

CITY BRIEFS

Meat thefts plague grocery stores during the weekend

A number of Chapel Hill grocery stores reported several hundred dollars' worth of steaks stolen this weekend, but only two arrests have been made.

On Friday at 3:15 p.m., the Food Lion at 1129 Weaver Dairy Road reported to police that \$100 worth of rib-eye steaks had been stolen after a suspect walked out of the store without paying.

Later that day, at 4:43 p.m., Chapel Hill police were contacted by the Food Lion on 1720 N. Fordham Blvd., reporting that \$70 worth of black angus steak and \$10 worth of Tylenol had been stolen from the store.

These incidents are both under investigation.

Chapel Hill police received a report at 11:59 a.m. Saturday that two suspects, hiding 13 steaks in their purses, walked out of the Harris Teeter on 210 Estes Drive without paying, reports state.

Cathy Ann Platts, 39, of 651 Eindhoven Lane in Creedmore, was arrested and charged with one count of misdemeanor larceny, reports state. She was seen by store security stealing meat, reports state.

According to reports, Lena Gaynell Scott, 39, of 4905 Holder Road in Durham also was arrested on one count misdemeanor larceny. She also was observed stealing meat by store security, reports state.

Reports state that Platts and Scott had \$156.94 worth of meat in their possession when police arrested them. The meat was recovered by police. They were taken before the magistrate, and each was released on a \$500 unsecured bond.

Their trials are scheduled for April 4 in the Orange County Court in Hillsborough. There is no evidence that Platts and Scott are responsible for the incidents at the Food Lion stores.

Gunshot investigation leads to arrest of Durham man

A Durham resident was arrested and charged of resisting arrest after police investigated a gunshot report.

Marcus Lamont King, 19, of 1701 Sprunt St. was arrested at Clark Court on Church Street after police were called to the area when residents reported a gunshot, according to reports.

Reports state that Chapel Hill police attempted to stop a vehicle suspiciously circling the area. When a gun was thrown from that vehicle, police arrested King.

King was taken before the magistrate and released on a written promise to appear in Orange County Court in Hillsborough on March 8. No injuries were reported in the incident.

STATE BRIEFS

Ala. chief justice inspires Winston-Salem councilman

WINSTON-SALEM — A city council member placed a block bearing the Ten Commandments on a walkway in front of a city hall deserted on Monday's Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

Vernon Robinson, a black conservative who has been on the city council since 1998, said he and four helpers acted on the holiday because the barren adjoining parking lot allowed him to use a truck and crane to position the 1-ton block. He said he had no permit or other authorization to place the monument on public property.

Robinson said he was inspired to act by former Ala. Chief Justice Roy Moore, who ordered a 2 1/2-ton Ten Commandments monument placed in the rotunda of the Alabama Judicial Building in 2001.

CALENDAR Today

7:30 p.m. — Longtime activist and former presidential candidate Ralph Nader will speak in 100 Hamilton Hall. The appearance is part of his effort to get support for a possible 2004 presidential run.

Thursday

7 p.m. — Student Congress is holding a mandatory annual budget orientation meeting for all organizations interested in requesting student government funds for the 2004-05 school year. It will be held in 2 Chase Hall. Groups who do not send a representative to this meeting will not be eligible for funds.

Feb. 3

8 p.m. — The Daily Tar Heel will host a forum for student body president candidates in 209 Manning Hall. The forum will be open to the public. For more information, contact Elyse Ashburn at eashburn@email.unc.edu.

From staff and wire reports.

Forum to present 3rd dean hopeful

Student input essential to selection

BY LIZZIE STEWART
STAFF WRITER

William Andrews said he hopes to attain a higher level of commitment to the faculty he has worked with day to day.

The award-winning English professor has served on numerous UNC committees dealing with faculty issues. Now Andrews wants to expand those efforts as dean of the College of Arts and

Sciences.

"I have a great deal of experience working with faculty, and I want to be a dean connected to the faculty," said Andrews, one of six candidates vying for the position.

A forum today in room 039 of the Johnston Center for Undergraduate Excellence will focus on Andrews and what he hopes to bring to the position.

The search committee for a new

dean of the college is hosting today's forum, which will be the third it has held so far.

Jack Richman, chairman of the search committee, said the forums have been successful. "(Candidate Darryl) Gless' forum held 130 people," he said.

"That's really remarkable; I was really quite happy with the turnout."

He said the candidates are equally qualified despite the fact that they come from various educational and professional backgrounds.

"I think we have an incredible selection of people," Richman said. "They are outstanding teachers ... all very similar in some ways, but also very different in the experiences that they've had."

Andrews' teaching experiences span the country at such institutions as Texas Tech University, the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the University of Kansas. He was also a visiting professor at Justus-Liebig-University in Giessen, Germany.

Andrews has received a number

of awards, grants and honors including the Chancellor's Award for Distinguished Teaching at UW-Madison.

"I think he brings a wonderful set of experiences," Richman said. "He certainly has a great rapport with students and is well thought of in his department. He is a well-prepared person for dean."

Andrews' professional experience at UNC includes heading the Department of English and partic-

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"We focus on what our strengths are — customer service and quality. The bike shops that weren't offering (that) didn't last." MIKE FREEMAN, SALESMAN, THE CLEAN MACHINE



DTH/BRENT CLARK

UNC senior Dan Williams (left) waits for the weekly group bicycle ride to begin outside Performance Bicycle on Saturday morning.

LOCALS COMPETE WITH BIKE CHAIN

Small, locally owned bicycle shops aim to forge personal relationships

BY CHRIS GLAZNER
ASSISTANT CITY EDITOR

Scott Smith has Performance Bicycle out-flanked, geographically speaking.

Smith co-owns Franklin Street Cycles and the Clean Machine, which sit to the east and west of Performance Bicycle's Carrboro location on Main Street.

In the retail world, Smith's upper hand is less certain.

Performance Bicycle was founded in Chapel Hill in 1983, and at one time even shared a wall with the Clean Machine.

In the two decades since, however, the store has climbed to the top of the national cycling market, and local shops have found themselves competing against a major company rather than another small business.

The rise of national chains has changed many industries in the area, replacing mom-and-pop stores with larger and cheaper corporate outlets.

Particularly in cycling, shops help shape the local culture and affect many of the customers.

Performance Bicycle now has 45 locations around the country, mostly in California, Colorado and the Washington, D.C., area. The company still lists a Chapel Hill address, but its headquarters are in Chatham County next to a 120,000-square-foot warehouse, where its internet and catalog operations are based.

"We're fulfilling a big need among cyclists," said Stuart Westland, the compa-

ny's marketing director.

Locally, the store supplies accessories and parts to many avid cyclists.

"It's good for getting clothing and bars and the little things you need," said Zandy Collins, who met other cyclists at the store for a ride last Saturday.

In its retail stores, Performance Bicycle's size affects how it does business.

"We have a much larger amount of retail space than other bike shops," said Sarah Worthington, general manager of the Performance Bicycle store in Carrboro.

That extra space, she said, is taken up mostly by items other than bikes, such as clothing and accessories.

Smith says he takes this into account when managing his smaller shops.

"We realize their strengths and don't go head-to-head with them," he said. "I let them sell clothing."

But accessories sales make up much of the already slim profits available to small bike stores, Smith said.

Statistics from Bicycle Retailer & Industry News magazine show industrywide profit margins about 10 percentage points higher for clothing and accessories than for actual bikes.

Smith said the other bike shops he owns, one in Raleigh and one in Durham, both show higher sales of accessories than the two located near Performance Bicycle.

One area where local shops seem to have

an edge is in service and repairs.

"I come (to Performance) to buy Clif Bars and arm warmers and stuff like that, but if I want any work done on my bike I take it to Clean Machine," said cyclist Tom Hughes.

Mike Freeman, a salesman at the Clean Machine, said repair work is one of the ways small shops develop individual relationships with customers.

"We focus on what our strengths are — customer service and quality," said Freeman. "The bike shops that weren't offering good service and good quality didn't last."

Smith said he could name four bike shops that have gone out of business in the 16 years he's worked at the Clean Machine.

"Performance has made the smaller guys go away," he said.

Westland said Performance Bicycle's growth can be attributed to the business acumen of its founder, Garry Snook.

He said Snook, who received a master's degree in business from Duke University, succeeded in an industry in which most people's interest is cycling, not business.

But Brian Decker, manager of Franklin Street Cycles, said cycling, not profit, is what keeps him here.

"The reason we all do this is because we all enjoy cycling," he said. "If I were in business, I wouldn't be in this business."

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

Leaders coalesce against increase

SBPs to oppose BOG tuition hike

BY CLEVE R. WOOTSON JR.
STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

FAYETTEVILLE — Student body presidents from the state's public universities decided Saturday to take a stand against a systemwide tuition increase.

Most members of the Council of Student Body Presidents of the UNC-system's Association of Student Governments said they could see the efficacy of proposed campus-based tuition increases, but not of an across-the-board hike.

Campus-initiated increases apply only to the university that drafted them and usually are targeted at specific programs or services, while across-the-board increases are adopted by the system's Board of Governors and apply to all N.C. public university students.

ASG President Jonathan Ducote told council members that the BOG probably would be considering a 2 percent to 5 percent systemwide increase at its Feb. 13

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Pharmacy advantages draw many

National shortage drives up perks

BY TORRYE JONES
STAFF WRITER

Ben Smith, a second-year student in UNC's School of Pharmacy, said he isn't too worried about finding a job when he graduates.

For organizations desperately in need, students in Smith's track are needed to replenish the plummeting number of pharmacists in the United States.

The future pharmacists are a highly coveted group who employers now are luring with attractive benefits.

"Retail stores pay a lot of money," Smith said. "They are desperate. Sometimes they'll even give you a company car."

North Carolina in particular shows a greater degree of short-

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Candidates gather needed names

BY MEGAN SEROW
STAFF WRITER

As today's deadline approaches for student body president candidates to gather signatures, most are confident in their returns.

Compared with past elections, this race has not only more candidates, but also a higher number of student signatures needed to run.

Ten candidates are seeking 800 names each, resulting in a total of 8,000 students who must sign a petition for a student body president candidate. Students cannot sign more than one petition.

At least seven candidates said they had met or exceeded the requirement Monday, but some said they still are waiting for the final count from their staff.

Last year, Student Congress enacted the Larson-Daum

Campaign Reform Act, requiring candidates to gather 800 signatures as opposed to the 600 required in previous years. Last February's race was the first to incorporate the act's provisions.

In 2001, the last time 10 candidates participated in the campaign, only seven met the 600 signature requirement.

Candidate Matt Compton said he did see a difference in this year's process compared with his work on prior campaigns. "It was definitely harder than when I worked for Jen Daum, but it's doable for anyone who had a staff and went out and worked hard," he said.

Candidates also faced the challenge of gathering signatures during a holiday weekend, but many said they just got to work early.

"Most people went out strong the first two days," said candidate Lily West. "By Friday, most everyone had signed."

Candidate Laura Thomas said challenges originated from a high signature requirement, not the long weekend.

"It's not the holiday weekend, but the fact that there were 10 candidates with 800 signatures each."

Candidates Matt Calabria and Faudlin Pierre also said they collected the needed signatures in the first couple of days.

Several candidates said they enjoyed the challenge and the opportunity to meet different varieties of students.

"I went to different areas and met different students around campus, people who normally get overlooked," said candidate Ashley Castevens.

Of those with 800 names, most are worried that students might have signed multiple petitions.

"I asked a girl to sign for me, and

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WHAT A RUSH



DTH/GARRETT HALL

Students rush the court after UNC's 86-83 win over No. 1 ranked Connecticut on Saturday night. It was the first time fans rushed the court since last year's win over Duke on March 9. The Smith Center sold out for the game with 21,750 fans in attendance.