# The Daily Tar Heel

student says

he's no threat

Romesh Fernando was

involuntarily committed

after a year of disputes.

BY TONY MECIA

SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS EDITOR

When Chapel Hill police officer Donnie Rhodes pulled up to the home of journalism graduate student Romesh

Fernando last Wednesday, Fernando

But after Rhodes handcuffed him

wasn't sure why the officer had come.

and placed him in the back of the police

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## Former grad Police find armed robbery suspect in Fla.

student Union Station employee felt about the robbery because he was also

held up once as a college student while

night, but when it happens to you or someone you know, it's almost amaze-

"You hear stuff like that on TV every

Myers said he would cooperate with

the police in their attempt to close the

"Whatever we can do to help the police, we want to do."

working at a gas station.

ment," he said.

case

#### **BY PHILLIP GARDNER** STAFF WRITER

The man who allegedly robbed a stu-

The man who allegedly robbed a stu-dent Union Station employee at knife-point Oct. 20 was arrested in Orlando, Fla., on Friday. John Allen Campbell, 37, was arrest-ed by the Orlando Police Department as a fugitive from justice from North Carolina, said a representative from the Orange County, Florida, jail. The charge is a third degree felony, and there is no bond. bond

ments have outstanding warrants for Campbell's arrest, including the Carrboro Police Department and Orange and Wake County sheriff's

cruiser, Fernando understood: He was being committed involuntarily to UNC Hospitals for alleged psycho-logical problems. (Rhodes) wanted to check me out because people had made complaints against me," Fernando me

said earlier this Former journalism week from behind graduate student ROMESH the bolted doors of UNC Hospitals **FERNANDO** adult psychiatric said he does not pose a risk to the University

unit. "The complaint com munity is, you are a threat

to the community," he said. Fernando said that because of some

e-mail he had sent — some referred to M-16 rifles and talked of "revolution" — some people in the journalism school had compared him to Wendell Williamson, the UNC law student who

Williamson, the UNC law student who shot two people to death on Henderson Street in January 1995. Williamson, who was found not guilty by reason of insanity, sued the University this summer, claiming administrators should have done more to help him with his meetal illness. to help him with his mental illness

Susan Kitchen, vice chancellor for student affairs, said the University changed the way it dealt with threats to the community as a result of the Williamson shooting. An emergency disciplinary committee of administra-tors now has the flexibility to intervene in dangerous situations, she said.

Fernando, who is Sri Lankan, said he was surprised at his institutionalization, which he said occurred without his family's knowledge. He said he was not a threat and was mentally healthy.

But Fernando's colleagues at the journalism school weren't as shocked. To many, this development marked the culmination of a bizarre yearlong battle between Fernando and UNC officials.

Last year several female journalism graduate students accused Fernando of sexual harassment. This spring, he accused a professor of racism when she gave him an "F" in a course. When administrators backed the professor,

SEE FERNANDO PAGE 9

Several N.C. law enforcement depart-

departments. Campbell would have to be trans-

Wednesday morn-ing. He said a ng. He JOHN ALLEN CAMPBELL University Police detective called the Union Station held a student nployee of Unior manager, who later told Myers. He said he

about

ported to North Carolina for the

charges to be exe-

cuted, an Orlando

Police spokes-woman said.

Carolina Dining Services

Director Scott Myers said he

Campbell's arrest

heard

Station at knife-point. was glad Campbell was arrested.

University Police

officers say

## Candidates turning Green

done.

have

was

#### **BY ION OSTENDORFF** ASSISTANT CITY EDITOR

With a projected doubling of the population of the Triangle in the next 20 years, some candidates said growth was by far the most important environmental issue of the election.

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Greg Gangi, political chairman of the Orange-Chatham Group of the Sierra Club, said this year could be pivotal for envipolicy ronmental in Chanel Hill Gangi said one of the

most important environ-mental issues of this elec-

tion season would be managed development. The Sierra Club along with other local environ-mental groups recently released an environmental score card. The score card tracked council members' votes on environmental and devironmental members'

votes on environmental and development issues. Joel Harper, president of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce, said the score card was all politics. "It has

nothing to due with the The Daily Tar Heel asked students which five elections issues were most important environment to them. The DTH now presents a five-part Harper said series detailing the issues students chose. development Issue 5: Taxes was very important for

**Issue 4: The environment** Chapel Issue 3: Education Hill-Carrboro Issue 2: Town-gown relations Issue 1: Crime

a r e a . "Development the University adding new buildings to give the students more opportunity," he said. "It's building new homes. It's creating jobs. Without growth there are no pay rais-

es and no new money for schools." Melva Okun, associate director of the environmental resource program at the School of Public Health, said the reputation of the Triangle as one of the best places to live in the nation would contribute to rapid growth. "When some people hear this, they hitch the trailer to the car and move here," she said

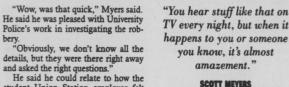
Okun said that if the projected population growth

was not managed, then it could turn Chapel Hill into one of the worst places to live. "It will put stress on our water treatment plant and landfill," she said. "We have ad high standards in the past. New explosive growth

challenges these standards." Harper said managed development was a good idea if the rules were upheld. "Make the rules and regulations as

tough as you want," he said. "But once the rules are set. vou need to permit growth within the rules. This is not what (the council) has Harpen said once the rules were set the council c o u l d change and alter them. "As a property owner you no assurance that the rules will be kept." he said. Bill Strom, who GRAPHIC ILLUSTRATION BY CHRISTIAN HELMS helped to compile the score card, said growth not always economically bennomically ben-eficial. "Study after study has shown that growth is expensive," he said. "Durham county has had retail development along (U.S.) 15-501 and the Research Triangle Park for years.

They should be in their golden age. Instead, they have a higher tax rate and a larger debt." Edith Wiggins said the score card was not a fair rep-resentation of all the environmental issues. "It is just



## SCOTT MEYERS

Director, Carolina Dining Services --

Paul Reinecke, production and ser-vice manager for Union Station, said although last week's robbery hasn't affected his job, safety procedures have here charged since the incident been changed since the incident. "We're more careful when we handle

money," he said. Like Myers, Reinecke said he was pleased with the police's work. "I thought they did a good job," he said. "We knew that if we didn't get him right away, we wouldn't get him at all."

Now that Union Station has been informed of Campbell's arrest, the student employee who was held up will come back to work Thursday, Reinecke said. The employee hasn't worked since

the robbery. Campbell allegedly broke into Union Station's cash office Oct. 20 where the student employee was counting money for a deposit and had the safe open, reports state.

She heard a knock on the door, but no one answered when she asked who was there, according to reports.

The suspect then opened the doot, pulled out a knife, and reached into the safe. He took a large bag of deposit money and a petty-cash bag.

## **Officials question use** of PACs in elections

### BY HUGH PRESSLEY STAFF WRITER

The addition of a political action committee in Orange County has some town officials questioning the direction of local elections.

Reaction was sparked by the Alliance for Neighborhoods becoming a PAC. The organization started 15 years ago as grass-roots public interest organization consisting solely of volunteers, said member Bill Strom

Strom said Alliance protected the neighborhoods, the environment and ELECTIONS

But despite efforts, PACs in general have not gained the support of every town official.

"The Chamber of Commerce floated the idea of forming a PAC years ago, but there was strong public reaction against it and they chose not to do it," Mayor Rosemary Waldorf said. "There's really not a history of PACs in Chapel Hill.

In a town as small as Chapel Hill, big-time political activity by PACs could drastically change how the town handles politics and elections, said Pat Evans, Town Council member. "It's sad to see our community move into the direction of forming PACs to support candidates, because that's disrupting grass-roots

public interest," she said. Yvonne Southerland, chief deputy director of the State Board of Elections, said the alliance was the only PAC to register in Orange County this election season. A PAC is any person, committee, association or organization that pro-motes any candidate or political party and attempts to influence an election, she said.

Strom said he had not given money

to Alliance, but according to Orange County Board of Elections documents he contributed \$1,113. In a later interview, Strom said he did not give, but rather loaned Alliance the money at a 6 percent interest rate. He said Alliance did not stand to

profit from the contribution and that town officials were trying to deceive the public about how it received the money. "There was a 6 percent interest-bearing loan of \$1,000 given to the the alliance that will be paid back this fall."

Strom emphasized money was not the issue. "This is about morality and what the people of Chapel Hill deserve," he said. "I contend that whoever is out complaining about us is try-ing to deflect voters' attention by not allowing them to see whether developers are bundling money."

According to a press release of Alliance, bundling allows one developer to deliver large sums of money to a canto deliver large sums of money to a can-didate under the pretense that it has been given by individuals. Strom said developers would make millions of dol-lars this year through political activities. "The alliance money is small pota-toes in comparison," he said. The alliance is not the only active PAC in the county, said Greg Gangi, member of the Orange-Chatham Group of the Sierra Club. "We've been active for 15 years in the area." he said. "Our

for 15 years in the area," he said. "Our goal is to make sure other environmen-

talists know who they're supporting." Gangi said other PACs, like the Orange County Greens, had also been active in Orange County.

Despite the lack of support from some officials, Strom said the Alliance for Neighborhoods would continue to do its part for environmental and social issues. "Any corporation needs to have a political committee, and the Board of issues. Elections recommended that we start a PAC. It was not our choice.'

## **Parking problems create** jam of potential solutions

the

University officials say UNC needs to encourage people to use mass transit.



SEE ENVIRONMENT, PAGE 9

residents.



#### **BY KENYA ELDRIDGE** STAFF WRITER

The University task force trying to solve campus parking problems has to consider as many options on how to change transit as there are universities.

At a Tuesday meeting, members of the Transit and Parking Task Force talked about ideas ranging from adding more bike paths and encouraging carpooling to raising the price for parking permits to their market value — about \$600 in Chapel Hill.

're trying to find out what have people done to try to improve parking," committee member Rachel Willis said Wednesday

The idea to increase the cost of parking permits was just a brainstorm. But at least one member of the committee said

UNC needs to find ways to discourage

Propie from driving to campus. "I believe parking is one of this cam-pus's biggest problems," said Emily Williams, student representative of the Transit and Parking Task Force.

Williams, who did not express her view on raising permit prices, said increasing prices could have some

advantages. "It would be an incentive for people to use mass transit, and it would serve to increase revenue for a parking fund, which could go toward more parking facilities," Williams said.

Carolyn Efland, associate vice chancellor for Auxiliary Services, said permit prices at UNC are considerably lower than at other schools, which charge up to five times as much as UNC does. Efland said UNC needs to find a way to improve transportation on campus. UNC has grown over the years, and

expansion projects like the McColl Building on South Campus push the SEE PARKING, PAGE 9



Pumpkin seeds fly as sophomore Amy Pattishall begins work on her jack-o'-lantern. Kenan Residence Hall held a pumpkin-carving party Wednesday to inspire Halloween spirit.



Attire for a night of frights

Diversions gives ideas for those minute costumes. Page 5



**Today's weather** Mostly sunny; low 70s Friday: Mostly cloudy; mid 60s

## Get dates online

The Daily Tar Heel is expanding its campus calendar capabilities through its CitySearch web page. Post campus events as far in advance as you want by e-mailing them to dth@unc.edu with the subject line "campus calendar." Submission rules for the printed campus calendar remain the same.

Psychiatry is the care of the id by the odd. Anonymous