

# The Daily Tar Heel

VOLUME 114, ISSUE 37

MONDAY, APRIL 24, 2006

www.dailytarheel.com

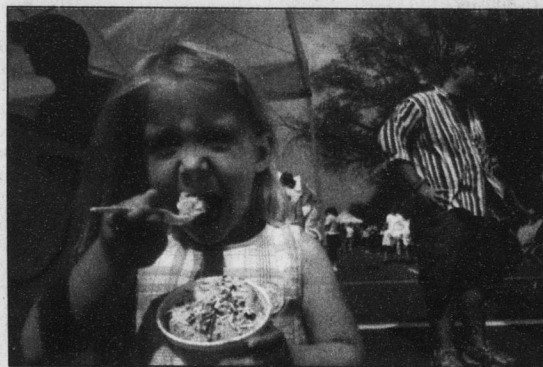
## VIOLENCE CHILLS EVENT

'After Chill' shooting follows annual festival, returns pall to family-focused event



DTH/GALEN CLARKE

Chapel Hill Fire Department officials hose blood from the sidewalk at the crime scene in front of TJ's Beverage and Tobacco with bleach-laced water late Sunday after two people were injured in a shooting at the "After Chill" portion of Sunday's Apple Chill festival. Three had been shot as of press time.



DTH/GALEN CLARKE

Four-year-old Freja Murphy indulges her sweet tooth with some of the homemade ice cream for sale at Apple Chill on Sunday afternoon.

**BY TED STRONG AND LAURA OLENIACZ**  
SENIOR WRITERS

Three people were confirmed shot in Chapel Hill on Sunday night during After Chill, the unofficial gathering that follows the annual Apple Chill.

Two people were shot in front of TJ's Campus Tobacco and Beverage and Caribou Coffee Shop on West Franklin Street, and another was found wounded at Elliott Road and East Franklin Street. There were a number of other incidents reported during the celebration.

In front of Caribou, a bullet grazed the head of one victim, who also received a bullet to the chest.

The other was shot in the back. The shooting, which took place about 8:30 p.m., involved an estimated five shots from an unknown number of shooters, Chapel Hill police Chief Gregg Jarvies said.

Jarvies said that the two victims were transported to UNC Hospitals and that there had been no arrests, was no clear suspect information or motive yet.

"We hope to develop some (information about a suspect) once we get done interviewing witnesses," he said.

After the Caribou shooting, about 12 individuals stayed at the

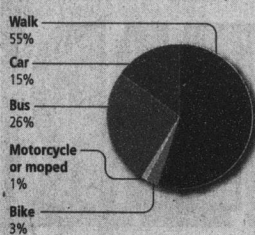
SEE APPLE CHILL, PAGE 6

### Pedestrian safety

A total of 284 responded to a pedestrian survey conducted by UNC journalism students. Half of student respondents living off campus said they feel unsafe crossing the street.

#### Mode of transportation

How do you get to class on most days?



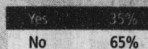
#### Adequate sidewalks

Has there been a time in the past 30 days when you had to walk in the street or on somebody's lawn because no sidewalk was provided?



#### Pedestrian accidents

Has anyone you know ever been struck by a motor vehicle while walking in Chapel Hill?



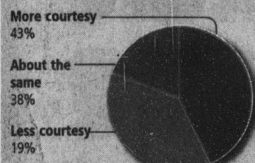
#### Potential pedestrian accidents

Have you ever had to run, jump, duck, or dodge to avoid being struck by a motor vehicle while walking in Chapel Hill?



#### Driver courteousness

Compared to the place you lived before Chapel Hill, would you say that motorists here treat pedestrians with ...



SOURCE: SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATION  
DTH/KURT GENTRY

## PERCEPTIONS OF SAFETY

**BY JESSE JAMES DECONTO**  
SPECIAL TO THE DAILY TAR HEEL

Lindsey Jones drops off her car for service at Johnson's Garage, at the corner of Longview Drive and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

She walks downhill on MLK Boulevard toward Umstead Drive. The Durham Academy senior wants a snack at Foster's Market while she waits for her ride.

The only crosswalk is at Umstead, a hundred yards down the road. Four lanes of fast-moving traffic lie between Jones and a thick slice of chocolate cake. A center turn lane defined by dotted yellow lines is her only respite.

There's a break in the south-bound traffic. She sprints for the center lane and stops there, staring at the vehicles bearing down on her. Automobiles speed past her, behind and in front.

There's a gap in the north-bound traffic and she runs for the Foster's parking lot.

Safely inside, she goes in search of her snack.

"I always try to cross at the crosswalk," she says, "but when it's three blocks out of the way, I'm not going to."

Such is life along Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and, indeed, on roadways throughout Chapel Hill. Recent fatalities have shone a spotlight on pedestrian safety, but the dangers are not new. Since 1995, at least 270 pedestrians have been struck on the streets of Chapel Hill.

Twelve have been killed. University officials have looked to monitor safety by threatening jaywalkers with fines, but residents want more than that.

They want more sidewalks and more walking paths separated from traffic. They want better street lighting and more pedestrian signals at intersections. They want more crosswalks and raised islands where they can safely pause in the middle of wide thoroughfares such as MLK Boulevard, where 11 pedestrians have been struck since 1995.

"No, I don't feel safe," says Jones, recalling her mad dash. "Not when there's cars going past

me at 90 miles an hour."

### Don't cross me

In a survey conducted this semester by students in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, about half of the off-campus students who responded say they had felt unsafe crossing a Chapel Hill street within the previous 30 days.

An analysis of pedestrian accident reports from Chapel Hill police suggests they have good reason. More than half of pedestrian crashes occurred while the victim was trying to cross the street, as opposed to jogging or working alongside it.

Since 2000, when police started noting whether crosswalks were present at each accident scene, almost two-thirds of struck crossers were not in a crosswalk.

Jones and her family relocated from Brisbane, Australia, three years ago. They live in the Chesley subdivision off Weaver Dairy Road. She likes to walk her dog there, but it's almost impossible for her to leave her

neighborhood on foot because there are no crosswalks connecting Chesley to other subdivisions across Weaver Dairy.

She says it was much easier to get around in Brisbane, with buses running all through the suburbs and crosswalks to complement them.

"If you have the buses, then you kind of have to have the crosswalks," she says.

Ironically, Jones crossed MLK smack in the middle of two bus stops, one on each side of the road. In the journalism school's survey, about three-quarters of respondents said pedestrian bridges or tunnels would be "very important" or "somewhat important" in getting them to walk to campus.

The survey also gave respondents the chance to write in infrastructure improvements that would encourage them to walk more. Crosswalks, elevated footbridges and pedestrian signals topped their wish list.

One student specifically suggested more crosswalks near bus

SEE SAFETY, PAGE 4

## Roads pit man against machine

**BY JESSE JAMES DECONTO AND TONY SMITH**  
SPECIAL TO THE DAILY TAR HEEL

Chapel Hill has its pedestrian-friendly perks and take-your-life-in-your-hands excursions. On the whole, though, Chapel Hill was designed for the automobile.

The town's principal long-range planner, Gordon Sutherland, says the conditions are the result of planning during past decades.

"Historically, we didn't build sidewalks," he says. "It's now up to the town to retrofit the results of the '40s, '50s and '60s."

Even when housing and amenities are close to each other, driving is often the most practical option.

### University Mall to Eastgate

Take the shopping district between Estes Drive and Eastgate Plaza, which includes University Mall. Shops are densely concentrated, but going from one center to another requires getting in the car and driving along U.S. 15-501 or East Franklin Street.

The mall is close to the retail shopping centers along South Elliott Road, but the route is blocked by private apartment complexes with fences and barbed wire.

Some determined pedestrians have worn a path through the woods and cut a hole in the fence between the SunStone Apartments, off Connor Drive,

and the office building at 200 S. Elliott Road — what it takes to avoid walking out to East Franklin Street before turning north toward Elliott Road.

Once you reach The Village Plaza Shopping Center, the shops at the corner of Elliott Road and East Franklin Street form a walkable shopping district all the way to Staples. A greenway beginning at Booker Creek also ends at the center.

Sutherland says the greenway will be extended to Elliott Road and U.S. 15-501 once an easement is granted by the landowner. An easement makes it legal for people to cross on property not owned by the municipality.

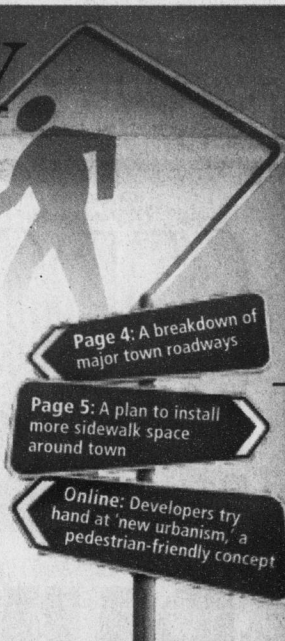
"We will construct it as soon as we are granted the easement, and, last I heard, we were pretty close," he says. "We have the money in place, but we're waiting for permission to build."

Behind Staples is a stairway that seems to lead down to a concrete wall. But behind the right side of the concrete wall, there is a metal gate, unlocked, leading to the sidewalk and tables outside Sal's Ristorante at Eastgate Plaza.

Sal's owner Daniel Rizzo would love pedestrians to be able to see his restaurant from both sides. He says that the blind wall needs to go.

"People walk on this side," he

SEE PLANNING, PAGE 4



### Pedestrian accidents

► The intersection of Franklin and Columbia streets had more pedestrian crashes reported than any other intersection in North Carolina.

► In Chapel Hill, there were 129 total pedestrian accidents from 1995 to 1999, and 57 of them occurred on the University campus.

► There had been 57 reported crash locations in that period between 1995 and 1999.

### Campus problem sites:

► The intersection of Franklin Street and Columbia Street

► The intersection of Cameron Avenue and Columbia Street

► A section of South Road between the Student Union and Student Recreation Center

SOURCE: Chapel Hill police, NCDOT

COMPILED BY JENNIFER BALVA

online | dailytarheel.com

**FOR THE CHILDREN** Students walk to educate about deprived Ugandan district

**DESIGN BLOG** How much is too much? A discussion of graphics in the newspaper

**FEATURES BLOG** A discussion of the mathematical mechanics to making money



arts | page 9

**RUSHED PRODUCTION**  
Company Carolina's "24 Hour Plays" features a team of artists who wrote, rehearsed and performed a set of original works in one day.

sports | page 12

**CLEAN SWEEP**  
UNC takes all three from rival N.C. State in a much-touted baseball showdown this weekend that pitted some of the nation's top arms.

today in history

**APRIL 24, 2000 ...**  
A late-night fire sweeps through Foxcroft Apartments, located on U.S. 15-501, leaving eight units gutted. No one was seriously injured.

weather

AM Showers  
H 84, L 58

### index

police log	2
calendar	2
crossword	6
edit	7
sports	12