

# Red Light Cameras 'Orwellian'

On Oct. 22, 2000, at 2:48 a.m., a Fayetteville traffic camera installed to catch red-light runners snapped a picture of a deviant driver's license plate. A citation was issued to 77-year-old Chapel Hill resident Lucille Moorefield.



**JONATHAN CHANEY**  
CITY COLUMNIST

Was this another case of a late-night senior citizen joyrider? No. This was a case of mistaken identity. Moorefield wasn't in Fayetteville — and she wasn't driving in the middle of the night. Apparently, the picture snapped at the

red light camera was so fuzzy, a proper identification could not be made and the private company running the ticketing system sent her a citation erroneously.

She fought to appeal the ticket, but eventually had to complain to U.S. Rep. David Price to strong-arm Fayetteville's mayor to get her money back.

Chapel Hill is still considering installing such traffic cameras at intersections. Last spring, the Town Council gave the town manager the go-ahead to seek bids from private companies to operate the cameras. But because of a heavy workload, those bids have not happened yet.

It would be best to table the entire project. Cameras are not needed at Chapel Hill intersections — and their legality is most questionable.

In San Diego last week, Superior Court Judge Ronald Styn ruled that because a private corporation issues the tickets, the business has a strong motive to give more tickets to make more profit.

Thus, the pictures are considered suspect evidence and not admissible in court. That ruling only applies to the nearly 300 tickets being disputed in San Diego — it has no legal consequence in North Carolina.

Already, red-light camera programs are in Charlotte, Greensboro, Wilmington and Fayetteville. However, though Styn's ruling does not affect these programs, more people are questioning the legality and fairness of red-light cameras — including officials in Chapel Hill.

Is it fair? No. This is the municipal government contracting out its responsibility to provide law enforcement.

While a citation from a red-light camera does not add points to your insurance or driving record, it does rip \$50 from your wallet.

And consider this. Most of these cameras will be placed at busy intersections. But if a cop catches you running a red light at a smaller intersection, you can face added points and much harsher penalties than the civil penalty issued by the private ticketing company.

We're treating the same criminal offense differently — giving a lighter penalty to someone running a red light at a more dangerous intersection!

The problem with red-light running in Chapel Hill does not outweigh the Orwellian loss of privacy or the inherent unfairness of this system.

Human judgement in the application of the law makes me feel a lot more comfortable than a camera operated by a for-profit company. Chapel Hill should not buy into this program.

Columnist Jonathan Chaney can be reached at [jchaney@email.unc.edu](mailto:jchaney@email.unc.edu).

# Schools Offer Services to Stranded Students

By METOKA WELCH  
Staff Writer

Triangle college students wanting to rejoin their families in light of Tuesday's terrorist attacks will find their short-term travel options limited.

The Federal Aviation Administration grounded commercial flights after hijacked airplanes crashed into the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and in Pennsylvania on Tuesday morning.

But the FAA began to allow limited

air travel Wednesday for flights forced to land prematurely Tuesday morning.

According to CNN, senior FAA officials say the flight restrictions will start to be lifted sometime today.

Greyhound buses and Amtrak trains have suspended service to Washington, D.C., and New York until further notice.

Sue Kitchen, vice chancellor for student affairs at UNC, said that because students facing family emergencies are unable to travel, the most important thing for them to do right now is seek

counseling. "If a student is anxious or has a family member who has been killed, and they want to get home or need counseling, they should either go to counseling services, the Office of the Dean of Students or my office," she said.

Kitchen said the volatile nature of the situation makes it hard for school officials to take concrete measures to assist students in traveling home. "The reason why we can't stock something together is because the situation is always changing."

Officials announced Tuesday that

Student Health Service's Counseling and Psychological Service is offering walk-in assistance for students who need immediate guidance. CAPS also is sending counselors throughout campus to talk to students identified as needing assistance.

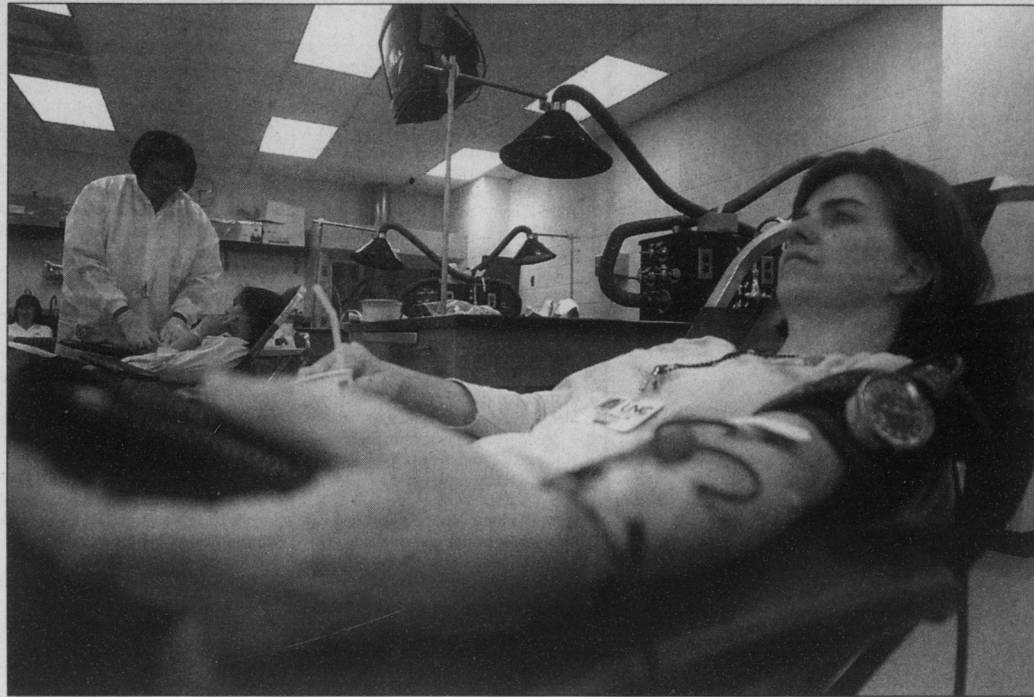
Keith Lawrence, assistant director for the Duke News Service, said Duke students also are being offered assistance in coping with the shock of Tuesday's attack. "Counseling and psychological services have been offered, as well as telephones to those students trying to

call in the more stricken areas of New York and D.C.," Lawrence said.

Lawrence said he sympathized with affected students but cited governmental requests to limit travel as obstacles to students getting home. "Government officials are strongly discouraging anyone to travel to New York or D.C. at this time," he said. "They're not looking for people to add to traffic congestion."

Thomas Stafford, vice chancellor for

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Brenda Nielsen, an employee of the UNC School of Medicine, watches news updates on a television screen in Berryhill Hall while donating blood to aid victims of Tuesday's tragedies. Wednesday's drive exceeded the Red Cross' goal of 40 units before 2 p.m.

# UNC Blood Drive Attracts Masses

By STEPHANIE FURR  
Staff Writer

Wednesday's blood drive at Berryhill Hall was scheduled to run from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., but by 2 p.m. signs were posted that read, "Blood drive full for today."

But American Red Cross volunteers are still encouraging people to donate. The drive acquired 65 units of blood by 2 p.m., exceeding the Orange County Red Cross' original goal of 40 units. The Red Cross is collecting blood to help meet needs in New York and Washington, D.C., the sites of two of Tuesday's three terrorist attacks.

About 500 people came to the collection site Wednesday, but most were told to come back

in a few days or weeks. "It's been heartening, really heartening, but we've been turning people away since I got here at 10:45 a.m.," said Amy Jewett, a Red Cross volunteer.

The drive was organized by the Student National Medical Association before the start of the school year with the expectation of a moderate turnout.

But after Tuesday's tragedies, concerned UNC students and Orange County residents came out in droves to donate. Casey Copp, director of blood services for Orange County, said other local drives have had similar success.

"My understanding is that 600 people turned up (Tuesday) at a drive in Durham, and (the volunteers) worked until 11 p.m. at night," she said. At Berryhill, students, faculty and residents

waited in line to give blood, keeping track of the latest news while their blood was being collected.

Laura Desch, a junior English major, said she waited for more than an hour. "I was watching yesterday, and, as soon as it went across the screen that the Red Cross needed blood, I wanted to do this," she said.

Other donors said they felt a personal connection to the tragedy in New York.

"I know there's a huge need, and I'm actually from New York," said Mike Steiner, a 2000 UNC graduate.

Copp said the local Red Cross also has sent units to hospitals in Baltimore, which is less than an hour from Washington, to help aid vic-

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# Officials Address State's Safety Concerns

By BEN GULLETT  
AND JENNIFER SAMUELS  
Staff Writers

Local and state agencies in North Carolina were largely unaffected by Tuesday's terrorist attacks, but some officials say not everything is business as usual.

All exits to and from Fort Bragg were blocked Wednesday. Personnel entering the base had their cars and belongings searched before admittance.

Vicki Bailey, a transfusion supervisor at Womack Army Medical Center in Fort Bragg, said she spent four hours in traffic to get to work.

"I agree with everything being done, but it's just unreal," she said.

Schools statewide did not change schedules.

Vanessa Jeter, a public information officer for the N.C. Department of Public Instruction, said most school districts chose again not to cancel classes Wednesday. She said DPI has suggested local school systems implement their own crisis plans.

"Our main concern at this point is that (schools) be sensitive to the emotional needs of students," she said.

Local schools followed this trend, with Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools and Orange County Schools operating on regular schedules.

Chapel Hill Town Manager Cal Horton said town government was not slowed by the attack. Carrboro Town Manager Bob Morgan echoed the sentiment for Carrboro. A Board

of Aldermen meeting canceled Tuesday has not yet been rescheduled.

Chapel Hill Chamber of Commerce President Aaron Nelson said the national airline shutdown prevented operation of long-distance mail and package delivery services. He added that the local community has not felt an impact.

"Nobody has called us to complain about their business being disrupted," Nelson said.

But Bailey said despite the inconvenience, she is glad for precautions.

"There's a part of me that doesn't want to be inconvenienced, but in today's atmosphere, thank you."

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# Officials Confirm Safety of Students In D.C., Abroad

UNC students away from campus have been contacted by University officials, who are encouraging those students to call home.

By LIZZIE BREYER  
University Editor

For the past two days the UNC community has banded together in displays of unity, but several members of the University family experienced Tuesday's tragedies from elsewhere in the world.

Most students watched the events on television, but some students studying in Washington, D.C., literally watched the attacks unfold. And students abroad are far away from their country while leaders emphasize national unity.

UNC has 12 students with the Washington Policy Seminar, sponsored by the Burch Field Research Seminar Program. Some were blocks from the Pentagon when a hijacked plane hit the building.

"We saw the plane go down — saw it hit, saw the smoke," said junior Stephanie Scott, an intern at the Progressive Policy Institute. "We heard it hit, and we heard the fighter jets and helicopters come across."

Scott said she went to her Washington apartment as quickly as possible, where program directors were keeping tabs on UNC students. "When you came back, they checked your name off — she's alive, she's OK," she said. "It was a strange experience."

Senior Tola Atewologun said he saw massive disruption after the explosion. "It was total chaos — you would walk down the street, see a police line and an area blocked off, and you would have to figure out a way around."

When UNC officials heard about the attacks, they said they rushed to contact the students. Mary Woytowich, assistant to the chairman of the public policy department, which sponsors the Burch program, said she immediately began calling and e-mailing until all the students were located. "The kids e-mailed me, let me know they were safe and would take care of each other," she said. "I told them to call their parents."

Michael Stegman, chairman of the public policy department, said he had been in touch with all the students. "It was a visceral, emotional experience, having a profound effect — some of them even felt the explosion," he said. "We have a great deal of security where they're living — I feel we're doing right by them, but it was a very frightening experience."

While Woytowich and Stegman scrambled to find students in Washington, other officials checked to see if there were any students in New York City.

Marcia Harris, director of University Career Services, said she doesn't know of any students there. "There are no formal programs (in New York City) — we may have a student with a fall internship at CBS or something like that, but there are none we know or have heard about."

Bob Miles, director of the Study Abroad Office, spent Tuesday contacting students in foreign areas. "We had a list of all students abroad with their parental addresses and were able to determine, within a certain degree of risk, a list of students who might be directly affected," he said.

Miles said Wednesday he had heard from all the schools where UNC students are abroad and that, as far as he knew, all students were safe. He also said Tuesday's attacks should not lead to problems where UNC students are located. The University has no students in the Middle East.

Miles said he reminded UNC's international students to tell their families they're safe. Tuesday's events will not affect the immediate safety of students abroad or the study abroad program's future, Miles said. "We are always, always concerned about the safety and security of students. What has changed is that the need for international understanding is more important now than it was 24 hours ago."

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## They're Coming!

### Technology & Library Science Career Fair

September 19th, 1-5 pm  
Dean Smith Center

### Minority Career Night

September 19th, 6-9 pm  
Great Hall, Student Union

### Carolina Career Fair

September 20th, 9:30 am—3:30 pm  
Dean Smith Center

**RESUME MARATHON**  
Bring a draft of your resume to be critiqued by a UCS counselor.  
Thursday, Sept. 13  
10:00 am - 2:00 pm  
205 Student Union

**HOW TO PREPARE FOR A JOB FAIR**  
Prepare yourself for interacting with employers!  
Topics include appropriate dress, materials to bring to career fairs, developing an effective introduction, and more.  
Mon., Sept. 17  
5:00 pm  
205 Student Union

Are You Ready?

Take the Reverse "U" bus to the Dean Smith Center.

UNDERCLASSMEN ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND!

Search employers attending at <http://careers.unc.edu/fairs/studentsearch.html>