

The Daily Tar Heel

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1997
Volume 105, Issue 83

News/Features/Arts/Sports: 962-0245
Business/Advertising: 962-1163
Chapel Hill, North Carolina
© 1997 DTH Publishing Corp.
All rights reserved.

Student falls 4 floors off Winston Residence Hall

James Bumgardner fell from a window Thursday morning around 3:30 a.m.

BY CYNTHIA EAKES
STAFF WRITER

A sophomore is in fair condition at UNC Hospitals after falling from a four-story residence hall early Thursday morning.

James "Jase" Haskell Bumgardner II, 18, of Laurinburg, fell from a fourth

floor window of Winston Residence Hall about 3:30 a.m.

According to police reports, the incident was accidental and alcohol-related.

Three witnesses, Patrick Mullis, Temple Lee and Jonathan Dale, who live in Winston, said they had been drinking beer with Bumgardner. The four decided to go out of the fourth floor west bathroom window and smoke a cigarette on the roof ledge.

Reports state Bumgardner slipped and fell backwards when he attempted to re-enter the window. A small tree broke his fall, and he landed on the

ground next to the building.

Orange County Emergency Medical Services and the Chapel Hill Fire Department responded. Orange County Rescue rushed Bumgardner to UNC Hospitals for treatment.

A student who lives on the first floor of Winston said Bumgardner landed near his window.

"I heard someone yell, 'Call 911,'" said the student, who asked that his name not be used. "Then the cops came.

It took a while for the ambulance to show up, and I could hear the guy moaning."

"It is unfortunate that the media is going to put an alcohol-related spin on this. A sober person could have fallen ... just as easily."

BRETT BOWERS

Junior from Winston-Salem

Media sources rushed to the campus Thursday. The recent alcohol-related death of a student at the Massachusettes

Institute of Technology has attracted national attention to student drinking.

"It is unfortunate that the media is going to put an alcohol-related spin on this," said Brett Bowers, a junior from Winston-Salem who lives in Winston Residence Hall. "A sober person could have fallen off the ledge just as easily."

Nathan Stowe, a junior from Wadesboro who also lives in Winston, said he thought the incident would help heighten alcohol awareness on campus.

"I hope this will take away the luster of drinking just to get drunk," he said. "I guess this will refuel the debate about

the intellectual climate on campus."

Executive Vice Chancellor Elson Floyd met with Bumgardner's family Thursday morning. "As I told them, the University is tremendously relieved that Jase was not more seriously injured in the fall," he said.

Floyd said the incident highlighted the fact that alcohol can impair a person's good judgment.

"Individuals need to take the personal responsibility associated with drinking very seriously," Floyd said. "This incident really does strengthen our resolve to continue to work on this issue."

Upcoming elections interest few students

BY BRADLEY HOWARD
STAFF WRITER

Despite encouragement from elected officials, student turnout for the Nov. 4 elections could be low if interest does not increase.

Some students said Thursday they had a lack of concern for the upcoming elections and are misinformed about issues.

"I didn't even know about the elections," said Richard Leissner, a junior from Lincolnton.

Chapel Hill Mayor Rosemary Waldorf said she wants students to be involved and to vote.

"(The town's) voter turnout is only 25 to 30 percent," she said. "I wish it was higher."

Student involvement in local elections has never been high, officials said.

"Given the historical student voice in past elections, a student vote can't propel a candidate into office," said Richard Franck, Chapel Hill Town Council member. "But in a close race, it could make a difference."

Local officials said they listen to the student voice.

"I tend to give pretty strong listen when individuals or student governmental organizations speak with me," Franck said.

Carrboro Alderman Diana McDuffee said the Board of Aldermen has been supportive of issues that students have a large input on.

"For Carrboro especially, (the student voice) is important because we have a lot of students living there," she said.

"Given the historical student voice in past elections, a student vote can't propel a candidate into office. But in a close race, it could make a difference."

RICHARD FRANCK

Chapel Hill Town Council member

Despite the concerns of local officials, out-of-state students are especially uninterested in elections.

Jacobe Foster, a freshman from Seattle, said he had no clue about what was going on in the elections.

"What elections?" he said. Local officials said elected officials affect students in many ways and encourage student involvement.

"UNC students seem to have special interests, and they ought to participate more than they do," said Joe Capowski, Town Council member. "I would encourage every student to get out and vote on Nov. 4."

Most students stressed the issue of being misinformed about the candidates' policies.

"We're largely misinformed," said Greg Beal, a junior political science and advertising major from Lincolnton. "A lot of people focus on the party and not the person."

Beal said a write-up on the candidates and their platforms would give the students some information.

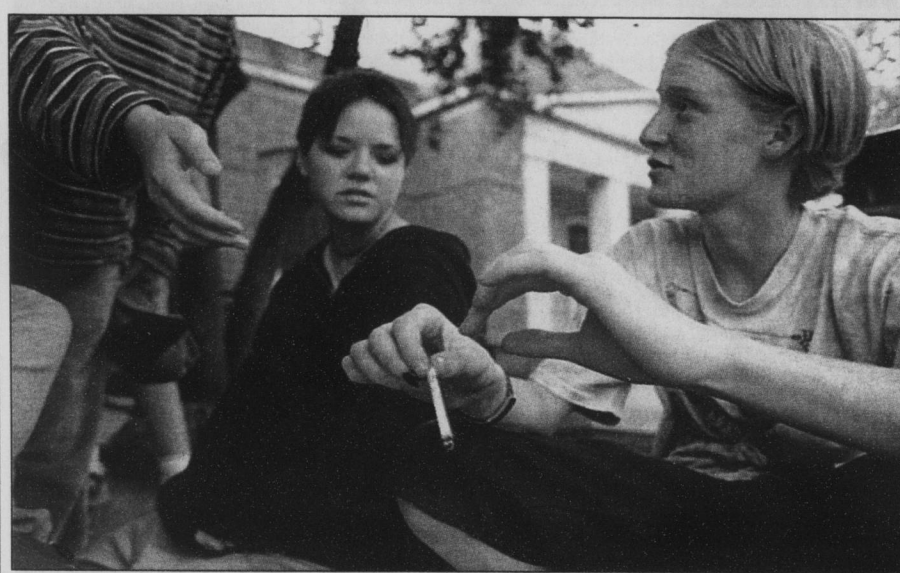
"We're so isolated," said Nicole Jeffers, a sophomore from Charlotte. "We're not really affected by (the elections)."

Some students suggested that the candidates should visit the campus.

SEE VOTERS, PAGE 4



Nearing deadline to register to vote prompts drives
See Page 5



Fourteen-year-old Stewart Lyon (right) shares a cigarette with friends on the walkway beside the Franklin Street post office. The mellow attitude of the post office scene keeps them from coming back.

Hangout provides 'mellow' mood

The post office on Franklin Street is popular with area high schoolers.

BY MARY WILLIAMSON
STAFF WRITER

Donned with fresh buzzes, baggy garb and a little attitude, the group of teenagers who hang out in front of the Chapel Hill post office are schooled in the art of chilling on Franklin Street.

People that pass by recognize them. They are known as a posse.

Their style smacks of flavor and leisure. Most of all, their style is unique.

They usually are seen catching air on skateboards on the different planes of sidewalk, playing with their animals or

just sitting with friends.

Most UNC students had contact with these kids the first time they visited Franklin Street. Some just observe them and others even join the posse.

Shannon Goodrum, a sophomore from West End, explained how she felt when she first saw these kids with counter-culture style.

"My first reaction is 'What are they trying to prove?'" Goodrum said. "But then I think, 'They're not trying to start any (trouble), so what they do is fine with me.'"

Rice Davis, a transfer student from the Chicago Art Institute who spends his free time hanging in front of the post office, blames the difference in values between UNC students and Chapel Hill residents for misunderstandings.

"Most students have never even spent

the night outside their dorm (room)," Davis said.

"The students all see us as just homeless street kids. The truth is they all just have nowhere else to go. I bring vitamins and macaroni and cheese to the kids because their parents don't care about them."

Barnie Slutsky and Brian Lloyd, both students at Chapel Hill High School, said the mellow attitude of the post office scene kept them coming back.

"This place is chill," Lloyd said. "There's also a teen center underneath the post office where kids can come and watch TV. Everybody knows everybody around here."

"Lots of people come up here," Slutsky said. "This has been the place

SEE POST OFFICE, PAGE 4

Enrollment figures show steady rise

Trends also reveal an increase in older students on college campuses.

BY BRADY DENNIS
STAFF WRITER

Robert Bosworth III is 27, married, and father of a 7-year-old girl.

He is also a UNC junior majoring in psychology and sociology. Bosworth said he came to school, leaving his family behind in West

Virginia, because he was ready for a career change.

More students than ever are packing up their bags and heading off to college.

After a steady rise between 1972 and 1991, total college enrollment decreased slightly between 1991 and 1994, but it once again appears to be on the rise, due to a new generation of students and added incentives for enrollment.

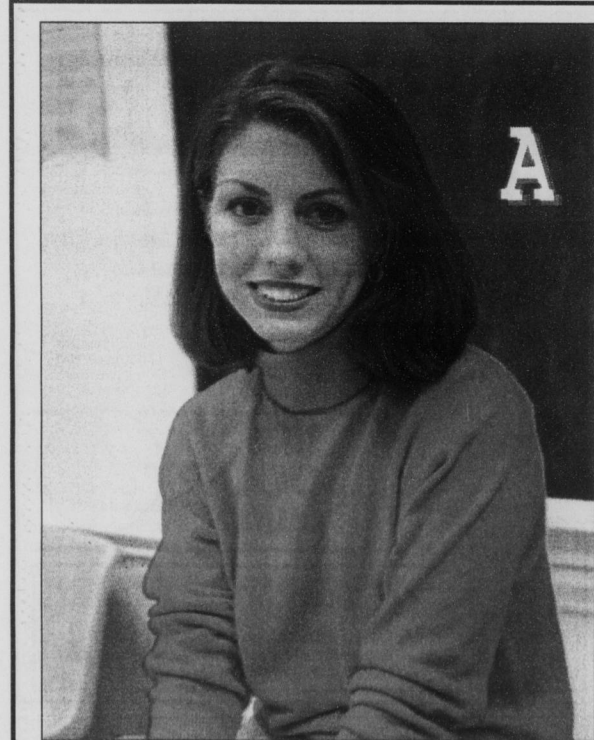
In a world where knowledge of new and ever-changing technologies is essential, many students consider a college degree a necessary requirement.

"There are areas of expertise today that did not even exist years ago," said Anthony Strickland, associate director for undergraduate admissions at UNC, adding that university applications have nearly doubled in the last 25 years.

"New technology skills are required now more than ever before," he said.

High schools are doing their part to prepare students for the continuing education they will need in today's job market. "As counselors, our aim is to encourage every student to get some

SEE TREND, PAGE 4



A way with words

BY AMANDA GREENE
STAFF WRITER

A portrait of Scarlett O'Hara, a fictional woman who triumphed over adversity, adorns Alexis Slagle's wall.

It is a haunting reminder of the many women in the world fighting to overcome their own adversity — illiteracy.

Enabling those women to read anything from "Gone With the Wind" to prayer hymnals is one of Slagle's goals for the group Giving and Reaching Out to Women and International Education which promotes women's education.

Slagle, a senior political science major from Hayesville, started the group with an idea she and her roommate had during a summer visit to Washington, D.C., when they were sophomores.

They were inspired by an article they read about women in Chad, Africa, who did not have educational opportunities.

"We were completely unaware of the extreme problem with women's literacy in the world," Slagle said.

Cinda Saunders, Slagle's summer roommate and current president of GROWISE, said the issue just came up.

"The whole beginning of it came from conversations Alexis and I had before bedtime," Saunders said. "I had the idea, and Alexis arranged the rest."

Slagle's ability to organize and persevere helped the group get started and establish long-range goals.

"This year GROWISE had two main goals — to create education opportunities for students and to try to establish contact within different countries to possibly provide scholarship-based programs for women," Slagle said.

"Right now, we're working with the Ghana Forum for African Women's Education to help establish a scholarship program for African women to go to college," she said.

Slagle encountered this group when she went to Africa for a month this summer.

She researched women's education in Ghana and spoke with many African women involved in a movement education.

Slagle brought back contacts and goals from the experience.

"We are mainly based in Africa right now, but we are looking to broaden our horizons to Latin America and other Third World countries because we realize that Africa is definitely not the only area that has problems."

Slagle recalled attending a literacy class in Ghana.

"One of the most memorable instances happened when I asked a woman what reading and writing meant to her life and she said it was so exciting because now, she could sit at the front of her church and actually read the hymns she was singing."

Slagle said her experience in Africa changed her life.

"Sometimes I felt like I was in a National Geographic article," she said. "It was so unbelievable. And sometimes I thought 'There's so much we could learn from them.'"

Slagle said watching the women's passion for learning made her appreciate her education more.

"It just puts it all into perspective when you think about how you hated to go to school in third or fourth grade and how others might never get that chance," she said. "The experience has made me very humble."

Since her trip, Slagle and six members of the GROWISE

SEE SLAGLE, PAGE 4



We'd all like a reputation for generosity and we'd all like to buy it cheap.

Mignon McLaughlin