

UNC considers security cameras

BY JOE SAUNDERS
AND LYNNE SHALLCROSS
STAFF WRITERS

With residence hall crime becoming more and more of a concern, University officials said they are considering placing security cameras in residence halls.

The Department of Housing and Residential Education recently commissioned the Student Safety Task Force to suggest necessary adjustments to the University's residence hall security policies and procedures.

In response to a number of residence hall break-ins during the last year, including an incident last September when a student reported being robbed at gunpoint in his Avery Residence Hall room, the task force is exploring the idea of placing security cameras in several residence halls.

George Arey, chairman of the task force and an employee with the Department of Housing, emphasized that the committee only is in the research stage and is far from making a recommenda-

tion. "We'll look to see what the benefit has been on other campuses before we look into putting cameras into (UNC's) buildings," he said.

Many other universities — ranging from the University of Pennsylvania to the Rhode Island School of Design — already have installed security cameras in attempts to make their campuses safer.

The University of Michigan-Ann Arbor decided to install security cameras in the entrances of all residence halls after a series of burglaries in winter 2001.

Diane Brown, spokeswoman for the UM Department of Public Safety, said the school has installed security cameras in two or three of its 14 residence halls.

Brown said residence hall crime has decreased since the cameras have been installed, but she said the drop cannot be attributed solely to the cameras.

"Obviously we feel it's a valuable tool, so we're dedicating some sig-

nificant dollars to it," Brown said. "But it's difficult to be able to attribute the downward trend in crime to just one attribute because we implemented several (safety) initiatives at the same time."

Brown added that UM also implemented a 24-hour lock on residence halls and increased education about safety precautions to take on campus.

"The reality of today's society requires us to be cognizant of the fact that people will come and prey on our students," Brown said.

Kristin Conte, president of UNC's Residence Hall Association, said she supports the use of security cameras in residence halls. "Anything that increases safety is a good thing to have."

But Conte said that security cameras will not be a complete deterrent to crime and that students still will have to be careful.

"If we did get security cameras, residents would still need to be aware of their surroundings," she said.

Conte added that officials only would look at camera footage if a serious crime or incident occurred in the building.

"It wouldn't be a violation of the the privacy of the residents," she said.

Some students on campuses across the nation have protested against the use of security cameras in residence halls.

Students at UNC have reacted to the proposal with mixed opinions.

Sophomore Jonah Caine, who

lives in Joyner Residence Hall, said he does not think security cameras are necessary. "I think it's the residents' responsibility to keep (the residence halls) safe."

But sophomore Katie Atchley, who lives in Hinton James Residence Hall, said cameras could help improve safety.

"I think it's a good thing to have," she said. "It'll help solve (crimes) faster."

Sophomore Sara E. Rich, who lives in Craig Residence Hall, said there is not enough on-campus crime to warrant security cameras. "I don't think there are enough security problems," she said. "If crime went up, it might be worth it."

In addition to the security camera proposal, the task force will explore other methods used at universities to improve safety and security.

"The committee has been looking at contacting a lot of different schools in general to see what kinds of security measures they are taking," Arey said.

Arey said that even though UNC's campus is safe in comparison to other institutions, there still are ways to increase security.

"We want to make (the campus) even safer," he said. "If security cameras are one of the ways that will help do that, then I think it's a good idea."

Senior Writer Arman Tolentino contributed to this article. Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

Town arts group expands its reach

BY NICK PARKER
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

While the campus arts community is reeling from the loss of Arts Carolina, the Chapel Hill Public Arts Commission is thriving because of a recent appropriation for the group.

Thanks to an act passed by the Chapel Hill Town Council in March 2002, the commission is able to review new building plans and, when requested, receive 1 percent of the total building costs to fund a public art creation.

"We have had so much growth in the year and a half since (the act) passed," said Kate Billings, public arts program facilitator. "The increased funds give us so much more power to put art out there. It is just another example of how the community is so very supportive of the arts."

Even though the act passed more than a year ago, it has taken until now for the funds to have a significant effect on the programs.

CHPAC will flex its new muscle this weekend with two exhibit openings.

Chapel Hill Town Hall will be transformed from Friday to Oct. 24 by the paintings and sculptures of Jan Kennedy Butta, Michael Houston and Sandra Marlow.

In a different vein — a stark example of how flexible public art can be — the public library will feature all mixed media work.

IF YOU GO

Date: Friday until Oct. 24
Time: 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Location: Chapel Hill Town Hall
Info: Call 968-2888 or visit www.chapelhillarts.org

From Sunday to Oct. 27 the collage works of Bronwyn Merritt and the fabric works of Laura Shmania will show just how many different forms of artistic expression there are.

"The more that we can show, the better it is for everyone," Billings said. "We basically just want to fill any and all public spaces with something that is inspiring."

Contact the A&E Editor at artsdesk@unc.edu.

CORRECTIONS

• A page 7 article in Wednesday's paper incorrectly reported that the Delta Zeta sorority house is located on Henderson Street. The house is on Hillsborough Street.

• A front-page graphic in Wednesday's paper should have said it has been 60,000 years since Mars came this close to Earth.

• A brief on page 3 in Tuesday's paper incorrectly identified Terry Greenlund as a woman.

To report corrections, contact Managing Editor Daniel Thigpen at dthigpen@email.unc.edu.

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Dr. Barrie is a graduate of Tufts University School of Medicine in Boston, Massachusetts. She completed her orthopaedic surgery training at Yale New Haven Hospital. Dr. Barrie completed subspecialty fellowship training in hand and microvascular surgery at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. Dr. Barrie has a broad range of knowledge of orthopaedic problems with subspecialty training in the upper extremity, focusing on the hand and wrist. Special areas of interest include pediatric hand and wrist reconstruction.

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