Nuclear Plant Receives FBI Warning Study: Freshman

BY TOM KINGSLEY Staff Write

A local nuclear power plant recently received warning of a possible future a borne 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 offi-cials 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

State's) Carter-Finley Stadium in Raleigh

respond to questions posed by Young Democrats members.

Gore countered Willett's suggestion to push back distribution an hour, say-

ing 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

additional riser section, but he rejected

reports that he would only award the

Fever. "Only part of the riser section would be for Carolina Fever," he said.

"Don't think I'm trying to give Fever the

But Willett said she has already con

Officers working on Graham Street

were notified that the vehicle was head

ed down West Rosemary Street toward

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

sign, its driver lost control of the vehicle

Snipes allegedly ran over a speed limit

The vehicle came to a stop in a resi-dent's yard at 106 Caldwell St., reports

After the vehicle ran through the stop

and spun around backward into a

"Snipes had minor injuries in the

Snipes jumped from his vehicle and

attempted to continue the chase on foot,

Cousins said. Carrboro and Chapel Hill

tacted officials at the Educational Foundation and the ticket office to dis-

roposed seats to members of Carolina

Gore also said he plans to add an

be more centralized," he said.

best seats in the house

CHASE

reports state.

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Carrboro, Cousins said.

parked car, reports state.

accident," Cousins said.

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After their opening remarks, the candidates were each given two minutes to

has one, and it adds a lot," she said.

CAA FORUM

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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 ar reactor.

But NRC spokesman Roger Hannah aid 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 southeast of Chapel Hill, said they are taking

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 com-

peted 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.

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Upon further investigation, police learned that the vehicle did not belong to Snipes, Cousins said. On Feb. 1, a vic tim 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.

bond, reports state. Snipes, who could not be reached for

uled to appear in court again Feb. 14. As of Monday, Cousins was unable comment on why Snipes initially decided to run from authorities.

flee from police."

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

ified 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." ommercial airliner," Poston said. Poston also stressed the efficiency of

CP&L's emergency plans for dealing with things such as radiation leaks. The ing plans are assessed and graded periodi-cally by the state, the NRC and the Emergency Management Federal

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

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

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

Lt. Archie Daniel, who investigated the scene with Lt. H. L. Bryant, said he

is not sure of the motive for the incident

like this at UNC before," Daniel said

"Since it is so unusual, we plan on touch

collected, refrigerated at the Department

of Public Safety and examined by a vet

erinary 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

SANGAM

From Page 3

page, and that's fantastic.

Albright.

PA

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Sangam also endorsed senior class

president and vice president candidates

Paymon Rouhanifard and Robert

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

Daniel said that the animal carcass was

ing all bases during our investigation."

"We haven't seen anything exactly

assumed someone had cut themselves.

ANIMAL

From Page 3

ery of the animal.

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 more than an hour prior to the discovthe animal has any disease, but we felt we have an obligation to rule it out for the safety of the school," Daniel said. "(Sunday) night at about 11 p.m., I found that the bathroom door was Residents of the fourth-floor suite locked, and I thought that was strange because we don't usually lock the door,"

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.

"We know of no threat, but the infor-mation has been released that al-Qaida

has explored the idea of an attack on an

unspecified nuclear facility at an unspec-

Hannah said a collision could cause a

substantial release of radiation, but he added that the risk of a wide-scale radi-

ation 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 improve-

Chris Blow

contributed to this article.

at citvdesk@unc.edu.

The City Editor can be reached

ments would be necessary.

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 hap-pening 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

forum," Leventhal said. "It was poorly organized, and the way it was done was

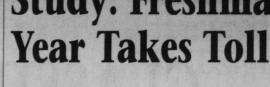
unfair to a majority of us." Sangam President Sachin Patel said he did not think the forum was unfair. "I don't feel as though that was a problem at the forum," Patel said.

"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.

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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 Institution 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 over-whelmed, 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 culty contact and stronger feelings of success in adjusting to college.

Tuesday, February 5, 2002

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

The First Year Initiative provides a community designed to meet the acade-mic 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 stu-dents at UNC said even in the new atmos-

phere, 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

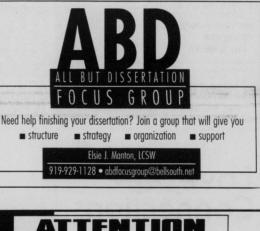
fun," Kramer said. "There is more opportunity here than there was in high school. Living with all freshmen helped." Kramer said that he studies more

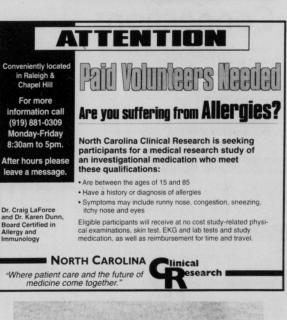
ow and still exercises. "I play soccer. It is easy to pick up a game here." Sophomore Jennifer Coughlan said

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

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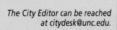


Student Congress, saying the experience made him capable of bringing together student organizations. "(UNC has) a lot of diversity, and what I did on Congress was see how that could be shown," he said. McKinney said after the forum that he was thankful and proud to receive the Sangam endorsement. "I respect the organization and what they do," he said. "We're all on the same

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

comment, had his first appearance in the Orange County District Court in Hillsborough on Monday. He is sched

"We don't know why he decided to





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forum wearing buttons that showed support for Rouhanifard and Albright.

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We felt like we walked into a loaded



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