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Police investigating counterfeit money

BY HUGH PRESSLEY
STAFF WRITER

The next time you shell out some cash at a Chapel Hill establishment, don't be surprised if a merchant gives your greenbacks a second look.

That's because Chapel Hill police and business officials are abuzz over a wave of counterfeit bills floating around town. "There have been several reports of counterfeits in the past couple of months," said Jane Cousins, Chapel Hill police spokeswoman.

In the past three months, Chapel Hill police have come across five fake bills in the area, Chapel Hill Police Lt. Marvin Clark said.

He said police had made three arrests in connection to the counterfeit bills, one of which was a UNC student.

"We treat (counterfeiting) just like any other crime," Clark said. "We deal with all the leads we can find until we catch the suspect."

Counterfeiting is a federal offense that results in a federal trial and severe criminal punishment, he said.

But despite police efforts to stop the circulation of these bogus bills, Clark said officials have yet to determine from where the counterfeit money was coming. "Without knowing more about the note itself, it's hard to tell where the money comes from... there are so many possibilities," Clark said.

The latest report of counterfeit cash

came from the Subway on East Franklin Street in Chapel Hill.

Workers at the store noticed a fake \$20 bill about two weeks ago and reported it to the Chapel Hill police, store manager Isaac Benett said.

Subway received the fake bill from Scott Rudicil, a UNC freshman from Clemmons. He said he was surprised when police officials came to his room Feb. 20 and asked him about the bill. Rudicil is also a reporter for The Daily Tar Heel.

The three officials who interrogated Rudicil were Cpt. Clay Williams from University Police; Mark Richie, a U.S. Secret Service agent; and Clark.

"Around 11 a.m., three (police officials) knocked on my door, came in and introduced themselves," he said. "They asked me questions like where I got the money to buy the sub. I had no idea the money was fake."

Rudicil said that due to his large order, he had to give his name to store officials, who traced the fake bill back to him. He said he got the money from the NationsBank teller machine on East Franklin Street. Rudicil was not held accountable for the counterfeit bill.

Clark said that although police had not pinpointed the origin of the counterfeit money, he doubted a bank had distributed it because bank tellers scrutinize every bill. "They see too many bills for one to just come out and bite them like that."



DTH/M.C. STEED

Toby Whaller, president of Duke University's Black Student Alliance, answers questions at an affirmative action forum Tuesday night. The forum, at N.C. Central University, involved students and administrators from local universities.

Old dilemma focus of forum debate

BY BRADY DENNIS
ASSISTANT STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

Durham City Council member Howard Clement reminisced Tuesday night about the enthusiasm that drove the civil rights movement as he urged students to take an active role in supporting affirmative action.

"I don't see the kind of student

protests like I used to," he said at an affirmative action forum held at N.C. Central University. "What has happened to the students? I'm 64 years old, and I'm ready to get out and march again."

The forum, featuring a nine-member panel composed of student leaders and administrators from within the UNC system as well as professionals from the

community, focused on various issues surrounding affirmative action.

While most panelists agreed affirmative action was necessary, Scott Rubush, chairman of Common Sense at UNC-Chapel Hill, said such a system had adverse effects.

"I think it also creates a stigma for

SEE AFFIRMATIVE ACTION, PAGE 2

Legislators discuss child health plan

They met in Chapel Hill to discuss Gov. Jim Hunt's insurance initiative.

BY JESSICA WEITZEN
STAFF WRITER

A council of state legislators said Tuesday they hope to improve the lives of North Carolina's children by improving available medical insurance benefits.

The four representatives met in Chapel Hill Town Hall to discuss a special legislative session called by Gov. Jim Hunt regarding the proposed N.C. Children's Health Insurance Plan. The plan calls for an expanded Medicaid program and more federal money to cover the health insurance of children of working parents.

N.C. Rep. Joe Hackney, D-Orange, said a program of this nature needs to be implemented in the state.

"We should do our part and do it quickly," Hackney said. "Children of working families deserve health care, and we have an opportunity (raise funds) at twenty cents per dollar."

Currently, more than 200,000 children in North Carolina are without full health coverage. Of those, 70,000 qualify for Medicaid. The program would provide coverage for 71,000 children who do not qualify for Medicaid.

The program correlates with Hunt's Smart Start Plan, which aims to make every child ready to learn before starting school. The federal government will allocate up to \$79.9 million if North Carolina can agree to come up with \$27.7 million.

N.C. Rep. Verla Insko, D-Orange, said the importance of the issue justified the state's contribution.

"We can't cover children under this money unless we expand Medicaid and provide a Medicaid look-alike," Insko said. "I hope this upcoming meeting is short and productive, because it is a shame that we have to put children in

SEE PRESS CONFERENCE, PAGE 2

Task force debates details of parking fee hike

BY LAUREN BEAL
STAFF WRITER

Parking and Transit Task Force members are still hammering out specific details of their proposal to increase parking fees next school year.

The proposal, which officials will present to the Board of Trustees in May, calls for an overall increase in campus parking permits and enhanced public transportation.

Task force members quickly decided to gradually increase charges for the F, S9, S11, T and R parking lots at their Tuesday meeting. These lots face the largest increases.

"Phasing in makes a great deal of sense because (the prices would otherwise) go up quite dramatically," said consultant George Alexiou, who presented the committee with four pricing plans for permits and fees.

Committee members want to phase in the F lot price increase over 3 years, while phasing in increases for the other four lots over two years.

Members rejected the option of eliminating the current \$30 student transit fee, which helps fund the free U-bus route and Point-2-Point shuttles, without much discussion.

But debate did arise over pricing differences between gated and ungated parking lots. Right now, drivers pay \$66, or 31 percent, more for comparable gated lot permits, which are mostly used by faculty and staff.

This difference accounts for added security that gated lots provide, said Terence McIntosh, a task force member and associate professor of history.

Members debated whether to keep the existing price ratio between gated and ungated lots or to increase the price difference to a fixed \$100 amount.

Task force member and Collection Management Librarian Eileen McGrath said gated lots were worth the price increase.

"It's absolutely worth it to know you can get into a lot," she said. "I think there's definitely an across-campus perception that gated is better."

After debating the issue, the task force members voted to keep the existing 31 percent price difference. But members could not reach a decision about an additional proposed \$30 increase for all employee permits.

Students already must pay a \$30 transit fee toward parking and transportation on campus. The proposed employee charge would cover employee use of campus transit services.

Associate Vice Chancellor Carolyn Elfland said the employee surcharge could be seen as a student discount.

"The theory is that students are pay-

ing double — they pay a \$30 transit fee and then another fee through their permits," she said. "It's actually a \$30 discount for students."

Emily Williamson, chairwoman of the social services committee of student government, said that employees benefit from the free transportation paid for by student fees.

Task force member and Associate Provost of Health Affairs Ned Brooks said employees would have an "extremely negative response" to that increase.

Employees and students will have the opportunity to hear these recommendations and voice their opinions at a community meeting tentatively scheduled for April 8.

The disagreement over the \$30 employee increase will be resolved at the task force's March 17 meeting, said Chairman Willie Scroggs.

PICTURE PERFECT



DTH/MATT KOHUT

Jennifer Parker, a senior English major from Liberty, works on a portrait Tuesday afternoon in Hanes Art Center. She is using her art class to fulfill a perspective requirement. This is the first course in art that Parker has taken while at UNC.

Registration for classes to move online

Online registration may be accessible as early as this summer, officials say.

BY LAURA STOEHR
STAFF WRITER

The curt, crushing declaration "request denied" could become a phrase of the past.

The University has decided to improve access to class registration by implementing online registration.

"I think it's a great idea," said Student Body President Mo Nathan. "It's a no-brainer."

The project began about six months ago but has no set target date, University Registrar David Lanier said.

He said online registration would not replace Caroline but would give students another class registration option.

A World Wide Web site would also link students to information about a course's availability, its Carolina Course Review rating, professor's home pages and class syllabi, Nathan said.

But all students might not be able to get on the server to register because of the system's limitations, Lanier said.

Stephen Jarrell, executive director of administrative information services, said the University wanted everyone to be able to register via the Web.

But online registration had taken a back seat to higher priority projects, such as developing the new personal identification numbers that UNC will release this spring and upgrading computers so they recognize the year 2000 without crashing.

"We've made good progress, and we feel confident that we'll be able to deliver that service in the not-too-distant future," Jarrell said.

He said he hoped to have a testable pilot registration system by this summer.

In the meantime, the University will install 48 new telephone lines for Caroline by mid-March, Lanier said.

Caroline currently has 164 available telephone lines and 1,500 to 1,600 students use it to register on each of the assigned days.

Lanier said it took about two hours for an entire senior class pool to register, but freshmen students take about 10 hours because each freshman averages 45 minutes to one hour per call.

But students did not always stay on Caroline for such a long time, he said.

SEE CAROLINE, PAGE 2

INSIDE Wednesday

Tuition exchange



UNC-system President Molly Broad said North Carolina probably would not support a Tennessee proposal that would lower tuition rates to lure students. Page 7

Safety first

University police wants students to keep belongings safe when packing and leaving for Spring Break. Page 6

That's a wrap

Senior of the Week Derrick Speight helped found the Carolina Production Guild his freshman year, and he wants to take his artistic talents to Hollywood. Page 2



Today's weather



Partly sunny;
low 50s
Thursday: Chance of rain;
high 40s

I am free of all prejudices — I hate everybody equally.

W.C. Fields