



POLICE ROUNDUP

Local Man Arrested, Charged With Rape

Chapel Hill police arrested Samuel Barrington Roberts, 18, of 101 Bright Sun Place on Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. for rape.

Reports state that Roberts was arrested and charged with one felony count of first degree rape of a child and one misdemeanor count of child indecent liberties.

Reports also state that the forcible rape of the 12-year-old girl was reported Nov. 16, 2001. Roberts was arrested and given no bond. He was confined to the Orange County Jail and was scheduled to make his first appearance in the Orange County District Court in Hillsborough on Wednesday, reports state. Police officials refused to comment.

University

Tuesday, April 9

■ A resident of Winston Residence Hall reported at 4:02 a.m. that someone had thrown a tree branch through her window and had broken it, reports state.

A University police officer was riding by on bike patrol when the resident yelled to the officer from her second-floor window about the broken window, reports state.

She reported that a man wearing a long-sleeved, dark-colored shirt and light-colored khaki pants threw a branch through her window.

On the east side of Winston, the police officer talked to two men who were visiting from England and were staying with one of their friends in Winston, reports state. One of the men matched the description of the suspect. Investigation is continuing in the case. The window is valued at \$50.

Monday, April 8

■ University police arrested Jerry Allen Cochran, 33, of 1027 E. Webb Ave. #B in Burlington at 12:56 p.m. for driving with a revoked license and failure to yield for a pedestrian, reports state.

Cochran was charged with both offenses and taken to the Chapel Hill Police Department, where he was released on a written promise to appear in court, reports state.

City

Tuesday, April 9

■ Carrboro police responded to a breaking and entering of a motor vehicle call at 3:09 p.m. at 300 N. Greensboro St.

Reports state that an unknown subject entered the victim's 1996 Nissan Altima and removed various items. The total value of the stolen goods was \$2,310, reports state. The case is inactive.

■ Chapel Hill police arrested Theartris Deleon, 26, of 3510 Old Greensboro Highway at 3:52 p.m. for possession of a stolen vehicle.

Reports state that Deleon was arrested and charged with one misdemeanor count of possession of stolen goods and one felony count of possession of a stolen motor vehicle. Reports also state that narcotic investigators were patrolling through the parking lot of the Red Roof Inn, located at 5623 Chapel Hill Boulevard, when they noticed Deleon and another man acting suspicious.

Officers ran the plates and checked the vehicle identification number, reports state. The vehicle came back as stolen from Burlington. Deleon was arrested and held on a \$3,000 unsecured bond. Reports state that he was scheduled to appear in the Orange County District Court in Hillsborough on Wednesday for his first appearance.

■ Chapel Hill police responded to an embezzlement call at 1:43 p.m. at 1748 N. Fordham Boulevard.

Reports state that the McDonald's restaurant had three missing deposits over a period of a month. The total value of the stolen goods was \$5,482.11, reports state.

A warrant has been issued, but no arrests have been made.

Study: Drinking Kills 1,400 Students

By LINDSEY WHITE Staff Writer

A federal agency focused on fighting alcoholism released a report Tuesday stating that alcohol is a factor in the deaths of 1,400 college students per year and calling for preventative measures.

The report on college drinking, prepared by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, states that alcohol use yearly results in 500,000 injuries and 70,000 cases of sexual assault and date rape among college students between the ages of 18 and 24.

The institute task force has developed a threefold framework of preventative strategies to confront the problem. The three areas being targeted are the student population, the college and surrounding community and individuals who are at-risk or alcoholic.

Members of the institute's Task Force on College Drinking are sending a copy of the report to every college in the country, hoping that administrators will adopt solutions to combat alcohol abuse.

Task force coordinator Fred Donodeo said the agency collected information from several credible databases that had already gathered information on alcohol use among college students.

Donodeo said final figures pointed out that the consequences of alcohol abuse are actually higher than most researchers originally thought.

He pointed to the increase in rapes, car accidents, overdoses and assaults prompted by irresponsible alcohol usage.

Donodeo said the task force is geared toward ways to solve the problematic results rather than trying to evaluate drinking habits.

"We are focused on the consequences rather than amount of alcohol consumed," he said.

The report calls for stricter enforcement of minimum-age drinking laws, formation of campus and community coalitions, facilitating long-term campus community research and altering student expectations about the effects of alcohol.

He said UNC already has implemented similar programs to the solutions the task force is recommending.

Dean Blackburn, UNC coordinator of substance abuse services, said he is surprised by the national findings. "The statistics at Carolina are much lower than the national average," he said.

Surveys in 1997 and 1999 found that two out of three UNC students came home Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights with a 0.0 blood alcohol level. He said there is a difference between perception and reality in how many students on campus drink. "The reality is many students don't," Blackburn said.

He said he is trying to change the atmosphere on campus by promoting alcohol-free events so students are not pressured into drinking.

Blackburn said there are numerous options for students on campus to get help for alcohol problems, including counseling, alternative activities, education and group outreach. "I am alarmed by the national figures," he said. "It indicates that we are doing something right at Carolina."

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

Budget Crunches Slow Hiring for Municipal Jobs

Town employees struggle to handle an increased workload as more than a dozen positions remain unfilled indefinitely.

By COLIN SUTKER Staff Writer

Chapel Hill and Carrboro officials say budget shortfalls in both towns have created delays in hiring new employees, which could result in increased workloads and make it difficult for the towns to provide services.

This year's statewide budget crisis, which has led to reduced funding, has prompted both town governments to greatly reduce the hiring that normally happens. Chapel Hill has implemented an official hiring freeze, while Carrboro is taking a less restrictive, but still conservative, approach to hiring.

Bill Stockard, assistant Chapel Hill town manager, said funding issues have translated into filling no new positions this fiscal year. "Due to the budget, temporarily there is a hiring freeze," Stockard said. "There may be some essential positions, for example, the head of human resources, that we went ahead and filled. But there are other positions that are not going to be filled in the immediate future."

Stockard said positions kept vacant by the freeze might not be filled until late June or July 1, when a budget will be formally adopted by the Chapel Hill Town Council.

While town officials are hoping to fill 12 essential positions, 13 other positions will be frozen indefinitely. Some of the vacant positions are for house maintenance personnel, an engineer coordinator and an administrative analyst.

The town should be able to handle the workload for the time being, said Betsey Harris, Chapel Hill employment coordinator. But she added that unfilled positions over time could lead to severe problems in serving the town. "People just have to take on extra work," Harris said. "It's always difficult to meet our staffing needs when there are positions that are needed to be filled. ... It does mean there are questions to how we would deliver services."

Stockard said despite increased individual workloads, there has been little negative feedback while the freeze has been in effect. "It may involve some shifting around of duties," he said. "But there is a lot of cross-training that goes around the government, so we're able to take care of that."

Chapel Hill is not alone in its personnel crisis. Carrboro, also facing a budget deficit, has several unfilled positions.

While the official freeze in Carrboro has been suspended, there still remains a budget conflict with filling positions.

Carrboro Town Manager Robert Morgan said that the freeze had put too much of a strain on human resources and that the town was forced to fill vacant positions. "Basically we're making decisions on a case-by-case basis," Morgan said.

Capt. Joel Booker of the Carrboro Police Department said hiring still needs to occur despite the funding crisis. "If there was a freeze for an extended period of time, then we might have a lot of problems."

Stockard also said though the freeze continues, most officials say the situation will be resolved soon. "I think people and employees understand we're doing the best we can. Across town there might be extra work, but there is hope that relief will come."

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

A FANTASTIC BASKET



DTH/BRENT CLARK

Hazel Cheek weaves a grapevine basket at her house off Dairyland Road. Cheek makes seasonal decorations, chair seating and baskets for her business, Catbriar. Her crafts are available Wednesday afternoons at the Carrboro Farmers' Market or at Maple View Farm Country Store on Dairyland Road.

Building Permit OK Pleases Club Nova, Aldermen

By NATE DEGRAFF Staff Writer

Both sides walked away happy from the Carrboro Board of Aldermen's first public hearing of Tuesday night.

Town officials wanted affordable housing. The nonprofit group Club Nova wanted more space for its mentally ill members. The board took a step to meet both concerns.

After a short review period, the board approved Club Nova's building permit application, clearing the way for a new three-story apartment building for the organization at 103 W. Main St.

The new structure will replace the organization's soon-to-be-demolished eight-unit apartment building and provide 24 single occupancy dwellings for

Club Nova members. "You really help define Carrboro, at least for me," Mayor Mike Nelson told Club Nova members, staff and supporters at Tuesday's board meeting. "The work you do is critical."

After the vote, Club Nova officials gathered on the steps of the Carrboro Town Hall. "The old apartments) have served their purpose," said Club Nova executive director Karen Dunn. "It's

now time for us to move forward and have something that's more up to date."

Club Nova was founded in 1987 to provide the county's mentally ill residents with a comfortable place to cook, eat, work and socialize. With the help of local realtor Thomas Whisnant, the organization relocated to its current home in 1992.

Over the next 10 years, membership swelled to 80. Though most members

live off site, Club Nova wanted new living facilities for its on-site members that reflected dignity and respect, qualities the club tries to instill in all of its constituents.

In February, the organization asked the board to speed up the review process, and the board responded with an approval less than two months later.

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Experts: Students Should Take Interest in Deciding on Loans

By J.F. SCARBROUGH Staff Writer

A bulletin board in the Financial Aid Resource Center in Pettigrew Hall displays the adage, "Money doesn't grow on trees."

Many college students, struggling to save cash for tuition, housing and books, understand this sentiment firsthand.

To make up for the lack, the University Office of Scholarships and Student Aid distributed more than \$59 million in grants, scholarships, loans and work study this year.

But Susan Burdick, assistant director of scholarships and student aid at UNC, warns students to think carefully before applying for student loans.

"It is always best to look into grants



Your Money

A four-part series exploring money issues that students face.

- Tuesday: How to Read a Lease
- Wednesday: Investing
- Today: Student Loans
- Friday: Credit Ratings

and scholarships first," she said. Before making the decision to ask for a loan, she suggests that students evaluate their financial situation and make sure it is necessary.

The amount of any student loan cannot exceed a predetermined budget including tuition, books, room, board and various expenses. But Burdick said she has noticed an increase

ing trend among students who take out larger loans in order to maintain a higher standard of living. By using loan money to pay for tuition and housing, students choose to free up their own money for luxury items, she said.

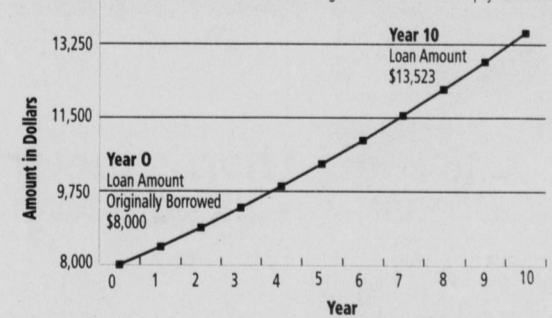
"There is a maximum that can be borrowed. A student can't walk in and take out a second loan because they want to go to the Bahamas this year," she said. Burdick emphasized that she counsels students to settle for the minimum, not the maximum, dollar amount.

"If a student qualifies for \$9,000 but can get by on \$8,000, we encourage them to borrow \$8,000," Burdick said. According to the financial aid services Web site, more than one-third of all students at UNC receive some type

See LOANS, Page 4

Interesting Loans

The current average interest rate for the Federal Stafford Loan, one of three types of available college loans, is 5.39%. Interest continues to accumulate the longer the borrower waits to pay of the loan.



SOURCE: UNC OFFICE OF SCHOLARSHIPS AND STUDENT AID DTH/BETH GALLOWAY AND MARY STOWELL

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