



POLICE ROUNDUP

Police Nab Suspect In Computer Thefts

The suspect in a series of computer thefts at UNC confessed on Aug. 31, according to police reports.

The Chapel Hill man was charged with four counts of breaking and entering and felony larceny connected with several break-ins. According to police reports, the suspect entered 115 Abernethy Hall through a window Aug. 4 and stole one laptop valued at \$2,000.

On Aug. 10, two more laptops, valued at \$4,000, were stolen from 105 Abernethy Hall. A window was broken and another laptop was removed from 105 Abernethy Hall on Aug. 12. Three more laptops, valued at \$6,000, were stolen from Miller Hall on Aug. 13 when the suspect entered through a window.

Police recovered two of the computers, and the suspect told police he had sold the others to people he met on the streets of Chapel Hill, reports state.

University

Monday, Sept. 4

Police and fire department officers were called to Parker Residence Hall by a fire alarm at 2:25 a.m., reports state.

According to reports, police found an activated pull box on the north side of the first floor near the stairs.

Although it was determined to be a false alarm, evacuation of the building occurred.

Sunday, Sept. 3

A UNC student reported to police that while she was studying on the seventh floor of Davis Library, she witnessed a lewd act occurring in one of the study carrels nearby, reports state.

The incident took place at 8:19 p.m., and police have no suspects.

Saturday, Sept. 2

Two individuals were involved in a fight at Kenan Stadium at the UNC football game. According to reports, two people seated in sections 128-129 of the stadium got into an argument because one of them would not sit down. Reports stated that when the victim would not sit down, the suspect grabbed him and pushed him into the seat. Neither individual pressed charges.

A male UNC student was approached by officers after causing a disturbance at Kenan Stadium at 8:31 p.m. According to reports, the student made obscene remarks to police. When he was escorted from his seat to the concourse of the stadium, he lied to officers about his status as a student.

A Chapel Hill man was arrested and charged with misdemeanor larceny after stealing merchandise from Student Stores, reports state. The man was seen putting merchandise into his pockets and T-shirts under his clothes at Student Stores at 11:40 a.m., and employees alerted police.

He was stopped by police outside the Student Union and found to have the merchandise in his possession, according to reports. The man was released on unsecured bond.

City

Monday, Sept. 4

Police arrested Joseph Albert Molierno, Jr., of 411 Summerwalk Circle after finding him passed out in the middle of the intersection at Franklin and Boundary Streets.

Molierno, who is employed as a doctor by UNC Hospitals, was charged with driving under the influence after he registered a .12 on his breathalyzer test.

He was released on a written promise to appear in Chapel Hill District Court on Oct. 10, reports state.

Sunday, Sept. 3

Chapel Hill police cited and released Earl Flammer, 45, of 100 W. Rosemary St. for 2nd degree trespassing. Flammer, also known as "Hammer," was trespassing at 603 W. Rosemary St., where he had also been cited on Nov. 11, 1999, reports state.

Ashley Rae Sexton, 20, a UNC student from Columbus, Ga. was arrested for driving while intoxicated. Police stopped Sexton at the intersection of E. Franklin and N. Columbia streets for failing to turn on her head lamps.

Sexton registered a .10 on her breathalyzer test and was released on a written promise to appear in Chapel Hill District Court on Oct. 3, reports state.

Saturday, Sept. 2

Police were called to Nunn Lane in Chapel Hill after an unidentified suspect pointed a gun at a victim's head and demanded his belongings. The suspect escaped with a small amount of cash, a watch, a silver chain and a pair of pants, reports state.

Reward Offered in NCSU Shooting

Staff Report

Crimestoppers of Raleigh has announced a reward for information leading to the apprehension and conviction of an assailant who shot an N.C. State University student Aug. 24.

Raleigh Police Department Captain D.S. Oberman said that Crimestoppers did not normally disclose a specific dollar amount for its rewards, but said, "It's usually around \$1,000."

He said a board would determine the reward amount after evaluating the severity of the crime and the pertinence of the information.

Police reports state the assailant is a 6-foot black male in his early twenties

weighing about 155 pounds.

At the time of the crime, the assailant was wearing a turban wrapped around his head and left the scene in a small to mid-sized white car, reports state.

The student, sophomore Robert Baumgart, was shot while sitting in a parked car in front of the campus bookstore. He was taken to Wake Regional Medical Center that night and released the next day with the bullet still lodged in his neck.

N.C. State Police Sgt. Jon Barnwell said the department is pursuing several leads, but could not comment on any specific details.

Barnwell said the reward offered by Raleigh Crimestoppers would likely

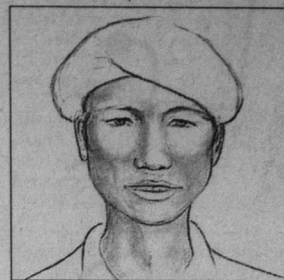
generate further details, providing additional help to the investigating officers.

"We've already gotten a lot of information from releasing the (assailant's) sketch," he said. "(Offering a reward) can't hinder the investigation any."

Oberman said a reward offered by Crimestoppers increases the chance of a case being solved by 50 to 75 percent.

He said anyone providing crime tips to Crimestoppers was guaranteed complete anonymity; even the reward check would be issued with a code name instead of the tipster's real name.

Anyone having information about the shooting should contact Raleigh Crimestoppers at 834-4357 or the N.C. State campus police at 515-2498.



Raleigh Crimestoppers has offered up to \$1,000 for information on the above man.

Alcohol Prohibited In Vehicles

Officials say a law banning open alcohol containers in all cars will further the fight against drunk driving.

By ALEX KAPLUN
Assistant State & National Editor

A state law that went into effect Thursday at midnight might discourage passengers from throwing back a few cold ones while in a vehicle.

The law prohibits any open alcohol containers in a vehicle on the state's roadways, even if the beverage is not the driver's. The law excludes buses and limousines and vehicles parked in parking lots.

Data has not yet been compiled on how many individuals in the state were caught violating this law over Labor Day weekend.

Violation of this law would be considered a misdemeanor and mandates a court appearance where punishment is at the judge's discretion.

Joe Parker, director of the Governor's Safe Highway Program, said the open-container alcohol law already exists in many states across the country.

"Most of the nation already prohibits open containers. We've just joined the rest of the country," Parker said.

State Trooper Tommy Barber said the new law would continue to discourage drunk drivers in North Carolina.

"(Drunk driving) is a serious problem that we hope we can prevent," he said.

Parker said the new law should not catch anyone off guard, especially with a state-sponsored radio advertising campaign aimed at making drivers aware of the rule changes.

"(The law) received a lot of attention when it was passed. It shouldn't be a surprise to anyone," Parker said.

He also said the law would be strictly enforced, just like the other alcohol laws in the state.

"We have a zero tolerance for drivers in the state with open alcohol containers," Parker said. "It's a law on the books. It will be enforced."

But he added that unless an open alcohol container was clearly visible, most violators of this law would probably be stopped for another offense.

"A law enforcement officer wouldn't stop a vehicle unless (the alcohol) was blatantly displayed," Parker said.

But Barber said a serious effort will be made to catch violators of the new law.

He said the state highway patrol will enforce the law in the same manner as other alcohol-related driving laws.

He said checkpoints will be set up and troopers will look out for not only drunk drivers, but also violators of the open-container law.

"It will be looked for, and it will definitely be enforced."

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Iguanas, Camels, Pythons ... Oh My!



DTH/SEFTON IPOCK

Thousands Turn Out To See Exotic Animals

By KATHLEEN HUNTER
State & National Editor

RALEIGH — Iguanas on leashes mingled with two double-humped camels, children anxious to have their picture taken with an 18-foot python named Clyde, and reptile-lovers looking to acquire a pet snake or lizard.

This was the scene at the state fairgrounds this weekend, as thousands of animal enthusiasts flocked to one of the largest exotic animal and reptile shows in the United States.

The show has taken place twice a year for the last three years, drawing between 10,000 and 12,000 people to each event, said show manager Jonathan Kemp.

More than 125 reptile merchants from across the country set up booths at Saturday and Sunday's event, which also featured camel rides, a petting zoo and a mobile veterinary clinic.

"It's like coming to a zoo that you can buy stuff at," Kemp said. "You are able to see, touch and take home."

Robert Hall of Wendall said he was not afraid to let his two young sons pet Clyde, a 250-pound, 8-year-old Burmese python that eats three 10-pound rabbits for dinner every two weeks. In fact, Hall paid \$5 for a picture of his two sons and their friend nestled behind the snake.

Brian Smith of Chapel Hill came to the show hoping to sell his 5-foot-long Columbian boa constrictor named Lucy, who slithered around his neck as he showed her to interested customers.

Smith said he had about 15 other snakes at his home. "I get bitten all the time — every day," he said. "It's not their fault."

But not all of the shows' attendees shared Smith's enthusiasm for reptiles.

Leshia Dukeman, a Chapel Hill resident, brought her daughter to the show,



DTH/SEFTON IPOCK

Jayman Esqabrito and Kristie Steinbach admire their new pets, Fluffy and George, that they bought for a mere \$130 (above left). Six-year-old Alvin Elliot takes a peek in a cage that holds two Mellers chameleons (above).

but said she enjoyed the petting zoo more than the reptile exhibits.

"They're crazy. This is all crazy," Dukeman said of the reptile-lovers. "It's not like a kitty. It's a snake."

Still, some, like Chris Cureton of Raleigh, insisted that reptiles were no different than other types of pets.

Cureton said he expected Sydney, his 6-year-old, 5-foot-long iguana, to live to be nearly 35 years old.

As Sydney crawled around in the grass outside the show as far as her leash would let her, Cureton said he and his wife, Heather, brought the lizard to the

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Center Fosters Study, Culture Students Gear Up To Teach Classes

Former UNC professor and novelist Doris Betts will help kick off events at the Johnston Center today.

By KAREY WUTKOWSKI
Assistant University Editor

With its two-story columns, stone veranda and lounge full of plush leather sofas, the James M. Johnston Center for Undergraduate Excellence seems more akin to a country club than a hub of student activity.

"It's so swanky that some students think it's not for them," said Jim Leloudis, the center's director. "But this building and lounge is for the entire campus."

The center, which opened in January in Graham Memorial, houses the Honors Program, Office of Undergraduate Research and Carolina Leadership Development, as well as many first-year seminars.

"We want this to be an intellectual crossroads for the entire campus," Leloudis said.

One way the center has tried to bring cross-curriculum attractions to UNC is through its lecture series "Tuesdays with Friday," hosted by former UNC-system President Bill Friday. The series gives students a chance to sit down and chat with public figures like Gov. Jim Hunt.

This year, Leloudis said the center will bring novelist and former UNC professor Doris Betts, former men's basketball coach Dean Smith and Sen. John Edwards, D-N.C., to the University.



DTH/EMILY SCHNUR

Megan Murphy, a senior international studies major from Durham, studies in the James M. Johnston Center for Undergraduate Excellence.

Leloudis said the series has been well-received and that the center also has been successful in its three main objectives: to foster innovation in undergraduate teaching, to sponsor extracurricular learning opportunities and to act as a center for campus culture.

Most of the classrooms in the Johnston Center are equipped with SMART Boards, which are electronic display boards that combine traditional dry-erase boards with computer technology, and video conferencing capabilities that can connect study abroad programs back to campus.

"Some use the technology, some don't. But it's there," Leloudis said.

He also said the center has been successful in sponsoring learning opportunities in and out of the classroom, through its lecture series and film screenings.

Leloudis said the Johnston Center's last goal is to be a place for sociability, centered around the downstairs lounge and cafe, Common Grounds.

"There's not many great social places on campus," he said. "It's meant to be a place for conversation and to share a cup of coffee."

Leloudis said the center is trying to build the lounge's atmosphere by

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By JASON ARTHURS
Staff Writer

A student-teaching program developed last spring will give four UNC seniors a chance to replace their class notes with lesson plans.

The four seniors in the Carolina Students Taking Academic Responsibility Through Teaching, or C-START program, are doing independent studies this semester, preparing to teach other undergraduates in the spring.

"It's being run as a pilot program right now," said C-START director Kristin Miller, a senior international studies major. "I'm very excited about it."

The classes will be offered to students next semester as a one-hour pass/fail credit that will count as an elective, Miller said.

"If all goes well, (students) will be able to register (for the courses) through general registration," she said.

The four courses will be taught by seniors Rye Barcott, Claire Taylor, Alex Little and Michal Osterweil and will cover topics such as ethnic cleansing, the ethics behind genetic engineering, politics in Northern Ireland and exploration of identity, respectively.

"These are very motivated individuals with a lot of initiative," Miller said.

Barcott said he hopes his class, which will focus on first-hand accounts of ethnic cleansing, will inspire students to take action against it. "It's my goal to probe these issues using first-hand accounts," he said.

While Barcott said he knows there will be even more preparation involved than he has already done, he thinks it will pay off. "I expect it to be a (work load) similar to a graduate level course," he said. "I'm thrilled at the opportunity and have very little anxiety (about) doing it."

Barcott said he will meet with the other three seniors early this week to discuss their individual plans for the semester.

Professor Donna Lefebvre, who co-advises C-START with history Professor Jim Leloudis, said she was optimistic about the success of the program.

"These students have a real passion in these areas," she said.

Miller, who co-founded the project with former UNC student Marie-Lucienne Lambert, said C-START has started to expand educational opportunities for student teachers and their students.

"The idea of the project is that a student who is interested in a topic but can't find a course on it is able to learn about it well enough that second semester, they can teach about it," Miller said.

Miller said there were about 15 applicants for the pilot program, four of whom were chosen based on their academic background and class proposals.

Lefebvre said C-START has a high potential of long-term success. "There are plenty of faculty that clearly support this," she said. "If the students want it enough, it will happen."

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