



The University and Towns
IN BRIEF

Unidentified Gunman Attacks Police Officers

A routine arrest for trespassing ended in violence as a gunman fired several shots at two Chapel Hill police officers early Tuesday morning.

Officers S. Lahew and S. Falise were on bike patrol when they witnessed a man trespassing around 12:30 a.m. near Germain Street and Sykes Street, said Officer Jason McIntyre of the Chapel Hill Police Department.

"While they made the arrest, the subject became combative," McIntyre said. "They had to pepper spray him and wrestle him to the ground."

At that point, an unknown man fired what the officers believed to be five or six shots at them from the intersection. All of the shots missed, and nobody was hurt in the incident.

There is no description of the man, and the police do not have any suspects in the case.

McIntyre said there was no connection between the trespassing incident and the shots fired. He said the two officers were shaken up and he was surprised that somebody would take shots at them.

"I've been here 12 years, and it's new to me," McIntyre said.

Nike Swoosh Challenge Draws UNC Students

The UNC Student Recreational Center hosted the regional Nike Swoosh Challenge Saturday.

Twenty-four teams of two boys and two girls participated in a variety of field and endurance events.

The students came from as far south as Florida. The top three overall winners will advance to the National Swoosh Challenge in Los Angeles.

First place was the Carolina Crushers (UNC): Beth Ruch, Sara Tussey, John Hyde and Hayes Permer.

Second place was Crack Fiends (UNC): Mary Teachey, Christine Meehan, Brian Burnham and Zack DiCristino.

Third place was Elon Gators with two Elon College students, Kari Spiker and Lydia Gould, and two UNC students, Stephen Ridgill and Fred Ardashipour.

Professor to Receive Recognition for Writing

UNC English Professor Erika C. Lindemann will receive the John C. Gerber Award in honor of her active role in promoting and celebrating writing.

The award is presented by the Conference on College Composition and Communication, a constituent group of the National Council of Teachers of English.

Lindemann will be honored at the conference's annual convention in Minneapolis from April 13 to April 15.

The National Council of Teachers of English is dedicated to improving the teaching and learning of English and the language arts at all levels.

Harvard Professor Set To Discuss Latest Book

Clayton Christensen, professor of business at Harvard University, will speak April 5 on his book, "The Innovators Dilemma: When New Technologies Cause Great Firms to Fail."

Christensen received his MBA and DBA from Harvard in 1979 and 1992. His research and training interests center on the management of technological innovation, developing organizational capabilities and finding new markets for new technology. The lecture will begin at 5:30 p.m. in the Maurice J. Koury Auditorium in McColl Building.

BCC and Theta Nu Xi To Present Lecture

Theta Nu Xi Multicultural Sorority will present a dialogue in black and white, entitled "Perceptions of Beauty." Members will discuss the 'ideal' woman and body image at 5 p.m. Friday at the Sonja H. Stone Black Cultural Center.

Recreation Department Seeks Summer Help

The Chapel Hill Parks and Recreation Department is seeking day camp counselors, assistants and directors to work from June 5 to Aug. 4.

Day camp counselors and assistants must be at least 18 years old and directors must be 21.

The positions pay up to \$9 per hour. For a brochure and an application, call 968-2784.

From Staff Reports

Lawmakers Debate Legality of Tobacco Bill

By MATTHEW B. DEES
State & National Editor

RALEIGH — The N.C. General Assembly will hold a special session today to vote on a bill protecting tobacco companies from a Florida smokers' lawsuit that could cost them hundreds of billions of dollars and jeopardize the state's economy.

And as leaders convene in Raleigh, the Florida jury will begin deliberations to decide how much the five major tobacco companies must pay in punitive damages for marketing a harmful product.

Florida law requires defendants to post bond for the amount of the damages they are ordered to pay before they can appeal.

State lawmakers hope to place a \$25-million cap on the bond that any N.C. company must pay in another state's or nation's judgment.

To prepare for the meeting, legislators Tuesday heard residents' concerns and debated the semantics and legality of the bill.

While most legislators expressed support for the legislation, some worried that the special session was a capitulation to the tobacco industry rather

than a move to protect all state businesses from foreign judgments, as it is written.

A trial lawyer also questioned the constitutionality of the initiative.

But tobacco workers, farmers and executives pleaded with legislators to preserve their way of life.

"We ask that you take whatever action is necessary to protect our jobs and our livelihoods," said Randy Faulk, a 27-year employee of Lorillard, one of five tobacco companies named as defendants in the Florida lawsuit.

"We don't want unemployment checks, we don't want welfare, we just want jobs to go to. We want you to make sure our company has its day in court before taking our jobs away from us."

State business leaders also argued that the tobacco industry was vital to the state's economy, creating thousands of jobs and pumping billions of dollars into North Carolina.

But Charles Cromer, legislative counsel for the N.C. Academy of Trial Lawyers, said the proposed bill was unconstitutional, violating a provision requiring states to

"I think what's going to resonate with legislators is their contributors and the power of tobacco."

CHARLES GROMER
Legislative Counsel

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Richard Williams, a representative of R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co., emphasizes the philanthropic efforts of tobacco firms at a legislative hearing in Raleigh on Tuesday.

Behind the MUSIC

Local Record Labels Fill Music Niches

By ASHLEY ATKINSON
Assistant Arts & Entertainment Editor

In this day and age, "any pimply little 17-year-old kid who can get his hands on an acid program is his own label," according to Ron Royster, co-founder of the Chapel Hill record label Freakadelic.

As record-production technology grows more accessible, independent labels have cropped up around the country and in the Triangle.

The area — especially Chapel Hill — has earned a reputation for rock startups, with well-known labels like Merge and Mammoth providing support for the genre.

But the Triangle also proves an unlikely breeding ground for labels that fill smaller niche markets, focusing on releases from a particular genre.

Even most music fans probably don't realize that the area is home to labels specializing in bluegrass, indie folk rock, world music, electronica and even female/gay rock.

Kaia Wilson, co-founder of Durham's Mr. Lady Records, said she and UNC assistant art Professor Tammy Rae Carland started the label because, as musicians, "we couldn't think of who could carry our work as really out, queer, political feminists."

Although it was not what Wilson calls a conscientious decision, all of Mr. Lady's artists are women, most of whom perform some variation of rock.

Durham seems an unlikely home for a lesbian-based record label. But, Wilson said, "Durham picked us." Wilson and Carland were living in Indiana when they founded the label in 1997 but moved when Carland was hired at UNC.

Although Wilson said the South has very different politics than her hometown of Portland, Ore., the

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Tim Harper, who records under the name Dub Assassin, performs at Freakadelic Records' Fool's Eve Freak-for-All at Local 506 on Friday. Harper, along with Ron Royster, founded the Freakadelic label with the goal of combining electronic music with live performances.

Triangle is generally receptive to Mr. Lady's music, she said. "There are almost too many dyke punks there. Here it's very different."

Chapel Hill also provides a different environment for Bob Haddad's label, Music of the World. He relocated the label from New York in 1989.

It's one of only a few labels on the continent that deal in traditional world music, Haddad said.

"I didn't have a professional focus in mind when I relocated here, but just to get out of New York and be in a place that was friendly," he said. "Now, it's really cool to be here. I'm impressed with the community."

Technology, he said, makes it easy to be in touch with artists he works with in locales like Cambodia.

And with a roster of 85 releases, Music of the World keeps expanding. Its artists have been featured in movies and commercials, and the label recently merged with the Internet company emusic.com.

All "in little old sleepy Chapel Hill," Haddad said. Awakening Records also helps fill a national niche

from its Chapel Hill home. The label terms its music indie folk, but it's "kind of indie Christian," said Dan Alger, a UNC junior and Awakening employee.

"Our artists are musicians who happen to be Christian," he said.

The label releases one compilation album featuring up-and-coming artists each year, and also carries releases from the featured artists.

Awakening was born in 1997, after founders Scott Sanders and Steve Reavis graduated from UNC.

"They were talking about how there were so many good local groups and independent musicians," Alger said. They planned to gather some independent musicians on a CD to distribute to friends, and the idea grew into Awakening.

Durham's Sugar Hill Records grew out of founder Barry Poss's interest in America's traditional music. Poss gave up a teaching career at Duke University to

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N.C. Court To Rule on DWI Case

Defense attorneys for a drunken driver are asking that the murder charge be reduced to second-degree.

By JENNIFER HAGIN
Staff Writer

The fate of an N.C. drunken driving case that could set a national precedent lies in the state Supreme Court's hands.

The case involves a Superior Court ruling that convicted an N.C. man of first-degree murder after his vehicle slammed into another car in 1996, killing two Wake Forest University students and injuring three others.

If upheld, the N.C. ruling could have ramifications nationwide, and future convicted drunken drivers could face the death penalty.

Although the jury spared him the death penalty, Jones' defense attorneys argue that first-degree murder is an improper sentence and want it reduced to second-degree.

And while representatives from Mothers Against Drunk Driving favor stricter consequences for drunken drivers, some N.C. officials are wary that, should the ruling be upheld, prosecutors might seek first-degree murder charges more freely in traffic cases.

Jones' blood alcohol level was discovered to be .04, below the legal limit. But prescription drugs were also found in his system, further impairing his judgment, officials said.

According to witnesses, Jones displayed erratic behavior shortly before the accident, rear-ending a car and then speeding around it.

Superior Court Judge William Freeman allowed prosecutors to charge Jones with first-degree murder.

Jones' trial is now in the hands of the N.C. Supreme Court, which heard closing arguments March 13. Officials reached Tuesday at the state attorney general's office were uncertain when the

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Station Owners Deflate Prices Students Finalizing Search for Housing

Students and commuters have cut back on road trips and participated in carpools to combat the high cost of gasoline.

The High Price of Driving

Local gas stations have been forced to lower their prices because of poor business, but some residents think prices are still too high.

Service Station	Regular	Mid-Grade	Premium
Eagle Food Mart 11620 U.S. 15-501 N	\$1.47	\$1.57	\$1.67
Short Stop Food Mart 300 W. Main St.	1.47	1.55	1.65
Walker's BP Service 1500 E. Franklin St.	1.41	1.51	1.61
Wilco Number 1 1213 Airport Road	1.45	1.55	1.69
Glen Lennox Service Station 1200 Raleigh Road	1.49	1.59	1.69

SOURCE: LOCAL SERVICE STATIONS DTH/T JAY RICHARDS

Collin Quinn, a junior at UNC majoring in health policy and administration, said he had started biking to school because his car took only premium gas, which was priced higher than regular gas.

Emily Atkinson, a senior sociology major, said she drove a great distance to obtain cheaper gas.

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bedroom apartment. We do welcome graduate students."

Vogel said most undergraduates sought roommates to cut costs. The complex occasionally rents to older undergraduates but does not allow co-signatures for rental applicants and will not rent to people under 21-years-old, he said.

In contrast, Autumn Woods Apartments, located at 222 Old Fayetteville Road, Carrboro, actively targets undergraduate students. Andrea Walton, the apartment manager, said students who were qualified financially or could provide a co-signer were welcome.

"We are coming up with a UNC incentive program. We (will) give discounts to UNC students," she said.

Pat Calhoun, manager for Southern Village Apartments, located at 200 Copperline Dr., said they had no special deals for students.

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