

Pot penalties relaxed; fine only on first offense

By HOWARD TROXLER
Staff Writer

Returning out-of-state students who smoke pot will find a pleasant surprise waiting for them this fall: North Carolina has taken the first step toward the decriminalization of marijuana. The penalty for simple possession of the drug has been reduced to a fine and no jail term for a first offense.

Under the new drug statute passed this summer, the maximum penalty for first offense offenders possessing under an ounce of marijuana is \$100. A second offense is punishable by up to six months in jail and a \$500 fine.

Possession of more than one tenth of an ounce of extracted resin (hashish), synthetic THC, or extracted THC is still a felony punishable by up to five years in jail and a \$5000 fine.

The new laws have not affected drug arrests in Chapel Hill, according to Patrolman Fred Giles of the University Police. "There's been less and less of this type thing in the past few years anyway," Giles said. "Not one drug arrest of any kind has been made since the new law went into effect this summer."

Giles said that drug offenses involved the entire community as well as the University, and most drug-related offenses were handled through the Chapel Hill police.

But Chapel Hill Police Department arrests have not been affected by the new laws either. "It hasn't changed one way or another," said an unidentified policeman on Tuesday. "We've about stopped looking for it."

"You see, we've decided that there's none here."



Staff photo by Mary Hench
This out-of-state student, who asked not to be identified, is pleased with North Carolina's step toward decriminalization.

Crowded students slowly being moved

By AMY McRARY
Staff Writer

Although moving upperclassmen from study rooms in which they are temporarily housed is beginning this week, it still will take two to three months before all the students in crowded conditions are relocated, Assistant Director of Housing Peggy Gibbs said Tuesday.

"Relocating the upperclassmen in study rooms is going fair," Gibbs said. Moving the students out of the study rooms began Monday, the official day to count "no-shows" — students who signed a housing contract but failed to return to school.

"There were only 41 no-shows, as compared to 95 last year, so we didn't fix up as many students as I had hoped to," Gibbs said.

The 21 upperclass male students in study rooms in Ehringhaus, Winston, Old West, Old East and Alexander have been offered permanent spaces in other dormitories throughout campus. But only 10 of the 21 had accepted by Tuesday afternoon.

A student can refuse the first offering of a permanent room but must accept the second.

All male upperclassmen in study rooms will be relocated by the first of next week, Gibbs said. "But it will take several more weeks to relocate the women now in study rooms," she said.

Sixty-seven female upperclassmen were assigned to study rooms in James, Parker, Morrison, Aycock, Joyner and Whitehead. Four cancelled their housing contracts, and two failed to return to school. Forty-seven of the remainder have been offered permanent spaces.

Because many of the 47 have the option to refuse the first permanent space available, about 20 women will still be living in study rooms.

"The chances are good that all the women in study rooms will receive their first offer of a permanent space by the first of next week," Gibbs said.

Relocating students housed in study

rooms is given priority over moving freshmen in tripled residence hall rooms because other students need the study areas, Gibbs said.

Moving freshmen men out of tripled rooms will begin next week after all the men's study rooms have been cleared, Gibbs said. "There are a lot of freshmen men in triples, and only a few freshmen women, so de-tripling both will take the same amount of time, even though moving the men will begin sooner."

Economic Index drops in July for third month

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The government index, designed to signal future economic trends, declined for the third straight month in July but administration economists said Tuesday they were neither surprised nor dismayed.

The Commerce Department said its Composite Index of Leading Indicators dipped 0.2 per cent last month. The index also fell 0.2 per cent in May and June.

Before May, the list of indicators had fallen in only four months since the recession ended in the spring of 1975. The most recent was in January, but that was caused by severe winter weather which crippled industry in many sections of the country.

Courtenay Slater, Commerce's chief economist, acknowledged the indicators in May, June and July were "flat." However, she said "no pause in economic growth is signaled, in my judgment."

She said the "very small changes" in the index demonstrated that there will be "some slowing in the growth rate of the economy, but that is consistent with what the administration has been saying."

The economy grew at a 7 per cent rate during the first half of 1977. Treasury Secretary Michael Blumenthal and Federal Reserve Chairman Arthur Burns, among others, have predicted a 5 per cent growth rate during the final six months of the year.

In another economic development Tuesday, Commerce said new orders for manufactured products in July, a sign of future business demand, dropped 3 per cent. It was the largest decline since December, 1974 when it dipped 6.3 per cent.

The department also said shipments fell 1.3 per cent after increasing 1.3 per cent in June and inventories increased by 0.5 per cent.

There is an economic axiom that when the index of leading indicators declines for three months in a row, it could be a warning of a recession in coming months.

Both Slater and Felix Tamm, another department economist, said they put no stock in that assessment.

"That is a myth that has grown and I don't know the source," said Slater.

Tamm added: "There's nothing holy about that number three."

He did acknowledge, however, the three months of downward movement was "definitely an interruption in the early trend of strong growth the economy experienced last winter and spring."

Six of the 10 indicators available for July dropped, while four increased.

Massive Spencer renovations top list of dorm repairs

By AMY McRARY
Staff Writer

Residence hall repairs and improvements completed this summer and continuing this semester will cost the housing department \$325,000, said Russell Perry, assistant director of housing in charge of maintenance.

Improvements to Spencer Dorm account for the greatest bulk of the work and money — \$85,000.

Repairs began last spring and will be completed later this semester. Renovating the dorm is taking a long time because there is so much to be done, Perry said.

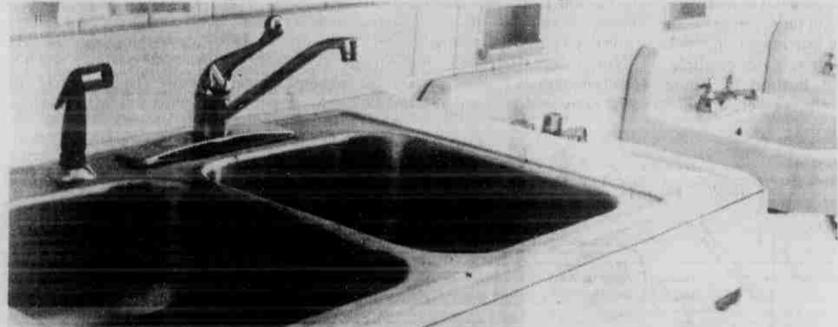
Repairs to Spencer include new beams, gutters and waterproofing, as well as complete remodeling of first and second floor bathrooms on the old wing. The new plumbing is below the parlor ceiling level, so a new ceiling is being constructed.

In addition to the massive Spencer renovations, most other dorms "had something done to them this summer," Perry said. Because chemicals are stored in the 83 residence hall janitor closets, the state fire marshal ordered vents placed in the closets.

Air conditioners were installed in study or recreation rooms in Morrison, Manly, Mangum, Aycock, Ruffin, Everett and Lewis.

A number of buildings received a new coat of paint this summer. Outside trim and doors of Cobb, Whitehead, Winston, halls in Alexander, Connor, Joyner and Mangum and bathrooms in the high-rises were painted.

Security screens were installed on the first-floor windows of Manly, Mangum, and the basement office and recreation room of Ehringhaus. First used experimentally on assistant residence directors' apartments in 1974, the screens are made



The UNC housing department installed this stainless steel sink so dorm residents could wash pots and pans of a heavy wire mesh and are screwed into window frames to prevent break-ins.

"With these screens, a student can go to sleep and not worry about someone sneaking into his room," Perry said.

Three hundred security screens for the high-rises and 150 for Avery, Parker and Teague, as well as screens for the lower quad dorms, will be installed this semester, Perry said. Installing the security screens on all first-floor windows will take approximately two years, Perry said.

The dormitory rooms on the first floors of Kenan, Alderman and Melver were also painted. The rooms have such high ceilings that students could never paint the entire wall, Perry said.

Twelve sinks with cabinets were installed in Cobb bathrooms for residents to wash pots and pans in after cooking.

Fiberglass shower stalls were installed on an experimental basis in Joyner, Winston, Connor and Alexander. The new stalls are being tested to see whether they last longer than the old metal ones and whether students like them.

The apartment and office for the Parker residence director was remodeled and a new office built on the second floor.

Future changes will be made for handicapped students living on the first floors of Grimes and Ruffin. The two kitchens will be remodeled so that handicapped students can use them. Nothing in the kitchen will be above table height.

Carter gains important endorsements on Panama Canal

WASHINGTON (UPI) — President Carter won key endorsements from organized labor and southern political leaders on the Panama Canal treaty issue Tuesday and said the nation will face hostile world reaction if the Senate refuses to ratify the pact.

Conceding he faces an uphill battle in Congress, Carter briefed political leaders from Florida and Georgia on the controversial treaty as part of his personal campaign to drum up public support for it.

Shortly before he did so, the Executive Council of the AFL-CIO unanimously endorsed the treaty as "a just and enduring basis for harmony in the Western Hemisphere" and pledged to use all its lobbying muscle in the fight for Senate ratification.

The International Executive Board of the

United Auto Workers, meeting in Detroit, said in a resolution, "The U.S. Senate should reject the unfounded propaganda barrage from the far right and those who have been misled by the reactionaries."

It urged the Senate to ratify the treaty.

end of fuel price controls.

The resolution was adopted 10-2 by the Southern Governors' Conference, with a provision that President Carter and Congress delay their current energy plans until a nationally televised series of debates

news briefs

Hunt opposes resolution

SAN ANTONIO, Tex. (UPI) — North Carolina Gov. James B. Hunt, warning that deregulation of natural gas could touch off a new spiral of inflation and recession, voted against a resolution Tuesday calling for an

can be arranged to air all sides of the issue involved.

Gov. Jay Rockefeller of West Virginia, who voted with Hunt, did not comment on the volatile deregulation rule — a major priority pushed by host Gov. Dolph Briscoe of Texas and Oklahoma Gov. David Boren, who had wanted unanimity on the resolution.

Before the vote was taken, Hunt surprised other governors with a detailed explanation of his dissent, saying he realizes prices may be too low to spur gas and oil exploration now, but that deregulation may cause them to soar in the near future. Instead of deregulation he said the government should allow increased — but still controlled — prices.

"You have to pay enough, but it seems to me that you ought not just turn it loose," Hunt said. "That will put us back in the kind of inflation that led to the recent and very serious recession that we experienced."

Hunt said natural gas should be regulated just as states regulate public transport and utility monopolies because consumers can neither do without it nor "go out and shop for it."

Meany criticizes Carter

WASHINGTON (UPI) — AFL-CIO President George Meany went back on the attack Tuesday, saying President Carter had failed to keep a campaign promise of making jobs a No. 1 priority and was not doing anything to boost a sluggish economy.

Meany said employment has been sacrificed by the administration to the economic policies of Federal Reserve Board Chairman Arthur Burns.

"I am not optimistic about the state of the economy," Meany declared. "It seems to be quite sluggish and I don't know that anything's being done really to give it a boost."

Federal pay raise

WASHINGTON (UPI) — President Carter announced Tuesday he will go along with a proposed pay raise for about three million federal white collar and military personnel effective Oct. 1, and reported to run at least 7.05 per cent across the board.

The 7.05 per cent was proposed by a cabinet-level advisory group to make government employment more attractive by putting the pay on a par with that of private industry. Another group consisting of federal employee union leaders has suggested an even bigger boost.

RHA head proposes to return revenues from hall vending machines back to dorms

By BETH PARSONS
Staff Writer

Approximately \$12,000 in additional funds may be available to campus residence halls if a Residence Housing Association (RHA) proposal is approved, RHA President Bain Jones said Tuesday.

The proposal, now before the University administration, would return monies collected from dormitory recreational vending machines to residence halls.

The funds presently collected from pinball and other game machines are given to the UNC Student Stores for scholarship money.

Jones stressed that dorms would actually receive less than \$12,000, however, because

of rent and maintenance bills for the machines.

The proposal, if approved, would take effect immediately.

Other RHA proposals include the possibility of allowing dorms to collect bids from town businesses for items such as beer for keg parties.

Included among Jones' campaign proposals last spring was the possibility of a fall break, which RHA is now considering. But Jones ruled out a break this fall.

"A fall break this semester is out of the question," Jones said, "since the academic year for 1977-78 has already been approved. We are, however, working on a proposal for a fall break for the academic year 1978-79."

RHA is attempting to deal with basic problems of residence halls, Jones said. He encouraged students to bring their problems to his attention and to seek help from RHA if their resident advisers (RAs) or assistant residence directors (ARDs) fail to offer assistance.

If a student's problem is his RA, Jones urged him to talk with the RA. "Students," he said, "should not be afraid to let people know they're not doing their job."

"In general," Jones said, "this year hopefully has the potential to be the best year in housing life."

What has made it the best so far, he said, is



Photo by Bruce Clarke

Bain Jones

cooperation with the housing staff, student leaders and University personnel. "There's a more cohesive feeling in RHA now than ever before," he said.



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