

POLICE LOG

FROM STAFF REPORTS

■ Carrboro police arrested a local man at 2:15 a.m. Wednesday and charged him with one felony count of breaking and entering into a vehicle, one misdemeanor count of larceny and one misdemeanor count of possession of stolen goods, police reports state.

According to reports, Usiel Chapan, 21, was looking into vehicles at the University Lake Apartments on Barnes Street when a complainant heard a window smash and reported him to police.

Reports state that police found Chapan with a stolen CD player, valued at \$200, and 15 stolen CDs that belonged to a UNC Hospitals employee.

Chapan was issued a \$2,000 secured bond and was scheduled to appear Wednesday in Orange County District Criminal Court in Hillsborough.

■ Chapel Hill police arrested a Latta Daycare employee at 4 p.m. Tuesday and charged her with one misdemeanor count of driving with a suspended license, one misdemeanor count of driving without liability insurance and one misdemeanor count of having an expired registration plate, police reports state.

According to reports, Keely Hargraves, 38, was stopped on Airport Road near Timber Hollow Court for having an expired registration plate.

Hargraves is scheduled to appear April 19 in Administrative Traffic Court in Chapel Hill.

■ Chapel Hill police arrested a local man at 3:45 p.m. Tuesday and charged him with one misdemeanor count of shoplifting, police reports state.

According to reports, Michael Atwater, 44, was arrested at Kerr Drug, at 201 S. Estes Drive, after a store employee saw him steal a \$30 Instant Heat Travel hairsetter.

Atwater is scheduled to appear March 28 in Orange County District Criminal Court in Hillsborough.

■ An elderly man was the victim of a breaking and entering at 5 a.m. Tuesday at his Sunset Drive home, Chapel Hill police reports state.

Reports state that the subject entered the residence by removing a side window and stole an Apex DVD player, valued at \$60, and a pillowcase, valued at \$5.

■ An Oleans Home Builders construction site on Springdale Way was the victim of breaking and entering at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Chapel Hill police reports state.

Reports state that the subject used a pry tool to pry off the screen of one of the rear windows of a house under construction, causing \$30 of damage.

Nothing was reported missing.

Panelists eye effects of war

BY DANIEL WILKES
STAFF WRITER

While most Americans watched coverage of Operation Iraqi Freedom on television, unable to fully understand the images, Rebeen Pasha said he realized that every brilliant flash of light meant scores of people were burning alive.

He knew firsthand what he was watching from 14 years of living in the midst of a war zone in Northern Iraq.

Pasha was one of four UNC community members, all of whom lived as noncombatants in places of violent conflict, who spoke Wednesday night about their experience amid brutal conflict. Their countries have been the places of some of the bloodiest ethnic battles of this century: Iraq, Kosovo, Burma and Liberia.

The event, titled "Children of War," marked the beginning of the first inaugural War and Health series.

Pasha, a graduate student who organized the event, modeled the panel after similar events he helped put on as an undergraduate at the University of Virginia.

"The purpose is to communicate the real effect of war on the individual and society from those who have lived through it," he said.

Pasha spoke vividly about those real and heart-breaking effects.

As a young Kurdish boy growing up in Iraq, he witnessed countless atrocities, including the use of chemical weapons and mass genocide.

He told the audience in grave detail about one night before dinner. As his mother was finishing



Xhevahire Hyseni, a fourth-year undergraduate majoring in International Studies, relays her experiences from segregation in Serbia. Hyseni was part of the "Children of War" program Wednesday in Cobb Theatre.

cooking hamburgers and he and his sibling played, someone knocked on the front door. His mother pleaded with his father, a Kurdish intelligence agent, not to answer. He opened the door anyway. After confirming his identity, the men at the door shot him to death "right there in front of us," Pasha said.

Any smiles or laughter audience members had as they walked to the event had changed to somber expressions and hushed tones as participants left the theater. The impact was huge.

"It's really moving," said Kenny Olson, a senior business administration major. "It makes it

hit home. (The panelists) lived through a world none of us can ever completely understand."

Many of the attendants noted that they feel isolated from war.

"I am so American," said Anupa Deshpande, a graduate student in the School of Public Health. "I am blessed, but so removed from the reality of the world I live in. It really infuriates me."

She said Americans have a skewed view of war.

"We're so removed from it that we have the unique and almost elite perspective of removing ourselves from human life to focus on the intellectual and political rea-

sons for conflict."

Meaghan Tracy, refugee services coordinator at the Lutheran Family Services in the Carolinas who facilitated the event, closed by acknowledging that the audience has been "moved to emotion, moved to thought and, hopefully, moved to action."

The event was presented by the Student Global Health Committee of the School of Public Health, Physicians for Human Rights of the School of Medicine and the Campus Y Health Focus.

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

Coalition government stalls

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Talks aimed at forging a coalition government faltered Wednesday over Kurdish demands for more land and concerns that the dominant Shiite alliance seeks to establish an Islamic state, delaying the planned first meeting of Iraq's new parliament.

The snag in negotiations between Shiite and Kurdish leaders came as clashes and two car bombings in Baghdad killed at least 14 Iraqi soldiers and police officers.

The group led by Iraq's most wanted terrorist, Abu-Musab al-Zarqawi, purportedly claimed responsibility for the clashes and at least one of the bombings — as it had for a suicide car bombing Monday that killed 125 people in Hillah.

"The bombings in Hillah and again in Baghdad this morning

are not going to derail the political process that Iraq is embarked upon," National Security Adviser Mouwafak al-Rubaie said Wednesday. "The Iraqi government will go after and hunt down each and every one of these terrorists whether in Iraq or elsewhere."

Shiite and Kurdish leaders, Iraq's new political powers, failed to reach agreement after two days of negotiations, with the clergy-backed candidate for prime minister, Ibrahim al-Jaafari, leaving with only half the deal he needed.

The Shiite-led United Iraqi Alliance, which has 140 seats in the 275-member National Assembly, hopes to win backing from the 75 seats held by Kurdish political parties so it can muster the required two-thirds majority for top posts in the new government.

Commissioners focus on funding

BY CATHERINE SHAROKY
STAFF WRITERS

The Orange County Board of Commissioners made sure its views were in sync Tuesday on its annual list of legislative requests to the N.C. General Assembly — which will be finalized before the two sides meet March 14.

High on the commissioners' priority list is money — how to gather more from taxes and how to secure more from the state to fund county schools and projects.

Two new taxes, on cigarettes and alcohol, would set aside revenue to fund health programs within the industries.

Money from the cigarette tax would go toward the Farmland Preservation Trust Fund and programs aimed at reducing tobacco use. Alcohol tax revenue would help fund mental health and substance-abuse programs.

"I just think the notion that you just raise taxes and throw it into the big pot when you have clear needs ...

"I just think the notion that you just raise taxes and throw it into the big pot ... doesn't make a whole lot of sense."

BARRY JACOBS, COMMISSIONER, ON USING TAX REVENUE FOR SPECIFIC PROGRAMS

doesn't make a whole lot of sense," Commissioner Barry Jacobs said of the idea of taxing such items.

The commissioners also are looking at requests that would improve school funding.

One request, which the commissioners have sought for years, would levy a tax on any property sale, proportional to its value.

The county now taxes all land

equally under an impact fee. Jacobs said the county also would like to look at alternative types of funding such as meal taxes and hotel occupancy taxes, which have not been received well by the assembly in the past.

"The homebuilders own the legislature, and if they don't want (other taxes), they tend to get their way," he said.

A request to change the voting system in the county to guarantee at least one seat from the rural section by creating districts drew criticism from the commissioners.

"It is something that should be better dealt with at the local level and not at the legislature," said Chairman Moses Carey Jr. "At this point, we have a plan for addressing it because the citizens in the rural areas asked us to address it."

He said the commissioners plan to address the issue, which was brought on by a Jan. 24 petition to the board by farmer Bob Strayhorn and now is being written as a bill by Rep. Bill Faison, D-Orange.

Carey said Wednesday that he plans to write Faison to inform him that the commissioners are pursuing the issue by putting it on their regular agenda as a report.

The commissioners also have a request to stop the removal of trees along the interstates, Jacobs said.

"I can testify to how loud it can get and how much of a difference it makes to have some trees," Jacobs said. "It could make a big difference in the quality of life for a lot of people."

The commissioners also took suggestions on its agenda from the public.

Using the hate crime Friday in Chapel Hill as an example, Damon Seils, vice chairman of the Orange County Human Relations Commission, asked the commissioners to encourage the legislature to enact a more comprehensive hate crimes statute that would include sexual orientation.

He also asked the commissioners to oppose the proposed state constitutional amendment to disallow same-sex marriages and unions.

The commissioners added Seils' requests to their agenda for the March 14 meeting.

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

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