



The University and Towns
IN BRIEF

Police Chase 2 Men Through Granville

Police officers were led on a chase Wednesday night after two men failed to stop when an officer attempted to pull the car over for reckless driving. Officers followed the men into the parking lot near Granville Towers South, where the assailants then fled south on foot.

The police eventually apprehended the men on Merrit Mill Road. Officers said the charges would most likely include reckless driving and failure to pull over.

Fire Alarm at Lenoir Interrupts Cleanup

A fire alarm in Lenoir Dining Hall went off at 9 p.m. last night, as a result of steam from the building's dish room. "We were cleaning up at the time," said Debra Dobbelaere, service manager for the hall's main floor, which is not yet completed. "We had been having fire drills every night about this time. I just thought it was a regular drill."

She said about 30 employees were working at the time.

PlayMakers to Conduct Auditions for New Play

PlayMakers Repertory Company will conduct local auditions for its 1998 production of "Gross Indecency: the Three Trials of Oscar Wilde" by Moises Kaufman. Roles are available for men only.

All auditions take place by appointment in room 103 of the Graham Memorial Building. Auditions will be held Sunday, Aug. 23 from 2 to 5 p.m. Actors should prepare a two minute monologue of their choosing. Sides will also be available from PlayMakers after Aug. 20 in room 104. Callbacks are scheduled for Aug. 24 from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. To schedule an audition, call Maura Murphy, General Manager, at 962-2489.

UNC Study Says Ticks Cause New Illnesses

Dr. Lynn Fordham, a UNC medical scientist, said people should be aware of a new tick-borne infection called ehrlichiosis, the cause of which in the United States was not recognized until 1986.

In studies on three N.C. children who contracted ehrlichiosis, including one who died in 1996, Fordham discovered the illness shows up on chest X-rays as increased fluid in the lungs. The finding may help doctors diagnose the condition earlier and, as a result, possibly treat it more effectively.

Managed Care Difficult For School of Medicine

Jeffrey Houpe, dean of the UNC School of Medicine, said the medical school's biggest challenge was managed care. The changing world of medical care means the medical school and UNC Hospitals must secure their patient base through new and innovative relationships with doctors and practices across the region and state.

Coaches Needed for Fall Youth Programs

The Carrboro Recreation and Parks Department is accepting applications for volunteer coaches for the 1998 Youth Fall Girls Fast Pitch Softball Program and the Youth Fall Baseball Program. The softball program serves youth from fourth to sixth grade and the baseball program serves youths 13- to 14-years-old.

Coaches must exhibit the ability to organize team practices and communicate effectively with players, parents and the department staff. They must also be able to teach softball skills, fundamentals and sportsmanship.

Those interested can apply until Aug. 31 by contacting the department at 968-7703.

Arthritis Classes Help Sufferers Ease Pain

The Arthritis Foundation and the Thurston Arthritis Research Center at UNC will offer classes to give arthritis sufferers self-help tips.

From Sept. 2 to Oct. 7, classes will cover topics such as strategies to decrease pain, relax and deal with stress and depression.

Also, participants will also learn good nutritional habits and problem-solving techniques.

The classes cost \$30, which is to be paid in full at the first meeting at the Chapel Hill Senior Center. To register, call Deb MacDonald at 966-9954.

—From Staff Reports

Mixed-Use Project Fills Hole

The Rosemary Street hole is being filled by a four-story office and condominium building.

By ANDREW GUTTERAS
Staff Writer

After years of negotiations and setbacks, the infamous "hole" on Rosemary Street is being transformed into a ground-breaking new development.

Construction on The Fountains, a four-story complex that will contain office areas and condominiums, began in May.

The development, which is expected to be completed in April 1999, will be located in between Pantana Bob's and Breadmen's.

Work on The Fountains actually began in 1990 but was suspended when one of the major partners in the project died unexpectedly.

The unfinished construction left a giant pit in the ground which has since

been referred to by locals as the Rosemary Street Hole.

Josh Gurlitz of GGA Architects, developers of The Fountains, said the project was revived two years ago when the company resumed negotiations with contractors and the town.

"This is a mixed-use complex, meaning that there will be room for offices and living space," Gurlitz said. "This is one of the first projects of its type in the Triangle."

Gurlitz said many were skeptical of the mixed-use idea at first, but warmed up to it when one of the foremost planning experts in the country said Rosemary Street was ideal for a mixed-use complex.

"This is a mixed-use complex, meaning that there will be room for offices and living space."

JOSH GURLITZ
GAA Architect

"Mixed-use complexes are good because they allow people to live and work in the same area. It will cut down traffic," Gurlitz said.

Robert Humphreys, executive director of the

Chapel Hill Downtown Commission, said the complex would be a valuable addition downtown. "Rosemary Street is ripe for this sort of thing," he said.

"We are happy to see the hole filled up. Low-key commercial space and liv-



DTH/JENNIFER GUTHRIE

The Fountains, a four-story complex that will house office space and condominiums, will fill a vacant lot on Rosemary Street.

ing area are what the town needs to do more of."

Town Council member Joe Capowski echoed Humphreys' pleasure with the project. "We want to see West Franklin and Rosemary redeveloped," he said. "Anything is better than the hole that was there. This is viable commercial area."

Nearby business owners said they

were hopeful the new complex would bring more customers to the Rosemary Street area. "Any development is good for business around here," said Rusty Privett, manager of Pantana Bob's.

"Construction hasn't hurt our business."

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Bookstore Files Monopoly Lawsuit

The Intimate Bookstore, Inc. charged several bookstores and book publishers with unfair business practices.

By ANNE FAWCETT
Staff Writer

The Intimate Bookshop, Inc., an intellectual leader in North Carolina for the past twenty years, has now become a leader on another front.

On August 5, the bookseller charged Barnes & Noble, Borders, Amazon.com, and several book publishers with unfair business practices in a class action lawsuit.

The lawsuit states at least 14 ways that some publishers have given special advantages to the defendants, including giving them free or non-invoiced books, special allowances, and volume discounts on a secret schedule.

The suit is based on the Robinson-Patman Act, which was designed in the 1930's to stop the Rockefeller monopolies from taking advantage of their suppliers.

The Robinson-Patman Act states that products must be sold to all buyers at the same price, which has not been the case between booksellers and publishers recently.

However, the publishers are not the major targets of the lawsuit, said Carl Pearson, The Intimate Bookshop, Inc.'s attorney.

He said publishers gave special benefits to large stores because they were afraid of losing the volume of business these chains provided.

"Publishers are (the) victims forced into giving excessive discounts to the other defendants," he said.

Because they have to sell some books at such low prices, they must raise the rates for other smaller booksellers.

Booksellers have little sympathy for the publishers' plight.

"It's a lot better bind to be on that side of it than that of a small business," said Tom Teide, owner of a used bookstore in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Teide's business has not been affected by the growth of large chain bookstores, but he has seen the effects on sellers of

new books. With the recent arrival of Barnes & Noble in Charlottesville and Borders scheduled to come soon, he watched a 20-year-old bookstore close its doors.

The same fate may await The Intimate Bookshop, Inc., which is the reason owner Wallace Kuralt decided to file his suit against Borders and Barnes & Noble.

Two years ago, The Intimate Bookshop, Inc. had a profit of \$11.5 million from 12 stores. Today, most of its stores have closed and its annual profit is \$500,000.

"(The lawsuit) needs doing if the people here are to survive with certainty," he said.

"We were the first ones they came at and they certainly managed to destroy us."

Before the large chains arrived in Charlotte, The Intimate Bookshop, Inc. was the prominent bookstore in the city, totaling 35,000 square feet of floor space and drawing customers from the surrounding areas.

Then Media Play, Barnes and Noble, and Borders arrived, swamping the store with 300,000 total square feet.

Kuralt said the bookstores seemed to have specifically targeted The Intimate Bookshop, Inc.

"For them to assume they could come in with that much firepower and make a profit was ridiculous," he said.

He hopes to prevent this from happening to other booksellers with his lawsuit.

He has invited members of the American Booksellers Association to be a part of the class action, but he understands the risks that joining the suit holds for the surviving stores.

"We simply couldn't survive, given the terms we were handed," he said.

The failure of small bookstores such as The Intimate Bookshop, Inc. is a tragedy, said LuAnn Horstman, Pearson's paralegal.

"If Barnes & Noble loses a bookstore, do they care? But what if it happens to the real thing, (the small bookstore), the real information? That, you can't get back."

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DTH FILE PHOTO

The Intimate Bookshop, Inc., joined a class-action suit filed against several large chain bookstores Aug. 5.

Local Bookstores Echo Intimate's Sentiments

By BRIANNA BUSCH
Staff Writer

The Intimate Bookshop's lawsuit against large chain stores has roused support and discussion among other local book shops.

The Intimate Bookshop Inc., with over 100 other members of the American Booksellers Association, filed a class action suit on August 5 against several national book retailers and publishers, including Barnes & Noble, Borders and Amazon.com. The suit claims large retailers have forced publishers to lower their prices, thus causing higher prices for independent retailers.

Andrew Pearson, Internationalist Books manager, said book publishers could lower prices for larger orders. Since most local bookstores cannot afford to carry large quantities of certain books, the publishers raise the price for smaller orders, a practice that hurts community bookstores with little financial leeway. "We are in the same situation as Intimate," he said.

Internationalist Books is a mostly volunteer-run bookstore which carries publications catering to fringe and minority interests and serves as a meeting place for groups. Pearson said local bookstores served the community while the larger ones were interested in "quantity over quality."

Robert Humphreys, executive director of the Chapel Hill Downtown Commission, said local bookstores needed to adapt in order to survive the competition from the larger stores.

He said Barnes & Noble had attracted many Chapel Hill customers.

"It has had an adverse affect on the commerce," Humphreys said. "Each retailer, whether books, clothing or shoes or stereos, whatever, must tailor their operation or they won't survive."

Humphreys said although businesses must adapt to compete, he sympathized with the Intimate's situation.

Reuben Moore, manager of Books Over Franklin, which sells both new and used books, said he believed competition was healthy, but said he hoped the Intimate would survive because it attracted more bookbuyers to Franklin Street.

UNC student Charis Bennett, a regular customer of Books Over Franklin, said she liked to buy her books there because of the atmosphere.

"It doesn't have the big spacey atmosphere," she said. "Here you see (the books) and you're forced to buy something."

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Aldermen Discuss Grants

The Board scheduled public hearings on police camera equipment and community development block grants.

By MATT LECLERQ
Staff Writer

A public hearing scheduled by the Carrboro Board of Aldermen on Tuesday will allow residents to voice opinions on how two block grants should be spent.

The board agreed Tuesday to hold a public hearing on the two grants at its next regular meeting Tuesday.

The Carrboro Police Department will explain its grant proposal to obtain patrol car video cameras to the public and to the Board of Aldermen.

If the department receives the \$19,490 grant, five permanent cameras would be purchased and installed to record incidents investigated by police, Captain John Butler said.

Also, Tuesday and again Sept. 22, the board will hear residents' feedback about how the town should spend funds from the N.C. Community Assistance Program.

The funds are available for revitalization and community needs concerning low-income families and individuals, according to town documents.

The town must apply for the funds every year through a competitive grant process that requires two public hearings, according to town documents.

The first public hearing will give residents the opportunity to tell the Aldermen "what the project should look like" and to discuss of the grant money should be used to complete a single comprehensive program or spread across a number of sites, according to town documents.

The Aldermen will discuss the finalized grant application at the second public hearing.

Alderman Jacquelyn Gist said the process relied on resident participation. "We set a date, and citizens will come and tell us how they would like the money to be spent," Gist said.

For the police grant, which would come from the Bureau of Justice Assistance, the town must match the grant by 10 percent - \$1,949 - for the police department to qualify, Butler said.

Cameras in patrol cars are commonplace at larger police departments and would help officers document driving violations and other incidents, he said.

"It will be a big advantage... Butler said. "Right now we have portable cameras but they are knocked around a lot."

"The new cameras would help with DWI cases to indicate how tests are performed and what drivers' reactions are."

The cameras could also record valuable evidence in excessive force charges against officers, who would wear microphones, he said.

Without the grant, Butler said the 33-officer department would not be able to afford the cameras, which cost about \$4,000 each.

"(Funds) are hard to come by, and we try to use it the best we can," Butler said.

Gist said she liked the idea of the cameras in patrol cars.

"It's more of a trend nation-wide," she said.

"It will record what's going on in every situation, and what police do."

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Carrboro Alderman Jacquelyn Gist said she liked the idea of video cameras in police patrol cars.

Key to Computer Safety in Laptop Locks

By LAURA STOEHR
Assistant University Editor

Keeping students' laptop computers safe has emerged as a major issue as the countdown to the implementation of the Carolina Computing Initiative draws closer.

The initiative, a project introduced by Chancellor Michael Hooker, will require all incoming freshmen in the year 2000 to purchase laptops.

Student Stores has already taken the initial step of providing students that purchase initiative-package laptops with a bicycle cord style lock.

The Kensington Microsaver lock, a

wire plastic-coated cord that connects into the computer and is secured to the machine with a key, can be wrapped around a table leg or other secure object.

The lock can also be purchased separately from Student Stores.

Jason Saunders, a junior from Charlotte who works in the Ram Shop, said an increasing number of students had asked about securing their computers. He said there were not many options available for securing machines and a person with wirecutters could cut through the initiative-standard lock.

John Oberlin, executive director for ATN, said students could also purchase motion detectors for their computers for

added security.

But students should not hold the University solely responsible for their computer's safety, said Linwood Futrelle, director of OIT services at Academic Technology & Networks.

He said students could prevent theft from occurring by not leaving their laptops unattended and by following general safety tips, such as not walking alone in poorly lit places. "Security is still the responsibility of the individual," he said. "What we have to do is make people understand that they have to be more diligent."

Futrelle said initiative coordinators, along with University police, would later

make a presentation to students presenting laptop security options.

Additionally, students can purchase insurance to cover theft and damages under warranty.

Currently, medical and law students are required to buy laptops and some students choose to purchase insurance. The insurance costs \$96 per year for a laptop computer valued at \$3,000 or less, said Shirley Ort, associate provost and director of scholarships and financial aid.

But although some UNC students already purchase the insurance, the cost is not discounted at a group rate. The University is working to secure discount

options for all students, Ort said.

The Financial Aid team, one of the initiative's implementation teams, will conduct a survey of other colleges that have computer requirements close to the initiative to gather more safety input.

Oberlin said he did not expect UNC students to have a higher percentage of stolen machines than other universities who have implemented mandatory computer requirements.

Ashley Stephenson contributed to this story.

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