

The Daily Tar Heel

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Monday, October 5, 1998
Volume 106, Issue 90

News/Features/Arts/Sports 962-0245
Business/Advertising 962-1163
Chapel Hill, North Carolina
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Linda Mews entertains some youngsters with life-like snakes on a stick Sunday at Festifall. Morning rains threatened to cancel the afternoon event, but subsided for the rest of the day.

DTH/DAVID SANDLER

Festifall Showcases Local Talent

Musicians, area merchants and local organizations drew a large crowd Sunday to West Franklin Street.

By MEREDITH HERMANC
Staff Writer

No one ever said that sun and fun had to go hand-in-hand.

Despite threatening rain clouds Sunday, more than 15,000 people attended the 26th annual Festifall Street Fair in Chapel Hill, organizers said.

Representatives of local organizations, area merchants and musical acts drew the large crowd to West Franklin Street between Church and Roberson streets.

It was the first Festifall for members of the Plonk family, who just moved to Chapel Hill a few weeks ago. Steve Plonk said his family was eager to explore the various sights and sounds of the day but focused on those geared toward children.

"So far, the kids' favorite thing has been the museum table because there was lots for them to play with," he said. "Actually, it's my favorite too."

Other fairgoers said they enjoyed the chance to mingle and chat.

Teddy Calhoun Jr. of Chapel Hill came to see friends he didn't see during the regular daily grind, he said. "(I came) to relax and catch up with old friends, as well as to make new ones."

Besides selling their wares, vendors

said they had a chance to sit back and absorb the surrounding atmosphere.

"Festifall is a way to showcase local talent and show what is good in Chapel Hill," said Carol Walborn, Festifall coordinator. "It is to say this is who we are, and this is what is available in Chapel Hill."

Mandi and Steven Holmberg, owners of Splash Creations, a tie-dye company, set up a booth near Mediterranean Deli. They have worked at Festifall for the last five years after they closed their shop on West Franklin Street.

"It's like a second home," Mandi Holmberg said. "The families of past customers keep coming back to see us and our new merchandise."

One addition to this year's festival was Elaine Kight's Potheads, decorative planters made exclusively of flower pots. She said the Festifall debut of her creations went extremely well.

Musical performances at three stages could be heard from one end of West Franklin Street to the other. Acts ranged from local rock and gospel groups to the Chapel Hill High School Marching Band.

Jennings Durand, a graduate student from Durham who performed original songs on his guitar at the festival, said his first Festifall was one to remember. "It's nice to give everyone something to listen to while they are enjoying the day," he said.

Kathryn Spatz, director of the parks and recreation department, which sponsored Festifall, said turnout was good despite the weather, and volunteers



Claudeline Lewis, a member of the Altrusa Club, helps out at the ring toss to raise money Sunday afternoon at Festifall.

DTH/DAVID SANDLER

played a big role in the festival's success.

Tony Patterson, a senior from Greensboro, was a volunteer who worked to make sure that the day ran smoothly. "It's a great way to give back

to the community and bring everyone together."

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UNC Students Protest Wal-Mart Stores

UNC students joined Duke protesters at the New Hope Commons Wal-Mart to rally against labor sweatshops.

By KEITH TAYLOR
Staff Writer

DURHAM — Shoppers locally and across the nation received an unexpected surprise Saturday when protesters gathered at Wal-Mart stores to convince the company to disclose the locations of its factories.

About 50 people chanted phrases such as "Wal-Mart, Have a Heart" at the Wal-Mart in New Hope Commons in Durham while holding signs and passing out balloons and leaflets.

Protesters said actions by Wal-Mart

such as its "Bring It Home To The USA" ad campaign, which focused on made-in-the-USA products, caused them to question whether the company used Asian and Latin American sweatshops.

Jennifer Stoloff, a UNC graduate student in sociology, said the protest would make people more aware of poor labor conditions in some factories. But she said more than protests was needed.

"These kinds of actions, they just raise awareness, but raising awareness isn't enough," she said. "It's just a first step."

UNC's Students for Economic Justice and Duke University's Students Against Sweatshops demonstrated at the protest, said Duke student Nicole Hess, who helped plan the event. Hess said fewer than half the protesters were from UNC.

The protest's goal was to get Wal-Mart to disclose the exact locations of its factories and was not a boycott, she said.

"Wal-Mart is one of those corporations that everybody knows is doing something wrong, but it's difficult not to shop there," Hess said.

Protesters at New Hope Commons stood by the store's main entrance for about 20 minutes before store managers asked them to leave. The group then moved to the sidewalk in front of the complex and distributed information.

Other protesters demonstrated at the Wal-Mart on Roxboro Road in Durham. Local Wal-Mart employees refused to comment on the protests.

The National Labor Committee sponsored similar protests in more than 150 locations across the country, said Paul Ortiz, a Duke graduate student who helped plan the local events.

He said the college groups would probably hold more demonstrations against Wal-Mart later this year.

Ortiz said many shoppers, especially small business owners, responded positively to the protest. "There seems to be a growing concern about the issue," he said.

Ortiz said the recent publicity about protests by UNC students against Nike helped raise awareness about poor labor conditions in the area.

James Peacock, who taught an International Studies course at UNC this spring about businesses' sweatshop conditions, said sweatshop factories were an important concern in business.

"The global business involves moving the business where labor is cheaper." He said overseas factories generally had a greater problem with poor conditions than American factories.

Duke and UNC students have been

See PROTEST, Page 7

Survey Reveals UNC Crime Drop

Crime prevention officer Lt. Angela Carmon says the decline in crime is a result of increased awareness.

By CAROL ADAMSON
Staff Writer

UNC's campus might be a little safer, according to the annual University security report.

The report, issued last month, showed that aggravated assault on campus had declined 49 percent from 1995, and from 89 cases to 46 in 1997. At the same time, burglary/breaking and entering went down 66 percent, with 53 instances in 1996 and 18 in 1997.

Crime prevention officer Lt. Angela Carmon said the declining number of assaults resulted from increased campus awareness.

"Assaults went down and I'm hoping that's because people have become more educated about safety."

Carmon said the category "aggravated assault" included assaults that resulted in injury as well as those that did not.

University Police Chief Derek Poarch said programs by the crime prevention officer helped to decrease assault and burglary or breaking and entering cases, including programs put on by resident assistants once a month.

"I certainly think the work Lt. Carmon does with crime prevention is important," he said. "I also think it's following a nationwide trend where we see crime down nationwide."

While the statistics for University Police are listed in the report as "aggravated assault" and "sex offense, forcible," Chapel Hill and Carrboro report them as "assault" and "rape." The



University Police Chief

Derek Poarch said prevention efforts had decreased assaults.

difference in the crime categories had nothing to do with the difference in numbers between town and University.

Carmon said the different categories were specified in the Student Right to Know Act, so University Police must report crimes in those categories.

Carmon said statistics for crime in Chapel Hill and Carrboro were included to inform students living off campus.

"If you're going to have crime stats for the campus police, you're going to have crime stats for Chapel Hill and Carrboro, because they are the local surrounding areas," she said.

The town of Carrboro had 135 incidences of burglary reported in 1997, while the University had 18.

Charlotte Lewis, a program support assistant for Carrboro police, said the town had a greater amount of burglary or breaking and entering because the population remained intact during the summer.

Also, according to the report, 12 motor vehicle thefts occurred on campus and 138 occurred in Chapel Hill.

Jane Cousins, spokeswoman for Chapel Hill police, said the difference in car thefts between Chapel Hill and the University was due to a larger population in the town and a greater mobility of cars on campus.

"My assumption is that the campus parking lots tend to empty out by evening, whereas the number of cars in town tends to stay the same during a 24-hour period," Cousins said.

Carmon said the purpose of the report was to help students be aware of crime on campus. "We put the report out to help the students," she said. "Basically, we want everyone on this campus to be well informed."

And Poarch said University Police would do everything possible to continue the trend.

"We can continue to investigate thoroughly any reported crimes and make arrests for those crimes when possible and to continue to provide programs that meet the needs of the University."

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Act Targets College Drinking

In reauthorizing the Higher Education Act, Congress set up a \$5 million fund to help colleges end binge drinking.

By MELANIE FLOYD
Staff Writer

The fight against binge drinking on college campuses received federal support last week with the passage of the Higher Education Reauthorization Act.

The act set up a \$5 million grant to fund campus programs that fight alcohol and drug abuse.

But funds for the grant program might have to wait until next year because this year's appropriations bill was drawn up before the passage of the Higher Education Act. The bill designates how much money will be given to each federal program.

"My gut reaction is that the program won't get the money and if it does, it won't be appropriated \$5 million," said Jamie Pueschel, legislative director for the U.S. Students' Association, a students' rights group on Capitol Hill.

The large number of campus alcohol-related deaths and hospitalizations last year prompted the binge drinking amendment to the act, Pueschel said.

"Congress had to say something to their constituents," Pueschel said.

"They couldn't not do something. They had to make a statement."

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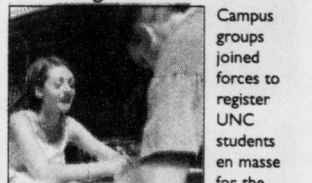
INSIDE Monday

We Be Jammin'



The Loreleis were joined by a cappella groups from Tufts University, the University of Virginia and the College of William & Mary for the Lorelei Fall Jam on Friday. See review Page 8.

Get Registered



Campus groups joined forces to register UNC students en masse for the upcoming November elections. Registration in the Pit and door-to-door efforts in residence halls were all part of the project. See Page 7.

A Hot Commodity

Magazine shops have had a hard time keeping Playboy's "Girls of the ACC" in stock. Vendors say hundreds of issues have been sold this week and more are being ordered in anticipation of a Tuesday signing. See Page 5.

Today's Weather

Chance of rain; Upper 60s Tuesday; Mostly cloudy; Mid 60s.

Nature never did betray the heart that loved her.

William Wordsworth