

## Psychiatric, pediatric units to update hospital facilities

By SUSAN ODENKIRCHEN  
Staff Writer

The North Carolina Memorial Hospital is in the early stages of planning new neuropsychiatric and children's hospitals to replace its antiquated psychiatric and pediatric units, built in 1952.

"All we've done is look at the long-range picture and seen the need to replace these existing facilities," said NCMH spokesman John Stokes. "These antiquated 35-year-old facilities just won't do."

The new hospitals will be built separate of NCMH, with independent management and identities, but the NCMH board of directors will govern them both, Stokes said.

The new hospitals will not be much larger than the current facilities, but updated and modernized, he said.

The neuropsychiatric hospital will be located to the east of the Biological Sciences Research

Center. The existing psychiatric unit, now located in the south wing of NCMH, will be demolished to make room for the new children's hospital.

"The main difference between these new facilities and the old ones is these will be modern state-of-the-art buildings to function as replacements for the old," he said. "The existing facilities are worn out."

Construction of the children's hospital will not begin until the neuropsychiatric hospital is completed, because it will be located in the present psychiatric unit.

"Our pediatric unit is a hospital within a hospital right now," Stokes said.

The present pediatric unit is now operating under antiquated conditions "with great imagination and skill," he said.

Hospital officials are requesting \$2.5 million from the General Assembly and the State Budget Office to begin building plans.

"All we've done is draw boxes on a map. We haven't begun to draw buildings yet," Stokes said.

If the State Budget Office grants the necessary building approvals, construction could begin soon, he said. "We could be breaking ground for the neuropsychiatric hospital in 24 to 36 months," Stokes said.

Construction of the hospitals, which will both have six floors and contain 100 beds, should take about six years, he said.

"The money we will use for these facilities will come from our earnings," Stokes said, referring to hospital profits.

The NCMH budget was \$160 million this year, with the state allotting \$23 million and patients paying the remaining \$137 million.

The neuropsychiatric hospital will cost about \$21,591,000 to construct, and the children's hospital will cost about \$33,140,000.

## Commissioner studies fairness of 'Safe Driver' insurance plan

By CLAY THORP  
Staff Writer

A storm of controversy is brewing in the automotive insurance industry because of problems with North Carolina's Safe Driver Insurance-Point Plan (SDIP).

"We think the whole system is unfair, outdated and needs to be reworked," said Max Powell, special assistant to N.C. Insurance Commissioner Jim Long.

The N.C. Department of Insurance is conducting an in-house study trying to correct the system, Powell said.

One element of controversy is the classification plan, said Bruce N. Fritz, the Charlotte branch manager of The Kemper Group, a nationwide insurance and finance consulting firm, and chairman of the board of governors for the N.C. Rate Bureau.

The problem arises because some insurance companies would rather classify clients by age because statistics show that younger drivers have more than twice as many accidents as older drivers, said Joseph E. Johnson, former chairman of the N.C. Senate Insurance Committee.

"I think that each driver should pay based on experience and use of (his) car as closely as possible," said T. Duke Williams III, president of All-America Insurance Agency in Chapel Hill.

Commissioner Long and other legislators maintain that rates should be based on the record of the driver,

regardless of age, Powell said.

According to law, the insurance industry cannot base its rates on age, Fitz said.

However, the industry is allowed to place a surcharge on premiums for drivers with less than two years of experience, he said.

The presence of a state-backed organization called the Reinsurance Facility further adds to the confusion, Fitz said.

The state formed this organization to handle people that insurers believe to be risky. Because state law says that all drivers must have liability insurance, companies cannot refuse coverage to them. Therefore, insurance companies do handle many high risk cases, he said.

Because younger drivers are a higher risk, they are often put in the

facility, he said.

Fitz said that because of the risk factor, the facility usually loses money, and this deficit must be picked up by a portion of the public.

Until recently, all of the driving public paid off the deficit, but now only drivers with insurance points are forced to pay. "That is unfair in our opinion," Fitz said.

The fee to pay off the facility deficit should be paid by the entire public, as the law once provided for, he said.

Fitz said that since young drivers often obtain insurance points, they must pay excessively high rates.

If younger drivers are classified according to age rather than their record, the deficit would be lower, since these drivers would be taken out of the facility, he said.

## Car break-ins concern police

From staff reports

UNC police are concerned that thieves have begun a new rash of automobile break-ins after laying low for a while, Sgt. Ned Comar said Monday.

Eight break-ins were attempted last Thursday to cars parked in Craige and Morrison residence halls' parking lots, according to police reports. And 2-3 car burglaries were reported over the weekend, Comar said.

Thieves broke into cars, damaging some of them, and stole car stereo systems valued between \$400 and \$850.

Comar said he is hopeful that work done by UNC and Durham

detectives could lead to the arrest of the suspects and the recovery of the stereos. "The crimes will, or are already, solved . . . and recovery is imminent in some, if not in all, of the cases," he said.

Comar recommended that students "go and visit" their cars as often as possible, so if a break-in does occur, police can pinpoint the time and anticipate when future incidents may occur.

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### Campus Calendar

The DTH Campus Calendar appears daily. Announcements must be placed in the box outside The Daily Tar Heel office, 104 Union, by noon one day before — weekend announcements by noon Wednesday. The DTH will print announcements from University-recognized campus organizations only.

### Tuesday

- 5:45 p.m. Anglican Student Fellowship will have its weekly fellowship night at Chapel of the Cross. Dinner is \$2.
- 6 p.m. Alpha Epsilon Delta will meet in Room 206 of the Union to prepare for the Easter party for the pediatric ward.
- 7 p.m. Anti-Apartheid Support Group will show "Witness to Apartheid" in Melver Residence Hall. UNC Pre-Law Club is sponsoring a free LSAT workshop by the Princeton Law Review in 108 Bingham.


### Items of Interest

All Campus Calendar announcements are due by NOON on the day before they are to run in the DTH. Interested in buying a 1985-86 Yucky Yack or another previous edition? Come by Room 106 of the Union or call 962-3912/1259. Sign up today at the Union Desk for Real World Finance with Joel Frelander, Prudential Bache investment executive. Program information is at the Union Desk.

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