

POLICE ROUNDUP

University

Sunday, Nov. 24

■ A man was issued a written trespass warning at 1:30 a.m. when he was sleeping in the bushes behind Hill Hall, reports state.

The man left campus without further incident, reports state.

Police reports state that a UNC student was issued a warrant for arrest at 11:46 p.m. after a drug investigation in Graham Residence Hall. No further details were available.

Saturday, Nov. 23

■ Police arrested Shannon Clifton, 29, at 2:20 a.m. on charges of speeding and driving while impaired, reports

An officer stopped Clifton of 633 Berwick Valley Lane in Cary as he was traveling 55 mph in a 35 mph zone along Raleigh Road, reports state.

Upon further investigation, Clifton was arrested for driving while intoxicated and transported to the Chapel Hill Police Department. He registered a .10 BAC on the Intoxilyzer 5000 and was released on a written promise to appear in Orange County District Court on

Thursday, Nov. 21

At 4:06 a.m., an employee of the UNC Housekeeping Services Department reported that three unidentified white males attacked her Ford Explorer while she was driving to work, police reports state.

The driver said she slowed to allow the men to cross Country Club Road only to have the trio begin beating her vehicle with sticks, reports state. The men reportedly broke her passenger side window, and one of the men was said to be hanging on the side mirror when the victim drove away

The police officer dispatched reported that he could find no glass on the road to indicate the breaking of the win-dow and no evidence that the car was beaten by any sort of blunt object, reports state. The damage totaled \$300.

An unidentified woman has visited the Dogwood parking deck on 27 different occasions, avoiding payment each time, reports state.

The woman consistently claimed that she did not have the money to pay at the time, filling out a payment authorization form so that she could be billed later. She filled out the forms with false information about her name, Social Security number and address, making

billing impossible, reports state.

Reports state that the incidents, Neports state that the incidents, which occurred between Aug. 9 and Nov. 5 of this year, totaled \$154.50 in parking fees. The case has been assigned to Capt. Mark McIntyre as a criminal investigation.

City

Sunday, Nov. 24

■ Chapel Hill police arrested UNC senior Lucille Jeanette Pittman, 21, of 430 Hillsborough St., at 2:14 a.m., reports state.

Pittman was arrested at 143 W. Franklin St. and charged with DWI and resisting arrest, reports state.

Pittman was the driver of a 1992 Jeep Cherokee that police stopped for spinning its tires across travel lanes in front of oncoming traffic and exceeding the posted speed limit, reports state. Reports state that when an officer asked Pittman for her license, she refused and attempted to leave the scene.

Officers had to struggle with Pittman to prevent her from leaving and to take her into custody. She refused to submit to an Intoxilyzer 5000 test, reports state.

Thomas Armfield Cannon, 20, of 309 Skicrest Drive in Blowing Rock also was arrested in the incident, reports state. He was charged with aiding and abetting a DWI for letting Pittman drive his vehicle while she was intoxicated. reports state.

Both are scheduled to appear in Orange County District Court in Hillsborough on Jan. 28.

■ Chapel Hill police arrested UNC senior Leslie Elizabeth Matthews, 21, of 425 Hillsborough St. Apt. 2F, for DWI,

Matthews was arrested at 3:30 a.m. at Sharon Heights apartments, reports

Matthews' 1998 Ford Mustang was stopped after officers saw her driving in circles and weaving on Airport Road reports state. Reports state that Matthews was arrested after she per-formed poorly on field sobriety tests. Her Intoxilyzer 5000 results were .18,

reports state.

Matthews was released on written promise to appear in Orange County District Court in Chapel Hill on Jan. 28.

Original Union to Be Closed for Renovations

By ESHANTHI RANASINGHE

The Frank Porter Graham Student Union face-lift will begin according to plan next semester as construction moves from the Union addition to the original building.

Remodeling costs for the main building of the Union and the additions completed this August total more than \$14 million. Last week, after a rebid of the renovations, the cost increased by \$1 million. Construction also was handed to a different company than the one in charge of building the new Union.

Construction, which should start any time between late December and should be completed 10 months after the contractors begin, said Union Director Don Luse. During renovations, students will not have access to any of the three floors of the Union. The

Union annex will be the only part of the

original structure to remain open.

The renovation will add several new features to the Union.

The building's interior hasn't changed since it was built in 1968, when the student population was only about 10,000, and officials say it's long overdue for remodeling.

"Our (student population) numbers are really high," Luse said. "(The renovations) will allow for a much better place for students to eat and more lounge space to study ... and meet."

The largest visible change will occur

when the stairwell in the center of the Union, which violates fire codes, is moved to the sides of the building, Luse said.

The space the stairs inhabit will be paved over and replaced by a large stu-dent lounge extending from the Union desk all the way to the front doors, he said. A new food service station, Alpine

Bagels, will replace Union Station. It will be run by Carolina Dining Services, like its predecessor. It will serve fresh bagels baked daily on the premises, soups and salads. The station will open early and serve students until 1 a.m. on weeknights.

"This is going to be a lot more prepared foods ... (and) healthier choices," said Ira Simon, director of CDS. "We feel this is providing a better mix of food in this environment

Alpine Bagels will be located in the same place as Union Station and will remain the same size as its predecessor.

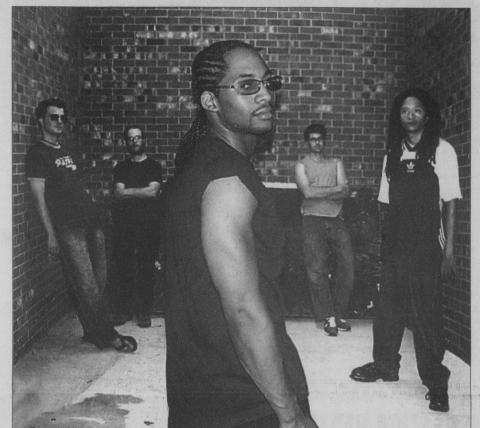
The old Carolina Union Activities

Board office on the second floor will be opened up, expanding the lounge space so students get a view of the Pit below,

But before students can take advantage of the new, more accommodating See STUDENT UNION, Page 7



Junior Seanna Poulsen (right) searches for money Monday to pay cashier Erma Wilson at Union Station, which will be replaced by a bagel shop.



(From left) Steven Levitan, Dana Chell, Stefan Greenlee, Matt Brandau and Lem Butler make up the hip-hop group Sankofa. Recently, Sankofa has struggled with internal conflict but remains optimistic and faithful.

Sankofa Overcomes Obstacles

By NICK PARKER Arts & Entertainment Editor

Big stages, bright lights, roaring crowds, blaring speakers. The life of a hip-hop icon has its appeal.

But it's not always easy, nor is it always glamorous. Sankofa, the local hip-hop group that has been growing in popularity and in talent during the past five years, recently has seen the darker side of the rock 'n' roll lifestyle.

For the countless hours in which the

band is not performing, its members struggle with the same issues that plague all people – notwithstanding their flashy

personas, such as Creem MC and Juice, that fill the stage with bouncing energy and hip-hop swagger.

"We are all nor-



A monthly look at a group of rising hip-hop

mal people when we step off the stage and have to deal with the normal problems," said Matt Brandau, Sankofa's bassist. superstars. "Rent, money, per-

sonal problems. The people that you see up on stage are us, but not the people that you would meet on the street."

In the past two months, tensions with-

in the band have come close to a boiling point several times. Stemming from issues as important as management choices and career goals to feuds as trivial as who gets to ride shotgun in the van, arguments have grown – and compounded. It's not the tension that leads to a fiery Beatles breakup but rather the drama that comes from strong individuals with strong concepts and talents

working toward a common goal.

"We all came together to found this band and all care deeply about it, so when something goes wrong or some

See SANKOFA, Page 7

Council OKs Housing Funds For Habitat

By ALYSSA FINE

The Chapel Hill Town Council voted unanimously Monday to loan Habitat for Humanity of Orange County \$50,000 to help the group purchase a tract of land for affordable housing units. The money either will be used to extend the closing date on

the property to allow further discussion of the development plans or go directly toward the land's purchase.

Habitat requested a \$300,000 grant to help purchase the lot, located on Sunrise Road. Habitat's original proposal included 95 units, a number both camps say might change.

The council could not fund the entire \$300,000 because the loan's source, the Housing Trust Fund, only holds \$50,000. One possible use for the funds – extending the closing date from Feb. 28 – would allow for a more specific plan to be developed and presented to the council, Town Manager Cal Horton said Monday.

Habitat does not see moving the closing date as a realistic option, said Susan Levy, executive director of the local chapter. She said the landowner has not shown flexibility in regards to the closing date and most likely will be unwilling to change it. But if the closing date cannot be extended, the \$50,000 no-

interest loan – not a grant – will be used directly toward the purchase. Chapel Hill established the fund more than 20 years ago to support affordable housing efforts.

A near-capacity crowd turned out for Monday night's meet-

ing. Most of the residents who were present live near the tract and were against the allocation of funds. Environmental impact and density issues were the main concerns of those who spoke.

Steve Herman, who lives near the proposed development, said residents have no problem with affordable housing being located in their area. "If you love your environment, you have to protect it," he said. "Our concern is with adverse environmental impact.'

But council members and Habitat officials all emphasized that the approval of funding is not an approval of a specific plan. "This is a request for funds, not a request for rezoning," Mayor Kevin Foy reminded the assembly.

Á Habitat representative said there are a lot of unknowns with regard to the development plan. He said Habitat officials hope to talk with local residents and to take their interests into account as the final plan is developed.

Levy said she is pleased with the recommendation even though it is not for the full amount originally requested. "We're hoping that the balance will come from the county,"

she said, adding that Habitat already has submitted a propos-al and hopes to go before the Orange County Board of Commissioners in December.

The organization already had planned on raising \$100,000 in private donations to help it meet the final purchase price of \$400,000, and now it will continue to pursue other sources of funding. Levy said she believes the loan only will need to be repaid if Habitat's plan does not meet expectations. "The town has to protect the funds it does put out to affordable housing."

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New Legislators Prepare for Office Student Congress to Elect

IOG to host session to orient newcomers

By Amanda Jepsen

Newly elected members of the N.C. General Assembly say that before beginning their terms in January, much work must be done to familiarize themselves with legislative procedures and the needs of their constituencies.

Legislators have to get their families organized, settle business matters and get acquainted with the demands of their jobs before they can concentrate on legislative affairs, said new House member Bonner Stiller, R-Brunswick.

Though necessary preparations are overwhelming at times, assistance in preparing to enter the General Assembly comes from both sides of the aisle, said new Rep. Don Munford, R-Wake.

"Everyone is friendly," he said. "All you have to do is ask.

New senator and UNC Board of Trustees member Richard Stevens, R-

Wake, is reading all he can on the General Assembly to prepare. Stevens said officials from state political parties assist the acclimation process



New Sen. Richard Stevens, R-Wake, will take part in an orientation for new legislators sponsored by the UNC Institute of Government.

by holding caucuses to introduce veteran members to new members. "There's not a formal mentoring system, but you

can get help from anyone."

Many legislators, including Stevens, also say they will take part in a three-day orientation sponsored by the UNC Institute of Government. The orientation,

which will take place Dec. 5 to Dec. 7, will acquaint members with the nuances of the General Assembly. It is the first time the institute has hosted such an event.

"Our purpose is to get new members acquainted with the culture of the

See LEGISLATORS, Page 7

Speaker to Succeed Larson

By ERIN GANLEY Staff Writer

Student Congress will elect a new eaker at tonight's meeting after Speaker

Tony Larson resigns from his position. Congress members Carey Richter and Matt O'Brien said they intend to seek nomination, though any member can be nominated at the meeting, Larson said.

O'Brien and Richter are veterans in Congress, as both have held key positions. Richter is the chairwoman of the Student Affairs Committee, and O'Brien is the former speaker pro tem.

Larson must resign because he graduates in December, but he said he enjoyed his time as speaker. "I feel like a lot has been accomplished," he said. "We've worked to try to make Congress an active

force for advocating student desires."

Larson said he will resign his position after Congress handles legislation on its agenda. Any committee chairmen seeking to become speaker then must resign their positions because Congress members can-

not hold more than one post at a time.

The floor will be open for nominations from any member. Candidates will have five minutes to speak, followed by a

five-minute question-and-answer session with the other members of Congress. Congress members also may speak on behalf of candidates they support.

O'Brien, who lost a close race to Larson in April, said that if he is elected, he will focus on Congress' financial situation. "Before our first meeting in January, we will have already spent one-third of our budget," he said. "Most of the problem comes from the fact that student fees have not increased in the

A referendum in a special election last year calling for increasing student fees was thrown out because of low voter turnout. Richter said she also would address

the financial situation of Congress. "Student Congress has long been a body that is not seen as relevant, and that's unfair," Richter said. She pointed

out that Congress has thousands of dol-lars to give to student groups each year. Larson said he is confident that whoever is selected will serve Congress well. "Hopefully, Congress will continue to

make its voice heard on campus."

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