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Drug Store Bandit Arrested

The suspect obtained 1,400 Percocet pills by passing forged prescriptions at Chapel Hill pharmacies.

By MATT LECLERCQ
Staff Writer

A Durham woman who illegally obtained more than 1,400 prescription pills from area pharmacies turned herself in to police Monday.

Suzanne King Fowler, 38, of 6710 Mt. Herman Church Rd., Durham, was charged with six counts of obtaining the drug Percocet by fraud or forgery and one count of attempting to obtain the drug by similar means, said Cheryl Parker, investigator for the Orange County District Attorney office.

All seven counts are felonies, Parker said. Chapel Hill Police investigator Lt. Marvin Clark said Fowler turned herself in after police notified her that she would be arrested.

She was released with an unsecured \$5,000 bond and will appear today and Sept. 28 in Orange County District Court, according to police reports.

During the past nine months, Parker obtained Percocet on 23 occasions from pharmacies in the Chapel Hill area, according to police reports. On several occasions, she obtained 120 to 180 pills during two-day periods, reports state. Percocet is a highly-addictive painkiller similar to morphine, Kerr Drug pharmacist Tom Mansbery said.

"There has been a rash of people trying to obtain it illegally because it's so addictive," Mansbery said. "(Percocet) can get you pretty stressed out - it's very very hard to kick the habit."

Clark said it was probable that Fowler was addicted to the drug.

Although Orange County District Attorney Carl Fox had not yet read the investigation report on Fowler, he said

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University Clarifies Public Consumption Law

Officials decided that one public consumption law they had been enforcing was invalid on campus.

By AMY CAPPIELLO
Senior Writer

A recent change in University Police's enforcement of alcohol has made it less likely that alumni will be punished for tailgating at football games.

Students, however, still face University sanctions and possible state citations if caught drinking, starting with this weekend's matchup against Miami

University of Ohio.

After reviewing University Police's enforcement of alcohol violations, administrators found a glitch with the public consumption ordinance for malt beverages.

The law, which Capt. Ollie Bowler said had been enforced by University Police since August 1996, is a local ordinance that is applicable only on town and county land. The University, however, lies on state property.

University Police officers discovered this conflict two weeks ago after University Counsel Susan Ehringhaus discussed the matter with Orange County District Attorney Carl Fox and determined the law did not apply to the

University.

"It kind of left us hanging," Bowler said. "We've been so long enforcing public consumption on campus and now all of a sudden it was pulled out from under us."

"I don't know if it was something foreseen or as a result of a certain incident we had in the department."



University Counsel Susan Ehringhaus said the new alcohol policy was just a language clarification.

The "incident" involved an underage drinking citation given to the daughter of Board of Trustees member Billy Armfield last year. After Lt. C.E. Swain, who issued the citation, accused his superiors of pressuring him to drop the citation because of Armfield's position, a debate on a possible double standard for alumni and students concerning alcohol enforcement resurfaced.

Ending the enforcement of the public consumption law has created another debate since anyone caught drinking alcohol at a campus athletic event is in violation of UNC's alcohol policy.

Non-students found in violation of the policy will first be warned and then issued a citation for trespassing if they

do not comply, Ehringhaus said.

Students found in violation, however, will have their names forwarded to the Dean of Students. Students found responsible of an alcohol violation will, in most instances, be required to undergo an alcohol education session conducted through Student Health Service.

Bowler said he didn't know why the public consumption law was being clarified two years after it had first been strenuously enforced.

"Someone may have challenged the law along the way," Bowler said. "Usually we find out in court when defense attorneys bring it out."

See ALCOHOL, Page 6

Legislature Re-examines Future of UNC Hospitals

The School of Medicine's Physician Practice Plan and UNC Hospitals might join forces to create a more independent healthcare system.

By COURTNEY WEILL
State & National Editor

The future governance of UNC Hospitals lies in the hands of state legislators this week.

The House and Senate leadership are pushing forth a bill to combine the faculty practice plan of the School of Medicine with UNC Hospitals to create a new entity - the UNC Healthcare System.

Under the compromise plan proposed by UNC-system President Molly Broad, Jeffrey Houpt, the current dean of the School of Medicine, would become the CEO of the new healthcare system. The current executive director of UNC Hospitals, Eric Munson, would then report to Houpt instead of Broad.

The hospital's board of directors would expand to include two members of the Physician Practice Plan operated by the School of Medicine and several at-large members to be appointed by Broad and approved by members of the Board of Governors.

The proposed plan gives the medical school

more control over the state hospital. But the expanded board would continue to report to the BOG and the state legislature.

"The linkage between the school of medicine and the hospital is critically important," Broad said. "I think we have struck the right balance with this plan."

By consolidating the existing hospital structure and the Physician Practice Plan, which supplies the hospital's doctors, the UNC Healthcare System could be more competitive with area healthcare systems in acquiring new hospitals and patient pools.

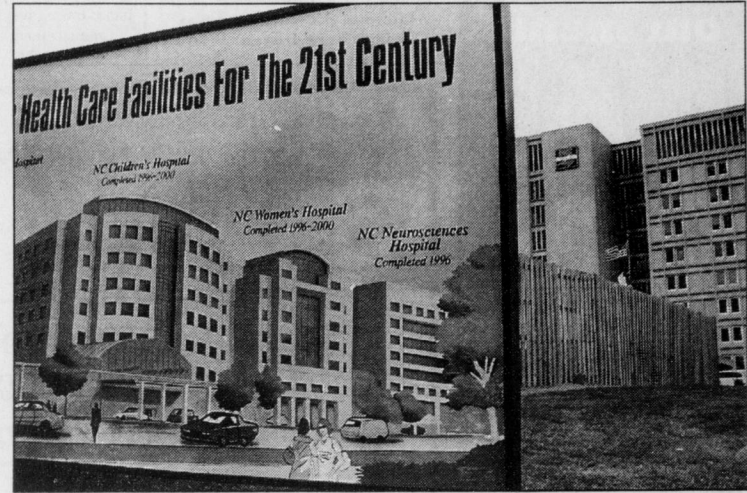
Under the current system, the decision to acquire new entities requires a joint approval by the hospital's and Physician Practice Plan's operating boards.

Acquisitions could be acted on more quickly with the proposed consolidation of power.

The proposed plan retains the state retirement plan for UNC Healthcare System employees. But the plan allows the system to outsource employees, determine benefits and create its own personal pay classification system and grievance and vacation policies.

Jonathan Kotch, professor of Maternal and Child Health at the School of Public Health, said he was worried about the healthcare system's proposed power over state employees.

Kotch asked, "Will the opportunity for promo-



DTH/JOHN IKEADA

A pending bill proposes to combine the faculty practice plan of the School of Medicine with UNC Hospitals to create a new healthcare system.

tion, job security and salaries be compromised?"

He also worried that the hospital would outsource the housekeeping services at minimum wage with no benefits.

"It's a way of taxing poor people so that others can benefit," he said.

But Broad said the new plan would not have any significant implications for current hospital employees.

Despite the lack of public discussion on the proposed consolidation, the legislation continues to move forward in the General Assembly.

Sen. Tony Rand, D-Cumberland, leads the delegation pushing to pass the legislation before the end of the short session.

Some legislators, including Rand, noted a sense of urgency to pass Broad's plan in light of the recent acquisitions of Durham Regional Hospital and Raleigh Community Hospital by the privately run Duke University Healthcare System, Broad said.

UNC Hospitals lost to Duke in the battle for control of Durham Regional.

See UNC HOSPITALS, Page 6



DTH/MIKE KANAREK

The Chapel Hill Transit T bus route has been overcrowded since school has started again. Riders complained that they have had to wait for the next bus to arrive 30 minutes later on occasions.

Crammed Buses Cause Complaints

By NORA DAUBE
Staff Writer

Masses of returning students and professionals have caused overcrowding on some Chapel Hill Transit routes, riders and transit officials said.

Roxanne Finch a Chapel Hill resident who works for the University, said she had not been pleased with the bus service since the beginning of the school year. Finch works in Auxiliary Services

and rides the T bus to work. "I have not been on a bus that has been on time since the new bus route went into effect Aug. 15," she said.

Finch lives in Timberlyne Apartments, and the only bus that stops nearby is the T bus. Twice last week the bus driver did not even stop at Timberlyne because it was full, she said. The people at the stop were left to wait for the next bus.

Finch said because of the over-

crowding, she had to wait 30 minutes for the next bus. The T bus serves a number of apartment complexes on Airport Road and Weaver Dairy Road.

Scott McClellan, administrative analyst for Chapel Hill Transit Authority, said he was unaware of any complaints being made about the T bus.

However, Finch said she had called to complain several times.

See T BUS, Page 6

Contractors Handle Harassment Reports

The University depends on contractors to deal with construction workers who sexually harass students.

By DEVONA A. BROWN
University Editor

University officials, who have received several sexual harassment complaints about construction workers from students and faculty, have made construction managers responsible for dealing with the problem.

Rather than suffering punishment of inappropriate behavior from the University, construction workers are subject to punishment by the contractor hired by the University, said Director of Construction Management Ed Willis.

"(Contractors) have the responsibility for their own workers," he said. "We expect them to handle such situations."

Willis said the University did not have a policy on a construction company that receives more than a certain number of complaints by students or faculty.

"It's not likely it would ever come to that," he said. "With a building of 150 workers, there's one or two bad apples. So no, there's not an automatic consequence."

As of last week, Sexual Harassment Officer Judith Scott had received 11 complaints of harassment, citing construction workers as offenders. She said students made complaints after incidents with workers near Carroll Hall, near the Health Sciences Library and at

the intersection of Cameron Avenue and Raleigh Street.

Scott said then that she'd sent an e-mail to Willis, warning him of the complaints, but she was not sure what had happened since that time. Willis said workers had yelled catcalls out of windows as students walked by.

Since then, workers at the Carroll Hall construction site said every worker there received further warning from the contractor.

"A letter was given to each worker out here," said assistant site foreman John Hughes.

"I wasn't in the meeting, but everybody received a letter that let them know what happened (as part of the complaints)."

Hughes listed a series of changes made to help prevent sexual harassment by workers to passing students and faculty members.

He said workers were restricted from the sides of the building along the sidewalks beside Venable and Phillips halls. Workers must now refrain from using offensive language, and they may not lean out of windows.

Hughes also said some workers had to wear nametags for identification in case of harassment.

Also, he said the workers' break area was moved from along a sidewalk.

"There was a condition put down that if anyone is caught harassing a woman or making comments to some of the guys, you'll be fired on the spot. You're liable to go to jail and you're subject to being sued."

The University Editors can be reached at udesk@unc.edu.

INSIDE Tuesday

Surfing in Space?



"Father of the Internet" Vincent Cerf told an audience at the Carolina Inn yesterday that people could soon surf the Internet and use it to communicate with

Mars and other areas of outer space. See Page 5.

All Around the Town

Former Student Body President Aaron Nelson has taken a new University post as local relations coordinator. Chapel Hill Town government and University officials



say the Carolina graduate is a natural at navigating the complex world of town-gown relations. See Page 2.

Stock Market Stumble

The Dow Jones industrial average fell over 500 points Monday landing it a spot in history. The market's second largest drop ever ignited a selling panic that gained momentum in the final hour of operations. See Page 5.

Today's Weather



Partly Cloudy;
Upper 80s
Wednesday: Partly
Cloudy; Upper 80s.

It pays to get drunk with the best people.

Joe. E. Lewis