



**BRIEFS**

Stories from the University and Chapel Hill

**One robbery suspect charged, one still at large**

Chapel Hill police arrested and charged a man in connection with a Monday robbery of Lee's Chinese Take-Out and Delivery, police spokeswoman Jane Cousins said. The man was charged with armed robbery, Cousins said.

Employees of the restaurant, located at 516 W. Franklin St., were held at gunpoint by three individuals. Fifteen checks and an undisclosed amount of cash was stolen, reports state. A 15-year-old female was detained by restaurant employees until the police arrived Monday night, reports state.

Cousins said the police are still searching for a third person involved in the robbery. He is described as a 17-year-old male.

**Parks Department to hold basketball shootout**

The Carrboro Recreation and Parks Department will sponsor a Parent-Child Basketball Shootout beginning the week of Oct. 21. A parent or guardian and their child will team up in a basketball skills-related special event. The cost is \$8 per team. For additional information, contact the department at 968-7703.

**Playmakers to perform Three Tall Women**

Playmakers Repertory Company will perform the Pulitzer Prize-winning play *Three Tall Women* by Edward Albee.

The play uses three actors to portray the conflicting aspects of a woman's personality as she reevaluates her life. The show runs Oct. 16 through Nov. 10 at the Paul Green Theatre. Performances will be held Tuesdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. For ticket information call 962-PLAY.

**First lecture to be held in Blacks in the Diaspora**

The Sonja H. Stone Black Cultural Center will begin its Blacks in the Diaspora series chronicling African-American culture with a lecture on Oct. 24. Paule Marshall, an author and Helen Gould Sheppard professor of literature and culture at New York University, will speak on "The Making of a Writer."

Marshall's lecture will be held at 7:45 p.m. in the Hanes Art Center auditorium.

**Hebrew workshops to be offered at art museum**

The Ackland Art Museum will offer an introductory program on the Hebrew alphabet to kick off a series of Hebrew language workshops. "What Language is That, Anyway?" will be held Oct. 13 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. and is open to adults and youths ages 12 and up. The fee is \$10 for the general public and \$9 for Ackland members. The Ackland will also open an exhibit on Israeli art. "Ketav: Flesh and Word in Israeli Art" will be on display through Dec. 29.

**"Around the Circle" lunch discussion offered at BCC**

"Around the Circle" invites people to join its weekly lunch discussion on issues relevant to the black community.

"Toward a New Black Aesthetic" will focus on the value of contemporary black literature. The program begins at noon on Oct. 23 in the Sonja H. Stone Black Cultural Center.

**Carolina Union to begin its Performing Arts Series**

Carolina Union Performing Arts Series will open with a performance from classical guitarist Christopher Parkening and the Colorado Quartet, award-winning chamber musicians. The performance will be held Oct. 26 at 8 p.m. in Memorial Hall.

**Alumnus, actor Grizzard named visiting professor**

George Grizzard, a UNC alumnus and Tony Award-winning actor, will begin teaching classes Oct. 15 as the Mahlon K. Jordan Distinguished Visiting Professor in Dramatic Art.

Grizzard, a 1949 graduate of the UNC department of dramatic art will conduct scene classes with students each afternoon for two weeks. Grizzard was the 1996 Tony Award winner for Best Actor for his performance in the Broadway production "A Delicate Balance."

FROM STAFF REPORTS

**Common Sense gets \$5,024 in student fees**

■ A conservative speaker will enhance the intellectual climate, members say.

BY ASHLEY STEPHENSON  
STAFF WRITER

At its meeting Wednesday evening, Student Congress passed a bill that would provide a conservative student group that brings speakers to campus with more

than \$5,000.

Congress appropriated \$5,024 to allow the organization, Common Sense, to get a speaker through Young America, a national conservative group.

Representatives from Common Sense argued that such a speaker would encourage "the intellectual climate on campus."

Assisting the passing of the bill was the fact that Common Sense's request fell within the remaining amount of student fee money available for allocation in Stu-

dent Congress' emergency reserve. However, Student Body Treasurer Julie Gasperini urged the Student Congress not to consider the maximum amount of money in the emergency reserve "as a target price."

Several Student Congress members said they voted in favor of Common Sense because the organization had shown dedication in appearing before Student Congress two previous times. Additionally, Common Sense provided Student Congress with answers to ques-

tions that had been raised in previous meetings.

In addition to the bills presented by the various committees, Student Body President Aaron Nelson presented his "October Report" to Student Congress to report on the first six months of his term. The report chronicled the goals accomplished and the shortcomings thus far in the Nelson-McIntyre administration.

Nelson stressed the importance of accountability throughout his presentation.

In the next six months, Nelson said he would be addressing issues such as making the Open-Container Law an infraction rather than a misdemeanor, and working to make the CAROLINE telephonic class registration system available online.

Nelson also mentioned issues such as an increase in faculty gender equity and campus security measures, such as better lighting in poorly lit areas.

"It is important for student government to be responsible and accountable to our constituents."

**State candidates rally UNC students in Pit**

■ Two campus groups sponsored the rally for progressive candidates.

BY RAY WATTERS  
STAFF WRITER

Political parties and special interest groups at Wednesday's Rally for Change urged listeners to register to vote.

The rally, co-sponsored by Students for Choice and the Student Environmental Action Coalition, included Democrats and candidates from the non-traditional Libertarian and Green parties.

Libertarians Eugene Paczelt, a candidate for N.C. Commissioner of Agriculture, and Ray Ubringer, a candidate for U.S. Senate, presented their platforms. "I'm pro-choice on everything," Paczelt said. "And my campaign slogan is 'Let farmers grow hemp again.'"

Ubringer's slogan and theme song is "Your Life, Your Way," which he sang for the crowd. Ubringer said the song was "not brought to you by the National Endowment for the Arts." The chorus

was, "No more Jesse at the Helm, repeat, repeat says Ray, your life, your way."

Green party representative Dan Coleman said he wanted to elect Ralph Nader as president. "Why am I supporting Ralph Nader for president? It's because Clinton and Dole stand for the same conservative politics."

Democrat candidates emphasized their connections to UNC.

Eleanor Kinnaird, former Carrboro mayor and a past UNC library employee, said she supported campaign finance reform. Kinnaird, a Democrat running for state Senate, said she did not accept more than \$100 from any individual or more than \$250 from political action committees.

"We must speak up and tell the legislature that we have to have regulations that are meaningful for all citizens," Kinnaird said. "Regulations that are based on campaign contributions end up as being no regulations."

Democrat Howard Lee, a former Chapel Hill mayor who served three terms beginning in 1969, is also running for

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Students for Choice and the Student Environmental Action Committee co-sponsored Wednesday's Rally for Change. Local politicians and activists urged students to register to vote before the Friday deadline.

**Keep ID close in hand: credit card fraud abounds**

BY LOU RUTIGLIANO  
STAFF WRITER

You're sitting at home one day when a credit card company calls. According to the creditor, you've been running up a tab with one of their cards, and it's time to pay.

The only problem is you've never used their credit card in your life.

Welcome to the world of credit card fraud, a crime that is rampant in the information age. Committing this crime is easy—just fill out an application with someone else's name, their Social Security number, some fake information here and a post office box number there.

All that stands between a crook and a card in your name is your Social Security number, a fact that is changing the way people at UNC and across the country treat this piece of information.

"It's happening everywhere," said Pat Smith, a Secret Service investigator with North Carolina's state office. "It's a lot easier to get money with a pen than it is with a gun."

The rise of credit card fraud—which has contributed to losses of more than \$1 billion a year—has triggered an increased awareness among people of what they should keep secret, Smith said.

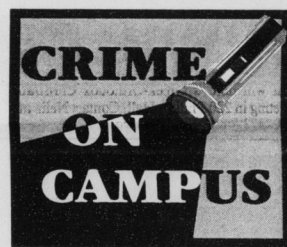
Just three weeks ago, a panic hit the Internet amid false claims that anyone could find Social Security numbers through the research service Lexis-Nexis.

It was true that Lexis-Nexis started the "P-Trak" personal information database—where users could find a person's Social Security number and mother's maiden name—in June 1996. But complaints made Lexis-Nexis alter the service so that other information was required to obtain the numbers.

Lexis-Nexis' action was a victory for privacy advocates, but there are still plenty of chinks in the armor. At UNC and universities across the country, the Social Security number doubles as a student identification number. It's on the front of student IDs; it's on attendance sheets; it's written on tests.

Some students concerned about their privacy have opted to use a "dummy number" instead of their Social Security number for identification.

According to University Registrar



David Lanier, this switch can be made easily by any student at UNC.

Until two months ago, this was not the case. Students who received federal loans were forced to use their Social Security number as their ID number. But now these students can also use a dummy number.

"We just found out we have that capability," Lanier said. "Now we store the Social Security number in a different place in the computer database, keep it separate and use it to report to loan agencies. It's been two months that we've used this new procedure and I haven't heard of any problems."

The changes came after several stu-

dents complained that the use of their Social Security number for identification was a violation of their privacy. Kristi Nowak, a graduate student from California, was one of them.

"When I went in to get my ID number changed, they said they couldn't do it," Nowak said. "I pushed them on it and they finally did it. I have a dummy ID number, but it cost them a lot of paperwork. They finally just realized I wasn't going to go away."

Changing ID numbers might seem insignificant, but it could help students avoid fraud. Smith said the Secret Service had dealt with cases of credit card fraud involving UNC students. Although the names of the UNC students could not be released, the fact is that the openness and availability of information at universities can make students easy targets for this type of crime.

"People don't understand the Social Security number wasn't intended as an identifying number," Smith said. "If I got your Social Security number, I could call up, say I'm you, and that I need a new card sent to a new address."

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**Assault case warrant to be served soon**

■ The accused says he is innocent and will seek legal action against his accuser.

BY RACHEL SWAIN  
STAFF WRITER

As of Wednesday evening, a warrant had been issued but no arrest made in the alleged assault case involving Orange County Democratic Party member Randy Brantley and Susan Melton.

Melton, who has a pending lawsuit charging the party discriminated against the disabled, filed assault charges against Brantley Tuesday morning after an incident at the Democratic party headquarters Monday night. She claimed that Brantley slammed a door into her, almost causing her to fall.

Brantley, however, said that it was Melton who slammed the door into him. Melton said she was upset that Brantley wasn't arrested. "He's the one that threatened me and hit me with the door on purpose," she said.

Chapel Hill Police spokeswoman Jane Cousins said police had the warrant for Brantley's arrest, but she did not know when they would serve it.

Brantley, fund-raising coordinator for the party, said his encounter with Melton was not threatening. "I told her she would have to leave because of the fact that she is representing herself in an impending lawsuit involving the Orange County Democratic Party," Brantley said. "Asking someone to leave is not a threat."

Brantley claims that he, not Melton, was the victim in the incident. "My character is being defamed," he said. "It's smearing my name. I'm innocent."

Brantley said he planned to file a restraining order against Melton. "I have rights not to be a victim, not to be libeled against."

Both parties plan to seek damages in court. "I will seek punitive damages unless I get a public apology from her," Brantley said. Melton said because she was involved in the federal cases she would leave the assault issue up to police. "I'll seek punitive damages from Mr. Brantley later," she said.

**Schools offer incentives for graduation in four years**

■ If students must go to school a fifth year, the university will pay tuition.

BY JENNIFER WILSON  
STAFF WRITER

University students considering stretching college over five or more years might be dissuaded by the cross-country establishment of programs encouraging four-year undergraduate careers.

A program implemented at Central Michigan University this fall guarantees students will graduate in four years, or the university will pay the tuition for additional classes.

The Degree Partners Plan at CMU is one of several programs of its kind in the country. Similar programs are in place at Indiana University, Wyoona State University, the University of Iowa and Washington State University.

"There is a national trend for students

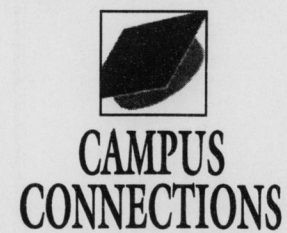
to take five to six years to graduate," CMU Registrar Karen Hutslar said.

The purpose of the program is to encourage students to graduate in four years. Since CMU is funded by the state legislature, the more years a student attends the university, the more it costs the state, Hutslar said.

"(This program) makes sure we are not spending too much money."

CMU's plan gives this year's freshmen the option of signing a contract with the university in which the student designates an area of study. The university maps out a four-year career plan indicating what classes the student needs to take each semester. The plan requires students to take 14 to 16 hours each semester and does not include summer school, Hutslar said.

If students follow this designated path for four years and, through no fault of their own, are not able to register for the classes necessary to graduate, the university will pay the tuition for these classes. But the students must pay for additional



Stories about colleges and universities across the nation

expenses such as room and board, she said.

Stephen Birdsall, dean of arts and sciences at UNC, said he did not think UNC was considering adopting such a program at this time. He said that since very few degrees require more than 120 to 122 hours, students can graduate in four years.

"If a student comes in as a freshman

and doesn't do anything unusual, such as double major, chances are (he will graduate in four years)," Birdsall said.

Last fall, the University of Iowa implemented the Four-Year Graduation Plan, a program nearly identical to CMU's Degree Partners Plan.

This program allows freshmen to enter into an agreement with the university in which they agree to follow a four-year track designed by UI, and the university guarantees that the student will be able to enroll in the necessary classes, UI Admissions Officer Michael Barron said.

"If they do their part and we do ours, we will achieve the right kind of undergraduate education," Barron said. "We have always counseled students in such a way that they can graduate in four years."

Barron said students were attracted by the program. Last fall 52 percent of the freshman class participated in the program's more than 100 undergraduate academic sequences. "We have every

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**NEW Expanded Hours**  
**CAROLINA CAREER FAIR • October 10 • 9am-5pm**  
 All Students - Freshmen thru Graduate - Welcome to Attend!  
 University Career Services, Division of Student Affairs