

POLICE ROUNDUP

University

Monday, April 2

■ Police reports state that an unknown individual set fire to a section of orange, plastic construction fencing between Morrison Residence Hall and the Morrison construction site. The fire was extinguished before patrol cars arrived. There are no suspects at this time.

Sunday, April 1

■ A UNC student reported that his car was broken into while it was parked at Forest Theatre.

The passenger window was broken and 100 CDs were stolen.

■ Police reports state that a UNC student left her backpack under the bleachers at Bell Track at 3 p.m. When she returned at 5 p.m., her backpack was gone.

The student reported that her laptop computer was in her bag.

■ An employee in Rosenau Hall reported that a snack machine was broken into.

Campus police officers reported that they found a prying tool and a lock behind a trash can in the building.

There are no suspects at this time.

Saturday, March 31

■ UNC freshman Matthew Stapleton was arrested for driving while intoxicated. He was originally stopped for running a red light.

The officer performed a sobriety test and arrested him after Stapleton did poorly on the test. He was taken to the Orange County Jail after getting a .12 on an intoxilyzer test.

■ Police reports state that two Morrison Residence Hall residents were cited for underage possession of malt beverages. Sophomore Kunal Gulati and junior John Vogt were released after being cited.

■ Campus police responded to a report of a party in Morrison Residence Hall. The officers entered the room and found resident Jerry Nelson squatting under the table holding several bottles of liquor.

The officers cited him for underage possession of alcohol and released him.

City

Sunday, April 1

■ Chapel Hill police were notified at 5:45 a.m. that a suspect broke a window at Pi Lambda Phi, 107 Fraternity Court.

The suspect threw batteries through the window and caused \$450 in damage, reports state.

The case is closed, and all leads are exhausted.

■ Carrboro police arrested Clyde Lee Burnett, 46, of 100 W. Rosemary St. for possession of drug paraphernalia and possession with intent to deliver a counterfeit controlled substance.

Burnett, the victim of an assault prior to his arrest, ran from the scene with a stick and was apprehended at the 100 block of Sunset Drive, reports state.

Reports also state that police found Burnett with a 5-inch pocketknife, a 2-inch pocketknife, counterfeit crack cocaine and two crack pipes on his person.

Burnett was taken to Orange County Jail and held in lieu of a \$500 bond. He was scheduled to appear April 2 in Orange County District Court in Hillsborough.

Saturday, March 31

■ Chapel Hill police arrested Mariano Rangel, 39, of Cedar Grove at 11:02 p.m. at Airport Road and Estes Drive for speeding, driving while his license was revoked and driving while intoxicated.

Police stopped Rangel for going 61 mph in a 35 mph zone and discovered that he had been drinking and that his license was revoked pending a previous DWI charge, reports state.

Rangel was held in lieu of a \$500 secured bond.

He is scheduled to appear April 24 in Orange County District Court in Chapel Hill.

■ Chapel Hill police arrested Jeffrey Watts Sparrow, 23, of 721 Hillsborough St. at 4:58 a.m. for five counts of failure to appear and one count of probation violation.

Sparrow's five warrants for failure to appear in court Dec. 4 were for financial card fraud, financial card theft and obtaining property by false pretense, reports state.

Reports also state that Sparrow was held in lieu of a \$3,000 secured bond, but was released on a property bond.

Sparrow is scheduled to appear April 6 in Orange County District Court in Hillsborough for the five warrants and on April 19 for the count of probation violation.

Report Serves as Guide to Redress Crime

By LAUREN RITTER
Staff Writer

A local woman has written her court-ordered book report, but some people are concerned she has not fully learned her lesson.

Iris Andros, co-owner of Zorba's in Chapel Hill, appeared Monday in Orange County District Court in Hillsborough for a civil case filed by David Oberhart, a blind man she would not let into her restaurant last October because he had his guide dog along.

On March 5, Orange County Judge Alonzo B. Coleman ordered Andros to

write a 10-page report on guide dogs and the disabled.

Coleman ruled that the guilty verdict from Andros' earlier court appearance still stood but would be erased from her record if she did not get into any trouble in the next year. For her book report, Andros read "Maggie by My Side" by Beverly Butler, a book about a blind woman and her five guide dogs.

Andros, a native of Egypt, where the blind are kept at home, said she did learn something from the ordeal. "I learned that blind people are very nice people," she said. "I do not see (writing the report) as a punishment because I

was not aware of many things."

Coleman said he could tell how serious people were about the punishment by the book they chose. "I thought the book was very appropriate," he said.

At the end of her book report, Andros thanked Coleman for giving her the opportunity and motive to read about guide dogs and blind people. "I was so ignorant about the subject, but I was glad to learn many things about it," she said.

Kim Steffan, Oberhart's attorney, said the gist of the report sounded like Andros had learned a lot from reading it but that Andros' comments when she left the courtroom contradicted that.

"What's in the report and what came out of her mouth were vastly different," Steffan said, referring to the comments Andros made after the hearing.

After her court appearance, Andros said she hoped Oberhart would find something more useful to do with his time and stop harassing her.

Oberhart said it did not seem like Andros was sincerely sorry for what she had done. "I still don't know if she's learned anything," he said. "I'm going to continue to pursue other options as they become available."

The next step will be mediation between the parties and then, if that

does not work, Oberhart can try to obtain a right to sue letter from the justice department, he said.

Because Andros' crime was a misdemeanor, Coleman said he thought the report was the best way for her to learn how dependent blind people are on their guide dogs. "I think her time is best spent by reading a book," he said.

Oberhart said he thought the book report idea was very creative. "I think that was kind of cool," he said. "It's a different form of community service."

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PETAL PICKERS



DTH/BRENT CLARK

Six-year-olds Catherine Foy and Maisie Mraz of Chapel Hill pick flowers outside Ackland Art Museum after spending a busy day on Franklin Street. The two young children ate pizza and went to the Ackland to view the museum's art exhibits with their mothers on their day off from Scroggs Elementary School for teachers' workday.

Waiver Could Decrease Cost Of New Schools

A county waiver of development fees could hold school costs down but also could keep thousands of dollars from town budgets.

By ISAAC GROVES
Staff Writer

Some members of the Orange County Board of Commissioners want to talk about waiving development fees for new schools in Orange County, but the town governments could lose money on the deal.

For the commissioners to fund a new public school, they must budget money for the studies and fees that the county, towns and utilities require for all new construction.

Commissioner Barry Jacobs said town and county governments treat new schools just like any other type of development. He also said the commissioners need to talk about waiving these fees to simplify the school construction process and bring down the cost of building schools in Orange County.

"We're just taking the money out of one public pocket to put it in another public pocket," Jacobs said.

Jacobs said the commissioners sent the issue to the county staff at Thursday's board meeting. The staff will review the idea of waiving the fees and make recommendations to the commissioners in the near future, Jacobs said. The commissioners have not brought the idea to the towns yet. "We don't know how people will react," Jacobs said. "This is still in the beginning stages."

David Kolbinsky, an Orange County Board of Education member, said he supports the waivers because the schools would not have to sell as many bonds to cover initial costs and would not have to pay the interest on those bonds. The board spent about \$400,000 on studies this year for two new schools. "Whatever we could do to keep the initial costs down would be good for us," Kolbinsky said.

Because the county government funds the schools, county fees on schools go right back into the county budget, Jacobs said. But this plan means Chapel Hill, Carrboro and Hillsborough would lose money from their respective budgets.

Carrboro Planning Department Director Roy Williford said Carrboro would lose around \$90,000 in fees for every new school. Carrboro has built two new schools in the last 20 years.

"It would be a drain any time it occurs, but it would not be very frequent," Williford said.

Jacobs said the town governments might oppose the waivers, especially if the state keeps municipal funds because of the budget crisis and the slow economy.

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Student Committee To Tackle Advising

The Student Academic Advisory Board will aim to bring students' suggestions to campus administrators.

By BRAD CHIASSON
Staff Writer

Students soon will have more of a voice in the academic advising process thanks to the institution of a student-centered advising committee.

Student Body Vice President Lerrisa Rentas pitched the idea of the Student Academic Advisory Board to Student Congress last Tuesday night, where it

was approved unanimously.

The committee will propose possible improvements in academic advising to senior administrators in the advising department.

Rentas said the board most likely will come into existence before the end of the school year, although the details are still in the planning stages. "Our purpose is to maintain open lines of communication to the advising department by providing student feedback, soliciting student input and enabling students to openly discuss their concerns," she said.

Rentas said she hopes the board will be composed of two students from each

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Student Status Brings Tax Woes

By MICHAEL HANDY
Staff Writer

With an April 15 tax deadline quickly approaching, many students remain in the dark about rules for filing their returns.

The Internal Revenue Service requires most working students to file a tax return, even if they were only part-time employees.

According to the IRS Web site, unmarried students who are still claimed as a dependent by their parents must file a tax return if they have unearned income of more than \$700 or an earned income of more than \$4,400.

Students must also file a return if their gross income is greater than \$700 and exceeds their earned income by more than \$250.

The IRS defines earned income as salaries, wages, tips, taxable scholarships and grants. Unearned income includes taxable interest, dividends, capital gains and trust distributions.

Tax laws for married students and students not claimed as dependents by their parents vary greatly. The IRS Web site also suggests these students consult a tax expert.

If these tax laws left you confused, you are not alone. Harvey Sapir, general manager of Jackson Hewitt Tax Service in Carrboro, said that much confusion for students centers on educa-

"Student loan interest is deductible only during the first 60 months of the required repayment period."

HARVEY SAPIR
Jackson Hewitt Tax Service Manager

tional tax credits. "One of the things that students are entitled to are educational tax credits," he said.

Educational tax credits include the Lifetime Learning Credit, which students can claim at any point during their education, and the Hope Scholarship Credit, which students can claim during the first two years of their education.

Sapir said these tax credits are confusing for students because many students do not know what expenses they

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Gymnastics, Dance to Grace UNC

The renowned dancers and choreographers of "AEROS" have gotten rave reviews in Italy and the United States.

By DIANA CUNNINGHAM
Staff Writer

Memorial Hall will be full of flying acrobats in a gravity-defying show Wednesday night.

Aptly called "AEROS," the show is the first of a new kind of dance theater that brings world-class gymnastics into the realm of performance art.

The show has received rave reviews

for its sold-out tour in Italy, and has been well-received in the United States as well. "AEROS" is coming to the UNC campus as part of the Carolina Union Performing Arts Series.

Gymnastics competitions feature only individual routines of athletic achievement. Throughout "AEROS," the audience watches a choreographed interweaving of dancing and tumbling that aims to entertain as well as awe audiences.

This combination of dance and gymnastics was unique to Mihaela Pohoata, 20, a performer in "AEROS" who has been training her body and mind for gymnastics since age 5.

"It's different doing this," she said.

"In the beginning, it was hard because you didn't know how to have space for everyone, not just yourself."

"AEROS" is accompanied by live music, composed by Toronto's Two Tall Guys Music Lab specifically for this show. The score is designed to complement the integration of dance and gymnastics in a series of colorfully costumed minidramas.

The integration of dance, gymnastics and music was created by three of the biggest names in choreography — Daniel Ezralow, David Parsons and Moses Pendleton.

"Just the choreographers' names real-
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PHOTO COURTESY OF CAROLINA UNION

Romanian Gymnastics Federation members perform for "AEROS," a show that will combine gymnastics, music and dance tonight at Memorial Hall.