

POLICE ROUNDUP

University

Thursday, Jan. 7

■ A UNC housekeeper reported vandalism of a display case glass and a telephone receiver on the second floor of Brauer Hall, reports state.

According to reports, the housekeeper said he first noticed the damage at 1 a.m. The damages were valued at \$180. Police were unable to determine if any items were taken from the case, reports state.

■ A small amount of money was reported stolen from a locked desk drawer at the Victory Village Day Care Center, reports state.

The director told police she last saw the money at 5:50 p.m. Wednesday. According to reports, she said someone removed a money box from her office about three weeks ago.

There were no signs of forced entry, reports state. Police have no suspects at this time.

■ Two vehicles collided in the Health Affairs Parking Deck about 3:30 p.m., reports state.

According to reports, the driver of the first car was attempting to back out of a parking space and backed into the path of the second car.

Wednesday, Jan. 6

■ Police responded to a report of an assault outside of Grimes Residence Hall at 2:15 a.m. A male UNC student and a woman, reported to be a former UNC student, were involved in an argument when police arrived, reports state. The student had cuts on his hand, reports state.

The student told police the woman followed him from a bar to Grimes, where she blocked his entrance, reports state.

According to reports, the student was transported to the Chapel Hill Police Department to talk with the magistrate. The woman was asked to leave the UNC campus, reports state.

Tuesday, Jan. 5

■ Two computer systems and two monitors were reported missing from room 62-A of the Old Dental School, according to reports.

The losses were discovered when an Office of Computing and Information Systems employee entered the building at 9 a.m. Tuesday, reports state. The computers were last seen on Dec. 28, according to reports.

The employee told police she saw no signs of forced entry and the room was secure when she entered, reports state.

City

Thursday, Jan. 7

■ Stephen Justin Oates, 19, of 102 Lee Court, Knightdale, was arrested at 2:02 a.m. and charged with driving while impaired, driving while impaired with a provisional license and possession of drug paraphernalia, according to police reports.

All three charges are misdemeanors. Oates was placed under an unsecured \$400 bond and will appear in Chapel Hill District Court on Feb. 2, reports state.

Wednesday, Jan. 6

■ According to reports, a resident reported a breaking and entering and larceny at 7:35 a.m.

A basement door lock was taken apart and \$1,650 worth of furniture, cleaning supplies, tools and an answering machine were removed, reports state.

■ Cary Dean Shields, 28, of 301-C Pleasant Drive, was charged with breaking and entering, larceny and possession of stolen property, all felony charges, police reports state.

The suspect is charged with breaking in to T.J.'s Campus Beverage, 108 W. Franklin St., and removing two six-packs of Heineken, one six-pack of Corona Special and six packs of Marlboro cigarettes, according to reports.

Police observed Shields walking away from the store shortly after they were notified by an alarm call, reports state.

Shields was placed under a secured \$1,000 bond and transported to Orange County Jail, according to reports.

Tuesday, Jan. 5

■ Artwork was reported stolen from Steinway Gallery, 1800 E. Franklin St., at 11:27 a.m.

According to reports, seven works of art and seven small prints were taken. They were last known secure on Oct. 24.

Reports state the artwork was found to be missing on Dec. 31.

The value of the stolen artwork was unavailable.

Area Leaders to Debate Alcohol Regulations

Police and town officials will meet to consider if residents have the right to restrict alcohol sales.

By RUDY KLEYSLEUBER
Staff Writer

Representatives from cities throughout North Carolina will meet with officials from the Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission on Wednesday in Durham to discuss tighter restrictions on the licensing of alcohol vendors.

Ellis Hankins, Director of the League

Municipalities Executive, the group sponsoring the forum along with the city of Durham, said officials would voice concerns over alcohol sales in their area.

"There's a concern in some quarters that there might not be an appropriate level of regulation."

Durham Mayor Nick Tennyson said the forum would be a question-gathering phase. "There's just a general impression that the ABC Commission doesn't care about local complaints," he said.

"The work product is going to be a list of considerations and some channels of communication that we open up."

Nancy Law, a policy analyst for the city of Durham, said there was a corre-

lation between alcohol retailers and nuisance activities, such as littering, loitering and public urination.

"(The forum) is intended to identify problems that exist across the state and to talk about what seems to be a reasonable solution and build a consensus that will carry the General Assembly through its next session," she said.

The state's ABC Assistant Administrator Doyle Alley said the ABC tried to consider community concerns when granting licenses to sell alcohol.

"We recently made sweeping changes to the way we issue permits," Alley said. "We don't issue a temporary permit without asking the local representative."

Alley said temporary permits were critical because, once issued, businesses could begin serving alcohol and become established in a community.

"It used to be that we did some checking before issuing temporary permits, but it was not extensive," he said.

"Many communities voice to their representative that they don't want any more alcohol businesses, but we are bound by the laws of the state, which are intended to create a uniform policy," Alley said.

Also attending from Chapel Hill will be Mayor Rosemary Waldorf, Police Chief Ralph Pendergraph, Police Capt. Gregg Jarvis and Town Attorney Ralph

Karpinos.

The forum will be facilitated by UNC Institute of Government associate professor Kurt Jenne.

Alley said complaints from residents in the vicinity of an alcohol-serving establishment did not necessarily warrant the rejection of a beverage license.

He said the ABC would not support a decision by a small group of community members to overturn the lawful, controlled sale of alcohol. "We do not recognize the desire by a community to conduct a 'spot-referendum.'"

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Technology Plan Hits 2nd Phase

UNC-system President Molly Broad said a new plan aims to keep UNC on the cutting edge of technology.

By KATHLEEN HUNTER
Staff Writer

The UNC Board of Governors rang in the new work year Thursday with the launch of phase two of a new technology plan aimed at bringing the UNC campuses into the next millennium.

In a meeting of the BOG's Committee on Educational Planning, Policies, and Programs, Diana Oblinger outlined plans for the second phase of the Information Technology Strategy, which is designed to help UNC-system students and faculty take advantage of new computer technology established throughout the 16 campuses.

"We are now beginning to look at how we can help people to feel more comfortable with the technology," Oblinger said. "We will be looking at how to provide benefits across the entire infrastructure."

The strategy plans to link all UNC-system school buildings and classrooms through a computer network.

ITS Phase One Coordinator Jarrett Cummings summed up the first phase of the project and said he was encouraged by its results. The phase included campus visits by project coordinators to evaluate the level of computing technology available to each UNC campus.

UNC-system President Molly Broad said the project was important if UNC was to stay on the cutting-edge of computer technology in years to come.

"All over the country, youngsters are taking advantage of the riches of the Internet," Broad said. "They are going to come to our door and expect to have access to these riches."

Broad said the second phase would serve to teach faculty and students how to utilize the technology they are given most effectively. She cited teaching and learning, student services and administration as areas which could potentially be aided by Phase Two.

Broad pinned the cost of the project to implement on all 16 campuses at \$77 million. She said the General Assembly would provide the funding over the next two years.

Broad said she hoped Phase Two would provide a framework of operation for each UNC campus by June.

Oblinger said she was confident that the this next phase would kick off a new era of technology across the UNC campuses. "The major message is stay tuned," she said. "There will be a lot more to come."

The State & National Editors can be reached at stntdesk@unc.edu.

SPARKY



Roger Smithfield welds steel girders at a construction site on Rosemary Street on Thursday afternoon. Units in the building will be rented out as apartments.

DTH/DAVID SANDLER

Study: N.C. Budget Growing Rapidly

A study by the John Locke Foundation concludes that the growth of N.C.'s budget is nearly twice the average.

By MARY CAMERON
Staff Writer

Preliminary estimates from the National Conference of State Legislatures suggest that the North Carolina budget is growing faster than the national average, according to a recent study.

Overall, state General Fund appropriations in the United States grew by an average of 5.4 percent in the 1998-1999 fiscal year compared to North Carolina's growth of 9.9 percent, stated the report released by the John Locke Foundation, a conservative think tank in Raleigh.

Both experts and legislators named higher education spending as one of the factors that sparked the budget increase. "The General Assembly has always been very supportive of public schools," Rep. Betsy Lane Cochrane, R-Davidson, said. "I think, in the future, universities will need to be very efficient in using what they get, but I don't see a reduction of funding for universities in the future."

But others said N.C. universities should anticipate cuts in state funding. "The university system should not expect the same amount of money they have been getting," said John Hood,

president of the John Locke Foundation. But Hood said other options for lowering the budget for the fiscal year 1999-2000 had been considered.

While some legislators said the increase was a necessary measure, analysts said it was the result of poor long-term forecasting. "North Carolina has been on a spending spree, and the bill is now coming due," Hood said.

He also compared the North Carolina legislature to a pack of drunken sailors. "They've been on leave spending money, and now they've been called back to ship to deal with the mess they have made," he said.

Legislators said the budget jump looked dramatic only because past increases had been so small.

"Four years ago, there was zero increase and minimal increase the next year," Cochrane said.

"The increase looks so large because it was an extraordinary amount."

Analysts said that although the increase might look large for the state, it was relatively normal on the national scale.

"There were eight states other than North Carolina that had equal or greater growth in appropriations for the fiscal year 1998-1999," said Arturo Perez, policy specialist at the National Conference of State Legislatures. "Though it was higher than the national average, it was by no means first in budget increase."

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Stamp Price Hike to Hit Post Offices

A 1-cent postal increase will go into effect Sunday. Locals say they were not informed of the boost.

By JESSICA JONES
Staff Writer

Students sending letters home after Sunday might find them returned if they were not marked with the new 33-cent stamp.

The U.S. Postal Service has once again increased the price of the stamp, raising it 1 cent from the previous 32-cent cost.

Tommy Brickhouse, manager of University Mail, said the Postal Service raised the price to offset a projected decrease in revenue.

"There were no rate hikes in other

classes of mail so this will pay for the other services (the Postal Service provides)," Brickhouse said.

Pete Saragusa, station manager for the post office at Timberline, said despite rumors that other forms of electronic communication have hurt the postal system, he has actually seen an increase in the amount of mail at his station.

"E-mail has not decreased mail," Saragusa said.

Beverly Clayton, a clerk for the post office at Timberline, said although the first ounce of mail is increasing 1 cent, the second ounce is actually decreasing 1 cent and anticipated no problems with the change.

"We already have the 33-cent stamps on hand," Clayton said.

"It should be a fairly smooth transition."

The price change is a done deal, but

"I don't think they should do it because they have already raised (the price) enough."

Theresa Lucas
Chapel Hill Resident

some local residents do not approve of the increase.

"I don't think they should do it because they have already raised it enough," Theresa Lucas of Chapel Hill said, adding she did not think the public had been well-informed.

"I didn't hear anything about it," she said.

But others are not bothered by the hike. Another resident of Chapel Hill, Kathy Morris, said she approved of the

"My dad is retired from the post office," Morris said. "A penny won't make a difference."

She also said she thought people were not well-informed about the increase and she anticipated problems with people sending 32-cent stamps after Sunday.

But Clayton said the post office had had posters up explaining the increase for months so the public should already be informed.

India Whedbee, a junior from Washington, D.C., said the price increase would not break her budget.

"I do not see what the big deal is," Whedbee said. "It's only a penny."

If customers continue to use 32 cent stamps without proper compensation after Jan. 10, their mail will be returned.

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Work Advances on Fraternity House

The Phi Gamma Delta house should be nearly completed by July 15, and members plan to move in the fall.

By KIM DRONZEK
Staff Writer

Almost three years after a fire destroyed the Phi Gamma Delta fraternity house, construction workers are pouring concrete floors and erecting steel on the renovation project.

Paul Brown of the Resolute Building Co. said workers were planning to keep the traditional look of the house, which is considered a historic property by the Chapel Hill Preservation Society.

"All the brick walls that form the shell remained (after the fire)," Brown said.

Certain measurements have been taken to ensure the solidarity and safe-

ty of the new structure, which will be located on the former lot at 108 W. Cameron Ave.

"The entire structure is made of steel and concrete, which is more fire resistant than the wood and brick that was first used in the house," he said.

The blaze, which killed five UNC students in May 1996, prompted awareness about fire safety of fraternity and sorority houses.

After the fire, the town passed a sprinkler system ordinance mandating that all fraternity and sorority houses and new multi-dwelling facilities in Carboro and Chapel Hill contain sprinkler systems.

The deadline for all Greek houses at the University to have these systems installed is fall 2001.

Director of Greek Affairs Ron Binder said he felt confident that the deadline would be met.

"A little less than half of the houses

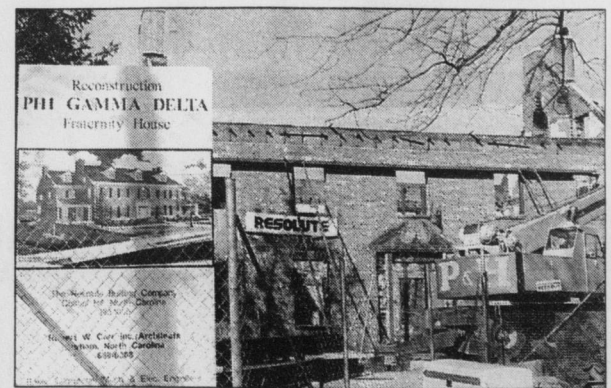
have them now," Binder said. "After the summer we will be further along. If the house does not have a working system by the fall of 2001, it won't open."

Binder said the rebuilding was expected to be substantially completed by July 15, and that members were expected to move in for the fall semester.

Pauline Grimson, head of the Chapel Hill Preservation Society, said she was pleased about the fraternity's reconstruction. "I'm delighted that they are putting it back together," she said. "I presume that it will look the same way, which is good for the historic district and the fraternity."

Brown said the construction was going smoothly. "We've had wonderful cooperation from the frats. Ron Binder has been extremely helpful."

Binder said the \$1.5 million reconstruction costs to the house were funded by alumni donations and insurance.



The Phi Gamma Delta fraternity house is being rebuilt after a fire destroyed the building almost three years ago.

Lon Edwards, president of Phi Gamma Delta, said he was looking forward to being in the new house. Since the fire, the fraternity members have been living in a house on Finley Golf Course Road.

"Everyone is really excited about moving in - it will be great to have the house back."

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