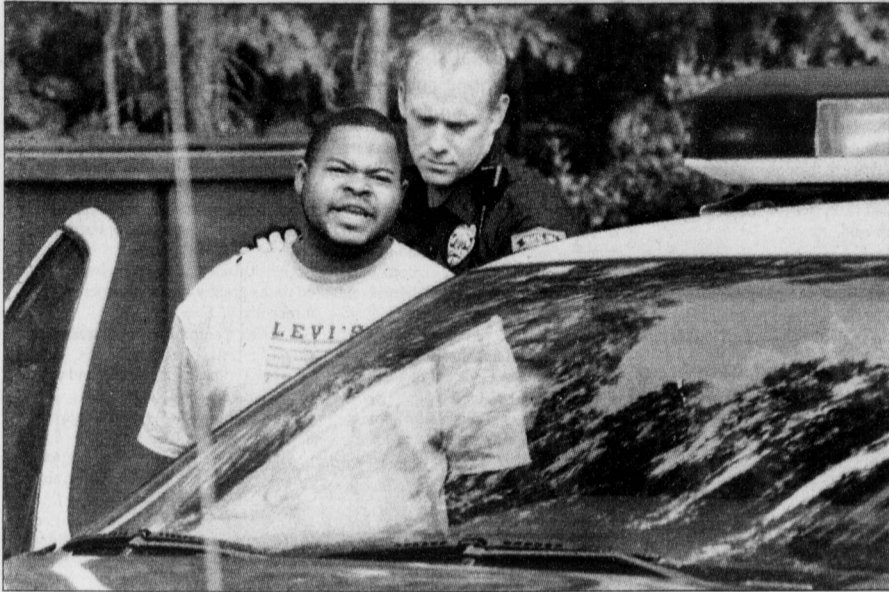


# The Daily Tar Heel

Wednesday, September 23, 1998  
Volume 106, Issue 82

News/Features/Arts/Sports 962-0245  
Business/Advertising 962-1163  
Chapel Hill, North Carolina  
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DTH/DAVID SANDLER

A suspect yells "discrimination, that's what it is" Tuesday as he is being escorted to jail. After a three-month investigation, Chapel Hill police arrested 27 suspects on felony drug charges.

## Drug Investigation Yields 27 Warrants

Residents cooperated with police to get drug dealers out of the Northside and Pine Knolls neighborhoods.

By MATT LECLERCQ  
Staff Writer

A local undercover police investigation culminated Tuesday afternoon with arrest warrants issued for 27 suspects facing drug charges.

The three-month cooperative effort between police and residents of local neighborhoods plagued by dealers resulted in 66 felony charges against the suspects, Chapel Hill Police Chief Ralph

Pendergraph said.

Police arrested 14 suspects Tuesday and continue to locate others.

"All of the violations involved selling and delivering of crack cocaine," Pendergraph said. "But there are a number of different charges also."

Twenty-four suspects were charged with possession of crack with intent to sell and deliver. Other charges include conspiring to commit controlled substance violations and maintaining a vehicle for sale and delivery, according to police reports.

Pendergraph said police began the operation the first week of July after residents of Northside and Pine Knolls neighborhoods complained of street-dealing that was out of hand.

An undercover officer from an out-of-town department assisted four Chapel Hill officers during the investigation, which involved buying drugs from street-sellers. The busts were meant to send a message to dealers who had turned some neighborhoods into open-air drug markets, Pendergraph said.

"Not being able to go out and sit in your own yard is unacceptable," he said. Often, suspects charged with dealing drugs head back to the same streets and continue to sell, Pendergraph said.

Residents asked police to add a condition to the bond, which suspects must pay to get out of jail before their hearings — one that forbids the suspects from

See NARCOTICS, Page 9

### FOCUS ON: DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT

## Gingrich Speaks at N.C. Rally

U.S. House Speaker Newt Gingrich commented on Clinton's woes after a party rally at a Raleigh hotel.

By EMILY CRAMER  
Staff Writer

RALEIGH — U.S. House Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., expressed distaste with the recent developments of the Clinton scandal Tuesday.

"I am uncomfortable with a good bit of the Starr report and the testimony the president has given," he said.

"I wish he had told the truth from the beginning and made the process entirely unnecessary."

Though he avoided direct speculation on the outcome of the congressional investigations, Gingrich offered assurance of the effectiveness of the federal government in the face of such adversity during his speech at the North Raleigh Hilton.

"We should not rush to pass judgement for the president, and we should not rush to pass judgement against the president," he said.

"This is not a crisis; it is the Constitution working as it should."

Gingrich pushed the importance of public consideration in upcoming months, especially in the interest of future generations.

"Watch from the standpoint of your children and grandchildren and know that no one is above the law and no one is below the law," he said.

In an effort to fuel the fire behind David Page, a U.S. House candidate in the state's second district, Gingrich spoke on issues pressing Washington politicians and the differences between liberal and conservative ideology.

"The liberals believe the further you are away from reality, the more power you should have so you can make abstract decisions," he said.

"We believe the closer you are to reality, the more power you should have so you can make real decisions that affect real people."

Gingrich further gave a detailed explanation of other issues facing the country, especially the tax-cut bill, which contained provisions to eliminate inheritance taxes, establish an average

See GINGRICH, Page 9

## Franklin Street Faces Changes

Although rent on the street is the highest in the Triangle, tenants say the price is well worth it.

By MATT LECLERCQ  
AND ANGELA LEA  
Staff Writers

Not every town has a beating heart — a center that reflects its people and personalities.

But the sidewalks of Franklin Street, perhaps as nationally well-known as the University itself, are alive day and night and symbolize the town's economic virility.

Franklin Street is also the kind of place that makes business owners smile in their sleep. More than 24,000 students live, work, and play within walking distance. Thousands of thick-walleted alumni and sports fans cram Chapel Hill regularly for games, and there's no need for business owners to sweat when classes are out for the summer — conferences and student tours keep the customers coming.

But the appeal of Franklin Street comes with a price.

Tenants on the 100 block of East Franklin Street, between Columbia and Henderson streets, pay from \$15 to \$30 per square foot, said Robert Humphreys, executive director of the Chapel Hill Downtown Commission.

Those figures, on average, are high-

er than what Hillsborough Street tenants in Raleigh pay, said Peter Pace, a broker with York Properties.

The average rent for commercial space on the section of Hillsborough Street, which is next to N.C. State University, was \$12.50 to \$20 per square foot, Pace said, adding that only those businesses directly across from campus pay around \$20.

"Franklin Street is probably the highest rent in the Triangle — easily," Pace said.

In Hillsborough, downtown business owners pay from \$14 to \$17 per square foot, according to Hillsborough Economic Development Commission figures.

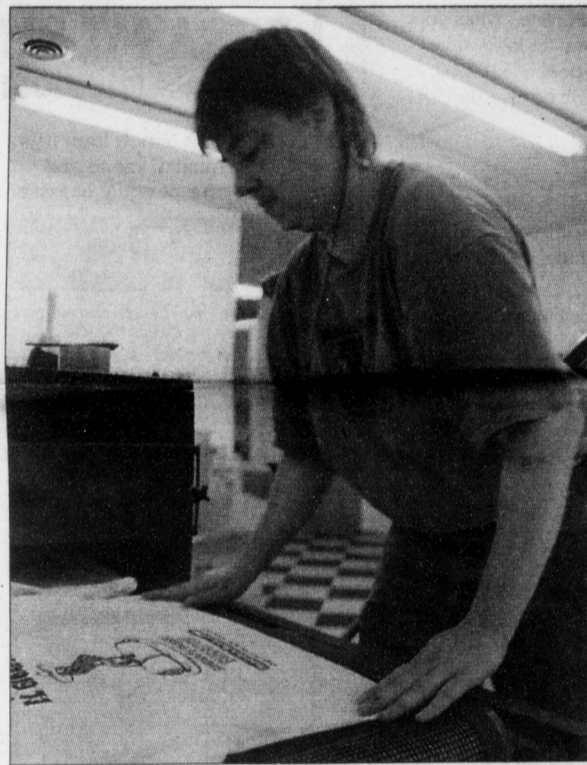
In Chapel Hill, Smoothieville manager Shayne Peninger said rent was a much-discussed issue among downtown small business tenants. Smoothieville, a four-shop chain begun last year by two brothers from the Triangle, opened on Franklin Street in January.

"It's rent that cripples businesses, it's so expensive," Peninger said. "Small businesses here thrive and out-perform larger businesses," Peninger said.

"However it's the rent on Franklin Street which determines (small businesses') longevity," he said.

But rent is a slave to the law of supply and demand, Humphreys said.

"There's a finite amount of property on Franklin Street, and it's the kind of property that people who invest in property would love to own," he said. "Rents are charged because that's what the mar-



DTH/MICHAEL KANAREK

Melanie Wall moved her store, Bread & Butter Screenprinting, from Henderson Street to the Glenn-Lennox shopping center on N.C. 54.

ket could bear."

Suzanne Parsons, who opened Caffetrio at the corner of Franklin and Henderson streets in 1995, said high rent was a disadvantage for small businesses.

"I've seen (Franklin Street rent) change dramatically in the last three

years," Parsons said from home in San Francisco. "That's always a deterrent, but it's part of the economy."

"For a chain, rent is almost a deal."

Council member Joe Capowski said rent was high, but the town should

See BUSINESSSES, Page 4

## Housing to Consider Optional Cable Fees

University housing hired a firm to examine financial feasibility in making cable access an optional service.

By COLLEEN JENKINS  
Staff Writer

The University has enlisted a telecommunications company to determine whether making cable an option rather than the standard in campus residence halls is financially feasible, and the results should be available at the end of the week.

The move came after Student Congress member Luke Meisner complained he was paying for cable he was not using.

While University housing officials agreed to consider Meisner's complaints, they said they were wary of cost increases students and the University could encounter if cable was made optional.

"Our concern is affordability," said Larry Hicks, associate housing director.

Hicks and Wayne Kuncel, University housing director, recently met with Meisner to discuss his concerns about the inclusion of cable fees into student housing costs.

Discussions with Meisner prompted the department to enlist the help of Teller Communications.

If the company shows that optional cable could be financially possible for students and the University, Meisner said he planned to conduct a student survey to find the price students would be willing to pay for cable if made optional.

"If enough students don't want to pay for cable, then I plan to propose a bill for congress to request that the administration make cable optional if it is financially feasible," Meisner said.

University housing is facing a \$2.7 million debt from the costs of installing cable and telephone services, along with Internet connections and networking in residence halls.

University housing included these fees in student fees — with student support — as part of a multi-million dollar project to provide cable and Internet access to residence halls, Hicks said.

Meisner acknowledged the financial situation of the University, but he stuck to his early concerns about cable fees.

"Cable is a luxury," Meisner said. "I'm against the fact that the University is charging students for a service that is unnecessary and maybe even detrimental to our education."

Meisner's concern about cable surprised Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Services Dean Bresciani at the Sept. 8 Student Affairs Committee meet-

ing.

"I found this was an unusual complaint," he said. "At most major universities, (cable) has been part of the regular student rate for a long time."

Bresciani said he felt making cable optional could create a complicated bureaucracy, especially with the issue of who would keep track of which students did not want it. Increased costs for students who chose to get cable would also be a problem.

"The kind of class system that could occur makes me uncomfortable," he said. "Those who have money have cable, and those who don't have money don't have cable."

Bresciani said he had also seen optional cable cause problems between roommates when he worked at the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

"The question was if only roommate A pays for cable, can roommate B ever watch it?"

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

## Joint-Ticket Legislation Dropped

Speaker Brad Morrison says more student input on the joint-ticket issue could result in a better solution.

By CARRIE CALLAGHAN  
Staff Writer

The bill that would have placed the student body president and vice president candidates on a joint ticket was withdrawn from Student Congress on Tuesday night.

Speaker of Student Congress Brad Morrison withdrew the bill he had sponsored at a Rules and Judiciary Committee meeting. Student Body Vice President Emily Williamson said she was very pleased with the decision.

"I think it shows a great deal of responsibility on the speaker's part," she said.

Morrison said student response figured prominently in his decision.

"After talking with a lot of people, I have some ideas that may resolve the matter," he said. "There is a way that we as members of the Student Congress

See RULES, Page 9

## INSIDE Wednesday

Own a Piece of History



One of Chapel Hill's oldest buildings is up for sale after the Chapel Hill Preservation Society bought it and

made some ground rules. The historic log cabin was once a tavern and a student residence. See Page 9.

## Tempting Theater

Playmakers Repertory Company kicks off its season tonight with the opening of William Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, which runs through Oct. 18. See Page 6.

## Ticket Time

Turn out to watch the UNC football team march from Polk Place to Kenan Stadium for the next four Tar Heel Towns and get to see them play the Wolfpack in Charlotte. See Page 6.

## Today's Weather

Mostly sunny;  
Mid 70s  
Thursday: Mostly sunny;  
Mid 70s.

The number of malefactors authorizes not the crime.

Thomas Fuller