

## POLICE ROUNDUP

### University

Thursday, April 2

According to police reports, a non-forced entry burglary was reported in the Thurston Bowles Building on Thursday.

Nothing was stolen, but victims said their computers had been used without their permission after the building had closed, reports stated.

Wednesday, April 1

An unidentified man threw an umbrella at a Triangle Transit Authority van about 1 p.m. and cracked the windshield, according to police reports.

Tuesday, March 31

A student reported her wallet stolen while she was in a Howell Hall bathroom Tuesday afternoon, police reports state. The black leather wallet contained 3 residence hall keys, cash, credit cards and her UNC ONE Card, reports state.

### City

Thursday, April 2

Jaime Odi Aguilar, 28, of Glen Lennox Apartments, 8 Lanar Road, in Chapel Hill was arrested for one misdemeanor count of driving with a license revoked, one misdemeanor count of driving while impaired, one misdemeanor count of carrying a concealed weapon, and one felony count of possession of marijuana, police reports state.

Aguilar was stopped after an officer noticed he was driving without headlights. According to police reports, Aguilar measured .11 on his breathalyzer test. Aguilar's vehicle was searched, and one gram of cocaine was found.

Aguilar was confined to Orange County Jail with a \$2,000 secured bond. His trial is scheduled for May 12 in Chapel Hill District Court, reports state.

Wednesday, April 1

Shauna Clare Diehl, 21, of 751 B-3 Trinity Court in Chapel Hill was arrested for one misdemeanor count of assault, and Antoinette Marie Maynard, 26, of 900 W. Rosemary St. in Chapel Hill was arrested for one misdemeanor count of communicating threats, police reports state.

A victim reported that Maynard approached her and threatened to "cut her guts out" police reports state. The victim then reported that Diehl struck her over the head with a purse, police reports state. According to police reports, the victim had the women taken before the magistrate where she took out a criminal summons on them. A trial date of April 20 was set for Chapel Hill District Court.

An incident of damaged property was reported on Chipcocks Drive in Chapel Hill. According to police reports, a suspect scratched the victim's car and wrote "bitch" on the hood and trunk, police reports state.

Damage to the car's paint was valued at \$400, reports state.

An incident of obtaining money under false pretenses was reported when a suspect used a former employer's account to buy items, police reports state.

According to police reports, one pair of safety glasses valued at \$6, three jigsaw blades valued at \$5 and one jigsaw kit valued at \$160 were reported stolen.

Tuesday, March 31

Robert Tiron Henderson, 23, of 404 S. Greensboro St. in Chapel Hill, was arrested for one misdemeanor count of simple possession of schedule VI drugs and one misdemeanor count of resisting delay and obstructing an officer, police reports state.

According to police reports, officers found Henderson sitting on the path at the rear of Southern Orange Human Services at 412 Caldwell St. Upon approach, Henderson threw down a plastic bag which contained five grams of marijuana. Henderson fled from the scene and was later arrested, reports state.

Henderson was confined to Orange County Jail on a \$300 secured bond. A trial date of April 27 was set for Chapel Hill District Court, reports state.

According to police reports, two incidents of breaking and entering occurred on Sir Richard Lane. The driver and passenger door and front left quarter panel received \$2,500 worth of damage when a suspect attempted to gain entry.

A second vehicle received \$600 worth of damage to its door when the suspect pried the door handle with a crowbar to gain entry, police reports state. Reported stolen were \$600 worth of cash and five credit cards, which were later recovered.

Demonta LeCarlos Caldwell, 23, of 212 Lazy Creek Lane in Roxboro was arrested on misdemeanor count of possession of marijuana, police reports state.

According to reports, Caldwell was released on a \$400 unsecured bond. A trial date of April 27 was set for Chapel Hill District Court.

# UNC appeals employee's lawsuit

Diane Riggsbee-Raynor lost her job in September 1995 and filed a grievance.

the University's firing of Diane Riggsbee-Raynor.

The former administrative assistant in the medical school's Plastic Surgery Division was dismissed in September 1995 for not reporting overtime hours.

#### STAFF REPORT

The University appealed Thursday the State Personnel Commission's recommendation to reinstate a School of Medicine employee fired for falsifying her timesheet in 1995.

Special Deputy Attorney General Thomas Ziko and Assistant Attorney General Sylvia Thibaut submitted a petition in Wake County Superior Court on Wednesday asking the court to reaffirm

could not be reached Thursday.

Alan McSurely, who represents Riggsbee-Raynor, said the University's "head in the sand" procedure didn't make sense.

"It's hard for me to understand why the University does this, to be honest," he said.

Riggsbee-Raynor said in March that her supervisors told her to take vacation time after docking the hours.

But months after she returned the University fired her for falsifying her work record, she said.

The case made it to a University grievance panel, which requested Riggsbee-Raynor be reinstated, but

Chancellor Michael Hooker refused, standing behind the firing.

Riggsbee-Raynor and McSurely appealed Hooker's decision in Wake County Superior Court.

Administrative Law Judge Sammie Chess Jr. said in June 1997 that Riggsbee-Raynor was held to different work standards than other University employees.

He cited a report that found other workers taking vacations after docking overtime hours without being punished.

Chess recommended the University reinstate Riggsbee-Raynor and reimburse her for attorney's fees and back wages.

# Property value study discussed

The Chapel Hill Town Council continued a public hearing on the issue of a connecting road.

#### BY ROBIN CLEMOW STAFF WRITER

The Chapel Hill Town Council continued for yet another night its public hearings over the issue of a connecting road.

Council members heard arguments both for and against the approval of a special-use permit for the mixed-use development known as Meadowmont, a proposed area of shopping centers, homes, parks and a school.

Last spring the council passed the special-use permits, but the ruling was overturned when residents of Pinehurst Drive, a neighborhood with a proposed connector road to Meadowmont, fought against the development. Residents claimed the road and its increased traffic would have a negative effect on property values.



Chapel Hill Mayor ROSEMARY WALDRUF said the council would hear all the facts on property values before making a decision.

The Town Council must now decide whether to reapprove the permit in light of new evidence presented at the hearings. Meadowmont developer East West Partners and residents added to their cases Thursday by looking at numerous studies of other areas facing similar traffic problems.

Robert Sprouse of Picket Sprouse Real Estate spoke on behalf of the developer, saying studies of development areas in the Triangle, such as Finley Forest and Woodcroft, were proof that prices were not negatively affected by traffic. The average increase in prices was similar for roads both heavily traveled and for those with a lower traffic volume, as well, he said.

Sprouse also said studies done on Pinehurst Drive since the preliminary stages of the potential development showed that buyers were not scared off by traffic. "The homes on Pinehurst Drive have increased in value, and the increase was equal to those off Pinehurst Drive," he said.

Michael Brough, the residents' attorney, said homes in the same study area sold for less per square-foot on heavily traveled roads.

Developer Roger Perry pointed out, though, that square-footage did not include garages or porches, which added value to the homes studied.

George Chrisbalm with East West Partners spoke to the council about traffic increases, saying the increases, due to Meadowmont by 2006, would comprise a relatively small percentage of the heavier traffic. "Meadowmont will comprise 25 percent of the traffic (increase) that is out there and only 25 percent," he said.

Although the discussion went on for hours Thursday night, the issue is still short reaching its final conclusion. Mayor Rosemary Waldorf said the council had to hear all the facts and arguments before a decision could be made. "What we're doing right now is asking questions and getting answers."

# Food for thought

Professor Jim Ferguson is using grant money to take his class to France to study food and culture.

#### BY KAITLIN GURNEY STAFF WRITER

Jim Ferguson declares food is the common thread of life, weaving together students from every walk of life and professors from every discipline.

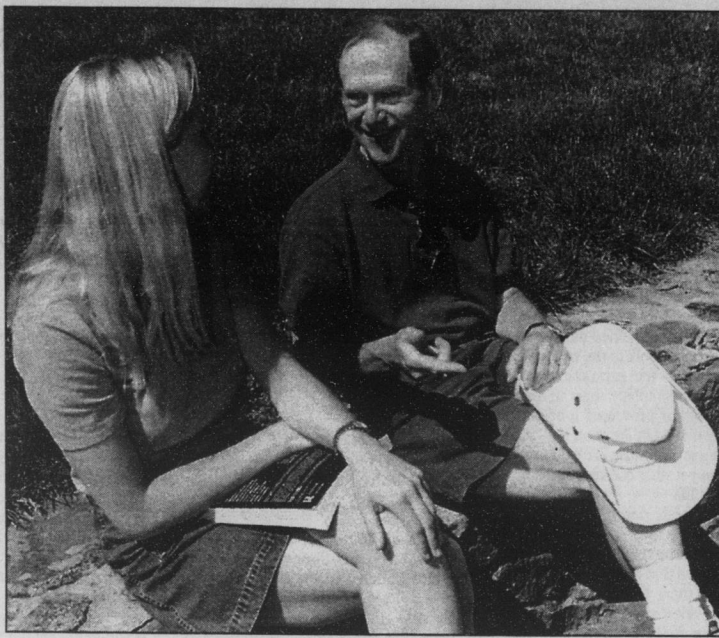
This is the philosophy Ferguson brings to his enormously popular honors seminar, "What's For Dinner? A Multidisciplinary Inquiry into Food and Culture," which he fondly dubs "Eats 101."

"Eats 101 is great because it begins with a common interest we all share — food," he said. "From there, we move to a larger consideration of food and culture, which extends to archeology, women's studies, religion, economics and more."

Ferguson, an American studies professor, invites UNC faculty and culinary experts to each weekly discussion, so they can relate their specialties to the topic of food.

The second week of class features a formal catered dinner. The five-course meal is attended by the faculty speakers for upcoming classes.

"The dinner is sort of a puzzle, and the menu



DTH/DAVID SANDLER

Jim Ferguson, a professor of American Studies, chats with former student Kristin Lyman about their upcoming class trip to France. Ferguson taught an honors seminar titled "What's For Dinner?" last semester, which relates different disciplines to food.

is full of clues," he said. "It is constructed so the elements on it will return throughout the class."

At the conclusion of each class, Ferguson and the students get together for dinner.

Ferguson said this was a practice that simply evolved throughout the course of the inaugural fall 1997 class.

"The group took on a life of its own," he said. "We would get together after class for a dinner that everyone was involved in fixing. Our discus-

sions would carry over, and it was this time that caused to classroom boundaries to dissolve."

At the end of the course, the students turned the tables and fixed Ferguson a formal dinner at his house.

"It isn't a cooking class, but that did become a sub-theme," he said. "Food brought both the course and us together."

Ferguson is the author of several culinary-themed books, the most recent of which is

SEE FERGUSON, PAGE 4



# Community pays respects to 13-year-old gunshot victim

#### BY HUGH PRESSLEY STAFF WRITER

Cries of pain and thoughts of hope filled the Triangle Presbyterian Church on Thursday morning as friends and family gathered together in Durham to mourn the death of 13-year-old Laura Ashley Williams.

Williams died Monday at UNC Hospitals after shooting herself in the head in a bathroom at Grey Culbreth Middle School.

The Rev. L. Raymond Cobb II conducted the funeral in front of about 400 mourners and reminded them of the legacy Williams left behind.

"She enriched the lives of those she touched," he said. "We're thankful for the cherished memories that can't be erased and for all the goodness of life."

Williams loved swimming and oceanography, horseback riding, Shakespeare and — like most girls her age — chocolate, Cobb said. "She told her parents that chocolate should have its own food group," he said.

Thinking of the things Williams most enjoyed brought laughter and joy to those who gathered to pay the girl their last respects.

But despite those uplifting memories, mourners still struggled to hold back their emotions, as their hearts remained

full of unanswered questions.

Chapel Hill police spokeswoman Jane Cousins said police could not offer answers to any of these questions.

"The police department's role was to investigate the shooting, and we concluded that it was a self-inflicted gunshot wound," she said. "There was no foul play involved."

Cousins said the gun Williams used in the shooting belonged to a family member.

In spite of the facts of the incident, Cobb asked the congregation to look to God for all the answers.

"There is no doubt that the question why has crossed each of our minds.

Why should the potential that she represented go unfulfilled?" he said.

"We simply don't know why. We must look to God who does know the answer. ... It can actually be freeing to us that there are some things in this life that we can't understand."

Williams' body will be cremated and her ashes will be spread off Shell Island in the Gulf of Mexico, Cobb said.

"It was a place where her mom and dad taught her how to fish ... and perhaps that was the place where her desire for oceanography was started," he said.

There will also be markers placed in Chapel Hill to honor the memory of Williams, Cobb said.

# Russian journalist tells story of captivity as Chechnyan prisoner

Yelena Masyuk was covering the war between Russia and Chechnya.

#### BY EMILY CRAMER STAFF WRITER

Russian journalist Yelena Masyuk visited Duke University on Thursday to share her experiences covering the recent war between Chechnya and Russia — a battlefield as dangerous for reporters as it was for soldiers.

Against the wishes of her employers, Masyuk managed to journey to Chechnya to expose the horrors of the war to the rest of the world.

"My editor didn't want me to go because I was a woman, but I tricked him and went anyway," she said.

"Not to be there would have been a let down because I was interested in what was going on."

She explained the plight of many journalists who were often taken hostage to obtain ransom money from media outlets or killed by Chechnyan soldiers.

"Any journalist that came to

Chechnya was considered an enemy," she said.

"At the end of the war, it became profitable to kidnap journalists."

On May 10, 1997, Masyuk and two colleagues were captured.

They were then held as prisoners for 101 days in the Chechnyan mountains.

"May 10 was the scariest day of my life," she said.

"We were captured by seven people wearing ski masks."

"They took us to a nearby forest, took all of our jewelry ... They roughed us up."

Masyuk said they were held in the cellar of a house for 10 days until Chechnyan rebels paid their captors the equivalent of \$50,000 to gain custody.

They were then transported to a cave, where they spent the remainder of their days in captivity.

"The guards smoked a lot of pot, and they sometimes overreacted — threatening to chain or kill us."

#### YELENA MASYUK Russian journalist

treated by their guards.

"The food was pita bread from a neighboring village, and it was not well-baked," she said.

"The guards smoked a lot of pot, and they sometimes overreacted — threatening to chain us or kill us. They were trying to break us psychologically."

Masyuk and her colleagues were finally released when their employers fronted \$2 million to the Chechnyan captors.

But the vicious cycle only continued, and the risks of covering the war did not equal the consequences, she said.

"Each time one journalist was freed, another was kidnapped," she said.

"Right now, I think going back to Chechnya is not worth it."



DTH/JON GARDNER

Yelena Masyuk, a Russian journalist who was kidnapped in Chechnya last year and held more than 100 days, speaks at Duke University on Thursday.