

# Police look for answers in vandalism incidents

Thurs., Fri., see eight cars affected

BY ALLISON MILLER  
STAFF WRITER

A perennial safety issue in Chapel Hill arose again Friday, when police announced that a string of cars have been reported as vandalized.

On Thursday and Friday, Chapel Hill police officers found eight vehicles with broken windows, seven with at least one tire punctured and two cars with both broken windows and punctured tires, according to police reports.

The incidents primarily have been confined to northern Chapel Hill, in the areas near the north end of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

Jane Cousins, the department's spokeswoman, said nothing has been stolen out of the cars that have been vandalized, adding that vandalism happens more often in college towns than other places.

"It's gone on in Chapel Hill for years," she said.

A press release from the department also noted that numerous car windows in the area have been broken with rocks and BBs in recent months.

Art Englehardt, an officer with the community services division of the department, stressed the importance of educating citizens in order to prevent car vandalism.

"We try to educate the people not to leave things in the car, keep the car locked," Englehardt said.

He also said that individuals should park in well-lit areas and avoid parking in the street when possible.

Englehardt also warned against leaving excessive amounts of valuables in unguarded vehicles, including car stereo systems.

"You're talking a lot of money," Englehardt said.

He also said that even visible loose change left in cars can cause problems.

"Thirty cents — that's thirty cents more than they have," he said.

Cousins said police believe some but not all of the instances of vandalism are related.

With no suspects at this time, police are looking to the community for help.

Police are talking to resource officers at local middle and high schools and have contacted area community watch groups to get information about potential suspects.

In addition to talking with residents, police are on the lookout for the vandals. Police may increase patrols in areas where vandalism occurs frequently, Englehardt said.

"We're doing patrols with marked and unmarked cars," Cousins said.

Cousins added that all of the officers in the department are involved in the case.

"Everyone is playing a role," she said.

Police urge anyone with information regarding these incidents to contact them at 968-2760.

Contact the City Editor  
at [citydesk@unc.edu](mailto:citydesk@unc.edu).

# Bush ratings continue to fall

Katrina response, Iraqi war cited

BY ALEXANDER HAL TILEMANN  
STAFF WRITER

President Bush received the highest disapproval rating of his presidency earlier this month, with 58 percent of respondents saying they don't approve of the way he is handling his job.

According to a USA Today/CNN/Gallup Poll, conducted from Sept. 16 to Sept. 18, Bush's disapproval rating moved 2 points above the previous August high of 56 percent.

Casey Dominguez, professor of political science at the University of San Diego, said the public is reacting to both Bush's handling of the federal response to Hurricane Katrina and the ongoing war in Iraq.

"Forty percent is real low, historically speaking," she said, adding that Bush's numbers could rise if attention shifts to new issues.

But opponents of the administration's Iraq policy are working to keep that issue front and center.

At least 100,000 anti-war protesters gathered in Washington, D.C., on Saturday to voice their opposition to the Iraq war.

William Leuchtenburg, professor emeritus of history at UNC, said the Washington protest probably will not have a lasting effect on public opinion or approval ratings, unless it causes additional demonstrations. "It is important only if it is a harbinger of more and larger protests to come."

The protest in Washington might have at least some constraining effect on the White House, said Michael Hunt, professor of history at UNC.

Though public demonstrations against the Iraq war have not approached the scale of those during Vietnam, they still serve as a reminder to political leaders, he said.

Many prominent Democratic politicians have made comparisons between the ongoing conflict in Iraq and the Vietnam War, often referring to the situation in Iraq as a "quagmire."

President Johnson's approval rating in 1968 slipped below 40 percent, while Bush's lowest approval rating yet recorded in the Gallup Poll is 40 percent.

Leuchtenburg said the similarity to the situation in Vietnam lies in the fact that, in both cases, the president lost control of the war, at least in the public's perception, and

*"It is important only if it is a harbinger of more and larger protests to come."*

WILLIAM LEUCHTENBURG, PROFESSOR offered no clear vision for bringing the conflict to an end.

Johnson's presidency essentially was ruined by the Vietnam conflict, Hunt said. Johnson eventually chose not to seek a second term in office.

Approval ratings might be less of a concern for Bush, already in his second term, but could limit his ability to push his political priorities, Dominguez said.

The fact that there is no draft for the current Iraq conflict also could mitigate political consequences for Bush, Leuchtenburg said.

The Vietnam draft meant that the middle and upper classes, including students, were much more affected, he noted. That probably prompted a greater willingness to take action against the conflict.

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