

POLICE LOG

FROM STAFF REPORTS

■ Carrboro police arrested a homeless man and woman at 3:45 p.m. Tuesday and charged each with one misdemeanor count of shoplifting, police reports state.

According to reports, Rodney Eugene Jones, 51, and Rita Baldwin, 41, were arrested at the Food Lion at 602 Jones Ferry Road after a store employee saw them hide two bottles of wine in their coats and leave the store.

Reports state that police spotted the individuals leaving and stopped them in the parking lot. Police found one bottle of Taylor's Cream Sherry on Baldwin and another bottle in a trash can at Burger King.

Both are scheduled to appear April 25 in Orange County District Criminal Court in Hillsborough.

■ Carrboro police arrested a local man Tuesday and charged him with one felony count of breaking and entering, one felony count of larceny and two felony counts of possession of stolen goods, police reports state.

According to reports, Jermall Ivyance McNeil, 23, a Target employee, was arrested at the Royal Park Apartments, at 501

N.C. 54 Bypass, on a warrant for the listed charges.

McNeil was issued a \$2,500 secured bond and was scheduled to appear Wednesday in Orange County District Criminal Court in Hillsborough.

■ Chapel Hill police have issued a warrant for a local man involved in an incident of assault on a police officer and resisting arrest, police reports state.

Reports state that at 1 a.m. Wednesday, police stopped a car on Rosemary Street near Columbia Street for having fictitious tags.

When police approached the car, one officer noticed a handgun in the backseat of the car with three individuals, reports state.

When the officer leaned into the car, the driver sped away down Rosemary Street, running several red lights in the process.

Reports state that when police found the car abandoned at 719 E. Rosemary St., officers saw one person running from the vehicle but could not catch him by foot.

Warrants were then issued for the driver, Marlon Rasheem Parker, 25, under the charges of assault on an officer and speeding to elude arrest.

Election plan shows divisions

Rural, urban areas clash over power

BY TED STRONG
ASSISTANT CITY EDITOR

A tiff over how the county elects its leaders has led to another look at the way the rural and urban sectors interact in Orange County.

In an open letter to Rep. Bill Faison, D-Orange, dated March 25, Moses Carey Jr. — chairman of the Orange County Board of Commissioners — condemned the bill Faison introduced earlier this month that could lead to district representation for some Orange County commissioners.

Voters now elect the five commissioners in countywide races. Faison's proposal would increase the board's size to seven and put six of the seats on the ballot in district elections, with one at-large seat.

Chapel Hill, Carrboro and surrounding areas would receive four commissioners. The Hillsborough area would receive one commissioner, as would a district including territory along the county's northern and western edges.

In his letter, Carey states that Faison has "completely disregarded the wishes of our board of commissioners," calls upon Faison to withdraw the bill and announces that he will ask Orange County's other

legislative delegates to "actively work to defeat this bill."

Many in the area have attacked Faison's proposal as political maneuvering, designed to increase the conservative voice on the Board of Commissioners.

All five board members are now Democrats, and it's commonly believed that the heavily left-wing, more populous southern part of Orange County overpowers the rest of the county in elections.

But Faison has countered that the issues at stake are cultural.

"When you get out to the rural part of the county ... the issues are different, the issues are not about urban life," Faison said.

He maintains that his bill would leave the Democratic hold on the board intact. "I think it would be inconsequential," he said.

According to county voter statistics last updated Feb. 10, between 51 and 54 percent of registered voters in each of the proposed districts are registered Democrats.

At the same time, the proposed districts near Hillsborough and along the edges of the county each feature almost 30 percent Republicans, while the more urban area near Chapel Hill has fewer GOP

members. Regardless of what approach is taken, few deny that real differences exist between the urban and rural sectors of the county.

Margaret Cannell, an ex-officio member of the Orange County Economic Development Commission, said the primary economic difference between the county's rural and urban zones is that urban zones have a single, driving economic force in the University.

State government jobs paid 49.7 percent of all 2004 wages in the county, according to county data.

But Cannell said the county's northern and western parts feature a more varied economic base, including agriculture and manufacturing through facilities such as the General Electric site in Mebane.

Faison said that the social difference between country and town is too complex to be neatly summed up, but that views on land use are a representative example.

He said some urbanites think the countryside should be kept open for beautification while living on tiny, densely packed lots themselves.

But this presents an issue for some rural residents, he said, many of whom are land-poor.

"A lot of them (invest in) farms, as distinct from the stock market," he said. "They don't see themselves as a bike path."

Faison's proposal has a long way to go before it becomes law. He said himself that other members of the area's legislative delegation will side with the commissioners — including Rep. Joe Hackney, the powerful House Democratic leader.

Said Hackney on Wednesday, "I am in favor of the county commissioners being given the courtesy of an appropriate time to study the issue."

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

BY THE NUMBERS

53.2

Avg. percent registered Democrats in proposed northern districts

28.9

Avg. percent registered Republicans in proposed northern districts

4

Proposed commissioners from Chapel Hill-Carrboro

40.2

Percent of nonresidential tax base in Hillsborough

SOURCE: ORANGE COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Request for Nominations

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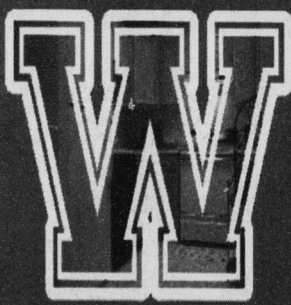
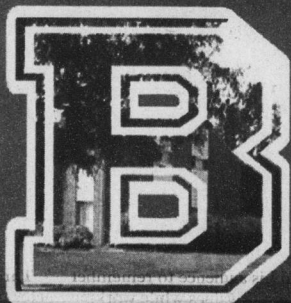
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CORRECTIONS

■ Due to a reporting error, the March 29 article "State lotteries have long, rich history" misquotes Tandi Reddick, media relations manager for the Georgia Lottery, as saying that the lottery has made \$7.2 billion to date.

Reddick actually said the lottery has returned that amount of money to education.

■ Due to an editing error, a file photo that ran with the March 30 article "Fiery offense pounds Winthrop" misidentified the person pictured as No. 34, freshman baseball player Chad Flack.

The photo was taken last year and is of Sammy Hewitt, who wore No. 34 for the Tar Heels then.

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

The Daily Tar Heel

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One copy per person; additional copies may be purchased at The Daily Tar Heel for \$2.5 each.

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