

POLICE LOG

FROM STAFF REPORTS

■ An 80-year-old Chapel Hill resident reported Monday that a window at his Crest Street home had been shot out, Chapel Hill police reports state.

According to reports, the man reported the broken window frame, valued at \$150, about 12:03 p.m.

Police have not determined what type of firearm was used in the incident and still are investigating.

■ An unknown person is wanted for disturbing the peace around 7 p.m. Monday off Whitaker Street, Chapel Hill police reports state.

According to reports, the person began fighting with another individual and pulled out a shotgun. The type of shotgun is unknown, but ammunition for a 12-gauge firearm was found.

Police are continuing to investigate the incident.

■ A 66-year-old Chapel Hill woman was the victim of larceny and breaking and entering from her home off Hillview Drive on Monday night, Chapel Hill police reports state.

According to reports, someone broke the window pane in the victim's front door to gain entry before 10:39 p.m. The perpetrator took about \$200 in costume jewelry in the incident.

■ An unattended purse belonging to an area woman was taken from the Fordham Boulevard Holiday Inn on Sunday morning, Chapel Hill police reports state.

According to reports, the purse was taken sometime before 2:12 a.m. from the hotel, at 1301 N.

Fordham Blvd.

The contents of the purse were valued at more than \$100, reports state.

■ An employee of Carolina Cleaners was arrested Tuesday on one count each of driving while impaired and speeding, both misdemeanors, Chapel Hill police reports state.

According to reports, David Reid Perry, 33, of 904 Mineral Springs Road in Durham, was charged with both counts after officers caught him speeding around Fordham Boulevard.

His blood-alcohol content was measured at .08 percent, reports state.

He was released on a written promise to appear June 7 in Administrative Traffic Court in Chapel Hill.

■ A breaking and entering and larceny from a vehicle were reported Monday morning at 103 Stephens St., Chapel Hill police reports state.

According to reports, an unattended 2001 Chevy Tahoe was broken into without force.

A \$200 iPod, \$15 Dave Matthews Band CD, \$15 Jack Johnson CD and \$10 in coins were taken in the incident, reports state.

■ A robbery was reported Tuesday morning at 143 W. Franklin St., Chapel Hill police reports state.

According to reports, a 43-year-old man told police that someone tried to take his wallet and then assaulted him.

Police are investigating.

Familiar faces fill Bavarian bunker

BY ELANA JONES
STAFF WRITER

"Rathskeller" was traditionally the basement of the town hall in every town in Germany and Austria, and in 1948, Franklin Street received its own version in the form of a dark, cavernous eatery.

When the Danzigers, a family of Austrian immigrants, moved to Chapel Hill, they brought the tradition with them and created the Ramshead Rathskeller.

"Now, it's as much a part of Chapel Hill and UNC as the Bell Tower or the Dean Dome," said Carter Honeycutt, the restaurant's manager.

Erwin Danziger was a pastry chef, and the family originally owned the Old World Gift Shop, situated above the basement where the restaurant resides.

The transition from gift shop to restaurant was natural, said Ian Scott, a bartender and occasional manager at the Rathskeller. "They served coffee and apple pie to the students who would study there. Eventually, they opened a restaurant in the basement."

Eugene "Pop" Lyons, a server at "The Rat," as it is often called, has been there since 1963. "You meet a lot of different people here," he said. "But the employees, the atmosphere — it's just like family here." Because of the Danzigers'

Austrian heritage, The Rat features traditional German decor, with dark wood paneling and barrel heads.

Each of the rooms of the restaurant is named — the Train Room, the Cave Room, the Circus Room, the Coop — for its unique decor or function. The Circus Room traces the Danzigers' flight from Austria to Chapel Hill. The Coop was historically the room from which fried chicken was sold to waiting students in the alleyway on game days.

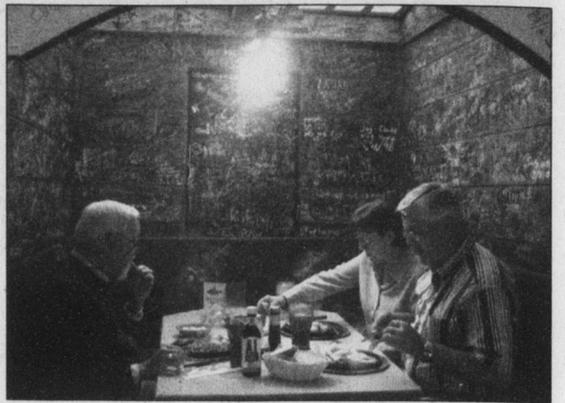
In the bar, students have marked the walls as their own. There are many jubilant scrawlings commemorating the NCAA men's basketball championships in 1982, 1993 and 2005. Several make unflattering references to nearby rival Duke University.

"On game days, we're just mobbed," Scott said. "Football games, basketball games ... it's a lot of the alumni who come back, and they want to visit the restaurant they ate at when they were students."

Scott said he thinks it's the tradition of the establishment that keeps people coming to The Rat long after graduation. "They come back to see our old servers, like Pop and Linwood and Davis and Mitch, who have worked here for 30 or 40 years," he said.

These waiters, and others who have since retired, are celebrated with caricatures on one wall.

Pop also said people return because of the history. "It started off, college kids would come here, but then they come back, and they bring their kids, and then they bring their kids," he said.



DTH/ALEX MONTEALEGRE
University alumni Buddy Hollind (left) and Dee and Wayne Parrish eat Tuesday night at the Ramshead Rathskeller, a longtime local favorite.

Fred Hayes, a retired mechanic from Hillsborough, estimated that he has been coming to The Rat about once a week for 30 years.

"It feels like home," Hayes said. "You generate friends, you get to know the staff, and it's always the same."

Hayes said he often orders the specials for which the restaurant is known — lasagna, gambler's steak, or rare roast beef sandwiches.

The restaurant is also known for its Hot Apple Pie Louise, named after Louise Headen, who made the pies for The Rat longer than

anyone can remember, Pop said.

The Danzigers also owned the Ranch House, on Airport Road, and the Zoom Zoom Room, once located across from Spanky's, but only The Rat has survived, perhaps because of its central location.

"It's an interesting setting, being a small business on Franklin Street," Scott said. "We all try to help each other out. It's a very cooperative atmosphere, and you can always get help."

Contact the Features Editor at features@unc.edu.

CORRECTION

■ Due to a reporting error, the April 26 article "Officials: 4 cases are a coincidence" states that Student Health Service is providing the meningitis vaccine for free. It is not.

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

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