



POLICE ROUNDUP

Officials Investigate Multiple Break-Ins

Chapel Hill police responded to a stolen car report at 10 a.m. Monday at 316 W. Rosemary St., reports state.

When the officer went to The Warehouse Apartments, he found three other cars also had been broken into, said Jane Cousins, spokeswoman for the Chapel Hill Police Department.

The breaking and entering cases are closed because there were no leads, Cousins said.

The last time the cars were known to be secure was 11 p.m. Sunday.

A Nissan Altima was broken into and camera/optical equipment was taken from the car.

A Jeep Cherokee was broken into and a car stereo was taken.

A Nissan Maxima had compact discs stolen from it.

The total estimated value of the stolen goods is \$21,000.

A white 1994 Jeep Cherokee was broken into and stolen.

The car was later found Monday in Durham on North Duke Street. One arrest was made, but officials are not releasing information at this time.

University

Wednesday, Jan. 16

■ A student discovered his wallet missing from his backpack, which he left overnight locked in Hill Hall Music Library.

The student reported the incident at 10 a.m., according to the police report. There are no suspects.

Monday, Jan. 14

■ A laptop computer valued at \$2,000 was stolen from a lobby of the MRI building in an incident that was reported at 9:57 a.m., according to police reports.

The computer disappeared Sunday night from the unlocked room, according to a police report.

There are no suspects in the larceny, reports state.

Sunday, Jan. 13

■ An ambulance on its way to the emergency room with a patient was hit with a paintball, according to police reports. There are no suspects.

Police responded shortly after 4 p.m. to a call at the intersection of Manning and Morrison drives, where the incident occurred. The damage is estimated at \$1,400.

■ A Chapel Hill man was arrested at 5:44 p.m. after allegedly stealing a woman's wallet in Davis Library, according to police reports.

Michael Patterson, 47, whose address was listed as the Interfaith Council shelter on Rosemary Street, is being held on bond at Orange County Jail.

City

Tuesday, Jan. 15

■ Chapel Hill police arrested Devon Withers, 25, of 3311 Shannon Road at 10:29 p.m. for larceny of a computer.

Reports state that the victim saw Withers leaving his Granville room with a laptop computer stuffed in his pants. The victim followed Withers and contacted the police, reports state.

Withers was arrested at 125 E. Franklin St., reports state.

Police charged Withers with one felony count of breaking and entering with intent to commit larceny and one felony count of larceny, reports state.

Withers was held under a \$5,000 secured bond and was scheduled to appear in the Orange County District Court in Hillsborough on Wednesday, reports state.

The case is closed because all leads are exhausted.

■ Chapel Hill police responded to a breaking and entering call with larceny from an automobile at 7 p.m. at 120 S. Estes Drive.

Reports state that an unknown subject smashed the car window and removed a pocketbook containing jewelry and various other items, reports state. The total value of the stolen goods was \$4,366, reports state.

The case is closed because all leads are exhausted.

■ Chapel Hill police arrested Gustavo Garcia, 29, of 1504 Savannah Place in Durham at 3:13 a.m. for driving while impaired.

Reports state that Garcia was arrested and charged with one misdemeanor count each of impaired driving, improper registration and driving without a license, reports state.

Garcia was released under a written promise to appear in the Orange County Administrative Traffic Court in Chapel Hill on March 13., reports state.

Board to Debate Internet Filtering

By JENNY HUANG
Staff Writer

The Chapel Hill-Carrboro Board of Education will hold a public hearing tonight to discuss the installment of an Internet filtering system.

The discussion comes on the heels of the Children's Internet Protection Act, which went into effect April 2001.

Through the act, the federal government offers a subsidy and discount rate to school systems that implement a protective measure to limit the amount of inappropriate material available to minors online.

The Children's Internet Protection Act Committee, a group of district staff, parents and one student formed last October, will present 10 criteria during the meeting to guide the selection of an Internet filtering system.

Committee members said they hope the public will offer suggestions and criticisms of the protective measure.

"We just want to give members of the community the opportunity to comment on the work we've done," said Bob Stocking, a committee member. "(The community) is probably going to want to know why certain criteria are in place."

The committee recommends that the Internet filtering system provide frequent updates, be list-based rather than keyword-based and allow schools to adjust filter settings accordingly to different grade levels.

Stocking, who also serves as district director of instructional technology and media, added that the committee criteria also include an override mechanism — the capability to create a log of Internet use and a solution that would have minimal impact on school staff.

"We're trying not to be 'Big Brother-ish' if we can," Stocking said.

But school board member Nick

Didow said he hopes the board will adopt the minimal restrictions for an artificial Internet filter.

"I personally, as a board member, deeply regret that we are being put in this position to put in a filter (in order to) qualify for certain funds," Didow said. "It's unfortunate for two reasons. One, we expect our students to make good decisions and exercise good judgement in all matters before them, including their access to the Internet."

"Secondly, we are quite aware that not all filters are 100 percent accurate or complete."

The school system's existing policy for Internet use requires supervised access but does not allow for filtering.

"Any student can access the Internet as long as there are adults nearby," Stocking said.

"(But) parents can grant unsupervised access for middle school and high school students."

Didow said he hopes the implementation of an online filtering system will have limited consequences for students.

"My hope and expectation is that (the Internet filter) will have no impact on (students') online activities," Didow said.

Based on feedback during the public hearing tonight, the committee will revise its selection criteria and present final recommendations for the school board's consent agenda in February.

Stocking said he hopes that community input will provide valuable insight into the final selection criteria of a filtering solution.

"We'll welcome (the community's) suggestions," Stocking said.

"The more voices that chime in, the better the product will be."

The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. at Mary Scroggs Elementary School.

The City Editor can be reached at citydesk@unc.edu.

Council Discusses Park Plan

The 70-acre tract of land will feature a variety of new facilities such as an aquatics center and a baseball field.

By JAMES RUSS
Staff Writer

The Chapel Hill Town Council heard a presentation Monday night on plans for a local 70-acre park and passed it on to several town and county groups to further investigate the issue.

The Southern Community Park is planned for a large section of woodland located in Southern Village, a mixed-use development located at the intersection of U.S. 15-501 and Dogwood Acre Drive.

The goal of the park is to preserve natural areas and provide local residents and schools with recreational facilities. Through the two sharing the facilities, the town can limit the amount of space given to the projects.

The Town Council heard a presentation from the Southern Community Park Conceptual Plan Committee, a 16-member group of town and county officials. After the presentation, the council questioned the committee on points of concern.

The council assigned the task of reviewing the proposal to several town departments, including the Planning Board, the Board of Transportation and the Parks and Recreation Department.

Issues such as safety, parking and neighborhood effects will be explored by the groups, which are expected to present their findings as early as March, pending possible discussion with the Carrboro Board of Aldermen and the Orange County Board of Commissioners.

Some of the facilities slated for construction on the park site are a disc golf course, a youth baseball field, a bocce ball court, an aquatics center and hiking trails, according to the committee's Web site. The Web site also states that funding for the park's construction will come from taxpayer revenue and a \$20 million park bond referendum. So far, the commissioners have allocated \$2 million to the first phase of construction.

Council member Jim Ward said the commissioners will play a role in managing the new park. "(The commissioners) want to have input and some degree of control over use agreements," he said. These agreements include sharing the existing soccer field with the parks committee and Mary Scroggs Elementary School, Ward said.

Although some residents were concerned about destroying the natural environment of the park, Bill Webster, project administrator for the committee, said efforts will be taken to preserve these areas of the park.

"It's the goal of the committee to leave about 50 (percent) to 60 percent of land not developed," he said. "For a community park, that's actually a lot of land that's undisturbed."

Webster also added that the committee is trying to appease two different groups of people in Chapel Hill. Some believe there is too much development, and others think there is not enough.

"I think the committee has done a great job of trying to balance all they have heard," he said. Webster said the actual construction of the facilities at the park is at least a year away.

"I would think that if the conceptual plan were approved this spring or early summer we could actually get construction going in late 2003 — that would probably be the earliest."

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Presentations Focus on Twin Towers

First-year seminar students decided to refocus their studies on the World Trade Center soon after Sept. 11.

By KARA EIDE
Staff Writer

The twin towers of the World Trade Center were the focus of a presentation conducted Wednesday night by the students of a City and Regional Planning Department seminar taught last semester.

Led by students who took the first-year seminar, the presentation featured various aspects of the popular American edifices that were destroyed by a terrorist attack on Sept. 11.

The students tackled the development of the trade center project in the 1960s and 1970s, the building's architecture and construction components, and the structure's impact on the city of New York.

Seminar Professor Emil Malizia introduced the presentation, which took place in 39 Graham Hall. He described how the course was adapted from its original plan after Sept. 11.

Students kept the original content of downtown revitalization but switched the attention from their hometowns to New York City. They began to study the trade center's construction and the impact of the popular American icon on New York City.

Malizia, who attributes the course's success to student efforts, said he saw light bulbs go off over the heads of his class of freshmen Sept. 13 when he mentioned the possibility of studying the towers.

The students were then split into three groups of four students each. Class convened only about twice a month and became more of an independent study, students said.

"The entire class thought (studying the trade center) would be a great idea, since it does involve city planning," said class member Colin Scott. "Oddly enough, we were in class when it all happened."

The visual highlight of the presentation was a 3-D model of the towers, standing about 5 feet tall. On his own initiative, one student constructed it as part of the engineering component of the project.

Jeremy Irwin, the model's maker, said he built the towers and the base using various materials such as plywood, black vinyl and mesh fencing. He said he worked from late September to mid-January and is actually still adding finishing touches. "It was so tedious," Irwin said.

"I didn't realize what I was getting myself into, but it was a great learning



Deborah Malizia and her children, Becca, 9, and Andrew, 12, admire a replica of the World Trade Center towers. The replica was built by freshman Jeremy Irwin for the "Bringing Life To Downtown" first-year seminar.

experience," he said. "I was so interested that I just went all out."

Through speeches and a PowerPoint presentation, other students presented the findings of their research on related liter-

ature, which they said was surprisingly difficult to find. "We overestimated what we would find in the literature," Malizia said.

Students ran into some difficulties, but they worked hard with few com-

plaints, Malizia said. "They showed a lot of maturity to hang in there."

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FRESHMEN GET REAL



After a long day of classes and an evening of procrastinating about doing homework, a group of freshmen gather in Craige Residence Hall on Tuesday night to eat Pokey Stix and watch the season premiere of the "Real World Chicago."

Aldermen Clarify Franchising Agreement for Time Warner

By JON DOUGHERTY
Assistant City Editor

The town of Carrboro and Time Warner Cable are closing in on a deal that would give the cable giant exclusive rights in the town.

At Tuesday's Board of Aldermen meeting, the board approved a letter written by the town attorney to Time Warner clarifying certain points of the franchising agreement. Time Warner was concerned these points would conflict with a standing town ordinance governing cable licensing in the town.

Carrboro issues franchising agreements to companies seeking to do business in the town. The agreement under consideration would give Time Warner a legal monopoly within Carrboro's district.

Time Warner representative Brad Phillips said he is hopeful the two parties will soon come to an agreement. "Our main concern was clarifying how exactly the standing town ordinance and franchising agreement would fit together," Phillips said.

Time Warner officials met with Town Manager Bob Morgan and town attorney Michael Brough to

iron out the potential points of conflict in the language of the ordinance and the agreement.

"This is a 10-year franchising deal, so we want to make sure that in eight years, someone can look at the wording of these two documents and have no question as to the intent of their wording," Phillips said.

The board submitted a proposal to Time Warner on April 21. The company rejected it on the grounds of conflict between the ordinance and the agreement. The aldermen drafted a letter clearing up ambiguities in the documents' wordings. Time Warner has 30 days to reject or accept the board's letter.

Alderman Mark Dorosin said he has high hopes for the deal. "I think at this point that (the proposal) will go through," he said. "It would be very surprising to find out that they would reconsider at this time."

Phillips said Time Warner is optimistic about the deal's prospects. He said, "We just wanted to make everything clear, and then we'll be on very good footing with the town of Carrboro."

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