

Police Roundup

■ Liza Harrison, of Adelia Walters Apartments in Chapel Hill, reported Saturday that she had been threatened by a man with a gun. When police arrived on the scene, the suspect had left the area.

Police found the suspect, Ralph Smith Jr., 36, of 8-A Adelia Walters Apartments, a short time later, but he had no weapon. He was arrested and charged with assault.

■ Police received a call late Saturday night about a man who was lost in his attic. He reportedly was going to put his suitcase in the attic and the door closed behind him. The attic was dark and the man was unable to find his way out. Police let the man out and a neighbor stayed with him to make sure he was all right.

■ Several incidents of vandalism to automobiles were reported to Chapel Hill police this weekend.

Ray Bunnage, of 809 Wilkerson Drive in Durham, reported Saturday that he parked his vehicle in front of a friend's house on Seminole Road in Chapel Hill. He said he was away from his vehicle for approximately 10 minutes, and when he returned, he found that an unknown person had used a cutting device to flatten his two left tires. Damage was estimated at \$80.

Regina Bethea, of Kingswood Apartments in Chapel Hill, told police Saturday she had parked her car in the apartment parking lot. When she went to work she found the windshield broken. Damage was estimated at \$400.

UNC sophomore Michael Forbes Piehler reported Saturday that someone had dropped two bottles from the seventh floor of Granville South onto his vehicle. One bottle struck the car on the top and dented it. The other struck the windshield and broke it.

Police named UNC freshman Donald Drew Frederick, a resident of Granville Towers, as the suspect in the incident. Damage was estimated at \$500.

Susan Rebecca Trammell, of Kingsbury Drive in Chapel Hill, reported Friday that her vehicle, which had been parked in the lot at Kensington Trace, was vandalized. The left and right front doors and the hood were damaged. Damage was estimated at \$600.

Jeff Kersey of Chapel Hill reported an incident of vandalism

Friday to a car, owned by Crown Honda-Volvo, that he was driving. Kersey said he had stopped at the Seven-Eleven on Ephesus Church Road, and when he left the parking lot and turned left onto Leagon Road, within 200 feet he met a beat-up blue Toyota station wagon.

The driver of the station wagon made gestures to Kersey and Kersey turned around. The station wagon parked, and the driver got out and asked Kersey to fight. When Kersey declined, the driver of the station wagon struck the left back quarter of the car, causing \$225 in damage.

■ Several residential burglaries were also reported.

Mrs. Robert Gallman, of Kingsmill Road in Chapel Hill, reported she found a basement door open last Wednesday evening as well as two downstairs windows. She said she did not notice anything unusual until she realized a VCR was missing as well as some ladies clothing she had been storing.

Police found no evidence of forced entry and no signs of possible evidence. The estimated value of the stolen property was \$1,000.

Deirdre V. Mask, of Indian Trail Road in Chapel Hill, told police she returned to her residence Friday and found a door standing open. Police found the residence unoccupied, but a television set valued at \$500 was missing. The lock on the door was apparently opened with a screwdriver or sharp object.

Robin Scharf and Alicia Johnson, of Airport Road in Chapel Hill, said that sometime between March 13 and March 16, someone took property valued at \$940 from their apartment. Police reported entry was gained through a sliding glass door with a broken lock.

Rick Haughton of Townhouse Apartments in Chapel Hill reported he had been away from his residence Friday night and there had been a party in the apartment next to his. When he returned to his apartment, he found a bar stool and several compact discs were missing. The stool was found in the adjacent apartment, but the compact discs could not be located. Entry was gained through the sliding glass doors in the rear of the apartment.

— compiled by Will Lingo

Senate hears student tax reform plan

By TAMMY BLACKARD
Staff Writer

Almost nine out of 10 Americans with less than a high school education can't understand the simplest tax form, so 15 students from the University of Akron in Ohio have Congress' permission to make the Internal Revenue Service tax forms easier to complete.

Two students and their professors testified before a Senate Finance subcommittee last Monday, making history as the first students to testify before a finance committee.

Paul Genda, a 34-year-old law student, said, "They (the senators) were very receptive to our plan — no one doubted what we were saying."

A study by the students found that instructions for the 1040EZ tax form

require a 8.45 grade reading level, while the Wall Street Journal requires only a 7.1 grade reading level.

"It has gotten to a point where the tax code and regulations are a problem to everybody," said Mike Whitaker, 45, a graduate student working on the committee.

The students got involved with the program after one of their group leaders, James Childs, talked with Sen. David Pryor, D-Ark., chairman of the finance subcommittee.

"Sen. Pryor met Childs in New Orleans and took an interest in the students' work," said Damon Thompson, press secretary for Pryor. "He brought them to Washington to present their ideas and findings to the committee."

Pryor said the finance committee was concerned that the difficulty of

the tax forms is triggering penalties. Tax penalties may be regressive if 50 percent of the general population can't understand the tax forms.

"The students are offering a fresh breath of intellectual curiosity to the problem," said Childs, director of the Tax Clinic at the University of Akron. "Technicians are writing instructions for accountants and attorneys. . . EZ forms need to be easy."

But simplifying tax forms may not be possible and effective, said James Wilde, UNC associate professor of economics.

"The tax forms could certainly be written simply, but there's no way to be simple and unambiguous," Wilde said.

But the tax code does need to be rewritten, said Betty Francisco, an accountant at H&R Block in Chapel

Hill. "True simplification starts with a new tax code," she said. "We can rewrite the instructions, but that's not the root of the problem."

Tax laws are extremely difficult, and even tax professionals have problems with the new tax codes, Francisco said.

"The project is going to take a lot of time, but the good response that we've gotten from the government and the media has given us initiative," Whitaker said.

The students will present their proposals to the finance subcommittee in September.

They hope to simplify versions of the W-4 withholding form; W-2 year-end wages-earned statement; 1099 interest-earned form; and the basic 1040, 1040A and 1040EZ forms.

Health premiums should rise, speaker says

By BETH RHEA
Staff Writer

Health insurance premiums should be raised to cover the cost of routine cancer detection tests, American Cancer Society President Harmon Eyre said in a speech Sunday for science writers.

However, Deborah Freund, associate professor of health policy and administration, said that while Eyre's suggestion is a sensible idea, there is no guarantee people would take advantage of the extra coverage.

"It's undoubtedly true that if

people have coverage, they'll use the service more often," she said. "If people are covered for cancer detection tests such as routine screening, the disease will most likely be detected (if the person has cancer). But people are extremely shortsighted."

Freund said cancer detection tests are not usually included in health insurance because insurance is meant to cover risks such as illnesses that are unlikely to occur. Insurance is not used to cover events that are certain to happen and can be anticipated, she said.

"If you're sure you want to have a test, why not just save your money?" she said. "Why would you want to pay Blue Cross/ Blue Shield for the privilege of them paying, just to pay for the administration costs?"

In an age of rising health costs, increasing insurance premiums would only aggravate the problem, but patients have other options, according to Kathy Higgins, manager of public relations for Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina.

"People can participate in our HMO (health maintenance organiza-

tion) as opposed to traditional coverage," she said. The HMO plan includes coverage of early detection testing.

Andy Landes, a registered health underwriter with Landes and Associates of Chapel Hill, said most insurance carriers do not adequately cover such early detection measures as cancer screening.

To complicate the problem, he said, insurance carriers receive little guidance from the federal or state government as to what their health coverage priorities should be.

University honorary society inducts new members

By KATIE BECK
Staff Writer

The Order of the Golden Fleece tapped its 3,000th member as it inducted 28 new members last Friday in a secret ceremony held in Gerrard Hall.

Eight inductees are juniors, 15 are seniors and five are honorary members.

Anson Dorrance, UNC women's and men's soccer coach and a newly inducted member, delivered the Frank Porter Graham Lecture on Excellence, the annual speech given at the ceremony. Past speakers include Terry Sanford, Dean Smith, Richardson Pryor and Charles Kuralt.

To be chosen, a candidate "must be a person of high character, loyal to the University and possessed of such personal distinction as may be evidenced by high achievement which

has enhanced the University experience," according to the group's constitution.

The Order, begun in 1908, is the oldest honorary society on campus. Past inductees include Chancellor Christopher Fordham and former UNC-system President William Friday. The members, called Argonauts, are chosen every spring by active Argonauts, said George Lensing, the group's faculty advisor.

Students, faculty and active members nominate prospective members, Lensing said. Junior inductees become active members of the Order, who research the nominees and choose new members, he said.

The organization was modeled after Skull and Bones, a secret honor society at Yale University, said Douglass Hunt, special assistant to the chancellor and Golden Fleece

member.

In 1976, the Order examined the state of the University's Honor Code and led a successful campaign to revive interest in the Honor System, Hunt said.

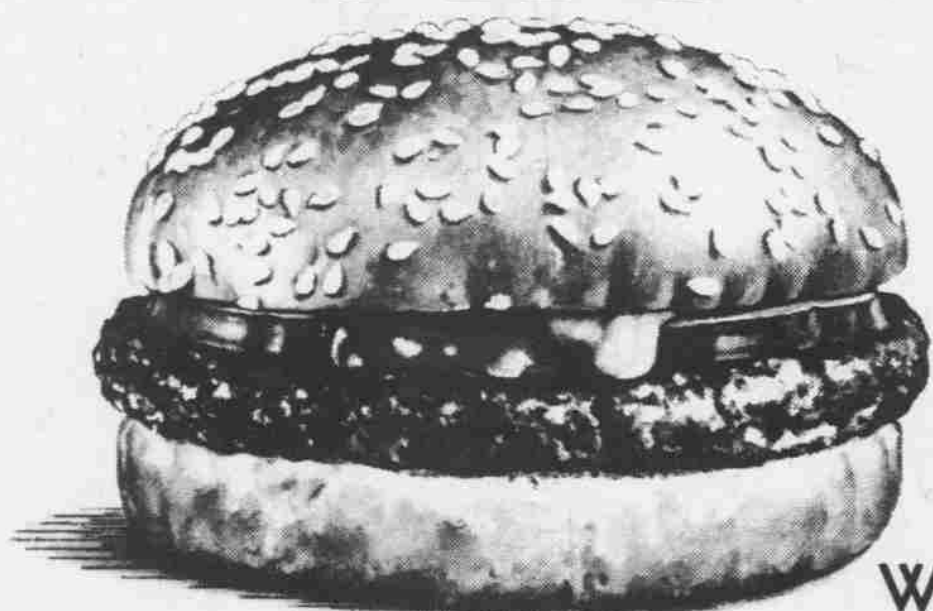
New members are: Kenneth Martin Perry, Suzanne Elisabeth Bolch, Liem Thanh Tran, Eileen Renee Carlton, Patricia Lyn Hurst, Sophie Sartain, Robin P.

Kimmelman, Durrall Ray Gilbert, Firoozeh Kashani-Sabet, Mary Susan Scholl, Kathryn Louise Mulvey, Claude Ricketts Maechling, James Thomas Farmer, Rochelle Monique Brandon, Ellen Marie Barnard, Victoria Kathleen Marjorie Donovan, Lucy Dell McClellan, Michael Egues, William Forrest Yelverton II, Carol Parks Geer, Andrew Bennett Taubman, Darrin Maurice Poole, Wendy Sue Gebauer, Anson Dorrance, Nancy Bolsh, Eleanor Morris, Craig Calhoun and Harold Wallace.

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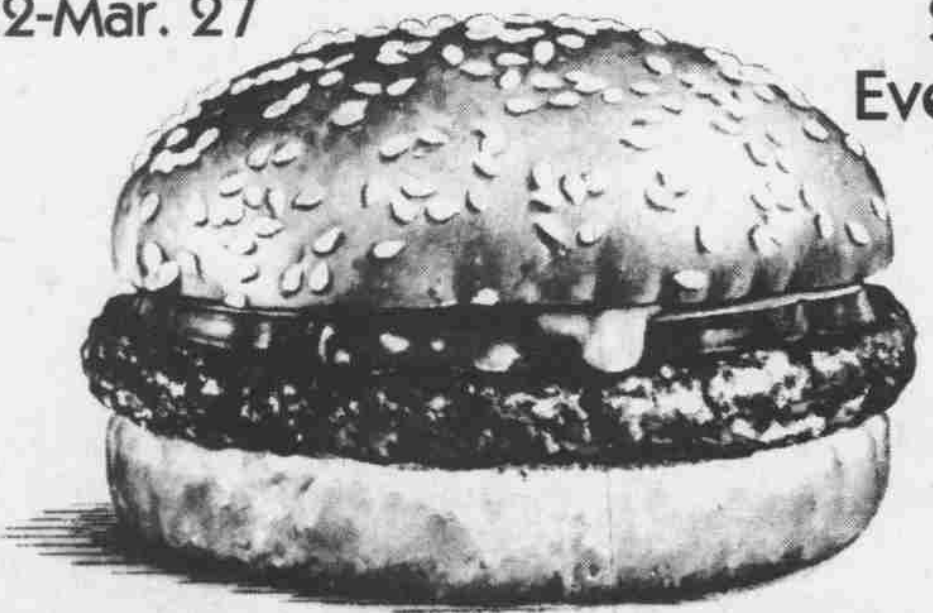
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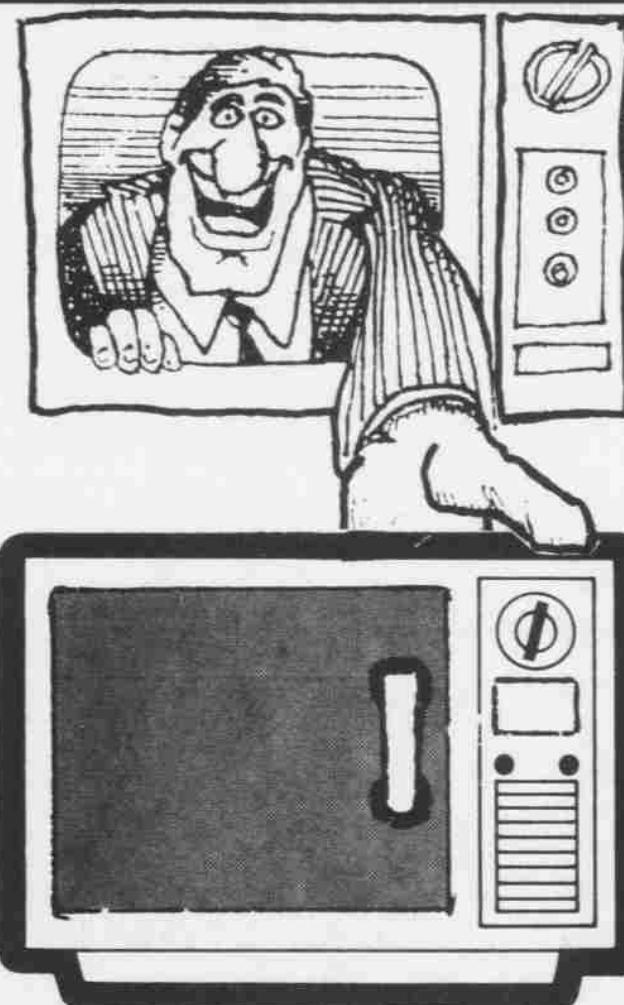
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