



POLICE ROUNDUP

University

Tuesday, Aug. 29

■ A UNC student reported to police that he either had lost or had his bus pass stolen on Tuesday.

■ Reports state that the student got on the bus at about 7:40 a.m. Tuesday in Carrboro.

He then went to the Undergraduate Library and class, according to reports. After leaving class, he noticed the pass, which is valued at \$170, was missing.

■ A parking permit was stolen between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Aug. 25. According to reports, the permit was stolen from a UNC student's 1993 Chevy Blazer, which was parked near Kenan Stadium.

■ Reports state that a UNC student had her book bag rifled through and some belongings stolen while studying in Polk Place.

She reported to police that someone stole her bus pass, ATM card, credit card and UNC ONE Card while she wasn't looking.

According to reports, the person who stole the credit card only used it once, at the Etna service station on Franklin Street.

Monday, Aug. 28

■ A 59-year-old man from Monticure reported to police that someone stole an air conditioner from his pickup truck.

The man parked behind the Smith Center at 8 a.m. Monday and last saw the air conditioning unit at 11:30 a.m. He noticed at 4:30 p.m. that the unit was gone.

In the police report, the Frigidaire window unit was valued at \$400.

The man also reported a green hand truck, valued at \$50, missing.

He told police he suspected more than one thief was involved because of the size and weight of the air conditioning unit. The criminal investigation has not yielded any suspects yet.

■ A University student reported that someone had stolen the radio from her car at 7 a.m. Monday. She had parked her 1988 Volkswagen Jetta on Battle Lane near Kenan Residence Hall at 10:30 p.m. Sunday.

The student told police the car had not been locked when she left it for the night.

City

Wednesday, Aug. 30

■ Police stopped a blue Buick at the intersection of Sunset Drive and West Rosemary Street for making an improper turn and discovered the driver was driving under a revoked license.

Archibald H. Kelly, 55, of 158 Ridge Trail was arrested for a misdemeanor count of driving with a revoked license and one misdemeanor count of driving while impaired.

Reports state Kelly refused to take an intoxilyzer test or perform a field sobriety test. He was transported to the Chapel Hill Police Department and released on a written promise to appear in Orange County District Court in Hillsborough on Oct. 1.

The passenger in the car, Gregory Lamont Gray, 39, of 225 N. Roberson St., was arrested for a felony count of possession with intent to sell and distribute when police discovered seven dosage units of crack cocaine in Kelly's mouth, reports state.

Kelly was transported to Orange County Jail and kept on a secured bond of \$2,500. He met bond requirements and was released. A court date is set for Oct. 1 in Orange County District Court in Hillsborough.

■ Two female suspects were arrested for larceny after tearing down and trying to steal a banner from a Franklin Street business, police reports state.

Patricia Liza Soriano, 19, of 7563 Casater Road in Clemmons, and Jessica Renore Forrest, 18, of 165 Hunter Grove Court, Winston-Salem, were arrested and charged with one count of misdemeanor larceny each.

Soriano and Forrest tore down a banner from the storefront of Bruegger's Bagels located at 104 W. Franklin St., and walked west with it.

Soriano was also cited with a misdemeanor count of false identification after she showed her sister's driver's license to police.

Both were released on a written promise to appear in Orange County District Court in Hillsborough on Sept. 1.

■ Unknown subjects forged stolen Nations Bank checks at several Bank of America branches.

Police are still looking for suspects who forged \$1,950 in checks at two branches, one located at University Mall and the other at Timberlyne.

Test Scores, Rankings Benefit Local Schools

Higher minority SAT scores and top national rankings are drawing attention to Chapel Hill-area schools.

By AMY DOBSON
Staff Writer

An upward surge in test scores for black students in Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools is just one of the reasons the system is near the top of national rankings.

The average SAT score for black students increased in 1999-2000 by 35 points, from 882 in 1998-99 to 917 this year. In a six-year span, black students'

SAT scores jumped by almost 100 points.

The SAT results coincide with recent studies showing Chapel Hill-Carrboro schools to be among the best in the nation.

Kim Hoke, spokeswoman for Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools, said two factors contribute to the rising scores.

"First, there's a greater emphasis on encouraging minority students to take coursework that leads to honors and Advanced Placement classes," she said. "Secondly, we have a program called AVID that focuses on the minority students."

That program, Achievement Via Individual Determination, is largely responsible for the jump in SAT scores,

Hoke said.

"AVID is a course that provides students with guidance and tutorial help, as well as SAT preparation."

Chapel Hill High School Principal Mary Ann Hardebeck praised the program for its effectiveness with students that are often overlooked in the school system. "AVID is aimed at students traditionally thought of as being in the middle," she said. "Their high aspirations really set them apart."

Hardebeck also attributes the rise in scores to increased enrollment in advanced and honors classes.

"The more a student is exposed to rigorous coursework, the higher their score will be," she said.

But the higher SAT scores among stu-

dents do not reflect the aptitude of nearly 60 percent of black students who refrained from taking the test.

"We are still continuing our efforts to encourage more students to take the SAT and go on to college," Hoke said. "There is much more progress to be made."

In addition to being at the top of the state in SAT scores, Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools is ranked as one of the 100 Best School Districts in the United States by *Offspring* magazine.

The article, which appears in the September/October issue, lists the area as the top achieving district in the South based on student performance.

Superintendent Neil Pedersen said the ranking will help Chapel Hill-

Carrboro City Schools in its goal to be the best district in the United States.

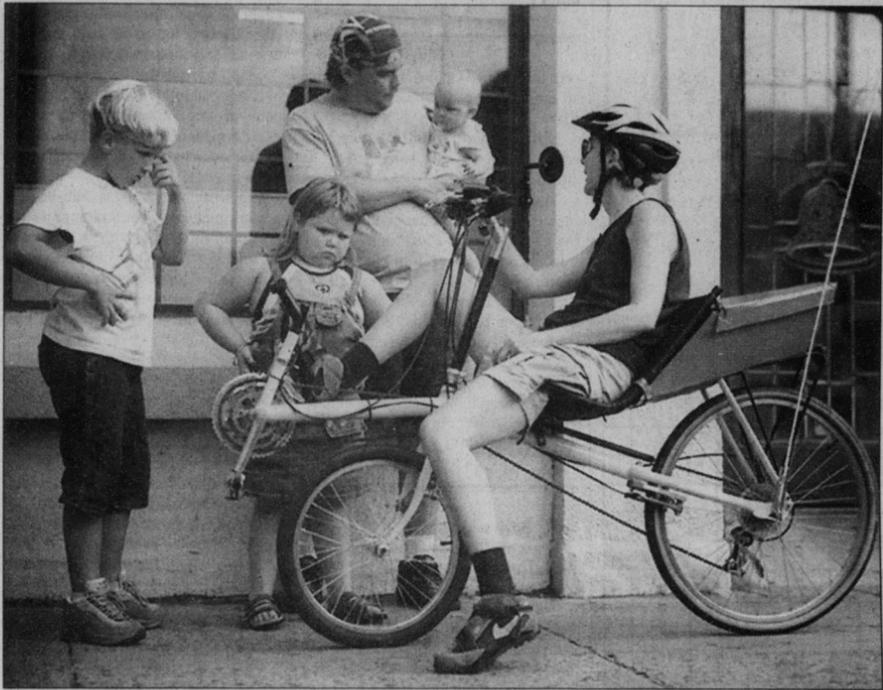
Chapel Hill-Carrboro is also one of 37 school districts in the country to receive a top score of 99 in a nationwide academic study conducted by SchoolMatch, an Ohio-based research firm that specializes in school data.

The firm identified CHHS as one of the top 10 schools in the country based on academic performance over the last decade.

"We're so delighted about (the ranking)," Hardebeck said. "When you consider that there's over 15,000 schools in the country, it's pretty incredible."

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A BIKE BUILT FOR FUN



Shane Messer, Brittany Stallard, Kevin Barbee and Tiffany Barbee (left to right) stop to marvel at cyclist Karen Chancellor's recumbent wonder. Chancellor, a forensic pathologist at UNC Hospitals, builds recumbent bicycles from kits as a hobby.

DTH/VALERIE BRUCHON

Strike 3? You're Out At Colorado School

By CHERI MELFI
Staff Writer

"Three strikes and you're out."

That's the moniker for University of Colorado-Boulder's new alcohol policy, which states that any student involved in three alcohol- or drug-related incidents will be automatically suspended.

CU officials sent a letter to all students Aug. 1 informing them of the policy after researching alcohol and drug incidents from last year, said Bob Maust, university research associate and leader of the school's drinking study.

Maust said last year's study showed that CU students with three or more drinking offenses usually perform worse academically, cause more problems on campus and eventually withdraw from the university.

The new policy involves a three-step process. The first time a student is caught, he or she will be required to attend a drug and alcohol education class, which costs \$100.

After the second offense, the student will receive additional probation, and his or her parents will be notified. The third offense will result in suspension from the university, Maust said.

But Ron Stump, CU vice chancellor

for student affairs, said while the policy guarantees students will be suspended after three incidents, it does not mean they automatically get three chances.

"If assault or property damage is involved, the student can be suspended at any time," Stump said.

Maust said CU students were suspended on a case-by-case basis under the previous policy.

"If we had this policy in place one year ago, we would have had 93 suspensions," he said.

Stump said he hopes that making students aware of the new policy would decrease the number of drinking and drug-related incidents on campus.

But CU is not the first state university to implement the "three strikes and you're out" program.

Cynthia Cummings, housing director at the University of Delaware, said UD has been using the policy since fall 1996.

"We began this program because we have had some very serious problems with binge drinking and the associated problems and disturbances that come with it," Cummings said.

She said UD freshmen caught using drugs or alcohol are suspended from

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Board Approval Allows Smooth Merger Process

By JAMILA VERNON
Staff Writer

America Online and Time Warner finally gained the approval of the Carrboro Board of Aldermen when it unanimously voted to accept the merger of the two companies.

The revised resolution that resulted in a tie vote Aug. 22 was voted on again Tuesday night. The aldermen were hesitant to pass the resolution, which approved the transfer of control from Time Warner to the AOL-Time Warner conglomerate.

Carrboro legal consultant David Permar said that while the board had little effect on the merger taking place, its vote was of importance on a larger scale.

"Time Warner's view is that if Carrboro or other local governments deny, it will affect decisions of the Federal Communication Commission in approving the merger," Permar said.

Alderman Allen Spalt said approving the merger was the best decision for Carrboro, given the town's limited options.

"We were backed into a corner," Spalt said. "If we took no action we would approve the merger and transfer with no conditions."

Spalt said the revised resolution will hold AOL-Time Warner to a memorandum of understanding, which would

encourage the company to offer the use of the cable modem to other Internet service providers. He said he hoped this would prevent a monopoly in the town.

The revised resolution, drafted by Permar, also binds AOL-Time Warner to other conditions.

"Carrboro will get some reimbursements for expenses of the local government for reviewing the matter and a provision limiting the ability to increase rates as a result of the merger," Permar said.

The town expects to receive \$2,500 from AOL-Time Warner to pay legal expenses.

Now that the current franchise agreement with Time Warner has expired, the aldermen are in the process of negotiating a new agreement that will set rates and determine what channels will be offered.

"By January, we hope to be upgraded, and rate adjustments will be consid-

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Alderman Allen Spalt says approving the merger is in Carrboro's best interest.

Funds Still Flow for Scouts

A Supreme Court ruling allowing the Boy Scouts of America to ban gays has driven away some donors.

By SARAH BRIER
Staff Writer

The Triangle United Way has decided that the Boy Scouts of America is an organization worthy of its money, despite the Scouts' rejection of homosexuals.

But this has not been the case in other areas.

A ruling passed by the Supreme Court in June that allowed Boy Scouts across the nation to ban homosexual scoutmasters and members has prompted some United Way chapters to withhold funds from local troops.

In Chicago, San Francisco and San Jose, local Boy Scouts have been prohibited from using parks, schools and other municipal sites, The New York Times reported Tuesday. Some United Way organizations have revoked millions of dollars in funding for the Boy Scouts, The Times reported.

United Way has traditionally been a large benefactor for the Boy Scouts. Each one is run independently by local chapters and the decision one area makes has no direct bearing on another area, said Jim Morrison, president of N.C. United Way. "There are 67 United Ways in North Carolina, and they are independent orga-

nizations," Morrison said. "They make separate decisions to help the people in their area."

The 10 United Way groups across the 12 N.C. counties comprising the 19,000 member Occoneechee Council have recently made the decision to continue funding the Boy Scouts. The N.C. United Way donated more than \$600,000 last year and the Triangle United Way locally allocated \$300,000.

Tom Dugger, president of Triangle United Way, said the decision was made to fund the Boy Scouts of Orange, Wake and Durham counties for the coming year. "The agency was in good standing and has been for over 40 years," Dugger said.

Since its establishment, the Boy Scouts of America has required its leaders to "exemplify the values outlined in the Scout Oath and Law."

One clause of this oath states "a scout is morally straight." A June press release from the Boy Scouts targeted this clause and stated, "We believe an avowed homosexual is not a role model for the values espoused in the Scout Oath and Law."

And a recent event illustrated that potential Scouts and their families in the area agree with the policy advocating a "morally straight" life.

Last Thursday, 200 new members from Orange County took the Scout Oath and joined the Occoneechee Council said Tom Dugger, executive director of the council. "This is a vote of confidence," Dugger said. "(People) think this is a kind of program they want for their children."

Dugger said the policy does not contradict their desire for diversity, but reaffirmed their privilege as a private institution to set standards for leadership.

But many of the corporations that donated more than \$11 million in 1999 are considering whether to support this policy.

Levi Strauss & Co. and Wells Fargo have already decided not to continue their support of the organization.

But Dugger said that for every group that said it will not fund the Boy Scouts, there are more, including American Airlines and AT&T Corp., that pledge their support.

Dugger said the children should be the primary focus.

"They need a positive environment... (The Boy Scouts) gives youngsters a place to grow without unnecessary burdens from adults."

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CP&L Answers Safety Concerns

By GINNY SCIABBARRASI
City Editor

RALEIGH — Officials from Carolina Power & Light Co. stood before a crowd of residents Wednesday night, hoping to alleviate concerns about a nuclear facility located nearby.

CP&L held an electric generation briefing, answering questions regarding the safety of expanding the nuclear waste storage capacity at the company's Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant in Wake County.

Hilda Pinnix-Ragland, vice president of economic development for CP&L, opened the session, explaining the company's purpose in calling the meeting.

"Our most important fundamental at CP&L is to provide you with safe, reliable electricity," she said. "We want to update you in our topics of interest about our company."

CP&L has come under fire recently by Orange County officials and activists who are concerned the expansion of the plant's storage facilities could result in serious safety and environmental risks. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is further examining the company's concerns, giving both CP&L and the county until Nov. 20 to present additional information supporting their cases.

Nick Scarola, vice president at the nuclear power plant, dismissed the county's proposition that a nuclear dis-

aster is more likely with the expansion.

"We expect that when we're done, this will be displayed as not a credible situation," he said. "We continue to support (the NRC's) process."

Scotty Hinnant, senior vice president and chief nuclear officer at CP&L, emphasized the influence of the NRC and the hearings they have conducted.

"The NRC's sole purpose is to protect the public's health and safety, not to promote nuclear energy in any way," he said. "We hear complaints that the NRC is in our corner, on our side. But let me assure you, we don't see it that way."

Scarola said safety is not only a con-

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DTH/EMILY SCHNUR

Skip Orser, CP&L's executive vice president of energy supply, responds to a resident's question at a CP&L briefing in Raleigh on Wednesday night.