

# The Daily Tar Heel

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County officials discuss land issues  
N.C. schools risk failing standards  
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'Tis the Season

Town Council officials drop parking fees for several days to help boost the local economy.  
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Empty Stomachs

Campus Y sponsors hunger banquet to raise awareness.  
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Weather

Today: A.M. Showers; H 55, L 33  
Thursday: Mostly Sunny; H 60, L 37  
Friday: Partly Cloudy; H 59, L 42



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The latest victim told police that the suspect is 5 feet 9 inches tall, weighs 160 pounds and has short, wavy brown hair and no facial hair. He was wearing a dark parka and jeans.



## Police Have Composite Of Suspect In Thefts

By ROB LEICHER  
Staff Writer

University police released Tuesday a composite sketch of a man suspected of stealing laptop computers from three prominent campus locations in October and November.

Student laptops were stolen from Lenoir Dining Hall, Davis Library and the Undergraduate Library.

The most recent victim confronted the suspect when he tried to conceal the victim's computer in his backpack in Davis on Friday, according to police reports.

The suspect fled with the laptop before police arrived at the scene, but the victim was able to provide police with a detailed physical description. The victim said the suspect is about 5 feet 9 inches tall and 160 pounds with short, wavy brown hair and no facial hair, reports state. He was wearing a dark bluish-purple and black North Face parka and blue jeans.

University police released this photo of the suspect, taken by a security camera at the Undergrad.

There is a good chance that the same person committed all three robberies, said Lt. Archie Daniel of University police's investigations department.

"Right now, we don't know who any of the three are," Daniel said. "If we get a clue who the suspect is in one, it may link us to the others."

Capt. Mark McIntyre of the investigations department said the suspect in all three larcenies appears to be a student between the ages of 18 and 22. The suspect carried a dark-colored backpack in both library larcenies, and the suspect in the Undergrad theft wore a UNC T-shirt.

But McIntyre said police are not limiting their investigation to members of

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"It's dangerous. I know it's dangerous. One time I was about to go to sleep, and I didn't want to sleep because I was afraid I wouldn't wake up."

"MARK"  
Former UNC Student



DTH PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY BRIAN CASSELLA AND MIKE MESSIER

Gamma-hydroxybutyrate, also known as GHB, is a drug many young people are beginning to use for recreational purposes at parties and in clubs. Use of the drug, which is a depressant, can result in severe side effects such as seizures, coma or death.

## DATE-RAPE DRUG GAINS POPULARITY IN CLUB SCENE

By ADDIE SLUDER / Features Editor

Some call it being on a swirl.

After swallowing the drug, the music begins to throb louder. The room spins faster. The lights dance, faces blur, and all inhibitions suddenly are lost.

"It's like a hypnotic sedative. It's basically like being really, really drunk — but a different kind of drunk," said a 21-year-old former UNC-Chapel Hill student who spoke to The Daily Tar Heel on condition of anonymity.

The student, who will be referred to as "Mark," said he has taken the drug between 10 and 15 times — usually pouring it in a glass of water or a Red Bull energy drink.

Gamma-hydroxybutyrate, known as GHB or just G, has long carried a "date-rape drug" stigma. But officials say some college-aged men and women now are choosing to consume the illegal drug by the capful for personal use — usually without consideration for its potentially dangerous consequences.

"GHB is a depressant, and the more you put into your system, the more it acts as a central nervous system depressant," said Will Glasp, spokesman for the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency.

"The worst-case scenario is death or coma."

In the past, GHB has been used as a sleep aid, bodybuilding sup-

plement or psychoactive drug. But now, because of its use as a recreational drug, GHB has joined the ranks of ecstasy and ketamine in its being considered a "club drug."

In September, UNC-CH freshman Justin Ryncavage was arrested for possession of the chemical gamma-butyrolactone, or GBL, which the body converts into GHB after ingestion. He was treated at UNC Hospitals for an overdose of GBL two days before his arrest.

GBL and 1,4-butanediol are both industrial solvents that have the same effect as GHB and have been used more widely since GHB became illegal two years ago.

Ryncavage appeared in court Oct. 24, and his case will be continued until Jan. 23. He has been ordered to participate in a program for first-time drug offenders. Ryncavage did not return calls.

Though Ryncavage's lawyer said the freshman took GBL as a sleep aid, the drug is now often used recreationally in clubs and at parties.

"It's just completely taken a face-lift from date-rape to party

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### GHB Facts

• **Definition:** GHB is an illegal drug that comes in the form of white powder, which becomes an odorless, colorless liquid.

• **Uses:** Usually mixed with a liquid. There are a variety of uses for GHB, ranging from predatory to recreational in nature.

• **Side Effects:** In lower doses, this drug might cause dizziness, nausea and visual disturbances. At higher doses, seizures, severe respiratory depression or coma might occur.

• **Cost:** \$5 to \$25 per capful

SOURCE: [HTTP://WWW.DEA.GOV/CONCERN/GHB.HTML](http://www.dea.gov/concern/gbh.html)  
DTH/DIANA SURYAKUSUMA

## Congress Passes Bill To Reform Elections

Bill changes spending, time limits in campaigns

By SHELLEY WALDEN  
Staff Writer

The Larson-Daum Campaign Reform Act of 2002 passed Tuesday by voice vote in a late-night session of Congress.

The bill, which will take effect for the February general election, will shorten the time period in which campaign funds can be spent, increase the number of signatures required to run for office, limit campaign expenditures and require campaigns to be funded only by student fees.

Student Body President Jen Daum said the purpose of the bill is to clean up elections and to fix a broken system that favors students with greater resources. "What went on this past February was not an ideal campaign," she said. "It wasn't working. We are trying, to the best of our ability, to level the playing field."

Previously, students with financial problems could ask Congress for money, but Daum said this "opened a whole can of worms." Furthermore, students had no guarantee of being reimbursed. Daum said that under such a system, the best candidates could be encouraged not to run, making the entire student body worse off.

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## Renewable Energy Referendum Gets OK in Congress

By CAROLINE KORNEGAY  
Staff Writer

Student Congress passed a resolution 19-4 Tuesday that will put a referendum on the February general election ballot giving students the chance to decide whether they want student fees to fund efforts to expand renewable energy programs on campus.

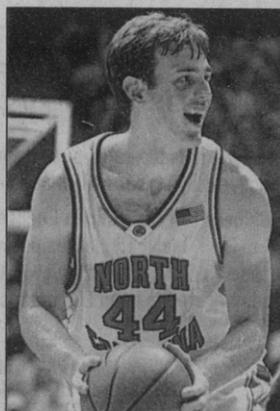
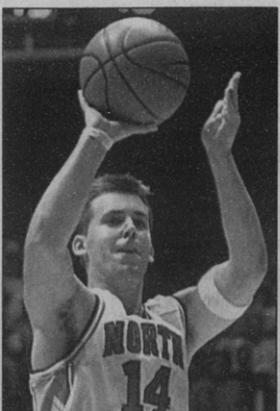
The resolution calls for a vote on a \$4 per semester student fee increase to fund sustainable energy projects on campus and buy power from renewable energy providers.

With numerous questions and concerns voiced by representatives, the debate lasted more than an hour during the meeting.

Details of the possible uses for "green energy" were explained and defended by members of the Student Environmental Action Coalition, who lined the back walls of the meeting room and spilled out into the hall to show their support for the resolution.

SEAC garnered support from UNC's Campus, Energy and Facilities services to place solar panels on

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DTH FILE PHOTOS

North Carolina men's basketball players Jonathan Holmes (left) and Will Johnson have been suspended for violating NCAA rules.

## Johnson, Holmes Suspended for Season Opener

Playing in benefit tourney a rules violation

By IAN GORDON  
Senior Writer

The NCAA has suspended North Carolina men's basketball players Jonathan Holmes and Will Johnson for the Tar Heels' season opener because of their participation in an on-campus three-on-three basketball tournament in the spring.

The two seniors played in the Carolina Cancer Focus basketball tournament at Woollen Gym on April 13. The event raised money for the Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center on UNC's campus.

NCAA bylaws state that basketball players can lose eligibility after becoming student-athletes if they participate in any organized competition except while representing their institution in intercollegiate competition.

Holmes and Johnson were not available for comment Tuesday, though Johnson, a possible starter, issued a statement released by the Department of Athletics.

"Every year our compliance staff and coaches tell us we can't play in outside competition," Johnson said in the statement. "We had no idea, though, that playing in an informal on-campus bas-

ketball game against other students to raise money for cancer research would be against NCAA rules."

The athletic department's compliance office, which reported the incident to the NCAA at the beginning of October, is appealing the decision.

Steve Kirschner, men's basketball spokesman, said the one-game suspension given by the NCAA is fairly typical for the situation.

Kirschner said that after learning of the violation, UNC had to declare the two athletes ineligible to play. When the NCAA reviewed the situation, the one-game suspension was levied, though the athletic department's appeal will be heard Friday or Saturday.

A decision will be made by Monday's

Preseason NIT game against Penn State, the Tar Heels' first regular-season matchup, Kirschner said.

UNC's appeal argues that the tournament, held annually since 2000, did not really have a formal setting and should not be considered a non-sanctioned event, said Larry Gallo, senior associate director of athletics.

"I think we're all hopeful that they'll rule in favor of Will and Jon," Gallo said. "The informality of the tournament is one reason they thought they could play."

The players paid \$10 each to participate in the tournament, but they received no money or gifts for partici-

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Man seeks to escape himself in myth, and does so by any means at his disposal. Drugs, alcohol or lies.

Jean Cocteau