



The University and Towns IN BRIEF

Durham Man Attacked, Abducted on Campus

A 23-year-old Durham resident was attacked outside of Cobb Residence Hall at about 11:20 p.m. Saturday night, reports state.

The victim told police that three men pulled up next to him in a black 1980 Nissan.

He told police the men approached him, hit him in the back of the head with a piece of wood and pushed him into the vehicle.

The men continued to assault him and robbed him of \$16 in cash while they transported him to the Cat's Cradle in Carrboro, the victim told police.

Upon arrival, the men kicked him out of the vehicle.

The victim contacted a UNC student living in Cobb for a ride to the hospital.

He suffered broken bones and severe lacerations, according to police reports.

Deadlines Extended For Drop, Withdrawal

The University has extended its drop and withdrawal deadlines due to weather closings.

The deadline to drop classes has been extended to 5 p.m. Wednesday.

Students will be permitted to withdraw from the University with a 80 percent refund through Wednesday.

After Wednesday, the refund decreases by 10 percent each week until March 22. Twenty-five dollars will not be refunded. The six-week drop deadline will remain as Feb. 23.

Carolina Week Show To Air Wednesday

Carolina Week, a new student-run television program, will air for the first time at 7 p.m. Wednesday.

The show will continue to air at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday and Friday nights each week on Student Television.

Off-campus viewers can watch the show on the Chapel Hill public access channel.

Students Get Chance To Attend ACC Games

Students can put their names in a drawing this week for a lottery to get the right to buy tickets to this year's Atlantic Coast Conference basketball tournament.

Students can sign up in the Pit from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Wednesday. Each sheet of paper will have room for 20 names, and seven sheets will be drawn for a total of 140 students. The tickets will cost about \$220 and students must purchase them individually.

Carrboro to Sponsor Girls Field Hockey

The Carrboro Recreation and Parks Department is sponsoring a Youth Field Hockey program for girls in fifth through eighth grade. Registration for the program will begin Feb. 7 for Orange County residents and Feb. 14 for non-Orange County residents.

Those interested in registering should do so at the recreation department, located at 301 W. Main St. in Carrboro.

The fee is \$31 and registration forms must be signed by a parent or guardian. Space is reserved on a first come, first serve basis.

For more information, call 968-7703.

Volunteers Needed For Rape Crisis Center

The Orange County Rape Crisis Center is accepting applications for its spring 2000 volunteer training class which takes place Saturday.

The center is looking for applicants to work as Community Educators and Companions.

Community Educators present programs about sexual violence and its prevention in the community.

Companions carry a pager on 24-hour shifts to respond to calls that come in on the Center's crisis line, providing support and information for survivors of sexual violence.

For more information, call 968-4647.

Local Bookstore Seeks Volunteer Workers

Internationalist Books and Magazines, a local cooperatively owned bookstore, is looking for volunteers to help run the store and perform several other business functions.

Opportunities include three-hour weekly shifts and internships.

For more information, call 942-1740.
From Staff Reports

Suit Claims State Misuse of Settlement Funds

By EUGENE WHEELER
Staff Writer

Proponents of a tobacco lawsuit recently filed against the state of North Carolina say the state is misusing \$1.2 billion to \$1.5 billion that should be awarded to individuals suffering from tobacco-related illnesses.

According to a November 1998 settlement signed by Attorney General Mike Easley, the state is slated to receive \$4.6 billion over 25 years from tobacco companies to cover Medicaid costs from tobacco-related illnesses.

The state plans to use the money for a variety of purposes, including health

care and financial aid to tobacco-dependent communities.

But Asheville attorney Larry McDevitt, a UNC alumnus who filed the suit Thursday, said he had experience in tobacco cases, and became suspicious when he learned that the settlement was bringing in more money than the state had paid for health care costs.

McDevitt said the amount paid by Medicaid was awarded to the state, but the excess money should legally belong to the victims. He said the individuals suffering from tobacco-related illnesses were not actually receiving any of the money, although they were legally entitled to a share.

Hilda White is one such person. A 62-year-old Asheville resident and lead plaintiff in the case, she does not receive any of the excess settlement funds under the state's current plan, although Medicaid has paid some of her medical costs.

White smoked for 35 years, ranging from half a pack to 2 1/2 packs each day. She suffers from heart problems, diabetes, emphysema and sleep apnea, and has required oxygen support for years.

White joined the lawsuit hoping McDevitt would succeed in helping pay her medical bills.

But Don Hobart, chief council to Easley who helped draft the nationwide settlement, said it was doubtful the state

would change its allocation program.

"I do not expect that these individuals will be successful in recovering these funds," he said.

Hobart said that as of Friday, he had not seen the suit and could not discuss any specifics. He said suits filed by smokers in other states targeted tobacco companies instead of their respective states. "The North Carolina lawsuit was different because it focuses on unfair trade and racketeering charges," he said.

McDevitt said he did not object to the state's use of all funds, only those exceeding what the state originally paid in medical costs. He said they were asking the court to find that the federal law

was applicable, and to order state officials to pay the injured people of North Carolina with the excess funds.

"We just don't want the poor people left out of the process," he said.

Hobart said the state's settlement was not designed to reward smokers, but there was nothing in the construction of the settlement that would prevent injured smokers from suing the tobacco companies. "We feel confident that what we have put together and what the legislature has done with the funds is going to be held up," he said.

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

Museum Officials Seek Funds

Chapel Hill Museum leaders say the facility provides a valuable town service and should receive funding.

By TRICIA BARRIOS
Staff Writer

Facing unexpected financial constraints, the Chapel Hill Museum is asking the town to help ease its burden.

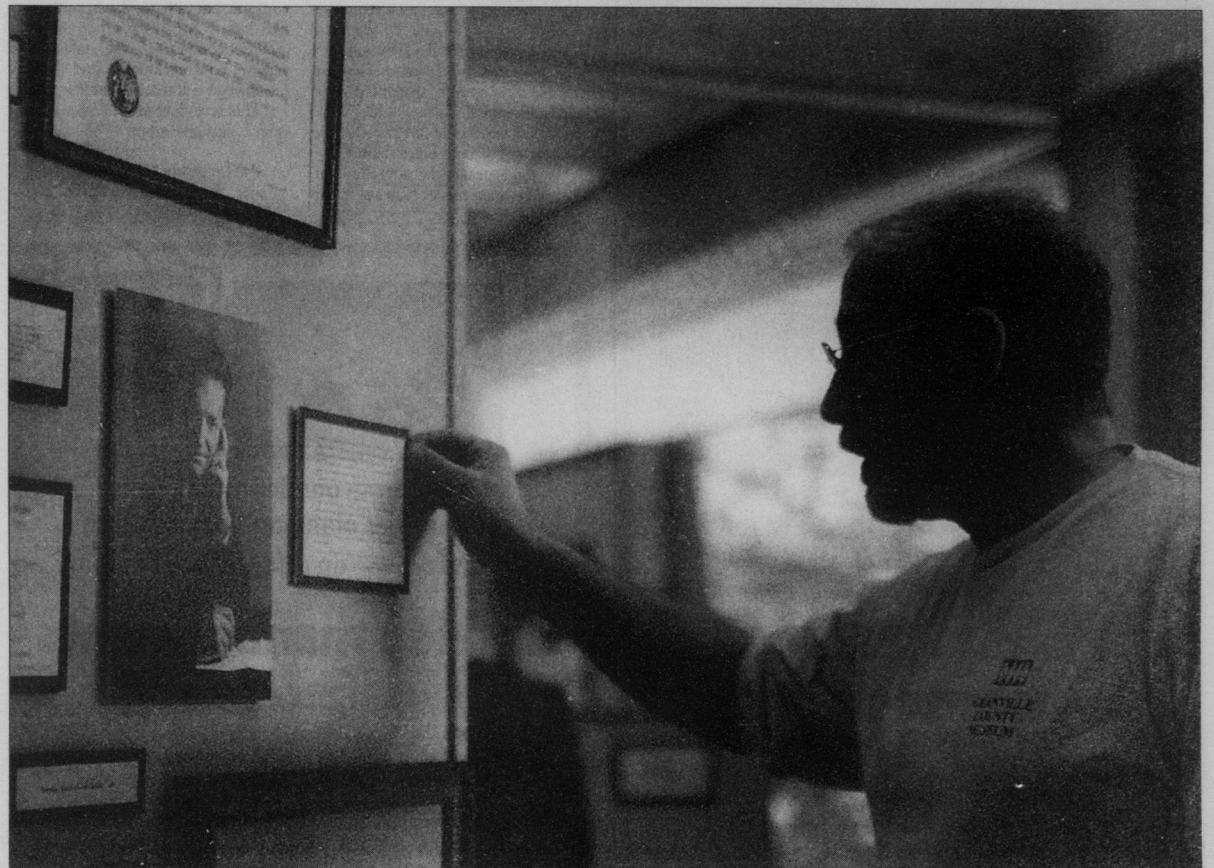
The museum's board of trustees claims the museum provides an important cultural service to the town and is asking for \$20,000 for annual operational support. It is also requesting town services in building upkeep.

Board member Alan Rimer said that when the museum first started, it agreed to use the town's building without any further financial assistance.

"But the building is owned by Chapel Hill," he said. "It's a capital asset of the town. If the museum were to leave that building after putting in a brand new heating system, the town would have a brand new heating system, and that's not fair."

Rimer explained that the original

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Chapel Hill Museum Director Morgan Kenney examines an exhibit on Paul Green. Claiming the museum provides an important historical service for the town, museum officials are asking for a yearly sum of \$20,000 to assist in operational support.

Slow E-mail, Listserv Problems Prompt ATN Action

By WILL FOUSHEE
Staff Writer

As the snow and ice have mounted across campus, so has community tension over problems with UNC's e-mail and listserv facilities.

John Oberlin, executive director of Academic Technology & Networks, said ATN was making changes to rectify the sluggish e-mail system and complaints about the new listserv software, efforts hampered by the last few days of wintry weather.

"We understand that it's not working correctly, and we're not happy with it either," Oberlin said.

He said ATN was evaluating the new Lyris listserv software and the new Pine e-mail software, which was installed during Winter Break. "We have to make changes, and then wait a day to see if the problem has been corrected," he said. "We can't see a clear cause as of yet."

Oberlin said that on Friday night, ATN was changing the main router that connected the campus network to the e-mail and listserv server. All e-mail and

listserv traffic must travel through this router before reaching Isis.

Oberlin said the problems with the e-mail system were related to peak time usage because the system was working well within system parameters.

He said there were more than 4,000 people connected to Isis at any given time and that between 12 a.m. and 4 p.m. Friday, 309,000 e-mail messages were delivered by the server.

Oberlin said the problems baffled the ATN staff because the size of the system had been doubled over Winter Break.

"We've doubled the number of CPU's, hard drives for storage and quadrupled the size of the network," he said. "We're going to fix the system, and it's going to be the best of any campus when we're through with it."

The changes might not come soon enough for many groups around campus that are feeling all tied up by the changeover in software.

Sangam President Susan Kansagra said its listserv was still having problems after the Lyris changeover.

Kansagra said Sangam had more

than 400 people on its listserv, but everyone with a last name after the letter "P" had been deleted from the lists.

"We're going back through membership logs to piece our listserv back together again," she said.

Oberlin admitted that ATN had not educated the user community enough about the new listserv software. "We did not have enough time to educate people about list management."

The University Editor can be reached at udesk@unc.edu.

Local Eatery to Open Today

Owners of Spanky's spruced up the restaurant by adding a \$30,000 cherry wood bar and a wall for UNC sports.

By ROBERT ALBRIGHT
Staff Writer

After closing its doors to customers nearly seven months ago, Franklin Street staple Spanky's will reopen today, offering a new look and revamped menu.

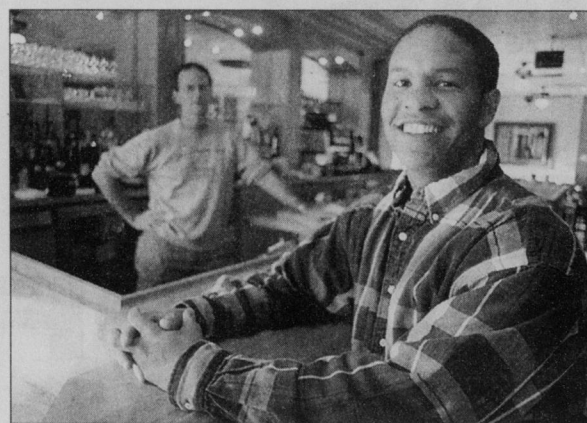
Spanky's, which has served local residents at its 101 E. Franklin St. location for 22 years, closed July 4 for major renovations.

Co-manager Chris Ijames said he hoped customers would enjoy Spanky's brand-new downstairs bar, brighter lighting, refinished floors, changed menu and redesigned upstairs and downstairs seating.

"This is a new restaurant in an old location," he said. "There has been a buzz on the street from people asking when the place will open back up, and I think these people will be pleased with the changes."

Ijames said customers would notice new doors and track lights on Spanky's exterior. But, he said, the majority of changes were inside the restaurant's doors.

Ijames said a new \$30,000 cherry wood bar, along with a black and white tile floor, would highlight the ground floor. The downstairs also has an entire wall that serves as a tribute to the lesser-known athletic teams at UNC.



Kenny Carlson and Chris Ijames, co-owner and co-manager of Spanky's, hope to re-establish the restaurant as a Chapel Hill institution.

"We thought all the teams except football and basketball needed a little more recognition," Ijames said.

In addition to the ground-floor renovations, designers moved the old bar upstairs and created a new banquet room with a seating capacity of 40.

While numerous changes were made to the physical appearance of Spanky's, Ijames said the menu was also modified. Most of the new selections are on the dinner menu, with new entrees such as salmon and baby-back ribs.

"There is still a good variety of traditional items like sandwiches on the menu to cater to the University crowd," he said. "But for dinner we have added

new entrees so that any group could come here and find something to eat."

Robert Humphreys, executive director of Chapel Hill's Downtown Commission, said he and the town were ready for Spanky's to open back up.

"I'm just tickled to death to have it back," he said. "Spanky's has been the topic of discussion on the street for quite some time since it closed."

Many people strolling down Franklin Street this weekend discussed Spanky's reopening.

Don Johnson, co-owner of Creative Metalsmiths, which is several doors

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Affordable Housing Planned for Elderly

Construction on a 41-unit apartment complex could break ground by July if the project gets local approval.

By KATHRYN McLAMB
Staff Writer

With new money in its coffers and big plans on the horizon, the town of Chapel Hill might soon be able to provide a more inviting living option for its elderly residents with limited means.

A \$3.8 million federal grant obtained in November from the Department of Housing and Urban Development could help finance 41 apartments on Merritt Mill Road for low-income elderly residents.

Belaying HUD fears that the building

permit process would be lengthy, the Town Council has already granted expedited processing for the special use permit request made by the project's sponsor, the First Baptist Church of Chapel Hill.

"We expect to be finished with our process by May 15," said the Rev. J. R. Manley of First Baptist Church. "If the permit is granted we expect to break ground by July."

The Town Council has until May 15 to vote on the permit. But council members have already expressed support for the project because it addressed public needs in Chapel Hill.

"We clearly have developed a lot of high-end assisted living in town," said council member Bill Strom. "But there are very few options for people of limited

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Student Elections Notes

- *The rescheduled mandatory candidate meeting will be held from 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. today in 111 Murphey Hall. All candidates planning to run for office must attend.
- *Candidate petitions are due at 5 p.m. today.
- *Advertising and campaigning will start at 10 p.m. today following the mandatory meeting.
- *Candidates with questions should contact Elections Board Chairwoman Catherine Yates.