

The Daily Tar Heel

**INSIDE
MONDAY**
FEBRUARY 24, 1997



Storm of the century

Company Carolina awes viewers with their version of "The Tempest." Page 2



Still going after 104 years

The DTH celebrated 104 years of editorial freedom Sunday. Page 3



I really hope I get it

Whether in Hollywood or on Broadway, spring drama grads hope to make the cut. Page 5

Today's Weather

Partly sunny; upper 50s.

Tuesday: Sunny; low 50s.

104 years of editorial freedom
Serving the students and the University community since 1893
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Resident: fire began when candle toppled

BY DANIELLE E. ALFORD
STAFF WRITER

Residents of Kingswood Apartments, located at 1105 N.C. 54, said an early Saturday morning blaze that damaged 12 units was caused by a candle igniting carpet on fire.

Bjorn Book-Larsson, a junior from Sweden who lived in apartment 7F, said the fire began across the hall in 6F. "My neighbors had a candle on the floor," he said. "They went to bed, and the candle fell over and started a small fire on the carpet. They tried to put it out themselves, but it spread to the floor and ceiling."

Book-Larsson said he and his neighbors went around knocking on doors and warning the complex's occupants of the growing blaze before firefighters arrived on the scene shortly after 6 a.m.

Although the first and second floors on the east side of the F building received heavy fire, smoke and water damage, no one was injured in the blaze and fire officials are still investigating its origin, according to a report from the Chapel Hill Fire Department.

The complex, owned by Triangle Community Realtors, offered residents living arrangements until the damaged

units are rebuilt, said Richard Fox, regional manager of Triangle Community Realtors. "(Sunday) we worked all day long to get them relocated at our expense," he said.

Book-Larsson said residents had been placed in apartments in Royal Park, Booker Creek Apartments and Pinewood Apartments.

Tonia Pittman, a junior from Williamston who lived in the damaged building, said she was staying with a friend. "They gave us two options to move to other apartments," she said. "One was to move in (apartments) not owned by them and pay different rent or stay with them."

"My bedroom was adjacent to the one where the fire started. The whole wall was gone to my bathroom and the entire ceiling on the third floor fell in," Pittman said.

"I think it was so bad because the first and second floor have brick sides, but the third floor is made out of wood," she said.

Stephanie Piland, a freshman from Gates County who lived in the F building, said her smoke alarm never went off Saturday morning. "(Maintenance)

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DTH/AMY CARPILLO

Twelve units of Kingswood Apartments' building F were gutted early Saturday morning after a small carpet fire spread. No one was injured, and residents of the building were relocated to Royal Park, Booker Creek and Pinewood Apartments at the expense of Kingswood's management.

Council to offer legislation ideas

BY STEVE MRAZ
STAFF WRITER

Concert-goers at the Smith Center could be paying more for their tickets if the Chapel Hill Town Council successfully persuades the N.C. General Assembly that an entertainment tax is necessary.

The council has drawn up a list of 27 potential requests for the state legislature, including a \$1 per ticket entertainment tax on large venues, that will be discussed Monday during a public hearing.

Following Monday's hearing, the council will consider public input and determine which requests out of the 27 will form the town's legislative proposal. The council will discuss potential requests with a legislative delegation Friday morning.

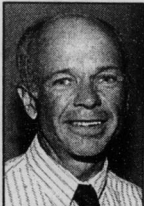
An entertainment tax will cover the costs of large crowds, such as increased police traffic control and wear and tear on town roads.

"This idea has been around for decades," council member Joe Capowski said.

"Cities in general recognize the costs of handling large crowds," Former Chapel Hill Mayor Roland Giduz said he had been a supporter of an entertainment tax since 1982.

"(The entertainment tax) is well established in many places, in many states and places around the world. It is a luxury tax, which is optional for anyone to pay," Giduz said. "This is a new and fair source of revenue for the town."

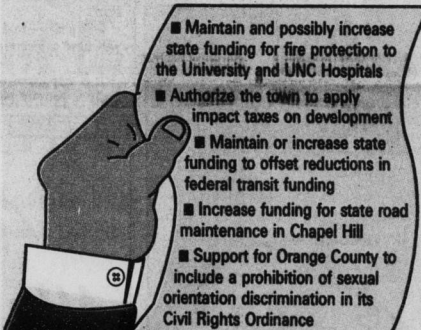
Opponents of the entertainment tax have said a tax would discourage entertainers from coming to Chapel Hill, but coun-



Council member **JOE CAPOWSKI** said the entertainment tax was not the council's top priority with the General Assembly.

The Town Council's wish list

The council will hold a public hearing to discuss its requests for the N.C. General Assembly. The following are a few items from the 27-item list.



DTH/RYSE ALLEY

cil member Richard Franck said he thought differently. "All the entertainers, except one band, haven't stood up to the surcharges on tickets, so I don't think bands would oppose a local tax," Franck said.

Capowski said the entertainment tax was not a high priority for the council this year.

The top priorities for the council are increasing state funding for the University and UNC Hospitals' fire protection and providing stable funding for regional transit systems, he said.

"It costs \$700,000 to provide fire service to the University and the hospitals. (The Town Council) gets \$296,000 from the state legislature, and that hasn't changed since 1993," Capowski said. "We're always lobbying to get more."

Each year, the council decides whether to make requests to the General Assembly concerning possible local bills for the town.

According to a memo from Town Manager Cal Horton, the council will refer all questions and comments concerning possible legislative requests to him and the town attorney for a report March 3.

Police: students should be cautious in wake of assault

BY NAHAL TOOSI
STAFF WRITER

An attempted sexual assault Friday has prompted University Police to publicly warn students to reject offers for rides from strangers, especially near bus stops.

According to a press release, a female student told police she accepted a ride from an unidentified man while she was waiting at a P2P Xpress stop near Rosemary Street around 3:25 a.m.

The release stated that upon arrival at the parking lot near Joyner Residence Hall, the man attempted to force himself on the victim. She fought him off and fled, the release stated.

University Police Chief Don Gold said it was a very delicate situation. "We certainly want people to be aware of their surroundings," Gold said.

"We want people to be ever vigilant about their safety."

Gold said the victim filed a blind report and would remain unidentified.



University Police Chief **DON GOLD** said the police wanted people to be aware of their surroundings and remain vigilant about safety.

"We do not know who the victim is," he said. "The victim is anonymous at her own request."

According to the police report, alcohol or drug use was involved in the incident.

There are no new developments in the investigation, Gold said Sunday afternoon.

The release stated that students should use SAFE Escort Services, Point-2-Point or the fare-free U-bus. The release also warned faculty, staff and students not to walk alone at night.

Thomas Graham, a driver and weekend coordinator for Point-2-Point, said students should use discretion when choosing their mode of transportation.

"First of all, don't accept rides from strangers," Graham said. "I think that's good common sense that everyone should exercise."

Graham said students should educate themselves about transportation services, such as P2P Xpress schedules.

Kristen Sasser, a member of student government's Safety and Security Committee, said students did not always exercise enough caution. "It almost takes events like this to make people knowledgeable that it could happen to them or their friend," Sasser said.

The release has been posted in several campus buildings, particularly residence halls, in an effort to alert students about the dangers of accepting rides from strangers.

McIntyre to clarify position

■ The Student Code has inconsistencies about the vice president's office.

BY KAITLIN GURNEY
STAFF WRITER

Sometimes just a few words can make a difference, especially when it comes to the Student Code.

Student Body Vice President Lindsay-Rae McIntyre is filing a suit in Student Supreme Court this week to correct some inconsistencies she has found in the Student Code, the document that describes student government offices and their duties.

"The issue is convoluted, but it's not a big deal," McIntyre said.

"One time, (the Student Code) talks about the student body vice president, and the other times it refers to the undergraduate student body vice president, once with a capital 'U,' and once lowercase, and the two have different ramifications," McIntyre said. "I want to clarify it, and the only way to do this is to take it to supreme court."

McIntyre said she was filing the suit so future vice presidents would know what the office entailed and who exactly could apply. One issue will be if graduate students can apply for the position.

Student Body President Aaron Nelson said he had wanted to clarify the code for some time and that he was glad McIntyre was taking the initiative. Although the duties of the vice president were laid out comprehensively in the Student Code, he said it was not clear who could apply nor which office the Student Code referred to throughout the document.

"As I understand, all affected parties will be named, and harm will be shown," Nelson said. "Yet I think this may be a different sort of case."

McIntyre said the Student Supreme Court was the only body that could clarify the issue. "The supreme court is the official on the Student Code, and as student body officers, we are bound by the Student Code," she said.

Nelson said, "Student Congress makes the rules, we enforce them and we are asking the court to interpret them for us."

McIntyre said the process should not take long. "It's all wrapped up in semantics. The intricacies of the problem are

SEE SUIT, PAGE 5

Supreme Court says no re-elections in 3 districts

BY TORI DAVIS
STAFF WRITER

The Student Supreme Court charged the Elections Board to certify elections results in graduate districts 4, 8 and 9 Sunday night, which could eliminate the need for re-elections in those districts.

Five candidates in Student Congress graduate districts 2 through 9 took the Elections Board to court to avoid a re-election.

Candidates Christopher Herold of District 7, Stephen Oljeski of District 9, Dara Whalen of District 8, Bryan Kennedy of District 4 and Michael

Doherty of District 9 sued Elections Board Chairwoman Ange Dicks and Student Body President Aaron Nelson.

Brad Morrison represented Herold, Oljeski and Doherty. In his complaint, Morrison stated that his clients were suing because they had been adversely affected by actions taken by student government with regards to the re-election.

Last week, Nelson issued an executive order requesting that the Elections Board hold a re-election due to computer problems. Graduate districts were not entered into pollsite computers correctly, causing some graduates to vote in the wrong district.

The plaintiffs argue that they would have won even without the "bad votes."

"When they had votes tallied, results showed that there were four votes in my

SEE CONGRESS, PAGE 5

HIGH FLYING



DTH/ERIKA COLLINS

Residents have no problem with smaller planes, such as the one pictured here, at the Horace Williams Airport, but a group will address the Town Council tonight about the controversial lifting of the jet ban. See story, page 3.

If I treat my body properly, I believe I'll live to 150.

Michael Jackson