

POLICE LOG

FROM STAFF REPORTS

■ An area homeless man was given a citation at 3:45 p.m. Wednesday for concealing merchandise and shoplifting, Chapel Hill police reports state.

According to reports, John Arthur Holman, 59, was struggling with the manager of the Tarheel Book Store, at 119 E. Franklin St., when officers arrived on the scene.

Holman was attempting to steal \$50 worth of baseball caps from the store, reports state.

Reports state that when police confronted him, Holman said, "I stole the hats, but he got them back."

He is scheduled to have his first appearance May 16 in Orange County District Criminal Court in Hillsborough.

■ A burglary without force occurred at 4:15 a.m. Wednesday at the Chancellor Square apartment complex, at 211 Church St., resulting in the theft of about \$3,000 worth of property, Chapel Hill police reports state.

According to reports, an unknown suspect entered the unlocked apartment and took a camera, laptop, cell phone, two women's wallets and \$160 in cash.

The residents, both University students, were asleep at the time of the entry, reports state.

■ A forceful burglary occurred at 10:15 p.m. Wednesday at 303 Crest Drive, Chapel Hill police reports state.

According to reports, the residence was broken into through a rear door, resulting in \$435 worth of damage.

Although no items were reported stolen, victims in the incident include a UNC junior and a professional in the University's Department of Medicine, reports state.

■ A black 2004 Lincoln Navigator parked at the Royal Park Apartments at 501 N.C. 54 Bypass was reported stolen at 11:30 p.m. Wednesday, Carrboro police reports state.

According to reports, the vehicle was taken sometime between 5 p.m. and the time it was reported stolen.

The vehicle, registered to Positive Image Contractors at 257 Jack Bennett Road in Chapel Hill, was valued at \$45,000.

The victim of the auto theft still has the only key to the vehicle, reports state.

■ A gun was found at 6:40 a.m. in the yard of a University official's home, at 506 E. Rosemary St., Chapel Hill police reports state.

According to reports, the handgun, a .45-caliber pistol, is valued at \$100 by police.

■ A vehicle break-in was reported at 1:42 p.m. Wednesday at the Ridgewood Apartments, at 404 Jones Ferry Road, Carrboro police reports state.

According to reports, an unknown suspect entered a 1994 Mazda Protege and stole about \$375 worth of property, including a car stereo, a Tazmanian Devil watch and a wedding band.

The vehicle was last known to be secure at 10 p.m. Tuesday.

■ A forceful residential break-in and vandalism occurred at 1:42 p.m. Wednesday at 408 Cotton St., Chapel Hill police reports state.

According to reports, an unknown suspect gained entry by breaking a window, but nothing was reported stolen.

The victim, a 34-year-old man, was a resident of side B of the residence, reports state.

University wants more autonomy over funds

BY CATHERINE ROBBIS
STAFF WRITER

As impending state budget cuts threaten the University, officials are working to avoid broad program cuts by improving cost efficiency at UNC.

The solution lies in the state's granting more autonomy to the University, some officials are suggesting.

"I think that while the legislature enjoys their oversight of our financial situation, they can recognize that we can save some money if we are released from some of their oversight," said John Ellison, a member of the University's Board of Trustees.

UNC is facing a potential 4 percent budget cut that, if approved by the N.C. General Assembly in August, would amount to \$16.3 million in campuswide reductions.

Some cost-saving suggestions target changes in personnel hiring, small-scale construction, the commercial paper program and purchasing power of the University.

"We really focused on four areas where, as we looked at the campus's business operations, we thought we could achieve efficiency," said Dwayne Pinkney, assistant vice chancellor for finance and administration. He presented the cost-cutting ideas to the Board of Trustees last week.

One idea is to create a University-operated classification system—rather than deferring to the statewide classification system

—for recruiting and hiring personnel for faculty research teams.

"The University, given its understanding of the market, would have the ability to establish classifications so we can recruit the right people for the right jobs," Pinkney said.

Officials also suggested expediting small construction projects and standardizing some building components.

"It becomes difficult to manage maintenance and repairs when you don't have standard components in your buildings," Pinkney said.

The final two areas concern the University's purchasing power.

"I think there are some instances where we might be able to buy goods and services equally as inexpensively as the state, and possibly even less expensively, but in a much shorter period of time so we can solve problems the University faces," Ellison said.

Officials suggest that fixed costs might be reduced if the University's commercial paper program is expanded to include equipment purchases and small construction projects.

Commercial paper is short-term debt issued in the form of notes and is an alternative to borrowing from banks.

Officials also recommended a procurement card program, managed by the University in a similar method as the state-level program, to speed up small purchases.

The University could save money if the campus had the authority to

execute consulting contracts without state approval, Pinkney said.

"The University understands the business it's in and when it has the need to augment that with contracts," he said.

Judith Wegner, chairwoman of the faculty, questioned whether increased autonomy would help cost efficiency and effectiveness.

"I'd ask myself, 'Is eliminating a further review going to give you enough assurance that cost would be reduced?'" Wegner said.

Wegner and Ellison both expressed a desire for more evidence that the proposals would foster efficiency.

"I think we need to take the work a step further so that we can identify in even greater detail the potential of these savings," Ellison said. "If we do a great job of presenting potential benefits, I think the legislature will be reasonable in their response."

Wegner recommended soliciting ideas from faculty and staff within the University to find more ways to save costs off the overall budget.

"I would like to see a means by which people on the ground could be asked, invited and encouraged to identify ways you might be able to save money," she said.

Ellison also expressed this idea, saying that the faculty and staff are the people who "know where we are making the biggest mistakes."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

Forum fosters arts dialogue

BY ANDREW CHAN
STAFF WRITER

Despite the wealth of events and performances the University's arts community develops each year, many students have voiced concerns for the future of the arts on campus.

The first meeting of a new student arts forum was held in Hill Hall on Thursday, and more than 20 representatives from student arts and cultural groups came to address the challenges they face and to prepare for the September reopening of Memorial Hall.

The theater, which will seat more than 1,500, was originally slated for completion in 2004. It should be finished in May, and a formal opening ceremony is scheduled to take place in September.

The arts advocacy committee of student government helped organize the meeting with Executive Director for the Arts Emil Kang, who has been working to foster communication with students since he arrived at the University in January.

Among the issues students



Executive Director for the Arts Emil Kang wants to foster communication with students at UNC.

Casey Molino Dunn, chairman for the arts advocacy committee of student government, spoke about the role of arts coverage in The Daily Tar Heel, which he criticized for being too scarce.

Students involved with the performing arts often are busy with rehearsals, which has been an obstacle in maintaining relationships among arts groups, said Molly Stapleton, who is a member of the arts advocacy committee.

One student expressed his worry that regular forum meetings would only add to the demands of artists' full schedules.

Campus leaders who attended the forum included Student Body President Matt Calabria, Union Director Don Luse and soon-to-be Student Body Vice President Adrian Johnston, who said it was the job of student government to help facilitate arts dialogue at the University. "Student government wants to catalyze a culture of the arts," he said.

Kang and Dunn said dialogue needs to continue in order for the community to progress, increase its visibility and be viewed as a cohesive whole.

"I was brought here to bring the arts together, including faculty, students and staff," Kang said.

"I envision the arts becoming an important component in the future of the University. We must work on developing a brand for the performing arts at the University that can compete with our athletic brand."

Contact the A&E Editor at artsdesk@unc.edu.

State plays up devotion to military

BY KRISTIN PRATT
STAFF WRITER

State officials are optimistic about escaping potential cuts when the federal government reveals the latest round of military base closings in May.

Still, they are working to show the military's importance to the state.

"Everyone is watching this carefully," said Leigh McNairy, special assistant for military affairs to N.C. Lt. Gov. Beverly Perdue.

McNairy said the Pentagon's Base Realignment and Closure program is an "internally controlled process," making it difficult to know which bases are at risk, especially since the list will not be out for another month.

"All military bases are treated equally based on the rules and regulations of the Base Realignment and Closing legislation," said Cheryl Irwin, spokeswoman for the U.S. Department of Defense.

President Bush named nine members to the BRAC Commission, which is in charge of looking at the Pentagon's recommendations for

base realignment or closing and deciding how to handle each case.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld will release those recommendations May 16, allowing time for review by the commission, and Bush has until Sept. 23 to act on the suggestions.

"I cannot overemphasize the importance of BRAC 2005," Rumsfeld said in a memorandum written Nov. 15, 2002. "I am confident we can produce BRAC recommendations that will advance transformation, combat effectiveness and the efficient use of (taxpayers') money."

McNairy said Rumsfeld originally planned to cut 23 percent of bases but recently changed that number to 18 percent.

"It's hard to predict what's going to happen," said Lew Borman, communications director for Perdue. "We've done everything possible to get the message out in a loud, clear and coordinated way (that we want the bases to remain)."

State legislators are working to show their strong support of the military with the 2005 Military Support Act, a legislation package promoted by Perdue, Borman said. A slew of bills awaiting action in the state legislature would provide benefits to servicemen and their families, from tax breaks to reduced college tuition rates.

"It's important to demonstrate we are trying to hold the military in as high a regard as we can," said Rep. Louis Pate, R-Wayne.

Officials also stressed the huge economic impact of the military's presence in North Carolina.

Military facilities have an annual economic impact of \$18.1 billion in North Carolina, Borman said.

"These bases are a major player in the defense of the nation. But there's also the economic value of the bases," McNairy said. "Seventy-seven counties out of 100 have business contracts with the military."

"If one base is on the list, it will be quite devastating," Pate said.

Borman said the economic impact of the bases and the desire to keep them in North Carolina is reflected in a billboard campaign sponsored by N.C. banks and the Outdoor Advertising Association.

The billboards, posted along highways throughout the state, read, "North Carolina: the nation's most military-friendly state."

"We're waiting and monitoring the process closely," Borman said. "We're confident that North Carolina will do well in the process based on our merit."

"We are a strong, consistent supporter of the military and military families."

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The Daily Tar Heel

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