

HALLOWEEN

FROM PAGE 1

turn to Madison and other cities for an idea of what to do. "One of the big pieces here is just putting a little bit of structure around an event that historically has been impromptu and unplanned," said Joel Plant, a mayor's aide who helped to plan and implement the change. Plant said he talked to Laurie Paolicelli, executive director of the Chapel Hill-Orange County Visitors Bureau, a few months ago about what Madison had done to calm Halloween festivities. Paolicelli could not be reached for comment Friday. Chapel Hill town officials have considered charging for admission, implementing a curfew, and closing bars early in order to decrease

the number of people on Franklin Street for Halloween this year. Town staff met Aug. 26 but did not decide on a plan. The charge of \$5 in advance and \$7 at the gate in Madison has altered the character of the event, UW senior Elizabeth Yoder said. "They completely changed what it was all about," Yoder said. "It seems like they ruined the tradition." The city of Madison has reduced police costs by more than \$100,000 since 2005, although there was a slight increase for 2006. And Plant said the number of visitors has not decreased significantly. He said about 35,000 people bought tickets in 2007. In recent years, Greenville, N.C., blocked off the streets for the Halloween celebration in an effort to control crowds. "We leave it up to our law

enforcement people to determine what needs to be done," Mayor Pat Dunn said. In Athens, Ohio, police increased the presence of undercover alcohol enforcement while increasing education for Halloween festivities at Ohio University. They saw a decrease in underage alcohol arrests despite the increased presence, Ohio Department of Public Safety spokeswoman Lindsay Komlanc said. Halloween events in Madison, which take place on a Friday and Saturday near Oct. 31, saw virtually no property damage or serious injuries in both 2006 and 2007. "There is an expectation of behavior, and people have been following it," Plant said. *Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.*

LIGHTING

FROM PAGE 1

who oversee the Arboretum, to discuss the possible options. Potential drawbacks halted the last efforts to light the area. Jim Ward, curator of the NCBG, said campus officials and students last discussed lighting the Arboretum in response to an assault that took place there about 10 years ago. Campus officials eventually decided against adding lights, instead opting to add lighting to Cameron Avenue and Raleigh Street near the Arboretum and erecting signs saying it is only open from dawn to dusk, Ward said. Students have been periodically mugged or assaulted in the area since the decision. Incidents occurred in 1999, 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004. A student was stabbed to

death in the Arboretum in 1965. Department of Public Safety spokesman Randy Young cited the lack of visibility in the Arboretum as a potential source of trouble that might persist even if lit. Trees and other plants can prevent pedestrians from getting a clear view around themselves, he said. New lights within the Arboretum might also harm trees, Ward said. Trees growing near the lights might retain their leaves much longer than those in natural conditions because the evening brightness would "fool" them into a longer photosynthesizing period, he said. Ward said such mixed signals wouldn't kill the trees but might do noticeable damage. But, he said, those problems wouldn't necessarily prohibit light installation. "I don't think the health of the

Arboretum and the safety of the people in the area are mutually exclusive," Ward said. The latest discussions come on the heels of other efforts to improve lighting and student safety, particularly the addition of new blue-light call boxes to off-campus sites. For now, students should consider walking in groups along the surrounding streets or utilizing mass transit rather than cutting through the Arboretum at night, Young said. He added that DPS officials do not yet know what new safety guidelines they might put in place if lights were added and that it would depend on the lighting plan adopted. "Electrical distribution could probably shed — pardon the expression — some light on that," he said. *Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.*

National and World News

FROM THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Palin daughter pregnant at age 17

ST. PAUL, MINN. (MCT) — Gov. Sarah Palin said today that her 17-year-old daughter, Bristol, is pregnant. Palin, who arrived in St. Paul on Monday to accept the Republican nomination for vice president, sent out a joint statement with her husband, Todd. Palin made the announcement following growing rumors on Internet blogs that the governor's new baby, Trig, was actually Bristol's and that Palin had claimed it to cover up her daughter's pregnancy.

Obama TV ad calls Palin a distraction

WASHINGTON, PA. (MCT) — Republican presumptive presidential nominee John McCain showed off his vice presidential running mate, Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, Saturday as Democratic rival Barack Obama's campaign aired a new TV ad urging voters not to be distracted by McCain putting a woman on the GOP ticket. The Obama/Biden campaign unveiled a 30-second TV ad that says McCain's selection of Palin should not obscure the fact that a McCain candidacy is a continuation of President Bush's policies.

Pakistan breaks policy with U.S. as offensive on Afghan border ceases

ISLAMABAD (MCT) — The Pakistani government called off a military assault on Islamic extremists based in its tribal border area with Afghanistan, an offensive which had appeared to bolster relations with Washington. The operation was "suspended" at midnight Sunday to mark Ramadan, the month of fasting for Muslims. However, some detected political motives for ending the attack on Taliban and al Qaida fighters in Bajaur. The fighting was not popular and led to a humanitarian crisis as some 300,000 locals fled.

"The militant network was in danger but this (ceasefire) will give them time to regroup," said Khadim Hussain, coordinator of Aryana Institute for Regional Research and Advocacy, an independent think tank based in Peshawar. Islamist political parties have been highly critical of the Bajaur operation, seeing it as an American-influenced policy. "This (militancy) is all Pervez Musharraf's fault. He got us working for America," said Qazi Hussain Ahmed, the leader of another religious party.

Bush signs law to benefit veterans

WASHINGTON, D.C. (MCT) — President Bush on Friday signed the Hubbard Act, surrounded by members of the family whose multiple sacrifices inspired the military pay-and-benefits law. Bush took seconds to sign the Hubbard Act, restoring recruitment bonuses and assorted benefits to sole survivors who are discharged early from the military. The bill will cover more than 50 sole-survivor veterans discharged since Sept. 11, 2001. The Pentagon estimates about 20 additional soldiers a year will be affected, with the bill costing an estimated \$1 million over five years.

Mexico City keeps abortions legal

MEXICO CITY (MCT) — Mexico's Supreme Court rejected a constitutional challenge to abortion-rights legislation Thursday in a decision likely to reverberate across the rest of largely Roman Catholic Latin America. By a vote of 8 to 3, the high court ruled that the measure passed last year by the Mexico City legislature, which legalized abortions in the first 12 weeks of pregnancy, didn't violate Mexico's constitution. "Girls have a right to not be mothers," argued Justice Genaro Gongora Pimentel, when he outlined his decision Tuesday.

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