

# POLICE ROUNDUP

## University

Sunday, March 5

■ A UNC student reported that 89 CDs had been stolen from her room in Hinton James Residence Hall since March 25, 1999.

According to reports, the student had not been present when any of the CDs were taken. The total value of the missing CDs was estimated at \$1,350.

■ A UNC student reported minor injuries at 10:45 a.m. from an assault that had occurred earlier that morning.

According to reports, the victim was at a party on the seventh floor of Hinton James Residence Hall. When he left the suite where the party was held at 1 a.m., the suspect, Robert Cailey, struck him twice in the side of the face, reports state.

The victim reported a swollen lip and cheek.

The student reported that the attack was unprovoked and that he had never met Cailey, who is not a UNC student.

■ According to reports, a UNC student was arrested for underage possession of alcohol.

The suspect was found with a Bud Light in her possession in McCauley Lot at 1:39 a.m.

Reports state that she was cited and released.

Saturday, March 4

■ A UNC student reported a suspicious person who had approached her at about 1:30 a.m. as she returned to her residence hall.

According to reports, the student was walking from Franklin Street to Joyner Residence Hall when, near Morehead Planetarium, a man started talking to her and walking with her.

The student described the man as a 5-foot-8-inch clean-shaven black male wearing a teal Charlotte Hornets jacket and dark pants.

She reported that he told her he was depressed due to a domestic situation involving a child.

Reports state that the suspect followed the student back to Joyner, where he asked to come in. The student refused.

Police found no sign of the man in or around Joyner, according to reports.

■ According to reports, eight shrubs were pulled out of the ground near the Alumni Building.

No suspects or damage estimates were available.

■ At 2:13 p.m., a UNC student reported that her purse had been stolen from the fifth floor of Davis Library.

According to reports, the student had left her purse unattended on a table for about 10 minutes.

Reports state the purse was found about an hour later between books on the fifth floor.

One hundred dollars in cash and a Visa credit card were missing, although the rest of the contents were intact.

■ At 10:41 p.m., a UNC student was found on Raleigh Road and charged with underage possession of alcohol.

Reports state that he was carrying a Coors Light and was cited and released.

## City

Saturday, March 4

■ A Chapel Hill man was charged with the assault of a female at a local residence.

Joseph Bernard Lassiter of 306 Lindsay St. was charged with misdemeanor assault of his girlfriend early Saturday morning, reports said.

Police responded to a call at 3:42 a.m. pertaining to a disturbance in the area.

When officers arrived at the scene, they noticed a woman bleeding from the mouth, caused by a blow.

Police reports said the suspect had cuts and scrapes on his knuckles.

Lassiter was released on a promise to appear with a written statement saying he would not come into contact with the victim prior to trial.

A court date has not been set.

Friday, March 3

■ A Carrboro woman reported a missing divinity statue from her property.

Police reports state a local resident, wanting to remain anonymous, reported that her statue of a praying angel was missing as of Feb. 22 but failed to report it due to personal reasons.

The 24-inch symbol was a favorite of the woman. She told police she had no idea who would have stolen the statue and for what reason.

A tree service was soliciting their trade prior to the statue's disappearance, police reports state.

Police are continuing to investigate the disappearance.

# Town Council Debates IFC Expansion Plans

By ROBERT ALBRIGHT  
Staff Writer

The Inter-Faith Council's future remained up in the air Monday night as the Chapel Hill Town Council continued discussion of the group's hotly debated plans for expansion.

The IFC, which runs a local homeless shelter and soup kitchen on 100 W. Rosemary St., is looking to either relocate its offices to a different building or expand the shelter's downtown location.

Because of the IFC's growing needs, council member Pat Evans said the council would have a difficult task in determining the IFC's fate.

"It is in the town's best interests to keep our options open," she said. "We (as a town) are not flush with money."

Although the IFC's shelter and community kitchen are in Chapel Hill, the administrative and crisis intervention offices are located in Carrboro. Therefore, IFC officials have been searching for an optimal location to con-

solidate its services.

Town Council member Lee Pavao, who serves as co-chairman of the IFC's task force on alternative locations, said it had discussed five available sites.

"Of the five sites, all have problems," he said. "I want the task force to look at all the five sites again and look at other locations before we quickly decide."

The task force considered locating IFC's facilities on Homestead Road, where the county's human services center is located. But on Jan. 20, the Orange

County Board of Commissioners ruled against relocating IFC to that area.

Because of the OCC's decision, IFC officials have focused on other sites.

Josh Diem, director of IFC's Project Homestart, a program for housing underprivileged families, said the shelter and administrative offices should be in the same downtown location.

Chapel Hill resident Ruby Sinreich lives several blocks from the Rosemary Street shelter. She mirrored Diem's sentiments at the meeting. "Downtown is

best from a transportation and land-use point of view," she said.

Council members discussed the importance of looking at other options, including the current home of the Chapel Hill Police Department.

Town Council member Flicka Bateman said the council should eliminate the police building from consideration because of cost and location.

But other council members were

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# Peering Through the POLITICAL HAZE

## N.C. Legislators Struggle to Find UNC Funding

By MATTHEW B. DEES  
State & National Editor

While state legislators are quick to emphasize their determination to remedy the UNC system's needs, the political and fiscal realities facing the N.C. General Assembly will make it difficult for them to make good on those pledges.

The 2000 election year will certainly loom large when the legislature convenes in May, limiting the funding options available to state leaders wary of disillusioning would-be voters with excessive spending or tax increases.

"Legislators are saying 'no more taxes; you have to work with what you get,'" said UNC-Chapel Hill political science Professor Thad Beyle.

"Everyone is running for office, and if you say anything about raising taxes, you're going to get beat."

And with very limited resources available in this year's budget, the future of UNC-system leaders' major funding priorities remains uncertain.

The Board of Governors has asked the legislature to allocate funding to bolster faculty salaries, establish a \$36.8 million need-based financial aid package and repair and renovate aca-

demical facilities on all 16 campuses.

UNC leaders sought support for the latter initiative last summer, asking the legislature to issue bonds for capital needs.

But the House and Senate proposed very different solutions and failed to reconcile them by the time the session ended in July.

That set the stage for the funding tug-of-war UNC-system officials will likely face when they take their budget request to the General Assembly

in May.

"There's going to have to be some fancy smoke and mirrors going on," said Sen. Virginia Foxx, R-Alleghany, who was one of seven senators to vote against a bill this summer that would have approved \$3 billion worth of bonds to improve capital.

"I see absolutely no support for rais-

ing taxes, and as far as I know, nothing has changed since last year about approving bond money without a vote of the people.

"I don't know what university people think has changed that would make the climate better."

Even ardent supporters of the UNC system concede that the outlook is somewhat grim.

"We're going to have to do a lot of belt-tightening," said Rob Lamme, spokesman for Senate President Pro Tem Marc Basnight, D-Dare.

Recognizing these difficulties, UNC-system officials have proposed solutions that would not require funding from the state budget: bonds for the capital improvements and tuition increases to subsidize faculty salary increases.

Some of the bonds would be paid off by the fees incurred through the use of the capital facilities receiving funding.

While most legislators have said this is probably the best way to address

capital needs, they have failed to reach a consensus on whether the bond proposals should be approved by a vote of the people.

By law, these particular bonds, known as general interest bonds, do not require voter approval.

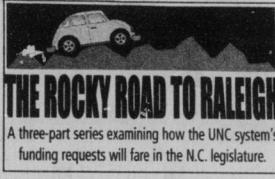
UNC-system officials have argued that it would be difficult to convince the average voter of these needs and that the urgent nature of some of the capital needs could not wait for a public referendum in November.

But detractors have said it is irresponsible to spend billions of state dollars without public support.

Out of this division grew a joint committee that will spend the next two months visiting UNC campuses, appraising needs and trying to arrive at the best funding solution.

Sen. Kay Hagan, R-Forsyth, who sits on the joint committee, said some legislators had discussed a compromise that would issue bonds for the most

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*"There's enough of us ... that don't agree with any kind of tuition increase, but we may have to ... on a temporary basis."*

REP. MICKEY MICHAUX  
D-Durham

*"I see absolutely no support for raising taxes, ... and nothing has changed ... about approving bond money without a vote ..."*

SEN. VIRGINIA FOXX  
R-Alleghany

*"We've got tremendous needs due not only to the negligence of the various campuses, but also the General Assembly."*

SEN. JOHN GARWOOD  
R-Avery

*"We need to ... bite the bullet on faculty salaries, that is, if we want to keep the quality university system we have now."*

SEN. TONY RAND  
D-Cumberland

# DNA, Book Top Attorneys' Talk

By JAMILA VERNON  
Staff Writer

Two civil rights lawyers spoke at the School of Law on Monday about their work freeing wrongfully convicted inmates just days before their scheduled executions.

Barry Scheck, defense attorney for the O.J. Simpson murder trial, and Peter Neufeld have overturned 36 cases since the Innocence Project started.

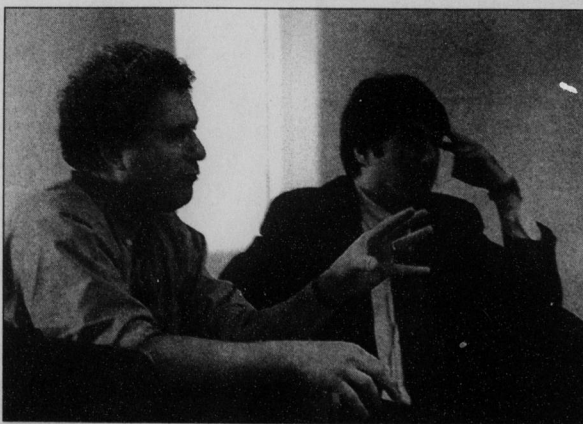
Neufeld started and directs the project, which takes on pro bono cases for wrongly convicted inmates. The program attempts to exonerate the inmates through DNA testing.

Scheck and Neufeld came to campus to promote the new book they co-authored, "Actual Innocence: Five Days to Execution and Other Dispatches From the Wrongly Convicted."

Neufeld said DNA was the tool used in their 36 cases to release the wrongly convicted from prison.

In the last decade, 64 people have been put in prison for crimes they did not commit, Neufeld said. The book focuses on 10 of those cases.

One such case includes Ron Williamson, a former minor league baseball player who was convicted of



Barry Scheck and Peter Neufeld, two prominent civil rights attorneys and experts in forensic DNA testing, discuss their new book Monday.

rape based on the testimony of a jailhouse snitch and a hair comparison test. Within five days of his scheduled execution, he was freed because of DNA evidence that proved his innocence.

"They measured his coffin," Scheck said. "These are the kind of individuals

we talk about in the book."

Fifty percent of the wrongful convictions are a result of police misconduct, and 25 percent are due to incompetent lawyers, Neufeld said. They could also

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# Manufacturer Offers Printer Model Trade

By HARMONY JOHNSON  
Staff Writer

Student complaints about faulty printers they purchased from Student Stores have led one manufacturer to appease them with new upgrades.

Students experiencing problems with the Lexmark 5000 printer purchased from the RAM Shop now have the opportunity to trade in their printer for a newer model, said John Gorsuch, RAM Shop manager.

The Lexmark 5000 printer was the most popular printer choice among freshmen who purchased laptops through the Carolina Computing Initiative, which requires all incoming freshmen to have laptops by this fall.

The printer was part of a special promotional package designed to garner student demand this year for initiative laptops.

Complaints ranged from printing failure to difficulty getting the printers serviced.

The Lexmark Corp. is offering the free exchange after Gorsuch notified the company of students' complaints at the

end of last semester.

About 800 of the Lexmark 5,000 printers were sold, Gorsuch said.

He estimated that 2 percent to 3 percent of those printers had defects.

"It's like any electronic device," he said. "You're always going to have a small percentage with problems."

About 30 students have already filled out a trade-in form, Gorsuch said. A RAM shop employee said more forms were submitted over the weekend.

To receive their replacement, students must return their Lexmark 5000 printer, AC adapter and any manuals.

Freshman Katie Edwards said she was thrilled about the opportunity to exchange her printer, which she said caused her computer to freeze when she tried to print.

"I didn't know everyone else was having problems with their printer," Edwards said. "I'm definitely going to take advantage of it."

Freshman Kinsey Christiansen said she was grateful for the trade-in because her printer would not work at all.

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