

Fake 'prize patrol' takes Triangle residents

BY WILLIAM GARVIN
STAFF WRITER

Publishers Clearing House and the N.C. attorney general's office want to remind Triangle residents not to pay for prizes.

Recently, con artists have made "the house where dreams come true" seem like more of a nightmare for some North Carolinians. Individuals have been posing as members of the prize patrol, a part of the Publishers Clearing House that handles their sweepstakes prizes.

"What they do is they call you up and the caller says that you've won \$10 million from the Publishers Clearing House — all you have to do is pay \$3,500 in luxury taxes," said Amy Green, spokeswoman for the N.C. attorney general's office. "The caller is very convincing, and people are willing to pay \$3,500 to get their prize."

Green said this scam started in North Carolina sometime last week and that

the con artists have ripped off several people already.

"They do their homework," Green said. "They know your name, your husband's name and they ask to verify your street address and your zip code."

"Then they say that you are going to have to pay taxes on these earnings and wire it by Western Union."

"It's the same trick that you see in other scams but with a new twist," Green said.

However, people can protect themselves from these types of scams in a number of ways.

"People can call our number at any time and give us the information and we can tell by the information given whether it is us or not," said Marie Luisa Curiel, customer service representative and a trained scam representative for Publishers Clearing House.

"The point that is a giveaway is that after telling people that they are the winner there is always a request for a money."

"That's the clincher — if they ask for a credit card number or ask for money," Curiel said.

Green said the attorney general's office was trying to warn the general public of these types of scams.

"We are really trying to get the message out to not to pay for any prizes. A prize is free — you don't have to pay for it," Green said.

"The second thing that we are trying to tell people is to be cautious of people with a lot of urgency. We want people to take the time and think," Green said.

"If it sounds too good to be true then it probably is."

Green said the public should always be cautious when dealing with people over the phone.

"You never know who is on the other line for sure. You need to be wary and just stop and think," Green said.

"The phone is a tool that both legitimate marketers and fraudulent marketers use."

Curiel said this was not the first time that the Publishers Clearing House name had been used for fraud.

"I don't have any statistics, but I get several calls a week, and I'm not the only scam representative," Curiel said.

Curiel said people can call the Publisher's Clearing House at 1-800-645-9242 or the national fraud info-center at 1-800-876-7060.

"When people call us to report a scam, we use it in our ongoing investigation," Curiel said.

"We also ask them to contact the national fraud info-center."

"The fraud info-center has been set up to collect information on any kind of scam. We just cover Publishers Clearing House."

"The idea is to build up a data bank to educate the public and hopefully to get enough information to apprehend some people," Curiel said.

"If anyone tells you to pay money, it is a scam. Legitimate sweepstakes are free."



IN THE NEWS

Top stories from the state, nation and world

Military plane crash at sea leaves 2 dead, 8 missing

ARCATA, Calif. — Search crews refocused their efforts Sunday to look for bodies and wreckage amid fading hopes of finding eight crewmen still missing from a military plane that crashed at sea.

Only one survivor from the Air Force Reserve plane has been pulled from the chilly Pacific Ocean waters, and two bodies have been recovered.

"We have officially changed the nature of the mission from a search and rescue mission to a search and recovery mission," said Air Force Reserve Col. Gene Garton, vice wing commander of the 304th Rescue Squadron in Portland, Ore. "We are attempting to recover remains. We don't expect there to be any survivors."

Coast Guard and Air Force aircraft flew over the site of Friday's crash off the northern California coast, and two Coast Guard cutters and a Navy frigate cruised the area searching and picking up floating wreckage.

The crashed plane, a four-engine HC-130 from the Oregon unit, was flying a training mission when the crew reported engine problems and total electronic failure.

Two hours after the distress call, a Coast Guard helicopter located the crash site 40 miles off Point Mendocino.

Under the light of a full moon, Tech. Sgt. Robert Vogel of Albany, Ore., was spotted wearing a survival suit and clinging to a floating seat cushion in the 52-degree water.

Vogel was in fair condition Sunday at a hospital in Arcata, where Air Force investigators went to interview him.

Amtrak passenger train sideswipes The Carolinian

SECAUCUS, N.J. — Amtrak passengers had to stand in knee-deep muddy water for about half an hour early Saturday after six of the train's cars derailed into a marshy area, injuring 34 and sideswiping The Carolinian passenger train.

The derailment caused massive rail service problems between Newark and New York City.

No one was injured aboard The Carolinian, which was traveling southbound from New York to Charlotte, N.C. The Carolinian also makes North Carolina stops in Raleigh, Greensboro and several other smaller towns.

The accident occurred about 6:33 a.m., just after the 12-car Fast Mail train had crossed the Hackensack River Bridge in the northern New Jersey town about six miles west of New York City.

It had just stopped in Newark en route to New York City and was going 60 miles per hour, the bridge speed limit, said an Amtrak police officer, who refused to give his name.

The train's two locomotives, one mail car and three passenger cars derailed, said Amtrak spokesman Rick Remington at the scene.

The train was en route from Washington, D.C., to Boston and had 88 passengers and 25 Amtrak employees.

"There was an electrical problem with the bridge last night that was looked at, and we don't see any connection between that and what happened here," Remington said.

52 passengers survive crash of hijacked plane

MORONI, Comoros Islands — Passengers screamed, cried and prayed as the pilot of an Ethiopian jetliner, its engines silenced by a lack of fuel, struggled with hijackers to put the plane down in the sea.

Survivors said one wing touched first, then the plane hit and bounced several times before it broke up, spewing passengers into the sea. The plane quickly filled with water.

"Five or six times I went up and down in the water. I wanted very much to survive. I fought through all the bodies and everything and grabbed a broken part of the plane," said N.B. Surti of Bombay, India.

Ethiopian Airlines Flight 961 crashed in the Indian Ocean on Saturday just off a beach on Grand Comore Island. Island residents and tourists saved 52 people from the rough seas. The other 123 people aboard were feared dead.

The three hijackers, who claimed to have a bomb, had commandeered the aircraft shortly after takeoff from Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital. Their single demand was to fly to Australia.

After bursting into the cockpit and throwing out copilot Yonas Mekuria, the men announced over the intercom that they had hijacked the plane. Three hours passed. The passengers were not allowed to eat or drink. One hijacker came out to order an Italian man to sit down.

As the plane ran low on fuel, Capt. Leul Abate pleaded with the hijackers to let him land in Moroni, capital of the Comoros Islands.

"He wanted to go there, but they wouldn't let him," said Mekuria, who was hospitalized Sunday with minor injuries.

"It was pretty bizarre. I didn't know what they were doing. They were interfering with procedures, grabbing at the instruments. They snatched the radio from the jack."

FROM WIRE REPORTS

Stone Temple Pilots land at UNC's Smith Center

Local H opened for the popular alternative band at Saturday night's concert.

As part of a recent flood of concerts at the Smith Center, including Smashing Pumpkins and Melissa Etheridge, the center played host Saturday night to another rocking concert, Stone Temple Pilots. The lead singer of Local H, the opening act for STP, was obviously ill and asked the audience, "Can you tell I have a sore throat? I don't care."

Opting for loud, blaring music over

vocals, Local H presented a pleasing, if not quite understandable, performance.

However, when STP took the stage a little after 9 p.m. the show received a much-needed breath of life. Using some of their stock MTV hits, including "Vaseline," "Interstate Love Song" and "Wicked Garden," STP geared the audience up for a powerful show of their popular songs, later followed by their slower alternative ballads.

DEAN HAIR

Concert Review
Stone Temple Pilots with Local H
Smith Center

Singing "Fine Place for a Day Full of Breakdowns," lead singer Scott Weiland may have been hinting at his recent drug addiction which forced many of the band's concerts to be canceled earlier this year while he was in rehabilitation. Weiland emerged on stage with the convulsive dancing style that has highlighted the music videos of tracks from STP's latest album, *Songs From the Vatican Gift Shop*.

After debuting high on the music charts, *Gift Shop* quickly fell, lacking the strong singles that marked the band's previously successful albums, *Core* and *Purple*. Not surprisingly, STP did not

focus their Smith Center show on tracks from their recent album.

STP opened the show under a screened dome in which were projected movies so bad that not even "Mystery Science Theater 3000" would air them. But the images went impressively well with the louder performances.

The true gem of the show came during the group's second act, in which a second stage was lowered from the rafters. Adorned with candles, couches and sheets, the second stage mirrored the atmosphere at an "MTV Unplugged" concert, and STP delivered their ballads "Creep," "Pretty Penny" and "Plus."

'Waiting for Godot' proves worthwhile at Lab!

Watching nothing happen for two hours has never been as entertaining as it is in the Lab! Theatre's production of Samuel Beckett's "Waiting for Godot."

There really is no plot. Estragon and Vladimir sit around and wait for their master, Godot, to arrive. He never does.

However, the cast brings enough comedic energy to this production to make it well worth the wait.

Tally Sessions, who plays Estragon, has displayed his incredible energy and humorous gestures in such campus productions as *Company* and *Kiss Me Kate* and

SCOTT WHITTIER

Theater Review
'Waiting for Godot'
Lab! Theatre
Graham Memorial
Monday-Tuesday

company Carolina's "Into the Woods." These abilities, coupled with the dramatic strength he revealed in the theatre's "Becket" create his most hilarious role yet in "Waiting for Godot."

Erin Cottrell's talent has been demonstrated in plays like *Company Carolina's* "Six Degrees of Separation." As Vladimir, Cottrell proves her versatility, bringing a wildly comic character onto

the stage. As the rich landowner, Pozzo, Jennifer Quintenz manages to find humor in a combination of pretentious refinement and dominating slave driver.

Randall Neilson deserves special note for his role as Lucky, Pozzo's ragged old slave. Neilson's lanky physicalities alone make this role unforgettable. However, he also explodes into a monologue of thought at breakneck speed that earns him a well-deserved round of applause.

The incredible strength of the cast holds this performance together — director Brandon Cuicchi should be congratulated for his casting choices and the apparent cohesion of the cast.

The second act suffers a little as the characters begin to wax philosophical. Some of the energy and humor is lost in their deep thoughts, although that is when it is needed most. Jennifer Johnson's overly-nervous performance as Godot's boy messenger is slightly annoying.

But overall, this is one of the best productions I've seen this semester.

HOUSEKEEPERS

FROM PAGE 1

The votes were counted during Friday's meeting of the Board of Trustees, and Hooker announced the vote during the meeting.

Hooker said BOT members reacted favorably to the settlement.

"I am delighted that the housekeepers

have endorsed the proposed settlement," Hooker said Sunday.

The University housekeepers will not be the only employees affected by the class-action lawsuit's outcome, but most of the employees were represented in the vote, Harkavy said.

"The housekeeping employees that were in (pay) grades 50 to 52 were at least the vast majority of people in the class."

FROM WIRE REPORTS

Building Future Memories . . .



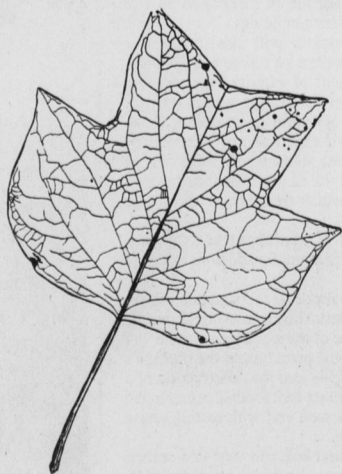
Since early this century Carolina students have studied in the Coker Arboretum's lacy green shade and strolled its natural, flower-bordered paths on their way to class, promising to come back when they could sit down for a while, promising to keep coming back to this special place, to bring their children here . . . and their grandchildren.

Thanks to this year's Senior Class, those promises can be kept.

Senior leaders voted to dedicate their class gift to renovation of the Arboretum arbor, thus creating a living memorial to class members who died in last spring's tragic fire. Funds will also be earmarked for establishment of an endowment to cover maintenance of the memorial.

Fundraising begins in January. That's when seniors and their parents will have the opportunity to help build future memories and an arbor . . .

. . . in Remembrance of Lost Friends



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FIELD HOCKEY

FROM PAGE 1

four players with 18 or more goals. Overwhelming?

"Yes," said Fruscione, who finished with 16 saves in 19 shots on goal. "Just the whole thing of being here is a little overwhelming."

The Tar Heels continued their assault in the second half, racking up four corners in the first eight minutes. Barber was upended by a defender and crashed head-first to the turf in obvious pain, but no matter — in the next instant, she was running free in the Tiger circle, snapping off two shots on Fruscione that led to a three-penalty-corner sequence for UNC.

They needed all three tries, but on the Tar Heels' final attempt, Hanson collected a rebound in front and backhanded it in for a 3-0 lead. That was when UNC knew it could breathe. Princeton had had more than enough.

"It wasn't one of those last-minute type of games," Schott said. "It was just like last year — in the last 10 minutes we knew that we had it won."

Against Northeastern in Saturday's semifinal, the Tar Heels darted out to a 2-0 halftime lead on goals by Abbi Keller and Pelligreen and braved a manic second-half assault by the Huskies to advance to the final.

With less than seven minutes left in its season, Northeastern decided not to bow out gracefully. Off a dead ball from 25 yards out, NU senior Katie West zipped a laser-like pass to teammate Karrie Danilecki, standing all by herself five yards from the goal. Danilecki easily beat a surprised Withrow, and just like that, UNC had itself a contest.

"They were able to put some serious pressure on us late in the game," Shelton said. "And that's to their credit. They didn't quit, they didn't give up and they really made us earn our victory."

The Huskies didn't stop there. Down 2-1 with just 23 seconds to go, Northeastern was awarded its third penalty corner of the game and a golden chance to take UNC to overtime. But Tar Heel midfielder Joy Driscoll, standing inside the goal post on corner defense, saved the day for UNC, blocking Keri Bettenhauser's blast from the point.