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Task force: parking fee increase required

■ A free park-and-ride system could cost the University \$1.1 million.

BY MARISSA DOWNS
STAFF WRITER

University officials cut short discussions Monday about whether parking permit fees should be increased.

Students and University employees inevitably will face an increase, consultants for the Transportation and Parking Committee said.

"Having no increase really isn't an option," said Carolyn Elfland, associate vice chancellor for business.

The magnitude of the fee increase has not been determined yet. The committee, which will recommend the increase to the Board of Trustees, will discuss the amount of the increase at its next meet-

ing Feb. 9.

The Department of Public Safety still operates at a loss despite a 3 percent increase in the price of permits this year, Elfland said.

In an effort to decrease both this deficit and the demand for parking spaces, members of the task force agreed parking on campus must become more expensive.

"The University will be getting away from the expectation that one can have a permit at a low cost," said George Alexiou, a consultant from Parsons Brinckerhoff.

Other ideas to decrease the demand for parking spaces on main campus include adding incentives for students and University employees to park at remote lots.

While parking permits at these lots cost significantly less, a bus pass to get to main campus from these lots can cost as much as \$203, said Mo Nathan, student

body president.

Nathan said students had no incentive to purchase permits that ended up costing as much as permit prices on campus.

However, the task force determined that nearly free remote parking should be provided as a means of making parking off campus more attractive.

"You're trading off convenience for cost," Alexiou said.

But the establishment of a free park-and-ride system comes with an expensive price tag for the University.

Elfland predicted that a free park-



Student Body President **MO NATHAN** said there would probably be no cuts in parking spaces for students.

"The University will be getting away from the expectation that one can have a permit at a low cost."

GEORGE ALEXIOU
Consultant, Parsons Brinckerhoff

and-ride system with a "reasonable level of transit" could cost \$1.1 million.

But some members of the task force said they doubted that there were even parking spaces available in remote lots in the first place.

"The lots are already full," Emily Williamson, a student task force member, said. "Who are we enticing to park there anyway?"

Despite the shortage of spaces, Nathan said cuts in student parking

would most likely not have to be made.

To increase the permit availability, Rachel Willis, associate professor in the curriculum of American Studies, also said the University should "sweeten the pot" for carpools and vanpools by reducing the price of their parking permits.

But the task force agreed to delay the debate of giving free or reduced-rate permits to carpools of three or more.

Cheryl Stout, public safety department, said benefits could not be regulated. "If there's any preferential treatment, you're going to have a lot of people claiming the status," she said. "We have no way of verifying the status."

However, the task force agreed that a reverse U-bus route, as well as fixed Point-2-Point routes during the day were needed.

"This will make a big difference for the ease of transportation," Nathan said. "It's a big victory for students."

Clinton takes stern tone, denies affair

■ Monica Lewinsky is set to testify Tuesday in front of a federal grand jury.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Fighting to save his presidency, President Clinton on Monday emphatically denied a sexual relationship with Monica Lewinsky and sought to reassure wavering Democrats that he will survive the scandal. "I did not have sexual relations with that woman," he said.

In a dramatic 20-second statement, Clinton drew a sharp line of defense that buoyed his supporters and riveted attention on Lewinsky as she prepared to face a federal grand jury on Tuesday.

With his wife standing at his side, Clinton wagged his finger at TV cameras and declared: "I've never told anybody to lie, not a single time. Never."

The White House statement marked the first comments on the subject from Clinton since Lewinsky told prosecutors she was willing to testify, under the protection of full immunity, that she had an affair with him — raising the prospect of a high-stakes showdown between the president and a former White House intern.

There is no turning back now if Lewinsky changes her story and says she had sexual relations with him. Bruce Buchanan, a political scientist at the University of Texas, said Clinton's statement "sounded pretty categorical to me. I don't see any weasel words."

Lewinsky, 24, told a friend she had an affair with Clinton but later denied the claim in an affidavit. She spent several hours Monday with her attorneys, both at her Watergate apartment and a local law office. Lewinsky's lead attorney, William Ginsburg, is trying to secure a pledge of immunity from Whitewater prosecutor Kenneth Starr.

Starr's team met into the evening, apparently preparing to question witnesses Tuesday in front of a grand jury at the U.S. Courthouse.

Meanwhile, attorneys for Clinton asked a federal judge in Little Rock, Ark., to move up the trial date for Paula Jones' sex harassment lawsuit against Clinton, complaining that the media frenzy surrounding the Lewinsky case had created an "undue distraction."

Clinton's legal team thinks the lawsuit could be a high-profile forum to discredit Lewinsky if she cooperates with prosecutors against the president.

Jones was opposing the change, and the judge in the case ended Monday's hearing without ruling.



President **BILL CLINTON** gave a 20-second statement Monday in which he denied having an affair with Monica Lewinsky.

Life on the outside

■ Store managers say the homeless are to blame for crime in the downtown area.

BY SHELLEY LEVINE
STAFF WRITER

Lendale McCall and his girlfriend, Ethelene Drew, don't know where they'll sleep tonight.

The homeless couple spend most of their time sitting on a wooden bench on Franklin Street hoping for money from pedestrians and finding ways to keep warm through cold winter nights.

But surprisingly the couple seem to have found some sense of peace.

They said Chapel Hill was the best place they have ever lived since becoming homeless three years ago. "The people here are real friendly," Drew said. "In Durham, if

you lay down outside, you might get your head busted in," McCall said.

"Here, people ask how you're doing."

But it's a friendliness that might go unreciprocated, as many area vendors and pedestrians have pinpointed Chapel Hill's homeless as the cause of local crime and disturbances.

John Hudson, manager of Chapel Hill Sportswear, said the shop had had major problems with shoplifting in the last month and that he was certain the blame lied with the homeless. "We have trouble with repeat shoplifters, and then I see (the same people) hanging out at the shelter," he said. "It's guilt by association."

Chapel Hill police spokeswoman Jane Cousins said she had not noticed any increase in crime by homeless people. The department cannot keep statistics on crimes committed by the homeless because the police cannot verify addresses, she said.

Hudson said the location of the Inter-

Faith Council Community House on the corner of Rosemary Street and Airport Road added to the problem on Franklin Street.

Officials from the IFC could not be reached for comment Monday.

"If I had a magic wand, I'd wave it, and the shelter would be moved," he said. "But I don't know where I'd put it, and I don't want to hand my problems off to other merchants."

Tony Pough, assistant manager of Carolina Pride, said the shop also had a severe problem with homeless people stealing.

"Shoplifting has definitely picked up in the last month," he said.

"Arrests have, too."

Pough said the shoplifters were sometimes arrested and seen again on the street an hour later.

SEE CHAPEL HILL HOMELESS, PAGE 5

Homeless population increases across state

BY COURTNEY WEILL
ASSISTANT STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

The line at the Inter-Faith Council Community House homeless shelter on Rosemary Street grows a little longer each day, a sure sign of Chapel Hill's surging homeless population.

The large increase of homeless people in the area coincides with a recent trend that has left homeless shelters across the state struggling to accommodate the needy and wondering how such a problem arose.

"We reported in 1997 that we've served 30 percent more people as a shelter than we did the previous year," said Chris Moran, director of the IFC community house in Chapel Hill.

The Chapel Hill shelter served more than 80,000 meals last year and filled its 50-bed capacity every night, Moran said. When the temperature dropped below 40 degrees, the shelter allowed 28 additional people to sleep on the floor, yet many others were left without a spot.

Shelters in Raleigh were also filled to capacity each night and complained of having to turn people away.

"Every month the number is increasing in how many people we turn away," said Susie Mallard, director of the Ark Shelter in Raleigh.

"We are always full to capacity; we turn away an average of 35 people a day," she said.

The recent increases brought the homeless population of North Carolina to an estimated 30,000, said Janet Jacobs McLamb, homeless programs coordinator for the N.C. Office of Equal Opportunity.

Local officials cited a high cost of living, lack of affordable housing and the widening gap between rich and poor as the elements that have most influenced the increase.

"A person needs to make about \$15,000 a year to make ends meet in the area," Mallard said.

But most jobs in the service economy — such as fast-food work-

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DTH/LORRIE BRADLEY

Lendale McCall collects spare change from passers-by on Franklin Street.

Ticket shortage caused by 'Ceiling Fans,' official says

BY ANDREW MEEHAN
STAFF WRITER

At least one official in the Carolina Athletic Association believes she knows what happened to the 200 to 600 Duke basketball tickets missing from Friday's distribution.

Amy Whaley, co-director of ticket distribution, said she thought the shortage of tickets was due to an unusually large number of "Ceiling Fans," who claimed their tickets Thursday.

"Ceiling Fans" are students who registered before the season for guaranteed rafter seats to basketball games, she said. "There are no misplaced tickets... basically it was just a miscommunication."

CAA Co-president Charlie Roederer said he had believed 4,350 tickets would be available for distribution to students, and said he was still looking into why only about 3,800 tickets were given out.

Students lined up for tickets Friday morning, and by 4:30 p.m., the line

stretched down Manning Drive. Because of safety concerns, the CAA decided to distribute tickets at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Roederer said.

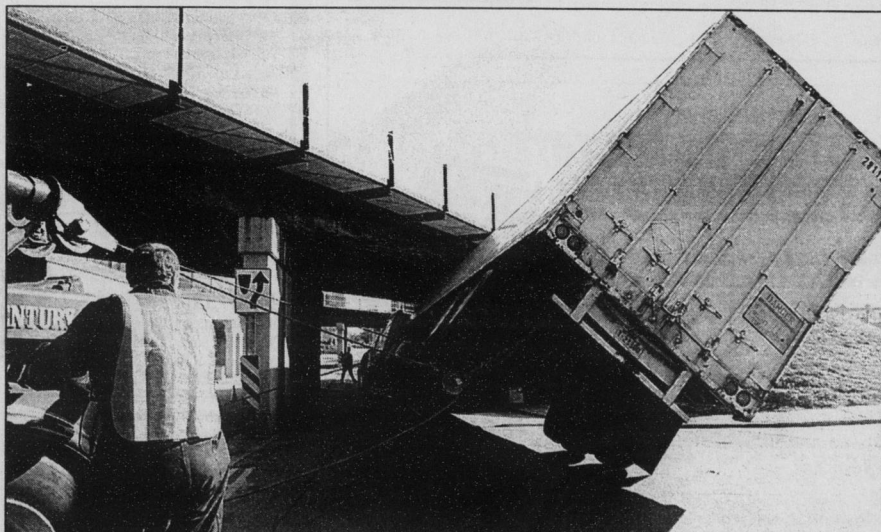
The ticket office ran out of tickets around 10:30 p.m., but some students were still waiting for tickets at midnight. Smith Center Ticket Manager Daren Lucas started giving students tickets to the Maryland game, which were scheduled to be distributed Jan. 31.

Roederer said some students made the distribution difficult by cutting in

SEE CAA, PAGE 5



Carolina Athletic Association Co-president **CHARLIE ROEDERER** said Friday's ticket distribution went smoothly overall.



DTH/JON GARDNER

An 18-wheeler didn't quite make it under a bridge at the corner of Chapel Hill Street and Pettigrew Street in Durham. There were no injuries in the accident, except maybe for the truck driver's pride.

When women go wrong, men go right after them.

Mae West

INSIDE Tuesday

A sprinkle of prevention

The Board of Trustees approved a plan to install sprinklers on campus, beginning with Spencer Residence Hall. Page 4

Jamison, the nation's best

A DTH columnist explains why UNC forward Antawn Jamison should be national player of the year. Page 7



Today's weather



Rainy;
low 40s
Wednesday, Rainy;
low 50s.