



POLICE ROUNDUP

Local Schools Release Makeup Day Plans

School will resume a regular schedule today for students of Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools.

However, because of hazardous driving conditions, bus service will not be available to residents in Glendale, where students attend Glenwood, Culbreth and East Chapel Hill High; and Rolling Road, Woodhaven and South Lakeshore where students attend Estes Hills, Phillips and East Chapel Hill High.

In addition, April 3 and May 29, which had been teacher workdays, will now be school days for students to make up the two days lost for snow.

Feb. 22 will also be used as a student day to make up the day lost because of Hurricane Floyd on Sept. 16.

Slam Dunk Contest Scheduled for Saturday

The Carolina Athletic Association will sponsor its annual Slam Dunk contest during halftime of Saturday's basketball game against Florida State University.

Interested students can sign up for the contest in the CAA office, but spaces are limited. Four finalists will compete for the title during halftime. For more information, contact CAA Sports Marketing Co-coordinators Rob Taylor at 933-4834 or Chris Jordan at 968-3241.

University

Thursday, Jan. 20

■ A UNC student driving down Raleigh Road near the North Campus residence halls was struck by a snowball which shattered his car window, reports state.

According to reports, a group of several individuals approached the student's car at about 1:40 a.m. with a large pile of snowballs, throwing them at his car.

Reports state the driver's side car window broke, valued at about \$150. Flying glass also cut the driver's face, although he declined to go to the hospital.

The victim stated that there were about 300 to 400 people throwing snowballs, and he could not identify the individuals who caused the damage.

Wednesday, Jan. 19

■ A backpack was reported stolen at 9:48 a.m. from the 2nd floor of Davis Library.

According to reports, the bag contained about \$436 worth of textbooks and other items, including a cellular phone, a calculator and a checkbook.

Tuesday, Jan. 18

■ A backpack and wallet were reported missing from Davis Library.

The items missing included cash, credit cards, keys and textbooks, and were valued at about \$100, police reports state.

City

Wednesday, Jan. 19

■ Chapel Hill police are investigating a possible case of embezzlement at a local bank.

Police responded to a report by an employee at the State Employees Credit Union, located at 310 Pittsboro St., around 11:06 a.m. Chapel Hill police spokeswoman Jane Cousins said an employee was accused of writing bad checks to the account she held with the bank.

According to Chapel Hill police reports, the bank reported a loss of \$225. Police do know the identity of the suspect, but are not releasing her name. As of Wednesday no arrest had been made in the case.

■ Carrboro police are investigating a wallet theft that resulted in a \$400 loss for the victim.

Police responded to the complaint at a Wesley Street residence at approximately 5:18 a.m. The victim claimed his son entered his room, stole money from his wallet, then left the residence.

When police arrived at the residence, they were unable to locate the subject, who lives with the victim. No arrests have been made in the case.

■ Carrboro police responded to a possible assault at 501 Jones Ferry Road around 7:23 p.m.

According to police reports, Christy Nickerson and Palmer Clark were fighting because Clark wanted to leave the residence and Nickerson did not want him to go.

Nickerson claimed that she did not want Clark to leave and that he hit her. Clark said he wanted to leave the residence to cool off and that Nickerson actually hit him. Neither individual wanted to press charges.

Attorneys to Argue Fate of CP&L Expansion

By WALTER HERZ
Staff Writer

The future of the Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant will be discussed this morning in a hearing before a panel of energy experts in Rockville, Md.

Attorneys from both Orange County and Carolina Power & Light Co. are expected to present arguments to the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board concerning the expansion of Shearon Harris' storage facilities in Orange County.

The hearing will be held in the headquarters of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, which has been an integral player in the ongoing dispute between

the county and CP&L.

NRC spokesman Roger Hannah said the board would decide if another evidentiary hearing was necessary before the board decided whether CP&L could expand the nuclear power plant's cooling facility.

"The board could determine that there is enough information to decide the matter, or say it desires another hearing, probably in Orange County," he said. "Or it could decide that it needs more information to decide anything."

Early last year, CP&L made a request to the NRC for a license amendment in order to expand its Shearon Harris cooling facilities. Orange County commissioners asked the NRC for an interven-

tion so they could commission a study on the safety of the proposed expansion.

Diane Curran, Orange County's attorney, said she would defend two major contentions at today's hearing.

"First we have to make sure the license amendment complies with criticality prevention regulations," she said. "Second, the piping and welds in the cooling pools must meet NRC regulations."

Commissioners claimed the proposed facility would not comply with NRC rules, prompting the struggle between CP&L, residents and the county.

CP&L spokesman Mike Hughes said the plant's cooling facilities would adequately safeguard against a nuclear

chain reaction.

"We have performed a number of analyses, as has the NRC," he said. "If every location within a storage rack is assumed to be simultaneously loaded with misplaced fresh fuel of the highest reactivity, there still would be no nuclear chain reaction."

"Besides, there has never been a single misplaced fuel assembly at the Harris plant."

He said CP&L had also made sure that the pipes and welds were in safe working order.

"We have performed visual inspections on all the welds and piping, including the piping imbedded in concrete," Hughes said. "We have even done tests

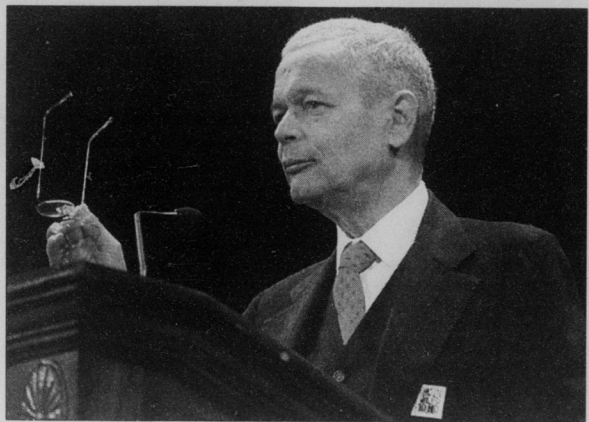
of the water in the pools and the cooling system. The system is intact, with no degradation."

However, Curran said CP&L had left many things unchecked during their investigation. "The operating license amendment should not be issued," she said. "CP&L does not comply with NRC regulations."

Hughes said he was optimistic about CP&L's chances before the board.

"We have never felt any need to have any cause to believe that our plan is not safe or responsible," he said. "It's a good, safe plan."

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DTH/KATE MELLNIK

Julian Bond speaks about his time as a student of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. His speech was part of the week honoring the civil rights leader.

Bond Fears Civil Rights Decline

By KAREY WUTKOWSKI
Staff Writer

A key player in the civil rights movement warned a UNC audience Thursday night of an alarming trend in declining civil rights for minorities.

Julian Bond, chairman of the board of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, was a guest lecturer at Memorial Hall as part of UNC's weeklong Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration.

"We find ourselves fighting new battles we thought we have already won," Bond said. He especially noted the work of the U.S. Congress as destructive to minorities' advancement.

Bond, a founder of the Atlanta student sit-in and of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, had a close relationship with the late King.

"I'm one of the six people in the universe who can say, 'I was a student of Dr. King,'" Bond said.

"I wish I had had the wit to take a tape recorder to class."

Freshman Rob Moore, who was a member of the planning committee for the celebration, said hearing Bond speak was a great opportunity for college students who were not alive during King's time.

"This is as close as I'll get to Dr. King," Moore said.

Bond called the civil rights move-

ment American democracy's finest hour but asked what had caused the momentum to slow down.

"Now is the critical time," Bond said. "Leaders of the House (of Representatives) and Senate are now more hostile to civil rights than in any recent time."

Bond noted the lack of congressional support for minorities, referring to certain Congress members' affiliation with the Ku Klux Klan. "Last year most of us wanted to be Y2K compliant," he said. "They are KKK compliant."

He also expressed concern over the uncertain future of affirmative action.

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Experts Assess 1st Gubernatorial Debate

The debate showcased five candidates and sparked political analysis of who might be the next governor.

By ANNE FAWCETT
Staff Writer

Front-runners in North Carolina's gubernatorial race showed in a candidates' forum Wednesday that they are competing on a level playing field, but still need to iron out their game plans, observers say.

The five leading candidates — Richard Vinroot, Chuck Neely and Leo Daughtry for the GOP and Democrats Dennis Wicker and Mike Easley — met in a forum sponsored by the N.C. Bar Association.

UNC political science Professor Thad Beyle said the forum revealed no standout candidates, but instead allowed each man to repeatedly flesh out his position on issues.

He said his impressions were that Neely focused on family issues, Vinroot

highlighted the need to cut back government, Wicker concentrated on following Gov. Hunt's programs and the need for a lottery and Easley emphasized his work for the people as attorney general.

"When I woke up this morning, that's what I remembered," Beyle said. "But I couldn't tell where Daughtry was. He didn't come through clearly, but the others' reactions came through each time."

Both Republicans and Democrats emphasized that the greatest issues North Carolinians faced were education and the state's financial status. The candidates proposed opposing fiscal plans, with Republicans promising to cut taxes and Democrats looking to a lottery for additional revenue.

Beyle said both ideas were flawed. He said the Republican policy of tax cuts and reduced spending were counterintuitive in the face of tremendous needs caused by Hurricane Floyd and a possible slowdown in the state's economic expansion.

"A Republican governor who ran on that might have tough job ahead of him once he arrived in office," he said.

Likewise, the Democrat lottery plan required further examination, Beyle said. He said he thought the candidates were basing their campaign on the 1998 gubernatorial elections in Alabama and South Carolina, in which candidates supporting the lottery won.

Beyle said Alabama Gov. Don Siegelman interpreted his win as a call for an Alabama lottery when in fact it was a retaliation against incumbent Gov. Fob James.

"If the Democrats pushing for the lottery are taking signals from Alabama, they need to step back and say maybe that wasn't what was driving the electorate," Beyle said.

Dan Gurley, political director for the N.C. GOP, said Republican candidates' positions on issues reflected the ideas of North Carolina's citizens.

He said that after eight years of Democrat Jim Hunt's governorship, North Carolinians were ready to follow a historic pattern of alternating gubernatorial parties.

"North Carolina is a swing-state politically," Gurley said. "It's a pendulum effect, and I think the political climate

now is favorable to Republicans."

However, Beyle said he thought the election forecast was the foggiest it had been in years.

"This is one of the big years in terms of gubernatorial elections," Beyle said. "The last time the situation was this unclear was in 1984 when Jim Hunt left office after eight years and lots of candidates ran."

Forums are usually not suggested until after the parties have chosen their candidates, so the early timing of the forum reflects the importance placed on raising public awareness for this election, Beyle said.

Both parties said the race would be close. However, Barbara Allen, N.C. Democratic Party chairwoman, said she thought the campaigns would avoid personal attacks.

"It's going to be a tight race, and it's going to be a race like we haven't seen before because we're focusing on issues instead of each other so much and really showing a caring attitude."

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New Union Plans Held Until May

The \$3 million project plans have been tabled once more to allow for amendments in the architectural blueprints.

By KATE MACEK
Staff Writer

Students can continue to eat, study and sleep undisturbed in the Student Union for a few more months, as renovation plans for the building have been delayed once more.

Construction for the \$3 million project, which would include new lounges and a possible Spitting Image copy center, is now slated to start May 1, with groundbreaking ceremonies taking place April 14.

Renovations to the Union were originally scheduled to begin in late August of last year but were pushed back to later in the fall and then to March of this year.

Now the projected construction start date has been changed again so architects and University officials can implement plan changes required by state agencies.

"There have been review delays and (we've been) getting the Department of Insurance and state construction changes into the final package, plus other internal changes," said Bruce Runberg, associate vice chancellor for facility services.

"There were a number of choices we made in the last couple of months as to the materials to be used and the way the dormers and windows looked."

Union Director Don Luse said delays were typical for extensive construction projects.

"It's part of a normal process that any building project goes through on a scale like this," Luse said.

"They are almost always going to be out back to some extent. It's nothing to do with anything being wrong."

The architect is preparing the final construction documents so the University can formally advertise them to construction companies.

Feb. 24 is the opening date for construction bids.

After University officials accept the lowest conforming bid, the plans must be approved and the contract awarded by state officials before construction begins.

"Hopefully it will be a couple weeks or sooner that they'll be able to identify the company and let them know and get started," Luse said.

Student Body President Nic Heinke said he was concerned the project would ultimately cost students more because of additional delays and possible inflation.

Students voted three years ago by referendum to increase student fees to fund the Union project.

"I think our Union staff has done a

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College Life on the Campaign Trail

By JOANNA PEARSON
Staff Writer

While most college students are going to classes, hanging out or studying, Ashlie Green is applying her education to the "real world" — she's campaigning across the country with Democratic presidential candidate Bill Bradley.

Green, a sophomore journalism major, said she became interested in political campaigning because of Sen. John Edwards', D-N.C., impressive campaign last year. When her dad mentioned Bill Bradley to her, she decided to check him out and found an opportunity for internships.

"I just applied, and they told me I could come in January," Green said.

A former N.J. senator, Bradley is also a 10-year veteran of the hardwood, having played for the New York Knicks. In the Democratic primaries, he will face Vice President Al Gore.

Bradley's top campaign issues are affordable health care and campaign finance reform. Of course, to meet all his goals, he first has to become the Democratic presidential candidate.

This is where Green, as well as others on the campaign team, come into the picture. So far in the campaign, Green has helped arrange campaign stops ranging from community speeches in pignets to middle schools and town councils. Her duties include arranging hotel rooms, provisioning the bus or even deciding exactly how Bradley will make his entrance — down to the minute details of whose hands he will shake.

"It's an amazing team effort," Green said. "It can be tedious at times, but we have to arrange everything because we can't run late."

Although Green isn't allowed to comment on her views of Bradley as a politician, she is certainly devoted to his campaign efforts. Green is stationed at Bradley's Iowa headquarters, an important stomping ground for presidential candidates. Green chose Iowa over New Hampshire because "I see it as the greater challenge. Iowa is a huge step for us," she said. "I'm prepared to stay for the duration, and if I have to take another semester off, then I will."

After a 22-hour drive from North Carolina with no idea what to expect from her new position, Green was anxious about life away from school and friends. She has met the challenge, though, and being the youngest member of the campaign team does not daunt her. "I am pretty much the youngest person here, but I enjoy the mature environ-



PHOTO COURTESY OF ASHLIE GREEN

Sophomore Ashlie Green is spending her semester campaigning with Democratic presidential candidate Bill Bradley.

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