles' campaign.

5 bands rock the vote to benefit Bowles ticket

Local 506 show aims to attract, excite youth

BY DANA BSEISO
STAFF WRITER

Five bands took the stage at the Local 506 on Franklin Street on Tuesday night at a benefit concert for Democratic Senate candidate Erskine Bowles.

Rock the Vote and Bowles campaign posters lined the stage and the walls of the dimly lit club.

A table was set up near the entrance with voter registration forms and a volunteer sign-up sheet for the Bowles campaign. "Rock the Vote" stickers and pins, as well as Bowles bumper stickers, also were available.

Will Johnson, former UNC men's basketball player, hosted the event. Johnson, who

is now a full-time campaign staff member for Bowles, introduced each band.

Even though none of the songs played in the dark club were political, the benefit was geared toward young voters and getting them excited about the election as it draws near. Still, the \$15 cover charge kept many students away.

Campaign staff members arrived on a bus from Raleigh and filled the club.

"The 18-to-25 crowd is huge, untapped potential," said Leo Kishore, bassist and singer for the Raleigh band Lamar Jonz.

Reaching out to young voters and urging them to vote is a big part of the Bowles campaign's agenda.

"Young people and students are great and

they have tons of energy," Johnson said. "And we really need them to get out and vote."

The bands who participated were People Under the Bridge, Lamar Jonz, Permanent Darling, The Old Ceremony and Gripweed Manifold. Other than Lamar Jonz, the bands hail from Chapel Hill.

The bands that participated said that they wanted to get involved in encouraging young people to vote in this year's election but that they did not want to make explicit political statements.

Robbie Lane, Gripweed Manifold's manager, coordinated the show with his wife, Tammy, who works for the Bowles campaign.

He said their goal is to try to appeal to

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\$3.4M might be extra cost of school

Construction costs to run over budget

BY TED STRONG
STAFF WRITER

The Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools Board of Education decided Monday night that it needed to request additional funds to cover a budget overrun in the construction of its third high school.

The board expressed the most interest in a plan that was \$3.4 million over the original budget.

Steve Scroggs, assistant superintendent for support services, was set to present four separate options for dealing with the deficit, but the board cut him short before he could present the final two packages.

As Scroggs began speaking about the third option, board member Nicholas Didow interrupted. "There is no need for Steve to present any more information on three and four because I find them unacceptable," he said.

None of the other board members objected, and the two options were dropped.

The board said it was familiar with all the plans but was only interested in the first two.

Each of the four options cut costs for the project, but none could reduce costs back to the original \$30 million price tag

that was allotted to the board by the Orange County Board of Commissioners.

The board decided to look into getting funding from the county and from funds in the Capital Improvement Program.

The board also wanted to explore the feasibility of postponing construction on athletic facilities rather than the auditorium, as was proposed in the rejected packages.

A report about the progress of the third high school also was presented to the commissioners on Tuesday night.

The probable cost of the building jumped by more than \$4.5 million after both the costs of construction and the overall square footage for the site were increased.

"Construction costs have soared in the past year, and it's going to cause us some difficulties," said Superintendent Neil Pedersen.

The cost of construction increased from \$110 per square foot to \$121, and the projected size of the building increased from 155,000 to 162,000 square feet.

During a presentation given by Thomas Hughes and Steven Triggiano of Moseley Architects, the firm designing the new school, Triggiano attributed much of the

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Square's facelift nears completion

Project will finish early next year

BY EREN TATARAGASI
STAFF WRITER

After two and a half years of construction at University Square, officials said Tuesday that the final touches should be completed by early next year.

The Chapel Hill Downtown Economic Development Corporation discussed Tuesday morning the progress of several downtown retail developments, including the ongoing renovations at University Square.

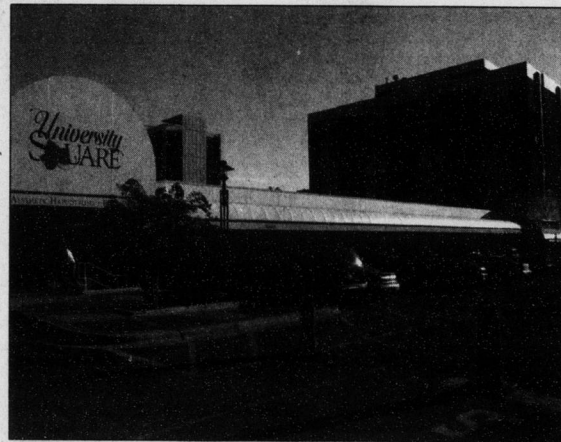
The meeting gave merchants a chance to show the corporation the ways they are trying to reinvigorate downtown with their development projects.

University Square's renovation project included adding new sidewalks, adding greenhouse spaces between stores and updating storefronts.

The project's developer, Mark Moshier of Graham Associates, said he is pleased with the project, and University Square prides itself on being one of the few shopping centers on Franklin Street with its own parking.

Betty Kenan, DEDC board member and owner of University Square, said the renovations have been handled well.

She said the retail center's officials have tried to accommodate shop owners by making sure there were parking spaces for the customers and easy access to



DTH/BRANDON SMITH

University Square's renovation project should be completed by early next year. The center has experienced two and a half years of construction.

entrances.

But Moshier said there have been problems with noncustomers taking up the parking spaces.

A security staff was put in place to survey the lot 24 hours per day, making sure spots are used accordingly.

Although the renovations have been done piece by piece so as not to disturb business, some shopkeepers said it has not been an easy transition.

Tina Fantich, assistant manager at Kilwin's of Chapel Hill, a chocolate and ice cream shop, said the whole project has taken too long. Kilwin's opened in University

Square June 25 to attract customers while construction was continuing.

Fantich said that the store had problems getting a sign up to advertise its opening and that they still are waiting for customer benches to be installed outside the store.

Another newcomer to the center, custom jewelry store William Travis Jewelry, decided to come to the center because of the renovations.

Owner Travis Kukovich said it was his primary reason for coming to the area. "If it wasn't happening,

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Carrboro to extend wireless network

Board says plan will connect area

BY JARRETT SAIA
STAFF WRITER

Laptop users in downtown Carrboro soon will be able to use the town's free wireless network from Town Hall to the Century Center without losing their Internet signal.

The Board of Aldermen accepted Tuesday night an update to the downtown wireless Internet project, known as tocwireless.net.

The current phase of the project aims to install new hardware for generating wireless capabilities downtown, which will connect the Carr Mill Mall and Century Center area with the existing wireless zone at Town Hall.

"The idea is to create a kind of dumbbell configuration," said Andy Vogel, information technology manager for the town. "We want to (grant wireless access) to the core downtown area of Carrboro, the very large area around the Town Hall and about a third of the area in between."

The adopted budget sets aside \$5,000 to continue the work begun in creating a wireless downtown area. Vogel said the \$5,000 will go toward the purchase of new hardware.

Six public wireless access points and specialized antennas will be installed in various locations around the Weaver Street Market area.

Weaver Street Market is allowing wireless users within range of its location to have access to any of its unused bandwidth.

"(The downtown wireless network) is a great thing, and it fits with our mission of creating a vibrant, stable community," said Scott Morningstar, manager of information systems for the market.

The donation of bandwidth from Weaver Street Market should save the town of Carrboro about \$500

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