

# POLICE ROUNDUP

## University

Wednesday

■ A suspicious person was reported in the Undergraduate Library early Wednesday morning. The person was talking loudly and would not leave the area, reports stated.

When an officer arrived on the scene, the person was in the Pit acting strangely, reports stated. The subject was transported to UNC Hospitals.

Tuesday

■ Cash that was to be used by the UNC Psychology Department from inside a Coke machine in Davie Hall was reported missing Tuesday morning. There were no signs of forced entry into the machine, which was missing around \$300.

■ Two directional roadway signs were taken from the Manning Drive area early Tuesday morning. One was located later in the day at 1007 S. Columbia Street, according to police reports.

■ The other sign was found Tuesday in Carrboro at Ridgewood Apartments, reports stated.

■ A UNC employee left \$150 in a steel lock box when she left her office on Monday evening.

The money was missing the next morning, although the keys and box were in their correct places, according to police reports.

## City

Wednesday

■ Calvin Lee James, 25, of 2322 Charles St. in Durham was arrested at the intersection of Sykes Street and Gomain Avenue for trespassing at Chapel Hill Public Housing, 700 Gomain Ave.

Police cited James for one misdemeanor count of second-degree trespassing. Police also searched James and found two rocks of crack cocaine, a total of 4.8 grams, in his underwear, reports state. He was cited for one felony count of possession with intent to sell and distribute.

James was taken to Orange County Jail with a \$2,000 secured bond. His trial is set for April 17 in the Orange County District Court in Hillsborough.

■ Nettie Mae Norwood, 36, of 200 Barnes St. in Carrboro, was arrested after attempting to cash a forged check at the BB&T, on 143 East Rosemary St.

Police stopped Norwood on West Rosemary Street near Roberson Street after she left the bank and fled in her vehicle towards Carrboro, reports state. She was charged with one felony count of obtaining property by false pretense and one felony count of uttering.

Norwood was taken to Orange County Jail, where she was held in lieu of a \$5,000 secured bond. Her trial is set for March 30 in District Court. Reports state the bank confiscated the check.

■ Jerry Ray Alexander, 28, of 1000 Smith Level Road in Carrboro, was arrested for possessing a handgun in his vehicle, a two-door 1995 black Mercedes.

Police stopped Alexander for speeding 68 miles per hour in a 45 miles per hour zone on Fordham Boulevard near Brandon Road. When stopped, police found that Alexander was hiding a handgun under a towel lying on the front passenger seat, reports state.

Alexander was cited for one misdemeanor count of speeding and one misdemeanor count of carrying a concealed weapon. His trial is set for April 15 in the Orange County District Court. Reports state the handgun was kept by police as evidence.

■ Police stopped Hugo Enrique Ventura, 20, of 2607 North Roxboro Road, for speeding on East Franklin Street near Couch Road.

When approaching Ventura, police smelled alcohol and asked him if he had been drinking. Ventura said he had had two beers, reports state.

Ventura was given an intoxicator test and his blood alcohol level registered .02.

Ventura was cited for one misdemeanor count driving while impaired and one misdemeanor count of driving with a provisional DWI license.

Police also found open beer cans in Ventura's car and cited him with one misdemeanor count for having an open container after consuming. In addition to being cited one misdemeanor count for speeding 52 miles per hour in a 35 miles per hour zone, he was also cited for turning left of center, one misdemeanor count.

Ventura's 1990 gray Chevrolet was impounded by police. He was held at Orange County Jail until sober, reports state. Ventura's trial is set for May 2 in Orange County District Court in Hillsborough.

# Tobacco Problems Prompt Special Session

By **LUCAS FENSKE AND CHERI MELFI**  
Assistant State & National Editors

In an effort to curb the economic impact of a Florida court decision, Gov. Jim Hunt called a special legislative session Thursday to determine tobacco's fate in North Carolina.

The General Assembly will convene Wednesday to address the impact of the court decision on tobacco companies and farmers in North Carolina.

But a UNC law professor said the legislature's method might pose a problem.

A Florida jury decided last year that cigarette companies, including R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co., conspired to manufacture a deadly and addictive

product.

The jury is now deciding how much to award the three plaintiffs in compensatory damages. Jurors will then determine how much to award an estimated 500,000 smokers in punitive damages.

Tobacco companies claimed they could go bankrupt if the award exceeded \$100 billion.

The lawsuit is the latest legal action to slam the tobacco industry, costing major companies billions of dollars and forcing them to reduce farmers' quotas.

Tad Boggs, Hunt's spokesman, said the governor called the special session to protect tobacco farmers and companies.

"The idea is to avoid (the Florida decision) having a catastrophic impact

on farmers," Boggs said.

He said legislators would discuss imposing a temporary payment cap on the amount tobacco companies would pay in the Florida court decision.

Under Florida law, tobacco companies would have to place a bond in the amount of the judgment before they could appeal the verdict, which possibly could bankrupt the companies.

Norma Mills, general counsel for Senate President Pro Tem Marc Basnight, D-Beaufort, said the cap was constitutional because it protected companies during the appeal process and did not allow them to forego payment.

"This is definitely constitutional because it does not prevent the person

who received the judgment from collecting what is due to them," Mills said. "One of the fundamental rights under the law is the right to appeal."

She added that Virginia, Georgia and Kentucky had already enacted a similar law, making it important for North Carolina to also join in and take action.

But UNC law Professor Louis Bilionis, who specializes in constitutional law, said the complex nature of the case meant the legislature must proceed carefully. "It all depends on the details (in the bill)," he said.

Bilionis said the current version was even-handed, as it applied to verdicts regardless of where they originated. He added that some people might see

a possible problem with the bill's focus on punitive damages.

"(The bill) singles out punitive damages for different treatment than other verdicts," Bilionis said.

He said some people could take the bill's focus as a violation of the U.S. Constitution's Full Faith and Credit Clause, which requires one state to respect the judgments of another.

But Mills said it was important to take action soon.

"Our surrounding states have taken action on this matter, so if we don't do it, North Carolina will be a sitting duck."

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# Students Protest Rape, Assault

Male and female students, activists and survivors, met Thursday night to protest sexual assault in a march.

By **KAREY WUTKOWSKI**  
Staff Writer

More than 200 UNC students came together for Take Back the Night on Thursday, an event marked by marches, tear-choked speeches and a strong male presence.

Take Back the Night is part of the third annual Carolina Women's Week, which aims to promote women's issues and highlight their accomplishments.

"It's a known fact that sexual assault is a huge problem on campuses everywhere," said Kathryn Kooistra, a Women's Week committee member and co-chairwoman of Advocates for Sexual Assault Prevention. "(Take Back the Night) brings together survivors, and it's

a healing experience for allies who have seen their roommate or mother go through sexual assault."

ASAP member Kristen Roksvaag said the rally had meaning for everyone. "Some might think, 'I haven't been raped. I don't need to go to Take Back the Night,'" Roksvaag said. "But it's for everybody. Everybody has fear."

The UNC campus sustained a brief spree of sexual assaults in August. The BOLO case was resolved by Jesus Alvarez Ramos' guilty plea in March.

A march starting at the Pit and circling around North Campus gained the attention of bystanders. Car horns and the occasional yell from residence hall windows accompanied the line of students chanting by candlelight.

The march followed two speakers who kicked off the night. The first, Alyssa Wilson, was a 1999 UNC graduate who was sexually assaulted her sophomore year by a graduate student.

"This is the first time I've spoken out about my sexual assault," Wilson said

tearfully. "That's what's making me cry - this show of support."

Wilson's attack took place the night after UNC's Take Back the Night three years ago. "It's sort of ironic being here."

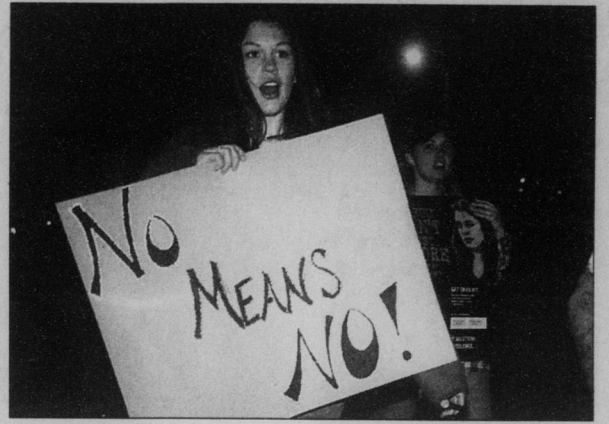
She said she was speaking out to validate others' assault experiences and to let them know their experiences were not isolated.

Senior Melissa Kilbourn attended the event for a social work class and said she was moved by Wilson's speech. "It's in your face," she said. "I felt safe when on campus, but it makes me think twice."

The second speech promoted the White Ribbon Campaign, an April drive to get men involved in the sexual assault issue. Junior Jesse Moore, a coordinator for the campaign, said he was impressed by the size and the makeup of the crowd.

"The turnout of men tonight is outstanding," he said. "It's so important for men to be equal partners in this issue."

Senior Chris Jordan said he came to the rally because a personal friend was a



Students promote awareness of sexual assault during a Take Back the Night march on Thursday. The campus event featured three speakers.

victim of sexual assault.

"Some men see women as objects," he said. "Hopefully seeing the passion of these women tonight might change their perspective."

A vigil that allowed students to share their thoughts and connections to sexu-

al violence ended the evening. "We try to have the march as the angry part that gets attention," Kooistra said. "The vigil is then the healing experience."

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# Traveling Toward Gender Equality

By **JERMAINE CALDWELL**  
Staff Writer

Kathryn Kooistra has embarked on a journey.

Guided by the desire to spread awareness about women's issues and trigger change in social justice, Kooistra has stationed herself at UNC to see what changes she can spark.

And it is evident in her lifestyle.

Kooistra, a junior from Cary, is involved in multiple groups dealing with sexual assault, domestic abuse, children's rights and sexism.

A women's studies major and resident of the Women's Perspective floor of Cobb Residence Hall, Kooistra is knee-deep in activities to change the status of women in today's society.

"Everything that I'm doing, from the classes I take, the internships I do, to the people I hang around with, is dedicated to equality and empowerment for women and society in general," Kooistra said.

But her epiphany - to take the path of social work - came when Kooistra was a junior in high school and a World War II concentration camp survivor spoke at her school.

She said the survivor's story and experiences moved her so much, she knew then that living a life of social idleness was not an option for her.



For an event during Carolina Women's Week, Kathryn Kooistra, co-chairwoman of Advocates for Sexual Assault Prevention, hangs a T-shirt in the Pit decorated by a UNC female sexual assault victim.

"I was so emotionally drained," she said. "I decided that night that I was not going to be sitting on the side of the road and watch justice go unserved."

And Kooistra's position is far from just standing by, twiddling her thumbs. She's actively piloting her ship of social work and justice.

Kooistra is co-chairwoman of Advocates for Sexual Assault

Prevention, a group that she and four other students started in January 1998 to fill the void of student groups dealing with sexual violence.

The now 15-member group orchestrates various outreach programs directed at raising awareness about sexual violence.

Smita Varia, a 1999 UNC graduate and current program coordinator for the Office of Dean of Students, said

she respected the great drive Kooistra showed when just a freshman.

"She was extremely energetic and motivated," Varia said. "She was ready to take on everything."

Kooistra took on even more this week with the celebration of Carolina Women's Week, giving her additional opportunities to get the word out

See STAR HEEL, Page 9

# Local Buses Could Run Fare-Free

As UNC enrollment grows, free bus fare could ease traffic and parking issues for Chapel Hill bus patrons.

By **KEVIN KRASNOW**  
Staff Writer

If some area and University officials have their way, UNC students wishing to visit friends or go shopping will be able to hop on a bus without having to pay a dime.

The Chapel Hill Town Council, along with the town of Carrboro and the University, are considering making public transit fare-free for students and residents. The measure would apply to all routes served by Chapel Hill Transit. Town Council member Flicka Bateman said that while the issue had been under discussion for years, it came to the forefront with Town Manager Cal Horton's annual budget report.

"The manager put fare-free ridership as an option in the budget," Bateman said. "It would cost us \$177,000 per year and would be over a half-cent tax raise for town residents."

Bateman expressed concern that the town would not be able to handle the costs but she was willing to give the plan a try for at least one year.

Carolyn Elfland, UNC associate vice chancellor for auxiliary services, said the town and the University had been working closely on the issue for years.

"We have a memorandum of understanding with the town," she said. "When we were negotiating a new memorandum in the spring of '98, we talked to the student government about their desires, and one of those desires was fare-free transit."

Elfland said the University was strongly pushing the idea because as UNC's enrollment continued to increase, there would be less parking.

"We are not going to increase parking; in fact, the amount of parking proportionally will decrease," she said.

Elfland said the University would have to pay \$500,000 to \$600,000 and would probably need an increase in student fees in order to absorb the costs.

Student Body President Nic Heinke said even with a small increase in fees, students would benefit.

"If it is done right, the hope is the increase would be minimal," he said. "If it costs a student \$200 for a bus pass and everyone has to pay an extra \$10 fee, it will benefit that student."

Heinke also said fare-free ridership

See TRANSIT, Page 9

# Greeks, Student Politicos Barbecue for Charity



Junior Justin Wright fills his plate at the Greek Barbecue on Thursday evening. The event featured an improv performance by CHIPS.

By **BROOKE ROSEMAN**  
Staff Writer

Student government teamed up with all three councils of the UNC Greek community Thursday for a barbecue to benefit the Orange County Rape Crisis Center.

About 100 people, including members of the Interfraternity Council, the UNC National Pan Hellenic Council, the Panhellenic Council and student government, came out to McCorkle Place to see the improv comedy troupe CHiPs and eat plenty of barbecue, hot sauce and cole slaw.

Zach Fay, chairman of the human relations committee, said the event's purpose was threefold.

Fay said barbecue organizers aimed to raise money for the crisis center and to mobilize the Greek community. "We also wanted to provide an opportunity

for mixing between all three councils of the Greek community," he said.

Director of Greek Affairs Ron Binder said the fund-raiser allowed Greeks to give back to their community.

"Orange County helps us each semester educate our new members on the issue of sexual assault and has been doing so for the past four years," Binder said. "They're a very vital part of our education process here, so we're delighted to be providing support."

Students paid \$7 to attend the barbecue, and all profits benefited the center.

Christian Sawyer, vice chairman of the Human Relations Committee, said student government members were working toward a unified student body by targeting both Greeks and non-Greeks. "We're trying to further celebrate and recognize the tremendous

See BARBECUE, Page 9