



The University and Towns IN BRIEF

Fire Damages Home, Owners Not Located

A fire on the first floor of an abandoned house on Barbee Chapel Road was contained in less than an hour by Chapel Hill firefighters Wednesday night.

Fire Chief Daniel Jones said crews responded to the fire in about six minutes and used chain saws to cut through the first floor of the red, two-story home. No one was injured in the fire.

Although damage estimates were not available, Jones said the house would be completely destroyed. He said inspectors would work Wednesday night and today looking for the cause of the fire.

Jones said that if the police did not know who owned the house, tax records would be searched to locate the owners. The fire was reported by a food delivery driver around 8 p.m.

Storm, Winds Damage Roof of Apartment

High winds destroyed part of the roof at Merritt Mill Apartments Wednesday afternoon leaving some residents out in the cold.

Five people were left without a place to stay, ABC News Channel 11 reported Wednesday.

The storm also knocked out traffic signals causing minor delays on Manning Drive at N.C. 54, Chapel Hill police reported.

Literature, Learning Offered at Conference

The second annual Association of English Majors/Association of Graduate English Students Conference on Literature will be held March 17 and 18 at UNC's Greenlaw Hall.

English students and faculty from UNC, as well as Triangle universities, are invited to the two day conference.

Carolina students will present their papers, research, poetry and creative writing at the conference and will gain insight as to what graduate work is like.

Registration and refreshments begin at 3:30 p.m. on both days and the discussions are held at 4 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Pharmacy Fraternity Collects Yogurt Lids

The Lambda chapter of Kappa Epsilon, UNC's pharmacy fraternity, will collect Yoplait yogurt caps until April 15 to help fight breast cancer.

The Yoplait USA Company will donate 50 cents toward breast cancer research for every lid turned in to the student services office in the School of Pharmacy. The lids to turn in are pink and read "Save Lids to Save Lives."

This professional fraternity strives to promote women in pharmacy work and its national service project is to support breast-cancer research. Kappa Epsilon hosts programs to inform people of the severity of the disease and teaches them how to conduct self-examinations.

Women's Organization To Sponsor Workshops

The Orange County Commission for Women will sponsor a series of workshops on self-defense training from 7 to 9 p.m. March 9, 16, and 23 at the New Hope Elementary School gymnasium.

The workshops will be given by a martial-arts instructor with more than 30 years of experience. Registration will begin at 6:45 p.m. Interested persons may attend any of these free workshop.

Grass Roots to Hold Tour-Planning Meeting

Grass Roots Arts, Inc., is a non-profit organization that will be holding a planning meeting for the Orange County Open Studio Tour - 1999 that will be taking place this fall.

The meeting will be at 7 p.m. March 10 at Carrboro Town Hall. All interested parties are invited to attend.

The tour will be Nov. 6 through 7 and 13 through 14. Deadline for sign up is June 15, 1999. Those who would like more information should call Monna Welch at 919-542-6511.

Curtain to Rise on Play This Week in Carrboro

Lee Blessing's play "Independence" will be shown this week at the Carrboro ArtsCenter. It will run at 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and at 3 p.m. Sunday. Blessing weaves comedy with poetry and pathos as four women struggle to define and pursue their ideas of freedom amid family ties. Cost is \$10, and the ArtsCenter can be reached at 929-2787.

—From Staff Reports

Assault Suspect Surrenders to Local Police

A Durham man, wanted for eluding Chapel Hill police and assaulting a female, may face additional charges.

By SHELLEY LEVINE
Staff Writer

The suspect who eluded Chapel Hill police during a 14-hour standoff last weekend turned himself in and was arrested Tuesday night.

Clifton Edward Farrington Jr., 19, of 1115 Saxony Drive, Durham, came to the Chapel Hill Police Department around 8:20 p.m. and was charged with one misdemeanor count of assault on a female, according to reports from the

Chapel Hill Police Department.

Capt. Gregg Jarvis said the police department was still investigating other possible charges that might be filed against Farrington at a later date.

"The charge taken out at the time was assault on a female, but other charges may be forthcoming," Jarvis said.

The suspect was confined at the Orange County Jail on Tuesday night,



Clifton Farrington was arrested for one misdemeanor count of assault on a female after turning himself in Tuesday.

reports state.

He will appear Friday in Orange County District Court in Hillsborough, reports state.

Farrington, who bears a "No Love" tattoo on his neck and scorpion tattoos on each wrist, allegedly fled the Pritchard Parks apartment of a woman Saturday morning after beating her in the face and slamming her head through a wall, according to police.

Officers were called to the scene at 7:30 a.m., when two witnesses said they had seen Farrington leave the victim's apartment with a long gun, possibly a semi- or full-automatic weapon, and knock on a neighbor's door, Chapel Hill Police Chief Ralph Pendergraph said Monday.

Farrington returned to the apartment

"The charge taken out at the time was assault on a female, but other charges may be forthcoming."

CAPT. GREGG JARVIS
Chapel Hill Police

after circling it and then escaped through a back door before police arrived.

However, police remained on the scene all day, believing Farrington was still inside, Pendergraph said.

A television had been left on inside the apartment, leaving police to question during the stake-out whether someone

was still inside.

"When it began to get dark, we realized from the glare that the noise had definitely been coming from the television," Pendergraph said.

The standoff ended Saturday evening when a K-9 unit entered the apartment, police said.

The victim was released from UNC Hospitals after the incident, police said. She was treated for facial cuts and possible brain swelling, according to police.

Pendergraph said Farrington also had four arrest warrants from Durham police for failure to appear in court on previous charges.

The City Editor can be reached at citydesk@unc.edu.

Arcade Addiction

Video games have become a social aspect of residence hall life as a mode of both relaxation and procrastination.

By MONICA MODI
Features Writer

Freshman Gary Mitchell of Cary stared intently at the warriors on the television screen as his fingers frantically alternated between the A and B buttons of the video-game controller.

His mission: to kill 100 samurai fighters in 15 minutes or less.

For some UNC students, playing video games has become an integral part of college life. They can be found playing games at all hours of the day ranging from heated suite tournaments to relaxed solo playing.

Freshman Richard Moss of Kernersville said he played several times a day. "It is relaxing to play," Moss said. "Video games are my downtime during the day."

Fascination with video games stemmed from different sources, students said.

Freshman Amanda Gulland of Yankeetown, Fla., said she played with friends from high school who had video systems, and the habit carried on to college.

Other students said they started playing video games when they arrived at college as a way to procrastinate.

"I never played video games until I came to college," said Steve Moore, a freshman from East Lyme, Conn. "But now I play in my suite when I don't want to do work."

Players said video games were an escape from reality and a chance to live through the characters.

"I love the idea of being a gigantic monster," said senior Jason Powell of Hickory.

Joe Rothman, a freshman from Brooklyn, N.Y., was of the same opinion. "I can crack people upside the head and bust their heads open," he said. "When I kick someone else's butt, I realize I am the man."

Senior Alexander Gnika of Charlotte said people get into video games, much in the same way they engross themselves in books, sports or movies.

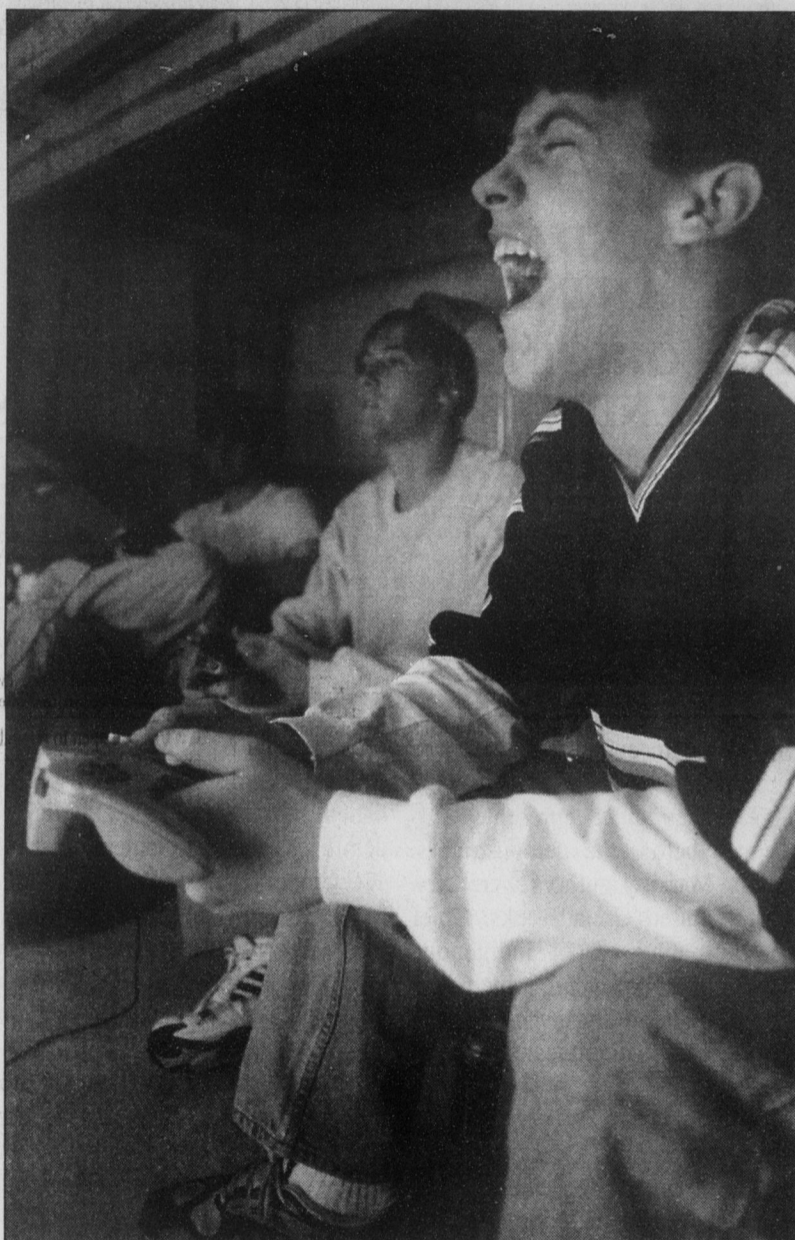
"It's interactive entertainment ... but we don't get too competitive," he said.

Video games also bring back childhood memories for some.

"I remember playing certain arcade games with my father as a child. That is why I had to buy 'Rampage,'" Powell said.

Rothman said video games let him live out childhood fantasies. "I get to play the super hero that I always wanted to be as a

See VIDEO GAMES, Page 4



DTH/SEAN BUSH

Richard Moss (right), Russell Martin and David Dixon play Nintendo 64's James Bond game last Thursday in Ehringhaus Residence Hall. Video games spark competition and fill time for the suite.

Orange County Deputy Busts Robbery Suspects

By SHELLEY LEVINE
Staff Writer

Two men suspected of holding an elderly woman at knife point and stealing her purse in Chapel Hill this week are scheduled to appear in court today.

Timothy Lemont Christopher, 21, of 227 Elmira St., Burlington, and James Cecil Cheek, 40, of 307 Field St., Graham, were arrested last Tuesday, about an hour after a 68-year-old woman was robbed outside her condominium home, police reports state.

An Orange County Sheriff's deputy found the woman's pocketbook in the car of the two men in Hillsborough, leading to each man's arrest on one felony count of robbery with a dangerous weapon, reports state.

Christopher and Cheek were transported to the Orange County Jail and placed under a \$5,000 secured bond.

They are scheduled to appear today in Orange County District Court in Hillsborough.

Chapel Hill police responded to the victim's residence after she was robbed around 9 p.m., reports state.

"The victim was getting out of her vehicle and was approached by the suspect and shown a knife," Capt. Gregg Jarvis said.

"She was ordered to turn over her possessions, he said."

The stolen articles included the pocketbook, a wallet, two checkbooks, two credit cards and \$50 in cash, reports state.

At around 10:20 p.m., a deputy stopped Christopher and Cheek, who were driving a 1992 blue Chevrolet Geo, for suspicious activity in a residential area of Hillsborough, Jarvis said.

"(The deputy) noticed a brown pocketbook on the floor at one of the suspect's feet and asked permission to search the vehicle," Jarvis said.

The purse contained identification that included the street address of its owner, which the deputy recalled having heard on the police scanner earlier, he said.

Jarvis said, "Good police work on the part of the deputy led to the arrests."

The City Editor can be reached at citydesk@unc.edu.

Tardiness Could Mean Less Aid

Though the deadline for financial aid applications was March 1, students can still nab needed cash.

By WARREN WILSON
Staff Writer

The March 1 deadline to turn in applications for financial aid has come and gone, but UNC students who did not submit one should not give up on financial assistance for next year.

Mary Garren, assistant director of the UNC Office of Scholarships and Student Aid, said the department accepted late applications, but students could lose some aid due to tardiness.

Garren said late applications were accepted. But, she said, student pockets would feel the effects. "Students (who apply late) might not hear from us as early as they otherwise would and will have to borrow more money than normally," Garren said.

Joel Lindau, a senior from Wilmington, said submitting financial aid late complicated the entire process.

"(Applying late) is a hassle," he said. "When I did, my aid came late and I

had to take out an emergency loan."

Garren said the deadline, which was for undergraduates applying for need-based financial aid, was necessary to develop financial aid packages for incoming freshmen.

She said that because late applications were processed after those received before March 1, late applicants were awarded less grant money.

Grant money is "free money" that does not need to be paid back, the majority of which from UNC comes from the federal and state governments. UNC also offers need-based aid through loans and work-study.

If students fail to meet the deadline, they cannot appeal elsewhere for more federal aid, said Cory Sturdivant, spokesman for the Raleigh-based College Foundation Inc., a group which distributes all federal and state financial aid to N.C. colleges and coordinates student loans. "If the school says it's too late, we can't do anything," he said.

But Garren encouraged those who

missed the deadline to apply for aid. She cited several misconceptions about the process that often kept students from applying at all. "We have students who don't apply because their parents haven't filed tax returns," she said. "We allow you to estimate income information and make corrections later."

Another misunderstanding which deters students from applying on time is that students must complete two different applications, Garren said.

"Students just have to do one application," she said in reference to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. According to the Office of Scholarships and Student Aid's Web site, students are encouraged to submit the CSS

"Students (who apply late)... will have to borrow more money than normally."

MARY GARREN
UNC Office of Scholarships and Student Aid

Profile as well as the FAFSA. The due date is always March 1, which should make it easier to remember next time for those who forgot it this year.

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

Repairs to Continue With Funds

The funding appropriated by the N.C. legislature will ensure the future of UNC buildings and renovations.

By CATE DOTY
Assistant State & National Editor

Renovations in progress on the UNC campus can continue, thanks to a funding decision made by state legislators this week in the University's favor.

The Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations voted Tuesday to release \$13.2 million targeted for emergency structural repairs and restorations on the UNC campus.

The money comes from \$66.7 million that was allotted for school repairs across UNC's 16-school system. The committee's co-chairman, N.C. Rep. Joe Hackney, D-Orange, said the funds had already been tagged for UNC. But he said that because of the projected fiscal crunch, legislators had been wary of releasing the money.

UNC Chancellor Michael Hooker said the budget shortfall had been a major concern for him as well.

"Of course I was worried that the funding wouldn't come through," Hooker said Wednesday. "But I think the legislature realized the importance of the structural problems we've had."

Hooker said that if, in fact, funding had been withheld, the repairs to structures such as Carroll Hall and several roofs around the campus would have been deferred until next year.

"We're a 200-year-old campus, and we need the same amount of money every year," he said. "You never know what we're going to get."

Bruce Runberg, associate vice chancellor for facilities services, said the funding was crucially needed. "Monies from this source were critical, and we clearly do not have the resources to cover what would be needed," he said.

Runberg said the funding would go toward 14 projects, all of which, he said, were essential. But Hooker called the transformation of Carroll Hall into the new School of Journalism and Mass Communication the most important component on the renovation docket.

See REPAIRS, Page 4