

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Batts, prison detainee, shoots self at UNC Hospitals

The state Department of Correction is investigating how a detainee took an officer's gun and shot himself at UNC Hospitals last week.

Jackie Ray Batts Jr., 35, made the suicide attempt Friday, public affairs director Pamela Walker said Wednesday.

Batts was being held at Raleigh's Central Prison for a Johnston County probation violation.

Correction officer Urcia Powell, 30, had escorted Batts to the hospital for treatment. Department spokeswoman Mildred Spearman wouldn't say why Batts was at the hospital, citing patient confidentiality.

Powell was not shot and still is on duty.

Batts was on probation from cases in Harnett and Wake counties for forgery and obtaining property by false pretenses in 2002. He was placed on probation for five years and eight months.

In March, he was charged with felony probation violation for not paying restitution and performing community service, according to court records. He received a 30-day extension to do the community service and was to serve weekends in the Johnston County Jail.

Batts was being held as a "safe-keeper" at Central Prison. County jails sometimes send detainees to Raleigh because jailers feel the person would be safer there than in the county facility.

UNC Hospitals spokesman Tom Hughes said the inmate was in fair condition from the gunshot wound.

Investor backs fellowship for 9 UNC students' travel

With a \$160,000 gift from Jones Apparel Group, nine UNC students will be able to spend six months in China during the next three years. The gift is being divided to fund the nine fellowships, which at \$16,480, allows funds for travel, tuition, housing, board and other related expenses.

The program is aimed at providing students with skills that would help them in seeking post-graduation employment.

"There's a tremendous need in business and government for employees who are proficient in Mandarin Chinese, in particular," Peter Boneparth, a 1980 UNC graduate, and president and chief executive officer of Jones Apparel Group in New York City, said in a press release.

"In addition to the intensive language training, we wanted to combine Carolina's Asian studies curriculum with real-life exposure to the culture and with practical experience in the business world. The Jones Fellows program provides students with opportunities that will open doors for them after graduation."

Students must have taken three semesters of Chinese language and must demonstrate an interest in Asian culture. The first group of Jones Fellows will be announced in the fall.

STATE AND NATION
Insurers lose ability to hurt consumers with questions

RALEIGH — Insurance companies in North Carolina couldn't penalize consumers who ask them questions in a bill given final legislative approval Tuesday in the Senate.

Senators agreed unanimously to the House version of the bill, designed to block insurers from entering inquiries as claims on an insurance database. Those "claims" could lead to rising premiums or terminating existing policies.

The state Insurance Department says the practice is widespread. The company that maintains the insurance database warned insurance companies last year that coverage or deductible questions shouldn't be recorded as claims.

Iraqi government rolls out package of security laws

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The Iraqi government issued a long-anticipated package of security laws Wednesday to help crush insurgents, including a provision allowing interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi to impose martial law.

"The lives of the Iraqi people are in danger, they are in danger from evil forces, from gangs of terrorists," said Human Rights Minister Bakhtiyar Amin, who compared the new law to the USA PATRIOT Act.

The new laws give Allawi the right to impose curfews, to conduct search operations and detain individuals with weapons, once he receives unanimous approval from the Presidential Council. They also give him the right to assign governors, including military leaders, in specific areas.

From staff and wire reports.

Movie theater gets seal of approval

10-screen theater set for Village Plaza

BY JOSEPH R. SCHWARTZ
CITY EDITOR

After months of wrangling, including impassioned pleas and sworn testimony that divided neighboring business owners, Eastern Federal finally has clearance to build a state-of-the-art movie theater at the Village Plaza.

At its June 30 meeting, the

Chapel Hill Town Council gave its endorsement to the project by an 8-1 vote that saw dissent from only Council member Jim Ward.

The group had previously approved a Special Use Permit for the movie theatre on Jan. 27, 2003, but the permit required that Eastern Federal make improvements to driveways located beyond

its property.

Eastern Federal and Steve Ginn, who owns the block of buildings that house Whole Foods along with the parking lot and driveways, were unable to reach an agreement.

The newly adopted resolution allows the theater to be built provided that Eastern Federal pay for an off-duty officer to direct traffic.

The officer will be used on Friday nights for the first six months of the theater's operation.

This stipulation came after Council member Ed Harrison raised concerns about the heavy traffic flow that would attempt to turn onto Franklin Street after movies let out.

Carter Meiselman, president of Eastern Federal, agreed to pay for the officer on an experimental basis.

At the end of the six months, and after a thorough investigation of the traffic flow, the council will decide whether or not to implement a sim-

ilar strategy in the future.

The public hearing saw a unique string of events, ranging from the testimony and cross examination of town traffic engineer Kumar Neppalli by Meiselman and Ginn's attorney's, to inspired debate from plaza area business owners.

Meiselman was first to speak, imploring the council to refrain from further delaying the project.

SEE PLAZA, PAGE 5

RED, WHITE AND BLUE



DTH/GILLIAN BOLSOVER

Three-year-old patriots James and Jeffery Patterson play with the bell from the Durham's original American Tobacco Company Plant at the Horace Williams House, as part of Sunday's July 4 celebrations. The bell, once used to signal a shift switch for workers, traditionally is rung

on the Independence Day. Chapel Hill Preservation Society members dished up ice cream to the sounds of the Village Band on the Horace Williams House lawn between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. The high heat didn't prove prohibitive, as locals turned out to celebrate the holiday from Carrboro to Kenan Stadium.

Sophomore phenom makes waves

Miller struts stuff in summer league

BY BRIAN MACPHERSON
SENIOR WRITER

CHATHAM, Mass. — The fog rolls in quickly from Nantucket Sound, and it doesn't take long for the light haze to create some serious problems in Veterans Field.

Andrew Miller tugs at his red A's cap, worn slightly to the side, and focuses his attention on the batter as the lawn chairs and picnic blankets atop the hill in center field — not to mention the center fielder himself — begin fading from view through the mist.

Jacoby Ellsbury, a sophomore left fielder from Oregon State, has worked the count to 2 and 2. But the last delivery came in at 91 miles per hour, and all he could do was watch it sail through the strike zone.

The professional scouts brandish their radar guns in the bleachers behind home plate.

Just weeks removed from the close of his freshman season at UNC, Miller lifts his right knee above his belt, tucks his chin to his chest and whips his left arm across his body. The 84-mile-per-hour change-up comes in low and inside, and Ellsbury's swing does nothing but disturb the mist. Strike three.

"Ooooh!" one scout whistles. "Thanks for coming!" Miller then blows away sophomore second baseman Chris Lewis with a fastball at 94 miles per hour, and after an infield single, sets down sophomore outfielder Brian Bogusevic with a breaking ball across the outside corner.

As the fog thickens, the pitches only become more difficult to see. Miller's delivery comes from his left hip, shielding the ball from

view as long as possible. And when the ball doesn't materialize from the ever-thickening haze until the last possible moment, the hitters don't stand a chance.

Miller continues to roll, mixing in a sweeping slider and a deceptive change to strike out the side in each of the next four innings. It's an achievement unmatched in the history of the Cape Cod Baseball League, the most prestigious summer baseball league in the country.

But when the conditions deteriorate from unfair to dangerous, the umpires halt the game and Miller's feat goes unrecognized by league statistics.

"If they thought it was maybe a safety problem with the batters not being able to see the ball, then obviously they're making the right call," says Charlie Thoms, general manager of the Chatham A's. "But boy, to erase that one off the books ..."

Thoms and his team on this dreary Friday night, though — there's no reason the young phenom can't do it again.

The road to the Cape

The hype surrounding Andrew Miller arrived on Cape Cod long before Andrew Miller ever did. A top high school pitching prospect in Gainesville, Fla., Miller turned down a third-round contract offer from the Tampa Bay Devil Rays to attend North Carolina.

Several publications speculated that exorbitant bonus demands caused Miller's drop out of the first round, but the lefthander said his decision came down to priorities.

"It wasn't that I didn't feel I was ready to go play pro ball, because I thought I was plenty mature compared to other people they take in,

SEE MILLER, PAGE 5

Management switch works well for shelter

County sees smooth 1st week at helm

BY JOSEPH R. SCHWARTZ
CITY EDITOR

One week into the first change in management of the Orange County Shelter in 25 years, officials said, despite a few glitches, the transition has been a smooth one.

On July 1, the Animal Protection Society was forced to relinquish control of the animal haven to the county.

Joe Pulcinella, who was hired on April 19 by APS and continues to serve as director of the shelter, said so far, any major hang-ups have been avoided.

"It's actually — knock on wood — been going fairly smoothly," he said.

He noted that three months of planning allowed officials to ease a lot of the impact of the handover.

"We were able to really hit the ground running with the purchasing," he said.

In April, county officials estimated that all the purchases would cost about \$107,901 in one-time start-up costs to replace the APS-owned equipment.

The estimate was based on the

cost of replacing computers, dog and cat cages, feeding supplies and other utilities necessary for shelter operation.

At the April 20 meeting, the Orange County Commissioners approved a one-time capital equipment budget for the same amount.

In addition to the startup costs, officials also estimated that running the shelter this year will cost \$695,550.

Although funding hasn't been a problem thus far, replacing the equipment has proven extremely taxing.

Pulcinella said he was searching for the perfect water bowl, one that would not tip over easily.

"We must've gone through about 10 different samples ... we took three or four weeks trying to find the right shape," he said.

"This is a good example of the detail that it takes to rehouse the shelter."

More than just keeping the animals hydrated, letterhead and out-

SEE APS, PAGE 5

Town taps finance director

Interim director receives nod for post

BY JOSEPH R. SCHWARTZ
CITY EDITOR

Kay Johnson, the woman who has been in charge of managing Chapel Hill's \$67 million annual budget for six months, can set up permanent shop in her office.

Johnson was appointed to the post of finance director last Thursday by Town Manager Cal Horton.

She was named interim finance director in December after the November departure of Jim Baker, who had manned the position for more than a decade.

"Kay has earned this position through dedicated service and excellent performance," Horton stated in a press release.

"We are lucky that she has chosen to make a career in town government."

The position, and the numerous duties and responsibilities it entails, serves residents in advisory, technical and managerial capacities.

Johnson is charged with administering all of the financial and budgetary activities for the town.

The position requires that she be able to keep abreast of the frequent changes in the applicable

guidelines.

In addition to advising department heads, elected officials and the town manager about financial matters, the finance director assists with daily accounting transactions and oversees payroll.

Johnson got her feet wet as a member of the town staff working as an accountant in 1992.

She moved on to become accounting services manager in 1995 before being promoted to assistant finance director in 2000.

Johnson was out of the country and could not be reached for comment.

The removal of her interim tag comes just after the July 1 start of the fiscal year — the effective date for the 2003-04 budget.

The annual budget is the means through which the mayor and Town Council allocate the level of town services and funding for capital projects as well as establish town property tax rates and other user fees.

In managing the budget, Johnson will monitor expenditure levels for all town departments and prepare budget revisions as needed.

Another key aspect of the posi-



UM alumna Kay Johnson served as interim finance director after Jim Baker left in November.

tion is taking this information to prepare forecasts for future budgets and management decisions.

Johnson worked previously at Anne Arundel Community College in Arnold, Md. and at the accounting firm of Alexander and Alexander in Towson, also in Maryland.

She was an auditor at Touche Ross in Stockholm, Sweden, and at Devitt and Associates in Columbia, Md.

She received her distinction as a certified public accountant in 1983 and holds a master's degree in finance from the University of Maryland.

In 1998, she received the George C. Franklin Award from the UNC-Chapel Hill Institute of Government, which recognized her as an outstanding student in the municipal administration program.

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.