

Campus Roundup

■ A chemical spill was reported in Rosenau Hall on Friday at 7:11 a.m. About 4.5 gallons of Actonivile and Puridine leaked from a 5-gallon can. The building was evacuated and the Chapel Hill Fire Department and Health and Safety Staff cleaned up the spill.

■ A dirt packing machine was left near Beard Hall with the key in the ignition Friday. Someone started the machine at about 10:07 a.m. and crushed half of a nearby bike rack.

■ Three bicycle thefts were reported Friday, one each from the bike racks at Lewis, Graham and Winston Residence Halls. Each of the bikes was valued at about \$200.

■ A stop sign was taken from a bus parked in the Ramshead parking lot Saturday at 7 a.m. The sign's value was estimated at about \$200.

■ A room in Parker Residence Hall was illegally entered without force, and a wallet with about \$30 in it was taken on Saturday at 1:51

p.m.
■ An end table was thrown from the tenth floor balcony of Hinton James Residence Hall at 2:24 a.m. on Sunday. The table, property of UNC, was valued at \$179.

■ Police roused a man sleeping in the bathroom on the second floor of Whitehead Residence Hall, an all-female hall, at 8:48 p.m. Sunday. The man, the guest of a resident, was issued a trespass warning.

■ A burglary was reported Sunday at 9:30 p.m. While a Joyner Residence Hall resident slept with her room door unlocked, someone entered and stole her wallet, with about \$100 dollars in it.

■ Lint caught fire on top of a drier at the Craig Laundry at 11:59 p.m. Sunday. The lint burned itself out without causing damage.

— compiled by Jenny Cloninger

National SAT scores decline by 2 points, College Board says

From Associated Press reports

NEW YORK — Average SAT scores lost ground in 1988 for the first time in eight years, but minority students continued a decade-long pattern of impressive gains, the College Board reported Monday.

Scores on the verbal section of the Scholastic Aptitude Test fell two points to an average 428, while the average on the math section was unchanged at 476, according to the board's annual report.

Both portions of the multiple-choice exam, taken each year by 1.1 million college-bound students, are scored on a scale of 200 to 800, with a combined score of 1600 being perfect.

The combined math-verbal average of 904 marked the first decline in eight years. The national average hit a low of 890 in 1980, recovered a bit to 906 by 1985 and was unchanged until this year's slight decline.

Ironically, the release of the SAT averages coincided with the planned departure Tuesday of U.S. Education Secretary William Bennett, who during his 3½ years in office had credited the Reagan administration with spurring reforms that until this year had helped produce gradually improving SAT scores.

In a statement Monday, Bennett blamed the school establishment for

the falloff in scores: "No medals for America in this news. I said in April that the absolute level at which our improvements are taking place is unacceptably low. Today it's a bit lower, and still not acceptable. C'mon, team! Back into training."

College Board officials nonetheless cheered the "stability" of test scores in recent years.

"We're pleased, frankly, that there is as much stability in the scores as the data suggest," board president Donald Stewart told reporters. He noted that scores were generally holding up even though the number of minority test-takers was up by 23,066, or 1 percent, in the last year alone.

Minority students in the class of '88, especially blacks, posted the strongest gains. Verbal scores among blacks last year rose an average of two points to 353, and math scores rose seven points to 384 — doubly impressive because the number of black test-takers rose 39 percent in three years from 70,156 in 1985 to 97,483 last year, said the board's research director, Robert Cameron.

Stewart said it was unclear why minority students were gaining. One explanation is that federal programs such as Head Start, begun in the 1960s and 1970s and aimed at assisting poor students, are now paying off in higher minority SAT scores.

Police Roundup

■ A Kenan Street resident reported late Saturday night that as she was going up the steps to her residence, someone grabbed her from behind and took her purse. The victim fell to the sidewalk and injured her head.

One of the stolen items was found later near the residence. The stolen purse was valued at \$25, and there was \$6 in cash in the purse.

■ A Durham man was arrested after an Edenton resident was cut while trying to break up a fight early Sunday. Allen Eugene Ruffin, 23, was arrested and charged with assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill.

The victim told Chapel Hill police he was with some people in the parking lot of Chase Park Apartments when he saw a man and woman start arguing. He said he saw the man hit the woman and decided to intervene in the argument.

When he tried to break up the argument, he was cut. Ruffin was arrested in connection with the incident after being identified by the victim.

■ Chapel Hill police received 21 noise complaints over the weekend. Most of the complaints were about loud music being played late at night. Three complaints were about bands playing at fraternity houses: Delta Upsilon early Saturday morning, and Kappa Alpha and Kappa Sigma early Sunday morning.

■ A Chapel Hill resident reported Friday that someone

took his bicycle and replaced it with another one. He said he left his bicycle leaning against the side of the Chapel Hill Newspaper building, and when he returned another bicycle was left in its place.

No one saw the incident occur. The stolen bike was valued at \$40, and the replacement bike was taken to the Chapel Hill Police Department.

■ A resident of Johnson Street reported Sunday that a man had entered the window of her residence. The suspect left, but was later apprehended.

Jerry Lee "Pee Wee" Patterson, 29, of Pittsboro, was arrested in connection with the incident, but the victim decided she did not want to press charges against him.

Chapel Hill police did discover, however, that Patterson had two outstanding warrants in Chatham County for failure to appear, so they turned Patterson over to the Chatham County Sheriff's Department.

■ A Basnight Lane resident reported Friday that property valued at \$390 was stolen from her front porch. One bicycle (\$200), two plants (\$90) and two pots (\$100) were taken.

■ A resident of Chase Park Apartments reported Sunday that someone dented the hood of her 1978 Toyota Corolla while it was in the apartment parking lot. Damage to the car was estimated at \$300.

— compiled by Will Lingo

In a medical emergency, students have 2 options

By JO LEE CREDDLE

Staff Writer
Your roommate has broken her ankle and needs to see a doctor immediately. Where should you drive her?

Student Health Service (SHS) and the emergency room at North Carolina Memorial Hospital (NCMH) are the two choices available to you and your stricken roommate.

SHS is a 24-hour service partially funded by student fees each semester. It is available to all University students.

NCMH charges a flat rate of \$75 to anyone who comes through the emergency room. The hospital also accepts family insurance plans such as Metropolitan Life and Blue Cross Blue Shield.

In the past, NCMH refused to take students from the UNC campus, and in fact referred them to SHS, said one member of the vice chancellor's committee for SHS. "(One student) was forced to walk over to student health without the aid of crutches or a wheelchair on a sprained ankle," he said.

After addressing this problem, NCMH began giving students the option of going to SHS, where their health costs would be covered, or remaining at the hospital.

But sometimes doctors apparently forget to offer students the option to go to SHS. During Labor Day weekend, one student could not find a parking place at SHS, so she went to the emergency room at NCMH, where shuttle service from the park-

ing deck was available. The emergency room doctors did not inform her before treatment was administered that she could go to SHS, and she was charged \$160.

"There is definitely a lack of consistency," said Kent Williamson, a member of the vice chancellor's committee. "People just don't communicate well. Communication is a tremendous issue here."

Because parking for students is a problem, the committee will discuss a shuttle service for SHS at its next meeting.

One myth students have about SHS is its slow reaction time.

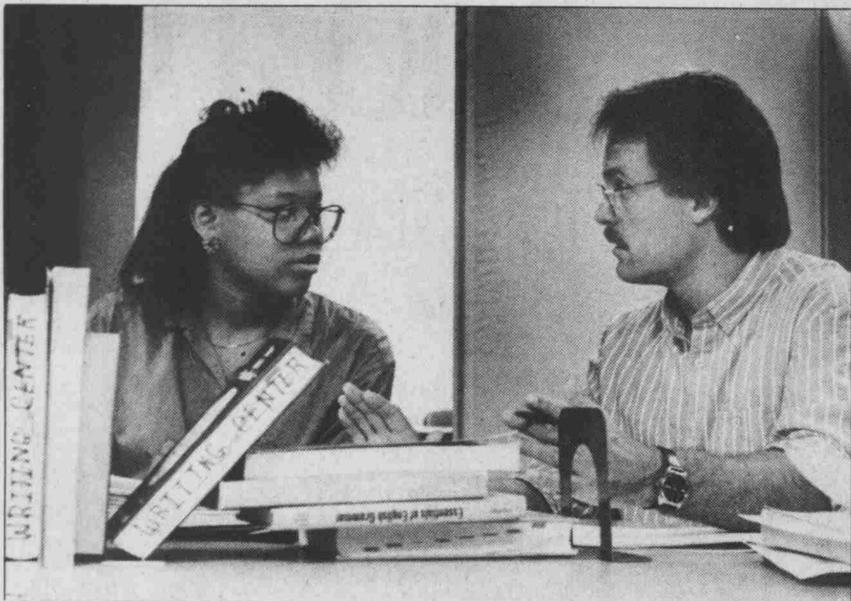
"There is a long wait for students at the clinics of SHS," said Milan Sampat, a junior psychology major from Hickory.

But students have come back from NCMH with similar horror stories about having to wait in the emergency room for five to six hours for treatment.

"It's a lot simpler to go to student health than to go to Memorial because you don't have to go through all of that red tape at SHS," said Andy Jones, a senior from Brevard.

If a student wishes to go to the NCMH emergency room with a problem, he must bear the burden of the cost that accompanies such treatment. SHS is relatively cheap and available for students 24 hours a day. The service is equally competent at both facilities, and both are equipped for emergency situations, Williamson said.

Tutorial program helps students, faculty find the write stuff



Paul Crumbley tutors Marciea McMillian, a freshman from Fayetteville, at the Writing Center

By FRANCINE ALLEN
Staff Writer

Students struggling with themes for term papers, grammar questions for class assignments or research papers can get help from the Writing Center.

The center, located in the basement of the Undergraduate Library, helps students as well as University staff and faculty. "We all need help writing occasionally," said Carol Pinkston, the center's director.

The center offers a free tutorial service, staffed and funded by the English department. Tutors work individually with students on papers, from book reports to dissertations, but help is not limited to assignments in English classes, Pinkston said.

"If it has to do with writing, we help," Pinkston said. "We don't proofread. We don't like to work with finished papers. We like to get started early in the writing process."

Tutors help students plan, draft and revise papers, as well as tackle grammatical problems. "It's not remedial help," she said. "It's not just for freshmen. It's help with just about any writing."

Undergraduates, graduates and faculty members, especially faculty members writing for journals, come to the center. "We've worked with every class level," Pinkston said.

Several students say that working with the center's tutors has upgraded their writing skills.

Marciea McMillian, a freshman psychology major from Fayetteville, said, "They help you think for yourself and find your own mistakes."

Fen Zhang, a graduate student in biology from China, said, "I believe writing is a universal problem. It is really good for international students to take the program to improve themselves."

The center is staffed by 11 graduate students in English and one undergraduate interdisciplinary student. Most of the graduate students have taught freshman English classes at UNC or in high schools or other colleges.

John Samonds, a tutor at the center, said working with students helps him formulate rules of writing. "I hope it will make me a better teacher," he said.

Students can be referred to the program by a professor, or they can come on their own, Pinkston said. "Students can drop by the center, but we like them to make appointments

at least a week or a week and a half in advance," she said.

Students taking English W, 1, 2 and 2A must bring their class syllabus, with their assignments, to the center or reschedule their appointment. "Each teacher may have their own ideas on what they want," Pinkston said. "We want to know what the student needs help with."

The center is open Mondays and Thursdays from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Appointments last about 45 minutes.

The center will be temporarily located in the Undergraduate Library's conference room Sept. 26 through Oct. 6 because of renovations, Pinkston said. The center will be open part-time during those days.

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