Students High and Dry After Vandalism Moms to March

By ALEXANDRA MOLAIRE

Six water fountains that were ripped out of the walls in Morrison Residence Hall about a week ago have yet to be replaced

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

The water fountains on floors two through seven were pulled out of the walls and left on the ground April 2, said wans and left on the ground April 2, said Area Director Lynn Ellison. "It hap-pened early morning after the (UNC vs. Florida basketball) game on Saturday," she said. "We don't know who caused

Ellison said water was leaking from the fountains, but emergency maintenance responded promptly to close the pipes and remove the fountains.

Ellison said it still had not been decided whether they would repair the old fountains or buy new ones.

Five or six Resident Assistants were on duty that night, she said, but they are not allowed to comment on the incident.

Ellison could not give a definite date of when the fountains would be replaced. "It's when I'm able to get in touch with the maintenance supervisor,'

Although Ellison said she had not eard any reaction from students, Morrison residents had mixed views

Some students, like freshman Desiree Downs, a journalism and mass communication major, were not bothered by the missing fountains. "I haven't noticed," Downs said. "I just go to the sinks in our bathroom if I need water."

Sophomore drama major Jessica Kehler said she had noticed the missing fountain on her floor, but it did not bother her. "I heard my suitemates talking about it, but I don't think they were complaining," Kehler said. "They were saying just how annoying it was.

Freshman business major Russ Cunningham said he wanted the fountains replaced. "Everyone wishes there was a water fountain because you have to drink out of the sink," he said.
Ellison said the level of vandalism in

Morrison had decreased after the recent rash of fires in the residence hall.

In late November Morrison residents

were awakened by four fires that occurred in a five-day span. On Nov. 22, sophomore Daniel Timothy Sarrell was charged in connection with the fourth



Six water fountains were ripped out of the walls in Morrison Residence Hall after the UNC vs. Florida basketball game in Indianapolis.

fire. But minor vandalism still occurs, Ellison added.

Vandals have punched out the glass on the fire alarm cases and broken the ceiling tiles in the lobby, she said. "We have someone who keeps writ

ing with black magic marker in the elevators," Ellison said. "But it's stuff that

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Freaknik Annual Street Party Losing Momentum

By RACHEL LEONARD Staff Writer

Freaknik 2000 might not be so freaky

Participation in the Atlanta event, touted as the annual Spring Break for thousands of black students, has dwindled in recent years.

Falling on the weekend of April 14 to April 16 this year, Freaknik is described by previous attendants as a loosely organized street festival.

"During the day, usually people ride around," said Drew Hubbard, a senior at Atlanta's Morehouse College who has attended Freaknik the past two years. "The goal is kind of to get stuck in traffic, then get out and talk."

Students will go to concerts or clubs at night, Hubbard said.

Bill Howard, spokesman for the Convention and Visitors' Bureau, said he had recently seen fewer and fewer students come to Atlanta for

"(Freaknik) was more a phenomenon than a long-term established pattern – it just happened to pick up speed," he said. "It's very unusual for people to say, 'Let's go to Atlanta for Spring Break." Hubbard blamed the event's demise

on city officials.

He said they had blocked off major streets in the past, in an effort to control traffic and force students back onto the

"They're trying to shut it down - and

they've done a pretty good job of it," he

Hubbard also said the city began refusing to give out permits for concerts and other Freaknik events in 1998 actions Hubbard said were racially moti-

"There are perceptions that when a group of African Americans (come), there will be trouble," he said.

But city officials said traffic was the main concern with the event.

"Wherever the traffic jam occurred, it became a party," Howard said.

Officer John Quigley of the Atlanta Police Department said 364 of last year's Freaknik attendees were sent to jail, and nother 608 were given citations.

But Quigley said most arrests were

for impeding the flow of traffic, reckless driving and noise violations.

Few people were cited for alcohol or drug violations.

Atlanta has more police officers available for this year's event and has designed a traffic plan to be implemented if needed, he said.

Quigley also said that fewer people had attended Freaknik in recent years.

He said the fate of Freaknik had yet

to be decided. "The event seems to be tapering off,"

As for Hubbard, he said he doubted

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For Gun Control

The movement is supporting five proposed gun laws, which some moms say lack support on Capitol Hill.

By TRICIA BARRIOS

This Mother's Day many mothers are not expecting flowers or cards; they plan to march for their children's safety in the nation's capital.

Mothers from around the country are organizing the Million Mom March on May 14 in Washington, D.C., to fight

against loose gun control laws.

Nancy Telfer, a Raleigh mom who is spreading the word about the march, said

safety was the movement's central issue.

"People want safety for their fami-

lies," she said. "We don't feel safe. The children don't feel safe." She said the movement included everyone who was concerned about gun

safety, not just mothers. Telfer's own son was accidentally shot when a friend pulled the trigger of an unregistered handgun, causing him to lose several teeth. She said police then returned the unregistered gun

which was sold to another person with out a background check. "The fact is that that can happen in this country," she said. "You have a license to drive a car, which is compared to a dangerous weapon, and you don't

have to have a license to have a gun, which, with one pull, can kill a child." The movement supports five pro-posed gun laws that would require a peri-od of background checks before the sale of a gun. The proposals would license all gun owners and register all guns, implement safety locks on all guns, limit pur chases to one handgun per month and institute the enforcement of gun laws.

Rachel Smith, the N.C. coordinator,

said support for the movement was

she said. "I've talked to hundreds of people. People write in with donations

and personal stories."
Smith said 10 N.C. cities were coordinating efforts for the national movement: Charlotte, Greensboro, Winston-Salem, Raleigh, Durham, Chapel Hill, Archdale, Asheboro, Cary and Wilmington.

She said most people were led to

action in the movement because of their concern about a lack of representation in Congress. "They feel there needs to be another voice on Capitol Hill, not just that (supporting the) gun movement," she said.

The idea for the march started in September, when Donna Dees-Thomases, a New Jersey mother, saw reports of an August shooting at a local Jewish community center and decided to take action to prevent another tragedy. Now, there are 44 state coordinators around the country, with nearly 20 secondary rallies scheduled for Mother's Day.

The march, which will feature celebrities such as Rosie O'Donnell and other performers, will open with an interfaith service and will include activities for for the ities for families.

Smith said proponents for less strict gun control, such as the National Rifle Association, had not demonstrated any opposition to the movement yet.
"The NRA has a national convention

in Charlotte one week after the march," she said. "It'll be interesting to see their response."

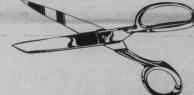
Julia Slotnik, a media coordinator for

the march, said future plans for national action after the march had not been determined yet. However, Smith said she planned to continue the organization and keep recruiting.

"We're going to march every single Mother's Day until things change.

The City Editor can be reached

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