



## POLICE ROUNDUP

### Durham Man Arrested On Robbery Charges

Durham police arrested Jeremiah Newkirk, 32, of 1306 Jackson St. in Durham on Thursday in connection with three armed robberies that took place in Chapel Hill in the last four months.

Newkirk was arrested by the Durham Police Department, a Chapel Hill Police Department press release states. The Durham Police Department could not be reached Monday to comment on specifics of the case, including Newkirk's court date.

The string of local robberies started at the AT&T Wireless store at 1827 Chapel Hill Blvd. on Dec. 27.

The Radio Shack at 1800 E. Franklin St. was robbed Feb. 26, and Turtles Music at 1800 E. Franklin St. was robbed April 5.

Because the cases are still being investigated, exact figures for the amount of stolen items are not being released. Newkirk is being charged with one felony count of robbery with a dangerous weapon in each of the three robberies. Newkirk also faces an additional felony count of assault by pointing a gun in the Radio Shack robbery, reports state. He also is being charged with one felony count of second degree kidnapping in the Turtles Music robbery, officials said.

### 5 Vehicles Broken Into On Saturday Morning

Police reports state that five vehicles were broken into on campus Saturday morning, all with similar methods of entry.

At 7:52 a.m., a UNC student reported that the top to her Mazda Miata convertible had been cut and items removed from the inside of the car. The missing items, a cell phone and a radar detector, were valued at \$90.

At 8:06 a.m., an officer noticed damage to a parked car. The right front passenger window of the car was broken, and a rock was sitting in the right front passenger seat, reports state. A radar detector valued at \$100 was missing, and damage to the car was estimated at \$250.

At 8:10 a.m., an officer noticed damage to another parked car. Reports state that the officer found a large rock near the car that appeared to have been used to smash the left front window. A \$120 radar detector was taken from the vehicle, and damage was estimated at \$150.

Fifteen minutes later, a different officer noticed a driver's side window of a parked car was smashed. Reports state that a radar detector was taken off of the windshield but was found in the car. Damage is estimated at \$100.

At 8:57 a.m., an officer noticed a fifth parked car with the front passenger side window smashed. According to reports, the officer discovered a brick lying on the passenger seat. Reports state that a stereo valued at \$150, a radar detector valued at \$150, 21 CDs valued at \$20 each and a CD case valued at \$10 were taken. Damage to the car is estimated at \$100.

There are no suspects in the five cases.

### City

Sunday, April 14

Chapel Hill police arrested Nathan Michael Cherry, 20, of 321 W. Cameron Ave. at 1:29 a.m. at 100 E. Franklin St. for fraudulent use of identification.

Reports state that Cherry is being charged with one misdemeanor count of fraudulent use of identification.

Reports also state that officers responded to a disturbance call at Top of the Hill restaurant. When officers arrived, Cherry was being held on the ground by a bouncer of the restaurant.

Employees of the restaurant told officers that Cherry attempted to enter the bar with a false identification. The bouncer refused to let Cherry in, and Cherry proceeded to assault the bouncer, reports state.

Cherry was detained, and officers took the Ohio driver's license. Officers gave Cherry's information to the bouncer because he wanted to pursue assault charges with the magistrate, reports state. Cherry was released and is scheduled to appear in the Orange County District Court in Hillsborough on June 18.

Saturday, April 13

Chapel Hill police responded to a robbery and kidnapping call at 5:16 a.m. at 126 W. Franklin St. Reports state that the victim told officers that he was forced to drive unknown subjects to an undisclosed location.

No injuries were reported, and the amount of stolen goods is not being released, reports state.

The case is under further investigation.

# Plan Aims to Aid Unemployed, Textiles

By CLEVE R. WOOTSON JR.  
Staff Writer

RALEIGH — An economic development strategy promoted by the state's junior senator Monday will seek to help thousands of rural North Carolinians and the state's ailing economy.

U.S. Sen. John Edwards, D-N.C., said in a press conference that the Edwards Economic Revitalization Plan will provide assistance to workers who lose their jobs and aid the struggling textile industry.

Edwards and Gov. Mike Easley announced the three-fold plan Monday, although details are vague.

The first aspect of the plan concerns

workers who lose their jobs because of foreign trade. Those workers are entitled to 104 weeks, or two years, of federally funded job training. But workers who fall under this category only receive 90 weeks of supplemental income, forcing many to suspend their training in order to pursue jobs.

Edwards said he would like to increase the amount of time workers can receive the supplemental income to match the length of training.

Edwards said it is also essential to cut the bureaucratic red tape by making one organization responsible for handling all cases and cutting down waiting periods.

"We intend to make a provision that says

if you're a textile worker and you lose your job, you automatically qualify," he said.

"This is not an abstract academic problem. People are losing their jobs; they have no place to go. We have to take the steps necessary to protect our rural way of life here in North Carolina."

Another part of the legislation is an attempt to woo corporations and businesses to struggling parts of North Carolina by offering accelerated capital gains tax write-offs to reduce tax burdens.

The third aspect of the plan is to increase international trade barriers in favor of American citizens.

"The president has made it very clear that he is a free free-trader, but I'll be the

first to say that we have not been tough enough," Edwards said.

But he said increasing trade barriers is nothing new to policy-makers in states with strong textile industries.

Edwards said there are not any concrete numbers on the cost of implementing the program yet — partly because he is not sure how many communities would fit into the "economic recovery zone" category.

After praising Edwards, Easley said the legislation has a good chance because of the senator's political clout. "I think it's the specificity of this program and his leverage that will determine how his vote will be."

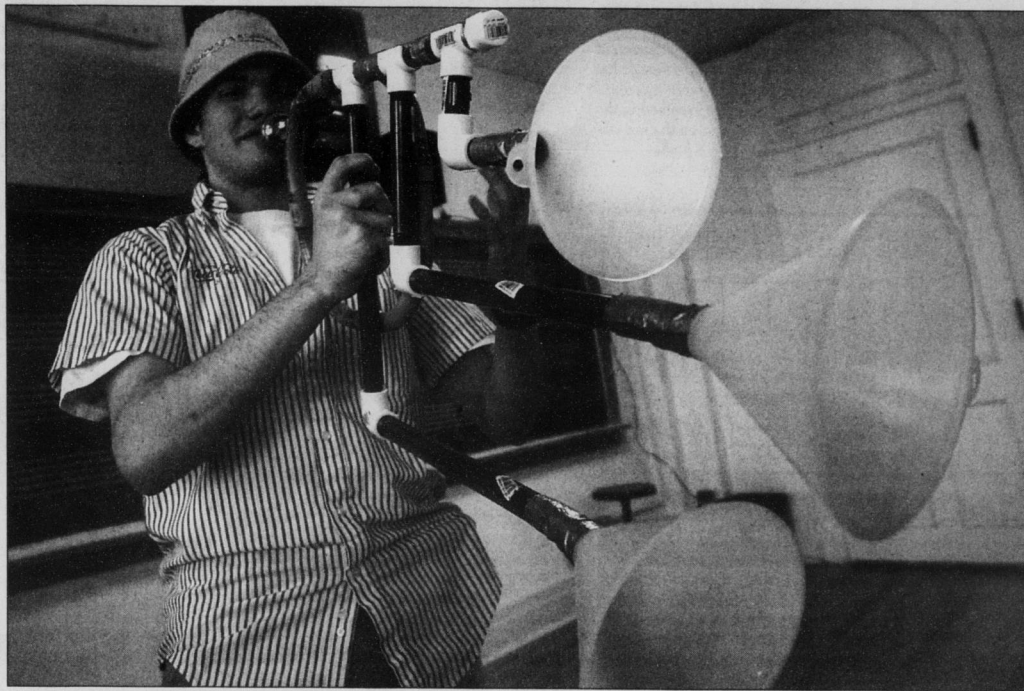
Last month, governors from North

Carolina, Georgia, South Carolina and Virginia gathered in Gastonia with trade leaders and textile manufacturers to discuss ways of aiding the textile industry — an industry long dominant in each state.

The governors appealed to President Bush and Congress to aid the struggling textile industry. "Never before has a nation stood by and allowed an industry to collapse and just stood by watching," Easley said. "When we met, CEOs were negotiating for better interest rates on loans; now they're negotiating for better terms of bankruptcy."

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## WEIRD SCIENCE



Brian McCune, a freshman from Durham, demonstrates the abilities of his "Seuss-o-phone," an instrument that he made for "The Interplay of Music and Physics," a first-year seminar that combines the science of physics with the musical arts. Students in the class were required to make and play two instruments in class, one string and one wind instrument.

# 11 Acres Hold Up Tract Decision

The Greene Tract Committee has tentatively approved plans to use 15 acres for affordable housing and to preserve 75 acres.

By BEN BROOKS  
Staff Writer

Local officials, stumped by what to do with 11 acres of the 109-acre Greene Tract, plan to ask the Chapel Hill Town Council for a 60-day extension on the project.

The Greene Tract, which is jointly owned by the towns of Chapel Hill and Carrboro, is located north of Homestead Road near the Orange County Regional Landfill.

For almost a year, the Greene Tract Committee — which is made up of two mem-

bers each from the Chapel Hill Town Council, Carrboro Board of Aldermen and the Orange County Board of Commissioners — has worked to zone the land. The committee's existing deadline is Wednesday.

But the aldermen and the commissioners already have approved the extension and are awaiting the Town Council's endorsement.

The Town Council is expected to allocate more time to the committee at its April 22 meeting.

"We hoped that the three governing bodies could come to a resolution by now, but the Greene Tract Committee has asked to be given another 60 days to decide," said Chapel Hill Mayor Kevin Foy, one of the Chapel Hill representatives.

The three boards involved voted in late November and early December to narrow the possible uses of the 109-acre tract to affordable

housing and recreational purposes.

Foy said the committee has tentatively decided that at least 15 acres will be dedicated to affordable housing and about 75 will be preserved, but the debate continues over the use of the remaining 11 acres.

"We are pretty much agreed upon everything except for those 11 acres," Foy said.

Foy said the committee is debating whether the land should be used for affordable housing, recreation or be left untouched.

But should the committee disagree on what to do with the remaining 11 acres, its tentative decisions could be reversed.

"If we don't all agree, I don't know if the rest of this will mean anything," Foy said. "I think it might be all or nothing."

In 1986, the Greene Tract was designated as

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# Dole, Bowles Top Opponents In Fund Raising

A Federal Election Commission filing shows that Dole's fund-raising campaign has raised the most money, with \$5.3 million, thus far.

By LINDSEY WHITE  
Staff Writer

Recent financial reports indicate that U.S. Senate candidates Elizabeth Dole and Erskine Bowles continue to distance themselves from their competitors.

Monday was the deadline for Senate candidates to report their quarterly financial filing detailing how much money they have raised and their campaign expenditures to the Federal Election Commission.

According to the filings, Republican candidate Dole, former Red Cross president, leads the pack with \$5.3 million. Democratic candidate Bowles, former White House chief of staff, came in second with \$3.1 million. Dole and Bowles were the only two candidates to break \$1 million.

Democratic candidate Dan Blue, a Democratic representative from Wake County, has raised \$347,332. Democratic candidate Elaine Marshall, N.C. secretary of state, has raised \$461,671.

More than two-thirds of Bowles' funds have come from North Carolina, while Dole collected 43 percent from within the state.

Janet Bradbury, Dole's press secretary, said raising funds is vital for campaigning. Bradbury said Dole, who collected \$2.1 million from individuals, has a large support base.

Bradbury said Dole is not just working on raising funds but also is visiting each of the 100 counties in North Carolina. "Dole thinks each county has different needs and issues and is using a grassroots campaign," she said.

Susan Lagana, Bowles' press secretary, said the funds raised by the campaign show that Bowles is sending the right message. "This is evidence that Bowles is the right candidate," Lagana said.

She said Bowles also is traveling around the state to build additional support and discussing local issues like air pollution. UNC political science Professor Thad Beyle said the reports indicate that it will be difficult for other candidates to win.

Beyle said there are only two ways to compete against candidates receiving large amounts of funding — broad name recognition or a particular message. He added that it is difficult for candidates to push that message without sufficient funding.

Beyle said there are two classic strategies in campaigning — money and a community-oriented approach.

He said money is winning more elections recently by funding television commercials and Internet Web sites for the can-

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Fund-Raising Totals	
Elizabeth Dole (Rep.)	\$5.3 million
Erskine Bowles (Dem.)	\$3.1 million
Elaine Marshall (Dem.)	\$461,671
Dan Blue (Dem.)	\$347,332

# Drug Investigation Leads to 2 Arrests

Reports state that police found about 1 1/2 pounds of marijuana and a 9 mm pistol at a local residence.

By SCOTT WARFIELD  
Staff Writer

Carrboro police ended a three-month drug investigation Friday after they seized more than 700 grams of marijuana from a residence in Carrboro.

A press release states that about 4 p.m. Friday, Carrboro police executed a search warrant at N-3, The Village Apartments at 1000 Smith Level Road and arrested two people.

Lt. Jim Phillips said that the police department's entry into the home was planned and that the subjects did not resist arrest.

"It was a tactical entry," Phillips said. "And there was no resistance from the people inside."

Reports state that the resident, Isaac Gerrod Bennett, 28, was arrested and charged with one felony count of possession of controlled substance with intent to manufacture, sell and deliver and one felony count of possession of stolen property.

He had 707 grams of marijuana in his residence, reports state. The stolen property was a 9 mm pistol, reports

state.

Bennett also was charged with one misdemeanor count of maintaining a dwelling for the sale of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Bennett was released under a written promise to appear for first appearance Monday in the Orange County District Court in Hillsborough.

Reports state that when police served the warrant, there were six non-residents in the apartment.

Phillips said the officers involved did not witness a drug transaction at the time of the arrest.

"The other people in the house were just visiting," Phillips said.

One of the six visitors was Delisha Joshan Dixon, 19, of 335 Carmichael Residence Hall.

Dixon told police that she was a student at UNC.

The press release states that upon a pat down of Dixon, officers found 12 grams of marijuana in her left pant pocket.

Dixon was arrested and charged with one misdemeanor count of possession of marijuana.

She was released on a written promise to appear May 13 in the Orange County District Court in Hillsborough, reports state.

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# Forum Keys In on LGBT Legislation

By TINA CHANG  
Staff Writer

Politically active students got the chance to learn more Monday night about policy-making that affects the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community.

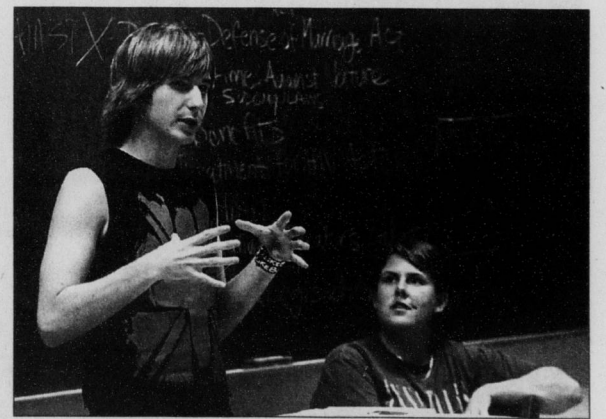
The UNC Young Democrats teamed up with the Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender/Straight Alliance in 103 Bingham Hall to discuss legislative inequality.

Alice Newton, co-chairwoman of the alliance, said Young Democrats President Susan Navarro approached her a few weeks ago to discuss the possibility of the two groups coming together to address issues that affect the LGBT community.

"It's important if you're politically active to form coalitions with different organizations on campus," Newton said. "The Democratic Party has been supportive of LGBT issues," Newton said it is important to raise awareness and further support through networking. She said she hopes that in the future, politicians will respond to LGBT issues, which she said are traditionally ignored.

A broad range of issues was covered at the forum, including the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, the Defense of Marriage Act, Early Treatment for HIV Act, crimes against nature laws and hate crime legislation. Newton also spoke about the voting records of N.C. legislators on each of those issues.

Alliance member Olivia Ramo spoke about the employment act, which would prohibit discrimination against people based on sexual orientation.



Trevor Hoppe, a freshman, speaks about LGBT issues during a forum Monday night sponsored by the Young Democrats.

It is legal to fire employees based on their sexual orientation in 38 states, including North Carolina. The act, which is being debated in the legislature, would give people a course of action if they are discriminated against.

Alliance member Bobby Tedder spoke about the marriage act, which gives states the right to refuse to recognize same-sex marriages performed in other states. If the act passes, the government will not recognize same-sex marriages, and those people will be denied federal benefits.

Alliance member Trevor Hoppe spoke about crimes against nature, which include sodomy. Crimes against

nature laws affect both heterosexual and homosexual couples.

Hoppe said the law is seldom enforced but that it remains in effect. The laws still exist, he said, so that the LGBT community can be denied housing, adoption and other options. "These laws have to be repealed because they're holding us down," Hoppe said.

Young Democrats member Frances Ferris discussed effective ways to contact legislators about these issues. "Writing letters takes time, but it is the best thing."

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