

UNC police gets award for big drop in larceny

BY BROOK R. CORWIN
UNIVERSITY EDITOR

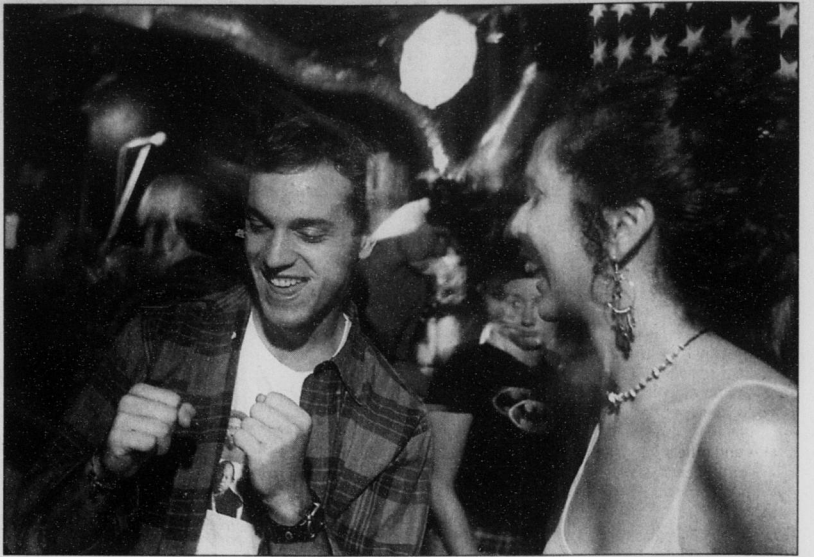
A successful project to reduce on-campus larcenies by nearly a third has earned the UNC Department of Public Safety an international award for community policing. The International Association of Chiefs of Police has selected DPS as the 2003 winner of the Community Policing Award for agencies serving between 20,000 and 50,000 people. Next month, DPS Director Derek Poarch will travel to Philadelphia to attend the IACP annual conference and accept the award, which is sponsored by ITT Industries Night Vision. A total of 117 agencies from around the world applied for the awards, with five agencies honored in different divisions broken down by population size. "These awards are very coveted awards," said Gary Kempker, chairman of the IACP community policing committee. "Only the best

even consider applying." Kempker said DPS stood out from the field of applicants by establishing and then meeting a goal to reduce the number of larcenies by 15 percent. DPS ended up surpassing that goal, decreasing the number of larcenies by 29 percent. The agency was able to accomplish this goal, Poarch said, by increasing the visibility of officers in areas such as gyms and libraries, where a majority of the thefts occur. "Larcenies are the most prevalent crime on campus," Poarch said. "We took as a project for the entire patrol division to reduce that number." DPS was runner-up for the same award in 2002. Each year, the department's entry provides an overview of its work over several years with a focus on one project. Poarch said his department was recognized for a continued effort to target specific safety issues in the community and then devise strategies to tackle them, the larceny program being one example.

"One of the measures our officers are graded on is problem-solving," Poarch said. "Everything from identifying street lights that are out to making sure windows and buildings are secure ... officers have to be proactive in solving problems." Many of the solutions to those problems come through partnering with other UNC departments to educate the community about safety issues, Poarch said. Part of the DPS larceny reduction project involved teaming with the Department of Housing and Residential Education and the Residence Hall Association to reduce "tailgating" in residence halls — when students hold the door for people following them. Such efforts, Kempker said, constitute the definition of the IACP award. "(DPS) put to work the basic principles that are involved in community policing."

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GRUNGE LIVES



DTH/GABI TRAPENBERG

Seniors Paul Cox (left), 21, and Shruti Chudasama, 21, dance at Local 506's Early '90s Dance on Friday night. DJ One Duran played dance hits from the early 1990s to a packed house all night. The club, located at 506 W. Franklin St., will be hosting its weekly Microphone Mondays event tonight with a \$100 cash prize awarded to the hip-hop winner.

Town blocks Weaver Dairy expansion Violence kills 1 U.S. soldier, injures 3 others

BY JENNY HUANG
ASSISTANT CITY EDITOR

After years of intense debate and political rallying, officials and residents won a significant victory Tuesday when the N.C. Department of Transportation backed down from its proposal to widen Weaver Dairy Road to four lanes. Instead, state transportation officials agreed on a final street design that would allow the 2.5-mile road to go from four lanes

with a median to three lanes with a continuous turn lane. The existing Weaver Dairy width shifts from five lanes to two lanes to three lanes and back to five. Chapel Hill Town Council members say the new design is a huge win for local residents. "This is a reflection of the power of citizens to organize, even in the face of significant obstacles," council member Mark Kleinschmidt said. Members of the local Citizens Action for Responsible Roads gathered more than 500 signatures last fall in support of the town's three-lane proposal. Kleinschmidt said the new design also reflects a victory for state planning officials. "I'm really pleased that the DOT is helping us design a plan for Weaver Dairy that's really in

accord with our community," he said. "This shows that even though they're a state agency, they'll listen." State DOT planners originally proposed to widen Weaver Dairy to four lanes as a way to preempt increased traffic projected for the next few years. After months of contentious debate between town officials and local residents, the council approved a three-lane design for Weaver Dairy in September 2002. The potential road expansion was a key campaign issue during the 2000 municipal elections. Although state transportation officials initially rejected the council's proposal, town officials and residents persisted with planning meetings and petitions. Mayor Kevin Foy formed a special council committee for the purpose of researching, planning and discussing the road expansion with DOT officials.

The final approved road changes call for a four-lane design from Airport Road to Kingston Drive and three lanes from Kingston to Erwin Road. The three-lane stretch will contain two lanes going in both directions and a continuous turn lane east to Erwin. Sidewalks and wide outer-travel lanes also are included in the new road proposal. The Town Council will consider the new design Sept. 22. Council members say they plan to discuss a few points of the new design but hope to take action as soon as possible. "We want to get this approved as fast as we can, so we can keep it high on the (DOT's) priority list," council member Dorothy Verkerk said. "I'd just like to get this done with and celebrate."

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

FALLUJAH, Iraq — Insurgents killed one U.S. soldier and wounded three others Sunday outside the troubled city of Fallujah, a day after angry protesters fired weapons and called for violence against the U.S. occupation to protest one of the most serious friendly fire incidents of the Iraq war. Residents buried eight policemen Saturday who were killed when U.S. forces apparently mistook them for guerrilla fighters. The U.S. administrator for Iraq commented publicly on the incident Sunday for the first time, calling it regrettable and suggesting

victims' families might be compensated. "The very regrettable incident in Fallujah is still under investigation by our military. We have expressed regrets for it publicly," L. Paul Bremer said at a news conference with visiting Secretary of State Colin Powell. "When we have reached conclusions about how the incident came about, we'll take appropriate steps. In the past we have paid families ... where we felt it was appropriate, but this incident is still under investigation." Powell arrived in Baghdad on Sunday for his first visit since the U.S.-led ouster of Saddam Hussein.

CLARIFICATION

An article on page 3 about the Youth Democracy Summit should have said the event consisted of workshops in which participants also could register to vote.

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

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He said he was encouraged by progress toward self-rule. He stood fast against growing international pressure to turn responsibility for running the country back to Iraqis quickly. "The worst thing that could happen is for us to push this process too quickly before the capacity for governance is there and the basis for legitimacy is there and see it fail," Powell said. Earlier on Sunday, Powell met with Hoshiyar Zebari, Iraq's new foreign minister, and said the security situation remained challenging, with a "major new threat" coming from "terrorists who are trying to infiltrate into the country for the purpose of disrupting this whole process." The death of the U.S. soldier outside Fallujah brought to 155 the number of U.S. troops killed in Iraq since President Bush declared an end to major combat on May 1. During the heavy fighting before that date, 138 soldiers died. The military provided few details, but Massoud Ibrahim, a soft drinks vendor who saw the attack, said rocket-propelled grenades were fired at a U.S. truck and armored vehicle. Insurgents also fired a rocket-propelled grenade at a helicopter that arrived after the attack but missed, he said. The helicopter was unable to land. An armored vehicle was seen being towed away. Fallujah, 30 miles west of Baghdad, has again become an especially dangerous place for the occupying forces after the friendly fire incident near the Jordanian Hospital, just west of the city. Before Bremer issued his statement, the U.S. military had apologized, but many in Fallujah rejected the overture and vowed to continue fighting U.S. forces. The city center was quiet Sunday. Shops were open despite a one-day strike that shut government offices in protest of the friendly fire killings early Friday, and people went about their daily business. Relations between people in Fallujah and U.S. forces have been tense since shortly after the city was captured in April. U.S. troops came under almost daily attacks for two months after soldiers opened fire in late April on crowds of protesters in the city, killing 18 and injuring 78. The U.S. forces said they were fired at first. Friday's killings were certain to inflame the smoldering hatred of the U.S. occupation elsewhere as well.