

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Two larcenies reported at Chancellor Moeser's home

Two larcenies occurred around 5:45 p.m. Friday and around 9:45 a.m. Monday, respectively, at the Chancellor James Moeser residence outbuildings, 1001 Raleigh Road, University police reports state.

According to reports, \$155 in flower bulbs was taken from the gardener's outbuilding by the side parking lot Friday. The outbuildings were left unsecured over the weekend, reports state.

University police responded Monday after \$130 in chlorine sticks — used for swimming pools — was taken from the pool-side building that houses storage and the wet bar area, reports state.

The police have no suspects.

Tree limb causes damages to a UNC employee's car

A UNC Steele Building employee reported that a tree limb fell on his car Friday at 4:10 p.m. Forest Theatre Parking Lot, prohibiting him from exiting the lot, reports state.

Troy Allen Link, 33, of 412 Monticello Avenue in Durham, stated that he had to remove the limb from his car in order to leave, according to reports. Damages to his 2005 gray Honda Civic were on the right side, front and rear of the car, reports state. Damages are valued at \$400, reports state.

Chemistry professor elected fellow of UK Royal Society

Roger Miller, a professor in the chemistry department, was recently elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society in the United Kingdom.

Election to the society is one of the premier honors in the scientific field. Members include Sir Isaac Newton, Albert Einstein and Stephen Hawking.

For the full story check online at www.dthonline.com

CITY BRIEFS

Orange County to purchase, preserve 8 acres from Duke

The Orange County Board of Commissioners approved a plan to buy eight acres of land from Duke University at \$72,000 on Tuesday.

The triangle-shaped area at the southwest corner of Erwin and Pickett roads will be incorporated into the future New Hope Preserve, which stretches from Duke Forest to Jordan Lake.

The county had been planning to acquire the land since 1992, when it was identified as part of the county's New Hope Corridor Master Plan.

The land, also known as the "Hollow Rock Trailhead," is adjacent to the Erwin Trace, property which four local municipalities recently chipped in to buy for conservation.

ARTS BRIEFS

Musical based on novella by local author wins five Tonys

"The Light in the Piazza," a musical based on the 1960 novella by Chapel Hill resident Elizabeth Spencer, was an early winner at Sunday's Tony Awards. The musical picked up five prizes, including best original score.

"The Light in the Piazza's" awards included best costume design in a musical, best scenic design of a musical, best lighting design of a musical and best orchestrations. Chapel Hill resident Elizabeth Spencer's 1960 novella, "The Light in the Piazza," is gaining new recognition as a Broadway musical.

Mike Nichols won best director of a musical for "Monty Python's Spamalot."

SPORTS BRIEFS

Chancellor Moeser selected for a new NCAA task force

UNC Chancellor James Moeser has been selected by the NCAA as a member of the new task force that will explore the future of college sports.

The Presidential Task Force on the Future of Division I Intercollegiate Athletics is composed of presidents and chancellors from across the nation. It will address current challenges facing collegiate athletics.

The task force is divided into four subcommittees: implications of academic values and standards; fiscal responsibility; presidential leadership of internal and external constituencies; and student-athlete well-being. Moeser will sit on the fiscal responsibility subcommittee.

The presidential task force will meet for the first time June 10 to 11 in Tucson, Ariz.

Moeser, who became chancellor at Carolina in 2000, is a member of the NCAA's CEO Group of Six, made up of leaders from each of the major athletic conferences and focused on issues relating to college athletics.

—From staff and wire reports.

Alumnus assaulted on Church St.

Claims he was victim of a hate crime

BY JOSEPH R. SCHWARTZ
UNIVERSITY EDITOR

Unidentified men armed with 5-foot-long metal poles assaulted a recent UNC graduate on May 27 in a Church Street parking lot.

Chetah Shah, 22, and his friend were walking to their car around 2 a.m. after a night at Top of the Hill Restaurant & Brewery when

he was ambushed.

Shah, who is half Indian and half white, said he suspects the incident may have been racially motivated.

Although the attackers didn't use any racial epithets, Shah said the fact that his friend who is white was not targeted makes him suspicious.

"My initial reaction was (that it

was a hate crime)," he said. "That's my gut feeling, but I can't be certain."

Shah sustained multiple bruises after he was struck on his legs and arms. He fractured his thumb in three places when he blocked a blow to his head.

Police are still investigating the case and no arrests have been made. Chapel Hill Police spokeswoman Jane Cousins stressed that because witnesses and police have

been unable to determine a motive, they aren't classifying the event as a hate crime.

"Nothing that was said that night indicated that this assault was racially motivated," she said.

But she did say that if they capture suspects, obviously they will question them about their motives.

Shah and his friend did not know the attackers.

The primary assailant is

described as a white male, 6 feet tall, 180 to 190 pounds with short light brown hair and some facial hair.

Shah said the incident was unprovoked and took him by complete surprise.

"A guy came and hit me in the shoulder," he said "I didn't see it coming."

Shah, who is from Charlotte,

SEE ASSAULT, PAGE 7



A student at Carrboro Elementary School dashes to the bus Monday afternoon after a long day at school. Chapel Hill-Carrboro city schools will close their doors for the summer on Friday, June 9th. Officials plan to spend the summer discussing new initiatives and programs.

DTH/NATALIE ROSS

State GOP leaders cry foul

Claim their bills were neglected

BY LINDSAY MICHEL
STAFF WRITER

Recent actions taken by N.C. Democrats in the General Assembly have Republican leaders claiming that their legislation has been blatantly ignored by members of the state's majority party.

Ferrell Blount, the N.C. Republican Party Chairman, held a press conference with other GOP leaders Tuesday in an attempt to bring these concerns to the public.

"This legislation is important to North Carolinians and should receive an up-or-down vote," he told a press room packed with fellow GOP leaders and members of the media.

"When there's good common sense legislation in the (N.C.) House (of Representatives) ... let's just have a vote."

Last Thursday served as the deadline for legislation to be passed in either the N.C. Senate or House.

It also marked the end of crossover week and the deadline for any legislation that leaders hoped to pass during regular session.

Bills are presented and voted on at rapid-fire pace, and if a piece of legislation does not pass through either body, it cannot be reconsidered for two years unless a financial stipulation allows it to be presented during budget hearings.

Among those bills Blount said were ignored last week are an amendment to the Defense of Marriage Act, the Woman's Right to Know Act and a bill called Legislation Protecting North Carolina Taxpayers.

"The legislation we list is important to the defense of North Carolina's traditional values, has broad-based support and is largely being ignored by the Democrat leadership," he said.

"The crossover deadline is set by the Democrat leadership, and they are willing to bend the rules to suit their own interests. Now is the time for the Democrat leadership to bend the rules for the people of North Carolina."

But majority leaders said Republican legislators simply are

SEE REPUBLICANS, PAGE 7

SCHOOL'S OUT FOR SUMMER

OFFICIALS PLAN TO WORK ON NEW POLICIES, PROGRAMS

BY BRIANNA BISHOP
CITY EDITOR

On Friday afternoon, final bells will ring at schools across Chapel Hill and Carrboro, and another summer will begin for area students.

While students and teachers have been working hard in the classroom, officials in both the Orange County and Chapel Hill-Carrboro City school districts have also been working to implement new policies and continue pursuing ongoing initiatives.

"It has been a whirlwind," said county schools spokeswoman Anne D'Annunzio. "We have gotten quite a bit done, and we feel quite good about it."

Collaboration talks between the two school systems have taken off this year with the establishment of a middle college program at Durham Technical Community College.

The program will begin in the fall with a total of 100 students from both local districts and Durham Public Schools.

Members of the two school boards met jointly this year to discuss ways they might collaborate — a response to County Commissioner Moses Carey Jr.'s proposal to merge the two districts in an attempt to address funding inequities.

A study from the UNC School of Education that was released in the spring confirms the existing notion that due to a special district tax generating more than \$13 million, city schools have an edge over county schools in resources such as social workers.

Another initiative among both districts has been to improve the area high schools.

"Those things are just beginning and should show real dividends in the years to come and provide our kids with intriguing options for completing their high school education," city schools spokeswoman Kim Hoke said.

For the county schools, the discussion is just getting underway, but for city schools, talks about high school reform during the school year sparked heated debate.

The city school board passed in December block scheduling, which is an initiative of high school reform that likely will be implemented in fall 2006.

The hybrid schedule is composed of seven 50-minute periods, which can be combined to form 100-minute periods lasting for a semester or the entire year.

The policy caused debate before it passed, and since the decision, many students and teachers alike have voiced opposition.

"I think we're on our way to resolving that issue," said Neil Pedersen, superintendent of Chapel Hill-Carrboro schools.

While summer might mean a break from homework for students, district staff will still be hard at work resolving other issues.

"Right now we're in the throes of the budget process; that's really kind of all-consuming at the moment," D'Annunzio said.

Concerns over the Orange County Board of Commissioners fully funding the schools' budgets has recently sparked a new round of discussion among area parents.

County Manager John Link has proposed a \$95 increase in per-pupil funding for both districts, which is substantially lower than the amount they requested.

In fear of cuts at both the local and state level, city schools officials have drafted a list of possible cuts in case funding needs aren't met. The list includes teacher assistants and after-school programs for middle schools.

"Every year presents its challenges," Pedersen said. "This year was no exception."

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

Lawmakers see budget delays Legislators discuss revising zoning laws

Legislators cite economic woes

BY WHITNEY ISENHOWER
STAFF WRITER

A slow-moving budget in the N.C. House could complicate funds statewide.

Officials were hopeful that the budget would come out this week, but some N.C. House members now say the budget might not be coming out until late June.

The final budget for 2004, proposed by the House, was enacted July 20.

The Senate budget was released May 5, and a final budget can't be selected until the House's proposal is also released.

Many said the state's continuing economy problems fuel the delay in planning the budget.

"This is my fifth budget year and we've always had deficits to deal with," said UNC Provost Robert Shelton. "There is a deficit between the core income and core needs, and they're having to wrestle with that."

Shelton said money for faculty salaries is UNC's main concern.

But some legislators said the budget process is no different from

the past few years.

"I don't think anything odd has occurred here," said Rep. Margaret Dickson, D-Cumberland. "I don't really know that it's on a delay."

Dickson said she expected the House budget to be completed in June.

But other representatives said they see a significant difference in this year's budget timeline.

Rep. Dewey Hill, D-Brunswick, vice chairman of the finance committee, said he expects a delayed budget.

"Last year, we had a coalition that was working real close together," he said. "It was a bipartisan commission. Everything moved along just fine. I don't think we have quite that coalition this year."

But an efficient, well-planned budget could better meet the needs of state universities and governments than a quickly, poorly outlined financial plan, said Ed Broadwell, a member of the UNC Board of Governors.

He said if the system could receive the proper funds, then it wouldn't matter when the budget was finalized.

"I suppose if both the House and Senate had passed the education forum and it was fully funded,

"When you don't have enough money to take care of general needs, it takes a lot of discussion."

ROBERT SHELTON, UNC PROVOST

I would be happy with that no matter when it arrived."

But universities and town governments still will have to adopt a plan if the budget isn't enacted until after their deadlines.

"We have to pass our budget by the end of June," said Orange County Commissioner Alice Gordon. "We'll have to do our best without their bidding."

Many agree the state's reeling economy is the ultimate problem.

"When you don't have enough money to take care of general needs, it takes a lot of discussion and a lot of trading," Shelton said.

The House finance committee passed a revenue package Tuesday that could help move the budget along.

"That's the first big step," said Rep. Paul Luebke, D-Durham, chairman

SEE BUDGET, PAGE 7

Legislators discuss revising zoning laws

BY ERIN FRANCE
STAFF WRITER

Lawmakers are in the midst of repealing a law that gives local government some control of state-owned land, presenting possible repercussions in town-gown relations across the state.

The bill was passed by the N.C. Senate during crossover week as members tried to push their bills to the next chamber.

It was sponsored by Sen. Fletcher Hartsell, R-Cabarrus, and passed the Senate 44-6.

The bill would repeal legislation that gave municipal planners jurisdiction of state land permitted overlay and special use districts on state land without the approval of the council of state.

The repeal came as officials of the UNC-system worried how the bill would affect their holdings, said Sen. Daniel Clodfelter, D-Mecklenburg. "The bill has little to do with the University," he said. "This is one example of the university's myopia."

The bill was created in response to an incident in Rocky Mount where the local government wanted to stop the state from building

a parking lot, he said.

But Clodfelter said the current law was not made to stifle university growth.

"I think it is a very good case of the university crying wolf," he said.

Local governments currently have limited power over state buildings that must adhere to town ordinances.

Although municipalities have some limited powers over state owned land for the moment, Hartsell's measure will likely become law, Clodfelter said.

The repeal would enable the state, including the universities, to use property other than buildings without local government oversight.

Clodfelter said following local zoning and design regulations will ensure that developers work with the community.

Clodfelter affixed the provision to the 2005 technical corrections bill.

"It's been a real education to see how self-fixated some people are."

Hannah Gage, a member of the UNC-system Board of Governors, said the subject was not top prior-

SEE ZONING, PAGE 7