



## POLICE ROUNDUP

### University

Monday, Aug. 27

■ A parking permit was stolen from a vehicle parked in the Ramshead parking lot.

Reports state that the S-5 permit, valued at \$300, was taken from the vehicle without any signs of forced entry.

The owner of the permit said she locked the vehicle during the night but left her windows open slightly to allow fresh air to circulate through the vehicle.

Saturday, Aug. 25

■ A South Campus construction worker was arrested on charges of assault after engaging in a fight with another construction worker outside of Chase Hall, reports state.

Reports state that the suspect claimed he was provoked into fighting but was arrested after witnesses identified him as the assailant.

After being released on bail, the suspect filed a complaint against another coworker for communicating threats.

Friday, Aug. 24

■ A five-disc CD player valued at \$150 was stolen from the Belk Track Press Box.

Reports state that the CD player was left in the press box at 12:30 p.m. and found missing at 2:15 p.m.

A University employee who reported the theft said the press box was locked when he discovered the CD player was missing.

■ A campus vending machine in Gardner Hall was vandalized during the night.

Reports state that the suspect entered the building by sneaking through a basement window and forced open the machine with a cinder block.

Thursday, Aug. 23

■ A portable CD player was stolen from a backpack left unattended in Davis Library. The owner of the CD player said she left her backpack in sitting area 35 for approximately an hour while she used a computer in a different area of the library.

Reports state that a search of the building failed to locate the missing property.

■ A license plate was stolen off a vehicle parked in the Nash parking lot. Reports state that the plate belonged to a University employee and was stolen while the vehicle was parked during daytime office hours.

### City

Sunday, Aug. 26

■ Chapel Hill police arrested Ronald Lee Bynum of 309 Mitchell Lane for assault with a deadly weapon reported to police at 12:06 p.m.

Reports state that Bynum cut his brother with a pocket knife, causing minor injury.

■ Bynum went to Orange County Jail on a \$250 secured bond.

He is scheduled to appear Oct. 15 in Orange County District Court in Hillsborough.

■ Chapel Hill police arrested Jeremy Stephen Tirpak, of 103 Akiry Court in Cary, for public urination at 2:40 a.m.

Reports state that Tirpak was arrested for urinating on a sidewalk at Carolina Coffee Shop, 138 E. Franklin St.

Saturday, Aug. 25

■ Chapel Hill police reported an aggravated assault at 2:14 a.m. Reports state that a suspect allegedly kicked and punched a victim behind a building at 150 E. Rosemary St.

The case is pending further investigation.

Thursday, Aug. 23

■ Chapel Hill police arrested Jose Luis Perez Rios at 2:20 a.m. for public urination.

Reports state that Rios, of 306 Estes Dr. in Carrboro, will appear Sept. 24 at Orange County District Court in Hillsborough.

Wednesday, Aug. 22

■ Chapel Hill police reported a simple assault at 9:08 a.m. on East Rosemary Street.

Reports state that a victim was assaulted by four assailants, causing minor injury.

The case has been closed because leads are exhausted.

■ Chapel Hill police responded to a call of a simple assault at a government building at 100 E. Rosemary St. at 10:10 p.m.

Reports state that a suspect punched a victim in the face.

The case is pending further investigation.

# Police Arrest 2 CDS Employees in 2 Weeks

**Aramark's contract with the University does not require that background checks are run on CDS employees.**

By Brook Corwin  
Staff Writer

In the past two weeks, two Carolina Dining Services employees have been taken out of the dining halls and into police custody on felony charges.

Mary Riggsbee, a CDS cashier, was arrested Aug. 26 and charged with illegal possession of a firearm on campus. According to police reports, coworkers accused Riggsbee of making verbal threats to another worker and keeping a gun in her purse while she was at work in Lenoir Dining Hall.

The arrest came 10 days after another CDS employee, Michael Justice, was taken into custody when a University police background check — conducted during a routine traffic stop — revealed that there were three counts of outstanding warrants for Justice's arrest in New Jersey. University police turned Justice over to the city of Newark, N.J., for extradition.

Although both individuals worked for the University's dining services, CDS administrator Ira Simon directed questions about the arrests to Aramark, the University's food service provider.

"All CDS employees are Aramark employees," Simon said. "It's an Aramark human resource policy to deal with these situations on their own."

Simon said Riggsbee worked as a CDS cashier for only one day before being charged, but he could not comment further because of Aramark's legal

policies to protect its employees.

Aramark is a service managing company that provides food services for 400 colleges and universities nationwide and abroad, including Duke University. UNC chose the company as its food services provider in May to replace its former provider, Sodexho-Marriott, whose contract expired in August.

Doug Warner, a public relations representative for Aramark, said the company's agreement with the University does not require background checks on CDS employees, although some of the company's contracts with other universities do stipulate

such checks. "It's a decision that is made on a case-by-case basis," he said.

"I am aware that other universities do have a different agreement and do run background checks, but I could not tell you which ones."

Warner said the company has no corporate policy regarding background checks for its employees and that it varies its hiring procedures based on different clients. "Background checks are decided on a case-by-case basis," Warner said.

"Typically we will work with a university to find a hiring policy that works the best."

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DOUG WARNER

Aramark Public Relations Representative

Evan Klingman, Aramark's food service director for UNC, did not comment on the arrests and directed questions to the corporation's public relations department.

Warner said none of the CDS employees hired by Aramark are given access to students' personal records.

He also said the choice of whether to run background checks in the future or rehire the arrested employees rests with Aramark's local human resources department, which is not governed by corporate policy.

"It just comes down to a mutual agreement between the employer and the client," he said.

"It's a decision that's made on an individual basis."

The University Editor can be reached at [udesk@unc.edu](mailto:udesk@unc.edu).



## Film Captures Spring Break Revelry

**"Spring Break" was filmed by Zoom Culture, a local media group, and is a part of the company's ongoing "Digital Diaries" series.**

By Russ Lane  
Arts & Entertainment Editor

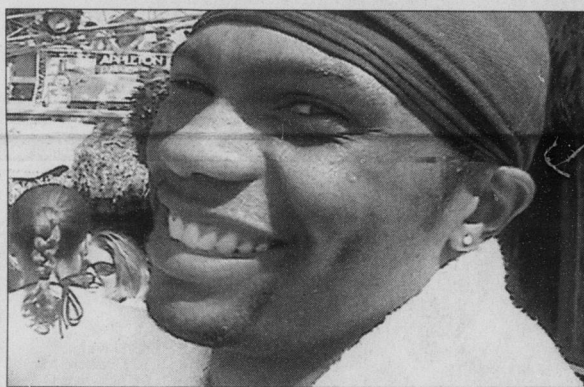
With classes just beginning, Spring Break seems to be a far-off prospect.

But only a short amount of time passes until throngs of UNC students hit the islands, hedonistically revel and let naughtiness run rampant in the Caribbean streets.

A week later, with fabulous tans and a few extra "What have I done?" anecdotes, UNC students return to Chapel Hill — and to normalcy. But all abide by the rule, "Whatever happened at Spring Break stays there."

But Zoom Culture, a Chapel Hill-based media company, brought "whatever happened" back to Chapel Hill and put it on film.

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Zoom Culture, a Chapel Hill-based media company, filmed several students, including Marcelino Alvarez (top) and Kevin "Kaze" Thomas, for its new documentary called "Spring Break."

## Town Council Passes Flat Rents Resolution

By Kathleen Wirth  
Assistant City Editor

The Chapel Hill Town Council unanimously passed a resolution Monday that will establish flat rents for families living in public housing units.

But the move only will immediately benefit five of the town's 334 families residing in public housing.

In accordance with regulations set forth by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, public housing agencies must establish flat rents for their clients based on the reasonable market value of similar private housing units in the area.

Flat rents, as opposed to rents linked to household income, aim to encourage economic independence for families because the rate

remains stable regardless of increases in income. Under HUD regulations, public housing families still retain the option of paying rental rates based on income.

"I think (flat rents) are an important reform," said town council member Bill Strom. "It's a significant change, and it highlights the need for, and the goals of, affordable housing."

The new flat rental rates, which will be effective Sept. 1, will start at \$389 per month for a one-bedroom unit and will increase up to \$736 per month for a five-bedroom unit.

But some members of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Residents' Council say the rental figures passed are not low enough to allow families to save money for future home ownership. Members also are concerned because the current rates based on income are lower than the proposed flat rates, limiting the number of

immediate qualifying families.

In March, town officials proposed a schedule of flat rates for the public housing program based on an analysis compiled by a private consultant of rental rates for private developments such as Estes Park Apartments and Abbey Court.

Joann Shirir, director of the residents' council, said the HUD formula used to establish these flat rents could not fairly be applied to Chapel Hill because the town's private rates were higher as a result of the University's presence.

She also said the private rental rates the town used to determine the schedule of flat, public housing rates provided for amenities, such as washers and dryers, that some public housing units do not offer. "Because Chapel Hill is a university town, the rates are much higher than say,

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## Officials Take Action to Correct Silent Bells, Incorrect Time

**After being informed the Bell Tower wasn't working properly, Jeffrey Fuchs said his first step was to check the programming.**

By Karey Wutkowski  
Assistant University Editor

The Bell Tower hasn't been performing up to par lately.

The UNC landmark, known for its four-faced clock and daily bell chimes, has been speeding 20 minutes ahead of schedule and failing to send out 15-minute reminder rings since students returned to campus for the fall semester last week.

"Today I was wondering what time it was, and I'm used to hearing the bells," said junior Daniel Hicks. "Last year when I was going to class everyday I would hear it at the crosswalk by Wilson (Library) and know I was late."

And officials who have been entrusted with the Bell Tower's care neglected to realize the icon wasn't properly ticking or chiming. "I didn't realize it was silent," said Jeffrey Fuchs on Monday, whose job includes operating the Bell Tower.

Fuchs said the location of his Hill Hall office prevents him from keeping tabs on the tower's performance, which is controlled by a computer system that tells the tower's 14 bells to chime every 15 minutes from 7 a.m. to midnight. It also randomly selects from a catalog of 34 tunes to play at 8 a.m., 12 p.m., 6 p.m. and 9 p.m.

Stanley Young, a plant maintenance supervisor who is in charge of maintaining the Bell Tower machinery, said the tower requires little upkeep. Young said the last time he remembers it being out of commission was when lightning struck the Bell Tower in the fall of 1999, silencing the bells and stilling the clock for several weeks.

But Young said he also doesn't make regular checks of the tower's operations. "I don't even go by there," Young said. "Someone called me and told me it wasn't working on Friday."

Young said he then called Fuchs, who has the keys to the tower. To get the Bell Tower back on track, Fuchs said he will try to set the tower clock on the computer and then check the bells' programming. "It usually takes 24 hours for the clocks to catch up," Fuchs said.

But some students said they've gotten accustomed to what they believe is erratic behavior on the Bell Tower's part.

Junior Jennifer Wilson said she's noticed that the tower has been fickle since she came to UNC. "Half the time it doesn't ring and the time is wrong," she said. "It's really hit or miss."

Other students said they don't mind the inconsistency so much and just appreciate the Bell Tower when it's earning its keep. "As soon as I came to Fall Fest I noticed the time wasn't right, and it hasn't been right a lot the last couple of years," said senior Katy Dimmick. "But I like hearing it. It makes me proud of my school."

The University Editor can be reached at [udesk@unc.edu](mailto:udesk@unc.edu).

## Aldermen to Vote on Party For Pine Street

**Pine Street resident Megan Bahr says she hopes the party will allow student tenants and residents to put tensions behind them.**

By Amanda Wilson  
Staff Writer

The Carrboro Board of Aldermen will vote tonight on whether to allow a Carrboro street to close for a block party proposed by the Pine Street Homeowner's Committee.

The Pine Street block party, which is expected to be held from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Nov. 7, is aimed at rebuilding relationships among long-term homeowners, renters and landlords, said Megan Bahr, a resident and coordinator of the party.

Bahr said residents began to consider a block party as a community-building event after a neighborhood dispute this summer.

But landlord Armin Leith voiced speculation Monday about the motives behind the party.

"I own property on Pine Street and do not know about the Pine Street Homeowner's Committee," Leith said. "I think the Pine Street people need to start at their houses with building community. I don't think the interest in having a block party where everyone comes together is genuine."

Residents complained to the aldermen in July because some claimed an influx of student tenants was disrupting the atmosphere of the neighborhood. Consequently, the aldermen agreed to examine ways to keep the neighborhood quiet.

After tensions mounted this summer, Bahr said she hopes residents can put the past behind them and use the block party as a chance to build neighborhood relations.

"Our dispute has never been with the tenants, it's been with the landlord or property owner," Bahr said.

But Leith said the party seems contradictory because residents' previous complaints included claims that his student tenants had a tendency to party.

"If they have a party and it gets out of hand, who's going to be blamed?" Leith asked. "I guarantee you it's the students."

But Bahr said she called each of the landowners personally to invite them to the get-together. "This is a wonderful community here on Pine Street," she said. "It is a good place to raise kids."

Bahr said the homeowner's committee plans to host a potluck dinner and invite musicians to come and play during the party. Bahr said committee members even plan to rent an inflatable "moonwalk" for children.

But Leith said he doesn't think Pine Street is the place for a block party. "I am not opposed to block parties, but a place where people cannot speak amicably on the street is not a place to have a block party," Leith said. "It's a no-win situation, in my opinion."

But Alderman Joal Broun said she would be surprised if anyone objected to the issue.

But Leith expressed skepticism about the purpose of the party. "All I know is a date, a time and that I'm invited, but it's a pretty long street to have a party on," Leith said.

"This is an issue for the aldermen to decide."

The City Editor can be reached at [citydesk@unc.edu](mailto:citydesk@unc.edu).

### A Timeless Landmark

The UNC Bell Tower, a well-known emblem of the University, has had a troubled past, with almost annual interruptions in service.

**September 2000:** An electrical problem silences the tower's 14 bells for a month, and officials have to call in University electricians to get the chimes back on track.

**September 1999:** Bells stop chiming and clock stops ticking for a couple weeks, and officials suspect a lightning strike is the culprit.

**April 1999:** Bell Tower clock slips 2 1/2 minutes fast with no explanation.

**June 1998:** Bell Tower gets a monthlong makeover as maintenance workers put the bells on a computerized schedule with hopes of getting the icon to run like clockwork.

SOURCE: DTH ARCHIVES AND UNC NEWS SERVICES

DTH/MARY STOWELL