

'After Chill' remains cool

Added security eases safety concerns

BY MEREDITH LEE MILLER
ASSISTANT CITY EDITOR

Amid rumors of gang activity and a past speckled with violent disputes, police took extra precautions to ensure that Sunday's 34th annual Apple Chill festival was safe.

Officials were relieved by the lack of violence reported this year.

Extra police forces were on hand to patrol Franklin Street on Sunday for the festival and the unofficial "After Chill" celebration that followed, which has been under scrutiny because of some violent incidents in the past.

Last year, there were two stabbings after the festival at the Local 506 bar. But that year still saw less violence than what was reported the year before.

In 2003, there were 12 fights, according to Chapel Hill police reports. A shootout occurred after the festival in 1993.

This year's Apple Chill turned out to be a much quieter affair.

One arrest was made for disorderly conduct, according to Chapel Hill police reports.

"Typically, there has not been a huge amount of violence at any 'After Chill,'" said Chapel Hill police Chief Gregg Jarvies.

"It was a relatively uneventful event," he said of this year's festival, adding that officers only had to break up a few minor scuffles.

"Nothing major occurred."

Police heard rumors about potential gang activity in the days before the festival. Chapel Hill police enlisted the help of officers from the Durham Police Department's gang unit to monitor the event.

"We've done some training on what to look for, various signs, colors," said Maj. Tony Oakley, of the Chapel Hill police.

Officers paid close attention to large groups of individuals wearing similar colors, which might suggest gang involvement, and to groups that were taunting each other, Jarvies said.

There were two incidents of "crowd rushing," in which a mass group of people begins running in a set direction because of a noise, he said. One of these incidents

occurred when people mistook a motorcycle backfire for gunshots.

But overall, police saw only minor problems and cleared the street at 12:15 a.m., Jarvies said.

"We're glad that nothing did happen at the event," said Sonya Reddick Shaw, programming and marketing supervisor for the town Parks and Recreation Department.

She said 55,000 people attended the festival, a number that exceeded expectations.

"I'm sure people came down to do what they intended to do, which was enjoy themselves," Shaw said.

Chapel Hill Special Events Officer Phil Smith said Thursday that there were 140 officers set to patrol the streets — an increase of about 25 officers compared to last year.

Oakley said about 100 officers stayed at the West end of Franklin Street throughout the day, a place that was a problem area in past "After Chill" events.

"But the majority of folks that go there go to socialize," he said. "Not to make problems."

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

POLICE LOG

FROM STAFF REPORTS

■ Chapel Hill police arrested a Yanceyville man at 4 p.m. Sunday and charged him with one felony count of first-degree rape, one felony count of strangulation, one misdemeanor count of assault on a female and one misdemeanor count of possession of a concealed weapon in the presence of a minor, police reports state.

According to Chapel Hill police spokeswoman Jane Cousins, Dominique Tucker, 21, was involved in a domestic dispute on South Estes Drive at the victim's residence.

Tucker was arrested after police responded to a rape and assault complaint from the victim, a woman who Tucker knows.

He was not issued a bond, and he is scheduled to appear Sunday in Orange County District Criminal Court in Hillsborough.

■ A Carrboro man was the victim of breaking and entering and larceny at 10 p.m. Sunday, police reports state.

Reports state that a subject entered the victim's residence at Royal Park Apartments, located at N.C. 54 Bypass, by kicking in the front door.

The subject stole a \$2,000 Lucian Piccard watch and a DVD valued at \$20, according to reports.

Reports state that police were unable to obtain fingerprints from the residence, but the victim told officers he thought the suspect could be a man who lives nearby.

■ Chapel Hill police arrested a local man at 8:40 p.m. Sunday and charged him with one misdemeanor count of possession of marijuana and one misdemeanor count of possession of an open beverage container, police reports state.

According to reports, Chasney Rydell Jennings, 28, was sitting in the right rear of a vehicle that police stopped for driving off without paying for gas on Airport Road at Estes Drive.

Reports state that when police approached the vehicle, they detected a strong odor of marijuana coming from the vehicle and found a 12-ounce can of Ice House beer sitting in the right rear floorboard.

A K-9 search of the car found a "baggy" under the backseat containing 12.5 grams of marijuana.

Jennings was issued a written promise to appear June 21 in Orange County District Criminal

Court in Hillsborough.

■ Chapel Hill police arrested a local man at 7:45 p.m. Sunday and charged him with one misdemeanor count of driving while intoxicated, reports state.

According to police reports, Claybon Lewis Atwater, 22, was arrested on Crest Street after being involved in an accident and performed poorly on field sobriety tests.

Reports state that Atwater recorded a .14 blood alcohol content reading on the Intoxilyzer 5000.

Police seized his grey 1996 Chevy Caprice because his license already was suspended for a previous charge of driving while intoxicated.

Atwater was issued a written promise to appear Thursday at Orange County District Criminal Court in Hillsborough.

■ Chapel Hill police arrested a local man at 3 a.m. Monday and charged him with one felony count of strangulation, one misdemeanor count of assault on a female and one misdemeanor count of driving without a license, police reports state.

Reports state that Michael Antonio Baldwin, 22, was stopped by police after his girlfriend reported he took her car from her residence at Williams Circle near Barclay Road without permission.

After further investigation with the girlfriend, police charged Baldwin with strangulation after she said Baldwin had strangled her before stealing the car.

Baldwin is scheduled to appear May 23 in Orange County District Criminal Court in Hillsborough.

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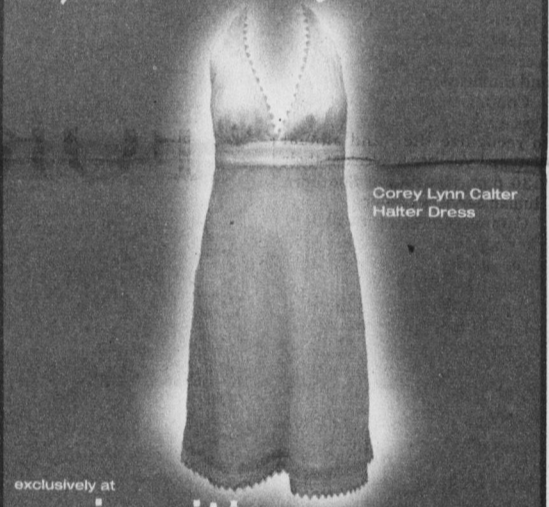
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