

POLICE LOG

FROM STAFF REPORTS

■ Chapel Hill police arrested a Durham man at 2:45 a.m. Thursday and charged him with one misdemeanor count of driving while impaired and one misdemeanor count of driving without a valid license, police reports state.

According to reports, Barton Heath Ramsey, 27, was stopped by police after striking a post at the entrance of University Square, at 143 W. Franklin St.

Ramsey blew a .22 on the Intoxilyzer 5000 and was arrested for the listed charges.

Ramsey was released on a written promise to appear March 15 in Orange County District Criminal Court in Hillsborough.

■ Chapel Hill police arrested a local man at 7:15 p.m. Wednesday and charged him with one misdemeanor count of assault on a female and one misdemeanor count of felonious restraint, police reports state.

According to reports, Chay Gomez-Hernandez, 26, was arrested on charges of assaulting his girlfriend during an argument at her apartment.

Reports state that police also arrested the victim and charged her with one misdemeanor count of assault.

The magistrate found no probable cause for her arrest and released her from custody.

Gomez-Hernandez was scheduled to appear Thursday in Orange County District Criminal Court in Hillsborough.

■ Carrboro police responded to a complaint of obtaining property by false pretenses at 10:20 a.m. Wednesday at Tar Heel Tobacco, at 104 N.C. 54 Bypass, police reports state.

Reports state that the subject used a counterfeit \$5 bill to purchase a \$2.75 pack of Marlboro Menthol cigarettes and two 69-cent White Owl cigars.

According to reports, the subject was described as a white woman in her 20s wearing a zippered jacket and sweatpants. The suspect left the store in a white car.

Police entered the bill into evidence.

■ A local man was the victim of larceny and breaking and entering with force from his residence at 1 a.m. Thursday, Chapel Hill police reports state.

Reports state that the suspect entered the residence on Lindsay Street by forcing a plywood panel over a broken back window.

The suspect stole an \$80 Panasonic television and a \$40 radio, reports state.

■ A UNC graduate student was the victim of simple assault at 12:15 a.m. Thursday, Chapel Hill police reports state.

According to reports, the victim was punched by an unknown suspect at the corner of Franklin and Columbia streets. The assault resulted in minor injury.

Town to see brighter center

BY CHRIS CARMICHAEL
STAFF WRITER

In a time when malls are rapidly replacing main streets as city centers, town leaders are betting big that careful redevelopment of parking lots 2 and 5 will keep the community's focus squarely on the downtown area.

"The Town Council has invested a lot of time and energy and (taxpayer) money in trying to continue to invigorate downtown in a way that is consistent with our sense of place. ... That's what we aspire to achieve (in lots 2 and 5)," Mayor Kevin Foy said Thursday.

In support of this effort, Ronald Lee Fleming, renowned urban designer and founder of The Townscape Institute in Cambridge, Mass., was invited to speak to residents at Town Hall on Thursday about the importance of public art and urban design in creating meaningful, vibrant downtowns.

Fleming began by praising Chapel Hill for its progressive policies.

"Here (in Chapel Hill), it is really refreshing to see a foundation for sustainable communities and a commission on public arts that is already thinking outside of the traditional box," Fleming said.

Fleming's presentation used images from around the world to demonstrate methods of connecting a town's diverse population with its urban environment.

He stressed that urban design must be approached from a "holistic" viewpoint, citing examples from "small lovable objects" such as custom drinking fountains and moveable street furniture to large activity centers such as parks.

Fleming said the developments of the last 30 years lack that holistic approach, resulting in boring, inactive city centers.



Ronald Lee Fleming gives a presentation on the role of public art and design in civic urban space Thursday at Chapel Hill Town Hall. The presentation is part of an effort on the development of parking lots 2 and 5.

He proposed using art, urban games, food and landscaping to bring people back together and promote community pride.

He also challenged residents to find innovative uses for transit, noting that a new transit center like the one being considered for construction beneath lot 2 is a logical place for people to congregate.

Fleming's presentation also emphasized ways that cities could exercise more control by regulating design, specifically with regards to building height and historical style.

He proposed ways to fight cor-

porate branding by holding companies to strict design requirements.

Strict design regulations are often at the center of property rights debates because they limit how owners can develop their property. But Fleming said community interest should take priority over individual property claims.

"We have to see it as a collection of rights where we all have responsibility and we all have some impact," he said. "We have to make public policy that adds community value."

Fleming added that public art,

which has been considered a controversial use of tax dollars, is necessary to achieve that value.

"(Public art projects) are not a frill," he said, adding that art can create economic value as well as social value.

Parking lot 2, behind Spanky's restaurant, and parking lot 5, across from University Square, are scheduled to be developed into mixed-use facilities with retail, residential and open space.

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

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Friday, February 11

Soffball
3:30pm - UNC Wilmington
6:00pm - Temple
Soffball Complex

Women's Basketball vs. Virginia Tech
7:00pm - Carmichael Auditorium

Women's Tennis vs. Minnesota
4:00pm - Cone Kenfield Tennis Center

Wrestling vs. Virginia Tech
7:30pm - Felzer Gym A

Saturday, February 12

Men's Lacrosse vs. Virginia Wesleyan (Exhibition)
10am - Henry Stadium

Women's Tennis vs. Kentucky
1:00pm - Cone Kenfield Tennis Center

Soffball
3:30pm - Radford
6:00pm - ETSU
Soffball Complex

Women's Lacrosse vs. England
1:00pm - Finley Field

Sunday, February 13

Women's Lacrosse Exhibition South of the Border Tournament
All Day - Henry Stadium

Soffball vs. Virginia
1:00pm - Soffball Complex

Men's Tennis vs. Purdue
1:00pm - Cone Kenfield Tennis Center

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Schools may cut tech spending

BY HALLEY KUEFFER
STAFF WRITER

The nation's colleges and universities, constrained by tight budgets, appear to be looking at reducing funds for research technology to make ends meet.

College spending on technology

is expected to decline this year by 4 percent nationwide, according to a survey by Market Data Retrieval.

Despite this fact, higher education institutions across the country are expanding their wireless connectivity and course management systems.

The study shows a vast disparity between spending on technology by private and public institutions.

Private schools spend an average of \$553 per student per year on technology, while public universities spend only \$203.

"It is a reflection of economic

times, not necessarily a trend," said Maureen Hance, spokeswoman for Market Data Retrieval. "Private college funding has really increased, and public (funding) has a tight compliance to state budget."

Public institutions nationwide are having to make cuts in funding for technology, but UNC Chancellor James Moeser said in September that staying high-tech will remain a high priority.

"The leading public university must lead in technology," Moeser said in his State of the University address in September 2004.

Moeser went on to add that there will be continued focus on high-speed computing to "help advance the University's mission."

UNC spends an average of \$60 million per year on technology, said Dan Reed, the University's vice chancellor for information technology.

"There are places where UNC does quite well, such as the investment that has been made on the Carolina Computing Initiative," Reed said.

But he added that UNC "historically" has spent little on research computing, programs that allow students to conduct research on campus.

Reed stated that the University is in the process of evaluating which technological services are in need of an upgrade.

"We are looking at the needs of the campus and putting a budget together to support the campus," Reed said.

"Technology does not stay in one place," said Barbara Means, director of the Center for Technology in Learning.

Higher education institutions often cut funding in technology because they can expect less of a backlash than when they make cuts in other areas, Means said.

She said that as public institutions nationwide decrease their funding in technology, they are "borrowing from the future."

Contact the State & National Editor at stntdesk@unc.edu.

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CORRECTION

■ Due to a reporting error, the Feb. 10 article "May's toils fall short for UNC" states that Sean May scored 18 points and 23 rebounds in the Tar Heels' Wednesday loss at Duke.

May, of course, scored 23 points and brought down 18 rebounds.

To report corrections, contact Managing Editor Chris Coletta at cocoletta@email.unc.edu.

The Daily Tar Heel

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