

Store adds electronic security

By **TERRI NORMAN**
Staff Writer

Amid the haste and confusion of purchasing books and supplies, students will probably notice the appearance of a new security system in Student Stores. Much like the systems already operating in campus libraries, it uses magnetic sensors to prevent the unauthorized removal of merchandise.

The 3M system, still in the process of installation, consists of two components. The detector panels through which customers must pass to exit the store pick up transmissions from improperly checked out goods. A desensitizer removes the magnetic "tags" when items are paid for.

The system has been in planning stages for about five years, said Rutledge Tufts, assistant manager of Student Stores. "Over the past several years there has been considerable increase in shrinkage (missing merchandise), amounting to approximately a 30 percent increase in the last three years."

Shrinkage may be caused by both clerical errors and shoplifting. A number of people have been caught

shoplifting, and Tufts said, "We want to reduce that method (of shrinkage) with the least impact on the shopper. This system has proven effective on other campuses, and it is not as intrusive on shoppers as methods like cameras or mirrors."

Tufts stressed the importance of the new system in protecting the students' scholarships. Student Stores is owned by the state, but it is entirely self-supporting. Sixty percent of the yearly profits from the store are placed in the University's general scholarship fund. Student Stores' contributions to the fund exceeded \$500,000 during the last school year. Tufts expected the system to save Student Stores enough to increase that figure by approximately \$10,000 to \$20,000 per year.

"It is difficult to be more specific than that because we do not know how much of the loss is due to employee error," he said.

The system was originally estimated to cost \$30,000, but it is turning out to cost less. It will have paid for itself in about one and a half years, he said.

The system is in limited use now and is expected to be fully operational by August. It is meeting no resistance by students so far because students realize that the system will benefit them by reducing loss of scholarship money and preventing price increases to cover shrinkage. "By and large the folks around here are honest," Tufts said.

Student Stores employees are receiving training in the operation of the system. Their workload will be increased by necessity of special magnetic tagging of merchandise. But Tufts said, "The training emphasis is on what to do when the alarm goes off. The system is still new, and there may be errors made for the next few weeks. Right now, we are assuming that people are innocent. When the alarm sounds we look for a problem, not necessarily a thief." Student Stores plans on having the system running smoothly within a month.

Students who are caught shoplifting will be reported to the Honor Court. Non-students are turned over to campus police, who send them to the Chapel Hill Police Department.

Summer crime hits campus

By **WENDY STRINGFELLOW**
Staff Writer

A UNC student was sexually assaulted in Hinton James Dormitory early in the morning June 17. Police describe the assailant as a black male in his early twenties, about 5 feet 6 inches tall, 155 pounds, with black hair and short facial hair.

Hazards inherent with college life are easy to forget during summertime when students are carefree. UNC police advise students of measures to prevent problems.

In addition, students should keep their doors locked at all times — not just at night, said Campus Police Sgt. Ned Comar.

Alcohol leads to many security problems on campus, he said. "Either by the victim or the assailant, alcohol is usually associated with the source of trauma."

"Female students should be headed for their rooms by midnight," Comar said. "After that time, there are fewer people out who could help."

Screaming may save a potential assault victim from harm. "The best time is when the assailant makes his first move. Becoming an instant raving maniac will get you help. Make that scene where you're most comfortable (not where the assailant is most comfortable)," he said.

Likewise, getting an accurate description of suspicious persons helps. Besides race, sex and height, try to find a distinguishing charac-

teristic such as a cap, or a distinct hairstyle — something that would single him out of a crowd.

The key to safety on this campus is reporting suspicious persons, Comar said. "It's like swearing in 22,000 security guards. A thief will shy away from a campus that has that kind of rapport with the police."

Comar said the biggest problem was students' misunderstanding of where to leave property unattended. "People seem to think that like at home you can leave your wallet or backpack lying around."

He said the thief's mentality isn't that he's stealing something. Rather, a person justifies taking something by thinking he found it.

Crimestoppers is another aid. Anyone having information pertaining to crimes can call Orange County Crimestoppers at 1-800-851-7867. Rewards up to \$1,200 are offered and confidentiality is guaranteed.

"Students aren't prone to be crimestoppers," Comar said. "They are reluctant to squeal on someone, but the county has quite a bit of money to give for information."

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Sky will light up with July Fourth festivities

Kenan Stadium will be the location of the largest Fourth of July fireworks display in Chapel Hill, the celebration's sponsors have announced.

The Village Companies, The Village Companies Foundation and the Chapel Hill Kiwanis Club said the fireworks display will include over 150 different varieties of shells and a grand finale of 550 shells.

The fireworks will follow a benefit concert for local charities performed by Chapel Hill's Mike Cross, who will be doing the concert for the seventh time.

In Carrboro on the Fourth, a "family day" celebration will be held, featuring gospel music, belly dancing, clogging, bluegrass,

culminating with a performance by Southern Dreamers, a country and western band, and fireworks.

The celebration, also including a horseshoe tournament and concessions, is free and will take place on the Carrboro Town Hall grounds from 12:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Stage events begin at 2:30 p.m.

The Capitol grounds in Raleigh will also be the site of celebration July Fourth from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Portions of the Declaration of Independence will be read, and the late Kate Smith will be honored. Tours of the Capitol will be given and muskets will go off to salute the 13 original states. Refreshments will be sold all day.



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