Parent wallets sapped by school supplies

BY RACHEL ULLRICH
ASSISTANT CITY EDITOR

Everyone knows back-to-school shopping involves more than buying pencils and glue sticks.

There's the first-day outfit, the book covers, the gel pens — and that ever-important Hello Kitty lunchbox and backpack set.

But sometimes the costs of getting children back to school can be overwhelming for parents.

They go from buying tissues and crayons in first grade to parking passes — running $100 at East Chapel Hill High — and prom tickets as their children get older.

And more advanced classes require more significant funding, including fees for AP testing and equipment such as graphing calculators.

Though many schools provide opportunities to borrow such equipment, school lists still include the basic supplies — and often more.

One fixture on most schools' lists is a disclosure: "Please note that teachers might ask for additional subject supplies."

"I spend at least $100 (on supplies for school). We buy pretty much everything on the list and a little extra."

BRENDA RAY, MOTHER OF A MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT

These additional supplies can include things such as protractors, colored pencils and other subject-specific items.

"The list is going to be longer than the one you see," said Valerie Reinhardt, principal of Smith Middle School.

The district officials also examine the supply lists from the schools and decide whether they are reasonable enough for the area.

"We look at the supply lists through an equity lens," said Stephanie Knott, assistant to the superintendent for community relations for city schools.

Reinhardt said the districts also coordinate efforts to help provide.

"There is funding supplied by the districts," Reinhardt said. "The PTA gives us a lot more money, too."

Teachers and counselors said they look out for students who cannot provide their own supplies and inform administrators.

"Teachers throughout the year, instead of going to our parents, they come to me," said Lorraine Hines, family specialist and school social worker at Hillsborough Elementary.

Schools' family specialists can be contacted about needs for supplies, and track and monitor families who have needed assistance in the past.

"I have families I work with ... that depend on me," Hines said.

Anyone interested in donating money or supplies should contact family specialists at any of the two districts' schools.

At a Durham Target on Saturday, shoppers braved the crowds of procrastinators buying their supplies.

"I spend at least $100," said Brenda Ray, the parent of a middle and high schooler. "We buy pretty much everything on the list and a little extra."

Ray said that though her son, who is entering his sophomore year, found back-to-school shopping a hassle, her middle-school-aged daughter enjoyed buying such things as locker decorations.

Rising kindergartner Morgan Ellis and her mom, Melissa Ellis, finally had success in finding a lunchbox: a pink Hello Kitty sack. "It doesn't have a cup holder," Morgan said. "But we can just stuff it to the side."

But their first back-to-school shopping trip has been harmless enough — now that the lunchbox search is complete, the only thing Morgan still needs is a pair of tennis shoes.

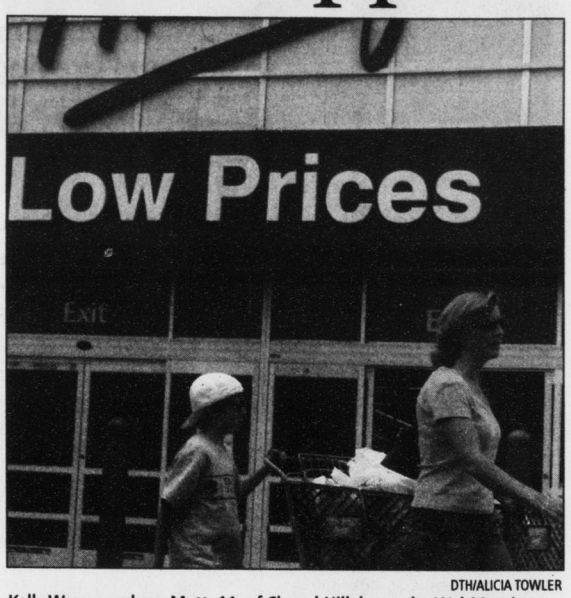
"They're all too small," she said. "My feet are too wide!"

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

That's a lot of...

- GLUE. If all kindergartners in Orange County Schools bought a 4-ounce bottle of Elmer's glue, they'd have 2,012 ounces of glue.
- PARKING. If all East Chapel Hill high schoolers had a parking spot, it would net $171,500 in fees.
- RULERS. If all Orange County middle school students bought a ruler, lined up they'd reach more than a quarter mile.
- PAPER. If all students in both districts bought one pack of 150 sheets of filler paper, it would add up to 2,649,300 sheets of paper.

*Numbers based on 2005-06 enrollment



DTH/ALICIA TOWLER
Kelly Wayne and son Matt, 11, of Chapel Hill, leave the Wal-Mart in Hillsborough on Monday morning with a shopping cart full of bags.

games

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Sudoku

	8				1		3	9
7			9			1	2	
1		6	2	5		8		
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We heard you. Now you have one more thing to do on the bus or during class. Behold the first installment of Sudoku. Enjoy and good luck.

To Play: Complete the grid so that every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. There is no guessing or math involved, just use logic to solve.

© Puzzles provided by sudokuwriter.com

Israel-Lebanon conflict

The war has hit home for many on campus and in the community. See pg. A5 for the stories.

Student Stores

The revamped store has missed deadlines for completion. See pg. A12 for the story.

Fall Fest 2006

Freshmen and seniors have very different experiences at the annual event. See pg. A13 for the story.

Senators' summers

Richard Burr and Elizabeth Dole spent the break in different ways. See pg. B3 for the story.

Text messaging

The service will come to campus as a new way of keeping students updated. See pg. B9 for the story.

THE Daily Crossword

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

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ACROSS
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17 Puzzle editor's brief films?
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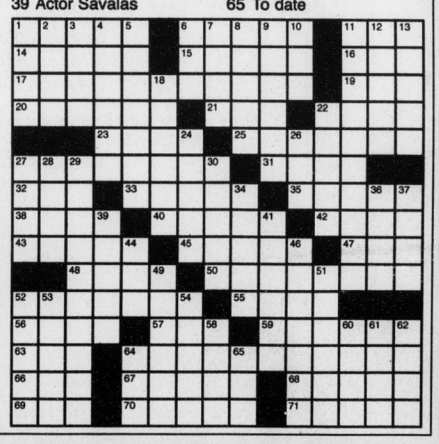

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Join Carolina HOPE as we kick off the fall semester!
Our 1st meeting is Monday, Aug. 28 @ 5:30pm in the Student Union
abstinence presentations in our community
support for pregnant & parenting women
STD awareness education
promotion of abstinence on campus
For more info on Carolina HOPE visit www.unc.edu/hope

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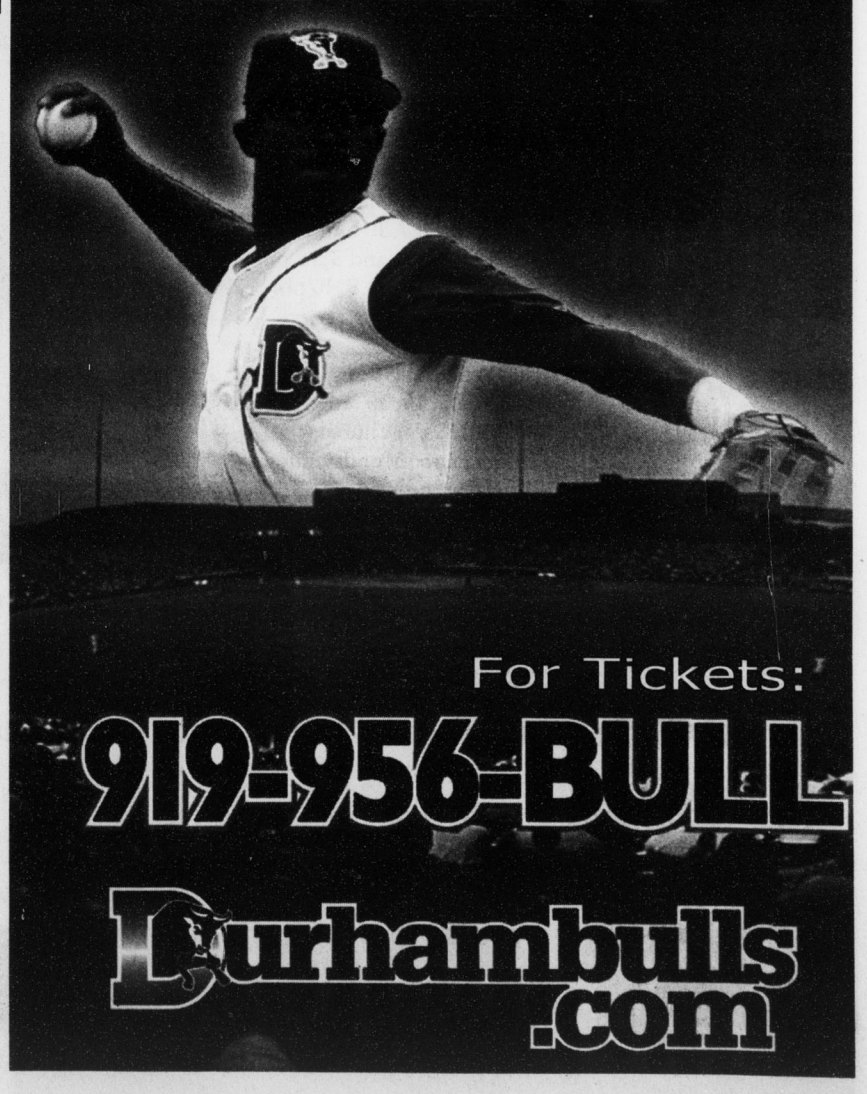
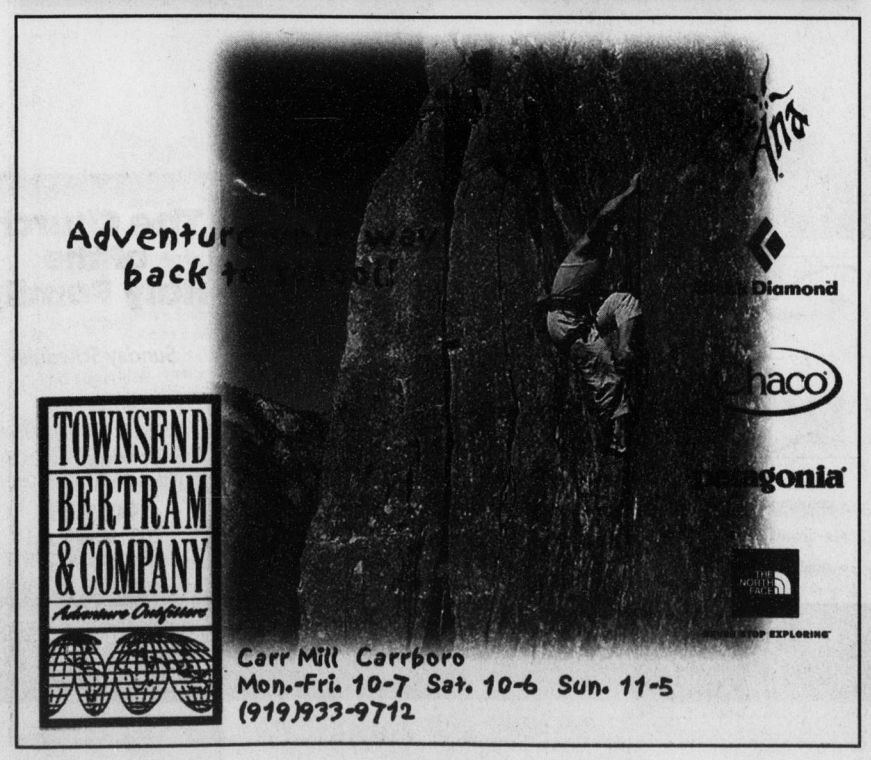
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