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Downgraded Dennis Hangs U-Turn Toward Coast

Tropical Storm Dennis put much of Hatteras Island under water, as Dare County officials issued evacuations.

Staff & Wire Reports

KITTY HAWK - Dennis began plodding back toward North Carolina's Outer Banks on Tuesday, this time as a

tropical storm, as barrier island residents struggled to recover from the erratic storm's first visit.

The National Hurricane Center downgraded the hurricane to a tropical storm at 11 p.m., but warned that the storm's unpredictable winds are only a few miles per hour below hurricane strength.

Forecasters predicted Dennis, 105 miles east of Cape Hatteras at 11 p.m. with 70 mph winds, would move slowly

west and then turn southwest Wednesday night. That would take it along the same path - but in reverse - that it followed when it crept along North Carolina's coast Monday without coming ashore.

On Tuesday night, Gov. Jim Hunt requested that the Federal Emergency Management Agency declare a state of emergency.

As Dennis drifted westward at 3 mph, gale-force winds and 14-foot waves

lashed the spaghetti-like Outer Banks, its roads already awash in surf and drifted sand. Hatteras Island was without power and off-limits to traffic because beach sand and water had made N.C. 12 impassable. A mandatory evacuation order was issued for South Nags Head and Kitty Hawk residents living along N.C. 12, the beach road, because of threatening waves.

Late Tuesday afternoon, the National Hurricane Center in Miami elevated its

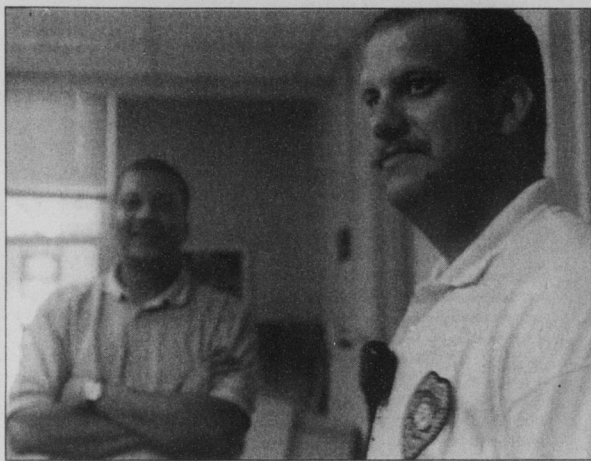
tropical storm warning from Cape Lookout to Chincoteague, Va., to a hurricane watch. "At this point, forecast to forecast is the way we're going," said Dorothy Holt, spokeswoman for the Dare County government. "It's not done, and we realize in the next 72 hours it could pose a problem."

Nags Head Mayor Renee Cahoon declared a mandatory evacuation Tuesday of all of South Nags Head, a densely populated area of rented beach

houses, when ocean water flooded Old Oregon Inlet Road south of Jeanette's Pier. The order will remain in effect until Friday, Cahoon said.

Leanne Caulthan, an engineer with the Outer Banks Division of the National Parks Service who worked as an emergency phone dispatcher Tuesday night said rangers were out making rounds and making last-minute preparations for the storm.

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Area Director Kym Orr (left) is working with University Police officer Chris Burnette as part of UNC's community policing program.

Officer Aims to Mix Policing, Personality

BY STUART CRAMPTON
Staff Writer

His black Nikes have logged so many North Campus miles that he jokes about soliciting walk-a-thon sponsors.

"Shoot, for my March of Dimes they'd probably only gimme a penny for 10 miles," chuckled University Police officer Chris Burnette.

For as long as 12 hours a day, Burnette promenades down the uneven brick paths framing Polk Place and McCorkle Place.

Winding past illegitimate Davie Poplars and frisbee golf addicts, through patches of sunbathers and arboretum shade, his beat is the scenic route.

But Burnette does more than roam the heart of campus. Under the guise of a cop, he's working to lend the University Police more personality.

"They say I'm a walkin'-talkin'

kinda' guy," Burnette said with a grin. "I talk to everybody."

"You know that commercial - 'I've fallen and I can't get up?' For me they say, 'he's talkin' and he can't shut up.'"

The 28-year-old Burnette is part of a newly-instituted community policing program that centers permanent officers in four substations across campus.

And like other officers, Burnette has leads on University Police's newest most-wanted list: "BOLO" for improved communication between students, faculty and officers.

Stemming from Chief Derek Poarch's March proposal, the community policing program is less centralized than the previous department structure.

With a swift walk under a relentless four o'clock sun, Burnette showed almost as much optimism for the new program as he did sweat.

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Hitting the STREETS

Chapel Hill Street Blues

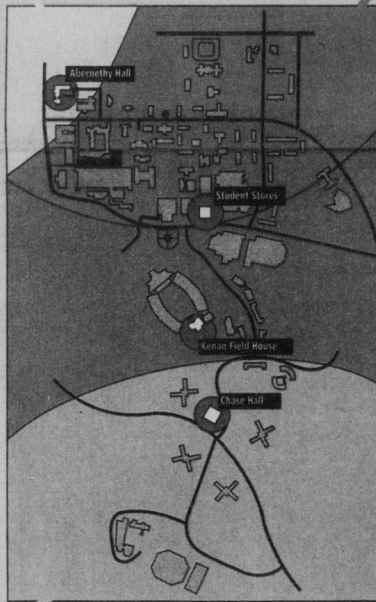
Community policing divides the campus into four districts to be supervised by University Police officers. The headquarters for the North Campus substation is in Student Stores. The Mid Campus headquarters is in Kenan Field House. The South Campus headquarters is in Chase Hall, and off-central headquarters is in Abernethy Hall.



Lt. C.E. Swain supervises his team at the off-central substation.



Lt. Lori Palazo patrols South Campus with her team of officers.



Lt. Steven Thornton is responsible for the safety of North Campus students.



Lt. Herbert Stubbs watches over Mid Campus with fellow officers.

SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

DTH/SALEM RESHAMWALA

BY SHANNON SNYPP
Staff Writer

Many students' first contact with University Police this fall came in the form of warning fliers posted in the wake of two attempted sexual assaults.

Other noticed something different in the air when police officers stopped to offer them rides in the wee hours of the night.

University Police Chief Derek Poarch said actions like these had become the norm since his community policing program went into effect July 5.

Poarch said the increase of police interaction with students coincides with his philosophy of community policing.

In March, he called for the creation of permanent police substation units around campus so that officers could maintain interaction on students in that region.

"The program will improve the chances of people talking to the officers by putting a name with the officer's face and allowing students to become familiar and comfortable with the officers around campus," Poarch said.

The plan divides campus into four regions: South Campus, North Campus, Mid Campus, and off-central campus with lieutenants overseeing each area and assisted by a team of officers.

"The philosophy behind the plan is that the officers in the substations will serve as liaisons between students and the rest of the Chapel Hill community," Poarch said. "If students or faculty need help, they can talk to an officer 24 hours a day at the nearest substation," he said.

"We want students to feel they can approach officers on issues that relate to the quality of their lives or safety concerns they may have," Poarch said.

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Students Donate Fluids To Grab Quick Funds

BY WALTER HERZ
Staff Writer

When the need for quick cash strikes, today's college student has a new option besides working or calling mom.

Local health organizations offer UNC students money for a few hours a week and a few pints of body fluid.

And many students are taking advantage of it.

Diane Tietz, manager of Sera-Tec Biologicals Limited Partnership - located at 109 1/2 E. Franklin St., said 80 percent of the company's plasma donors were UNC students.

Besides the opportunity to help others, the money Sera-Tec offers might motivate students to give of their time and their plasma. "A brand new, first-time donor receives \$20," Tietz said. "If the donor donates again within seven days, he or she gets \$35."

After the first week, a donor receives \$15 a visit and \$25 if he or she donates again within a week, Tietz said.

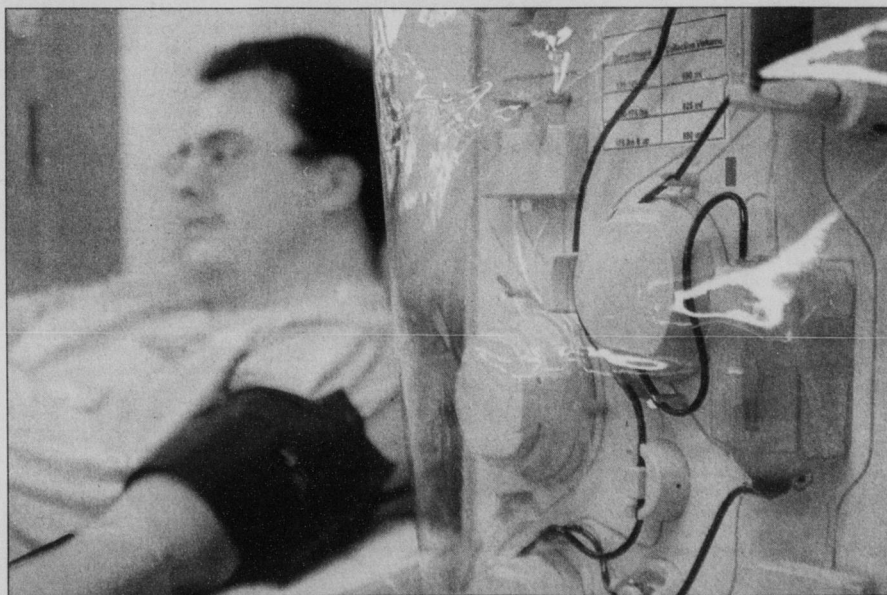
Female students between the ages of 21 and 34 also have the option of selling something more valuable than plasma: their eggs. The N.C. Center for Reproductive Medicine in Cary offers \$2,000 to women willing to donate their eggs to couples who cannot have children on their own.

The plasma donation process is less time-consuming than egg donations, however.

Before allowing a person to donate, Tietz said Sera-Tec requests identification. Sera-Tec also did a pre-donation medical background check and tested the donor's vital signs, she said.

"We do a pre-donation screening," she said. "We check their blood pres-

See FLUIDS, Page 7



Chay Kroner of Carrboro donates plasma at Sera-Tec Biologicals Limited Partnership of Chapel Hill. Regular donors can receive \$40 a week for every two donations.

DTH/RACHEL LEONARD

INSIDE Wednesday

UNC Kicks Off Season

North Carolina women's soccer team takes on Tennessee at Fetzer



Field tonight in its opening game of the 1999 season. See Page 11.

It's About Time

The deadline to reserve a spot on one of The Daily Tar Heel's community feedback boards is this Friday. To find out how to include your opinions on a board, stop by the newsroom office in Suite 104 of the Student Union.

Today's Weather

Rain; Low 80s.
Thursday: Rain; Low 80s.

Change must be measured from a known base line.

Evan Shute