

Nuclear Plant Receives FBI Warning Study: Freshman Year Takes Toll

By TOM KINGSLEY
Staff Writer

A local nuclear power plant recently received warning of a possible future airborne terrorist attack as part of an FBI effort to ensure that the nation's 103 nuclear reactors are secure.

Although representatives of the Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant say they are taking the threat seriously, Nuclear Regulatory Commission officials say the recent warning is only one in a series of advisories and should not be alarming.

The NRC issued the Jan. 23 advisory after a captured al-Qaida operative revealed plans for an attack in which a commercial aircraft would be flown into an unspecified nuclear power plant.

Nuclear reactors nationwide have been on heightened alert since Sept. 11. NRC Chairman Richard Meserve emphasized the solidity of the protective

shields surrounding nuclear reactors. These shields are constructed of steel and concrete 2 feet by 5 feet thick.

Studies at the U.S. Department of Energy Lab in Los Alamos, N.M., in the early 1990s suggested that a commercial airliner probably would not be able to fully penetrate the shield around a nuclear reactor.

But NRC spokesman Roger Hannah said a number of factors could aid an airliner in penetrating a nuclear shield.

"The size of the aircraft, the amount of fuel and the number of people on board can all be contributing factors," he said.

Meserve said he could not be certain of the consequences of a large airliner fully loaded with jet fuel crashing into a nuclear power plant.

Officials from Carolina Power & Light Co., which owns and operates Shearon Harris, located 30 miles south-east of Chapel Hill, said they are taking

the advisory seriously.

CP&L spokesman Keith Poston said officials at the plant are doing all they can to ensure the safety of employees and community members.

"We're taking all the steps we can take, but the plants themselves were not designed to withstand the impact of a commercial airliner," Poston said.

Poston also stressed the efficiency of CP&L's emergency plans for dealing with things such as radiation leaks. The plans are assessed and graded periodically by the state, the NRC and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Although Poston said security reasons prevented him from revealing the grade Shearon Harris received, he said the plans have worked well in terms of security.

FBI spokesman David Martinez summed up the possibility of a future terrorist attack on U.S. soil.

"We know of no threat, but the information has been released that al-Qaida has explored the idea of an attack on an unspecified nuclear facility at an unspecified time," he said.

The NRC advisory more specifically states that "the attack was already planned, and three individuals were on the ground ... recruiting non-Arabs to take part in the attack."

Hannah said a collision could cause a substantial release of radiation, but he added that the risk of a wide-scale radiation leak resulting from the crash of a commercial airliner "is very small."

"The NRC, after September 11, began looking at security procedures across the board and seeing if long-term improvements would be necessary."

Chris Blow contributed to this article. The City Editor can be reached at citydesk@unc.edu.

By JAMIE MCGEE
Staff Writer

Some students describe their freshman year as the "time of their life," but studies indicate that the first year of college is more strenuous than might be perceived.

In a 2001 study conducted by the Higher Education Research Institute at the University of California-Los Angeles and the Policy Center on the First Year at College at Brevard College, researchers surveyed 3,680 first-year students at 50 four-year colleges to determine how students changed during their first year at college.

The researchers conducted the study "with the intent to improve the first-year experiences and retain those students most likely to withdraw from higher education," the report stated.

Researchers surveyed students in the fall of their freshman year and again at the end of their first year and compared the results. "Students report drinking alcohol more frequently after the first year in college," the report stated. "By contrast, activism, community service and religious participation significantly dropped."

In examining the emotional transitions of freshmen, the results did not reflect positively on the experience. The percentages of students feeling overwhelmed, bored in class and depressed after their first year in school all increased.

"Nearly 56 percent of students rate themselves above average or highest 10 percent with respect to emotional health prior to entering college versus 43.4 percent at end of the first college year," the report stated.

The report reflected positive impacts of first-year seminars. The students who

participated in seminars designed for first-year students were associated with greater satisfaction with the amount of faculty contact and stronger feelings of success in adjusting to college.

UNC facilitates programs to ease the transitions of first-year students such as the First Year Initiative and Freshman Camp.

The First Year Initiative provides a community designed to meet the academic and social needs of first-year students.

Students live in Ehringhaus Residence Hall and interact with other first-year students, mentors and faculty.

Jonathan Crane who heads the Campus Y's Freshman Camp, said the three-day camp before school made his transition to college much easier. "It was a great way to meet people and see what is out there."

Despite the study's results, many students at UNC said even in the new atmosphere, they are enjoying their first year.

Fritz Kramer, a freshman at UNC, said he has not had a difficult transition. "It is a different life but still a lot of fun," Kramer said. "There is more opportunity here than there was in high school. Living with all freshmen helped."

Kramer said that he studies more now and still exercises. "I play soccer. It is easy to pick up a game here."

Sophomore Jennifer Coughlan said her experience as a freshman, although overwhelming, was still rewarding.

"It was a little overwhelming," Coughlan said. "In high school it is easy to get work done and do all you want to do. Here it is difficult to pursue all you want to."

The State & National Editor can be reached at stntdesk@unc.edu.

CAA FORUM

From Page 3

State's) Carter-Finley Stadium in Raleigh has one, and it adds a lot," she said.

After their opening remarks, the candidates were each given two minutes to respond to questions posed by Young Democrats members.

Gore countered Willett's suggestion to push back distribution an hour, saying he wants to move the time of ticket distribution back even further, to 9 a.m. He said he also intends to move the location of the distribution. "We plan to move distribution to the Union so it will be more centralized," he said.

Gore also said he plans to add an additional riser section, but he rejected reports that he would only award the proposed seats to members of Carolina Fever. "Only part of the riser section would be for Carolina Fever," he said. "Don't think I'm trying to give Fever the best seats in the house."

But Willett said she has already contacted officials at the Educational Foundation and the ticket office to dis-

cuss the possibility of additional risers. She said concerns about safety, the obstruction of visual lines and finding comparable seating for alumni are all obstacles in establishing new risers.

Willett said her experience as the manager of the women's basketball team has given her a first-hand look at women's athletics at UNC. "We definitely need to increase the promotion of women's sports on campus," she said.

In a lighter moment, candidates competed in a contest to see which one could name the most UNC head coaches. Willett successfully named six coaches, but Gore stopped after naming two. "I'm not going to embarrass myself," he said.

After a 15-minute deliberation, Young Democrats co-president Susan Navarro said the group chose to endorse Willett because she was more informed about issues relating to UNC athletics.

She said, "Part of the reason we decided to endorse Kris Willett was because she was a lot more realistic and she did her research."

The University Editor can be reached at udesk@unc.edu.

ANIMAL

From Page 3

more than an hour prior to the discovery of the animal.

"(Sunday) night at about 11 p.m., I found that the bathroom door was locked, and I thought that was strange because we don't usually lock the door," Lambeth said. "A couple of minutes later, I went in to the bathroom and saw a bag with blood on it in the trash, but I just assumed someone had cut themselves."

Lt. Archie Daniel, who investigated the scene with Lt. H. L. Bryant, said he is not sure of the motive for the incident.

"We haven't seen anything exactly like this at UNC before," Daniel said. "Since it is so unusual, we plan on touching all bases during our investigation."

Daniel said that the animal carcass was collected, refrigerated at the Department of Public Safety and examined by a veterinary team to determine what kind of animal it was. "The vet believes it was a fox and that it was potentially killed in the road and skinned for its pelt," Daniel said. "It is fox-trapping season, but we don't

think it was trapped."

Daniel also said the animal carcass was sent to a lab to be tested for disease. "There is no reason for us to believe that the animal has any disease, but we felt we have an obligation to rule it out for the safety of the school," Daniel said.

Residents of the fourth-floor suite said they have no idea why the incident occurred. "The police asked us if we had any enemies or if we were really into saving animals or a member of the humane society, but no one could think of any reason why someone would do this," Lambeth said.

Makrides and Lambert said they now plan to take added precautions to deter any further incidents.

"We decided to start locking the suite door at night, but it is kind of hard to prevent something like this from happening again," said freshman Mona Gupta, another resident of the suite. "This incident just reminds me how scary it is that people can come in and out of the dorms and rooms so easily."

The University Editor can be reached at udesk@unc.edu.

CHASE

From Page 3

Officers working on Graham Street were notified that the vehicle was headed down West Rosemary Street toward Carrboro, Cousins said.

After nearly hitting a waiting patrol car, the vehicle turned off of West Rosemary Street onto a side street and headed for Caldwell Street.

The vehicle crossed through the intersection of Church and Caldwell streets at an extremely high speed, reports state.

After the vehicle ran through the stop sign, its driver lost control of the vehicle. Snipes allegedly ran over a speed limit sign and spun around backward into a parked car, reports state.

The vehicle came to a stop in a resident's yard at 106 Caldwell St., reports state. "Snipes had minor injuries in the accident," Cousins said.

Snipes jumped from his vehicle and attempted to continue the chase on foot, Cousins said. Carrboro and Chapel Hill police caught Snipes after a short foot chase.

Upon further investigation, police learned that the vehicle did not belong to Snipes, Cousins said. On Feb. 1, a victim reported that an unknown subject had taken his car without permission. Reports indicated that the license plate of the vehicle reported missing matched that of the one Snipes allegedly drove on the chase. Cousins could not confirm that the car had been stolen.

The estimated damage to the 1994 Mercury Marquis was \$10,000, reports state. The estimated damage to the parked car that Snipes hit was \$15,000.

Snipes was confined to the Orange County Jail under a \$50,000 secured bond, reports state.

Snipes, who could not be reached for comment, had his first appearance in the Orange County District Court in Hillsborough on Monday. He is scheduled to appear in court again Feb. 14.

As of Monday, Cousins was unable to comment on why Snipes initially decided to run from authorities.

"We don't know why he decided to flee from police."

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

SANGAM

From Page 3

Student Congress, saying the experience made him capable of bringing together student organizations. "(UNC has) a lot of diversity, and what I did on Congress was see how that could be shown," he said.

McKinney said after the forum that he was thankful and proud to receive the Sangam endorsement.

"I respect the organization and what they do," he said. "We're all on the same page, and that's fantastic."

Sangam also endorsed senior class president and vice president candidates Paymon Rouhanifard and Robert Albright.

But senior class president candidates Chessa Huff and Dana Leventhal said they thought the process was biased after many Sangam members, including the moderator of the forum, entered the

forum wearing buttons that showed support for Rouhanifard and Albright.

"We felt like we walked into a loaded forum," Leventhal said. "It was poorly organized, and the way it was done was unfair to a majority of us."

Sangam President Sachin Patel said he did not think the forum was unfair.

"I don't feel as though that was a problem at the forum," Patel said. "There was no one there standing up and saying 'I support Paymon' - it wasn't that kind of aura."

Sangam also endorsed Graduate and Professional Student Federation president candidate Branson Page and Carolina Athletic Association president candidate Kris Willett.

Student body president candidates Correy Campbell, Nathan Katzin and Charlie Trakas did not attend.

The University Editor can be reached at udesk@unc.edu.

FEDERAL RESERVE NOTE
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

With this coupon or UNC Student ID, get **\$1 OFF** Dinner Buffet!

Come try the largest Chinese Buffet in the Triangle!

35 Chinese Restaurant
Chapel Hill

Dine-in Buffet Only **919-968-3488**
Offer expires 2/14/02 **University Square**

ONE DOLLAR

"Studying Abroad Can Change Your Life"
Come and find out about

UNC SPRING SEMESTER IN MONTPELLIER, FRANCE

INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Where: Dey Hall, Room 113
UNC-Chapel Hill

When: Tue., Feb. 5, 2002 • 3:30-5:00 pm

Video followed by discussion with former Program participants.

For directions, call (919) 962-0154 or look us up at web: <http://www.unc.edu/depts/mont> email: mont@unc.edu

"I have grown to love Montpellier, and this beautiful city will be a part of me forever." - 2001 Participant

JEAN RENFO ANSPAUGH

The Bull's Head Bookshop presents folklorist and life-long dieter Jean Renfo Anspaugh. She will be reading from her new book, **Fat Like Us**, which takes readers to ground zero of our nationwide diet culture in Durham, NC, a.k.a. Diet Capital of the World. These stories are destined to become the fat community's Canterbury Tales.

Wednesday, February 6
3:30 pm
at the **Bull's Head Bookshop**
Student Stores
bullshhead@store.unc.edu
9625060

ABD
ALL BUT DISSERTATION
FOCUS GROUP

Need help finishing your dissertation? Join a group that will give you

- structure
- strategy
- organization
- support

Elsie J. Manton, LCSW
919-929-1128 • abdfocusgroup@bellsouth.net

ATTENTION

Conveniently located in Raleigh & Chapel Hill

For more information call (919) 881-0309 Monday-Friday 8:30am to 5pm. After hours please leave a message.

Paid Volunteers Needed

Are you suffering from Allergies?

North Carolina Clinical Research is seeking participants for a medical research study of an investigational medication who meet these qualifications:

- Are between the ages of 15 and 85
- Have a history or diagnosis of allergies
- Symptoms may include runny nose, congestion, sneezing, itchy nose and eyes

Eligible participants will receive at no cost study-related physical examinations, skin test, EKG and lab tests and study medication, as well as reimbursement for time and travel.

NORTH CAROLINA Clinical Research

"Where patient care and the future of medicine come together."

after this, the corporate ladder will be a piece of [cake]

In the course of facing challenges like this, you'll learn how to think on your feet. Stay cool under pressure. Take charge. Talk to an Army Institute of Leadership rep. You'll find there's nothing like a little climbing to help prepare you for getting to the top.

ARMY INSTITUTE OF LEADERSHIP
Unlike any other college course you can take.

Apply now for paid summer leadership training and Army officer opportunities. Call 962-5546 for more information.