

Theft rate is highest in gyms

By SCOTT WHARTON
Staff Writer

Woolen and Fetzer gymnasiums have become the most theft-ridden areas on campus, University police said Tuesday. A study of police reports indicate that more thefts have occurred since January 10 than in the period between July 1, 1981 and June 30, 1982.

Thirty-nine thefts have been reported in the gyms since January 10, compared to a total of 26 in the 1981-1982 period. "They are up a significant amount," said Maj. Charles Mauer of the University police.

Police said the majority of thefts occur when students leave their lockers unlocked or clothes and other valuables unattended. Of the 39 thefts reported, only eight were reported to have occurred from locked lockers. Police reports said two thefts occurred with forcible entry into the lockers.

Though thefts at the gyms have always been a problem, Mauer said the amount occurring now is the worst he can remember. "The opportunity is there and the thieves find out and take advantage of it," he said.

In response to the problem, University police have met with John Billing, chairman of the physical education department

Crime prevention officer Ned Comar said he has put up posters warning students of the thefts in the locker rooms, on locker room doors and in other parts of the gyms. Comar said he has also discussed the problem on radio station WCHL.

"No evidence indicates that someone is coming to the gyms primarily to steal," he said, adding that he would not rule out the possibility some of the thefts have been committed by students.

Students, despite the warnings, "just don't think it will happen to them," Billing said.

There has "really been a substantial increase of thefts in the women's locker rooms," he added. "Girls are more trusting." Though the gyms are to be used only by students and faculty, Billing said anyone can enter the gyms without being noticed.

Gym instructors have been warned to tell their classes of the problem, Billing said.

"We're making a big issue with the instructors," he said. He said he has been surprised at the substantial amounts of money which sometimes have been left unattended and then stolen.

There has been an increase in patrolling the locker rooms, but the only way to solve the problem "is for students to buckle down and lock their lockers," Comar said.

Reservoir plans

Future depends on decision

By KEITH TAYLOR
Staff Writer

The Orange Water and Sewer Authority and the Cane Creek Conservation Authority await a pivotal decision from the state Environmental Management Commission, which meets March 10 in Raleigh to decide whether to grant land condemnation rights to OWASA for the proposed Cane Creek Reservoir.

OWASA needs the land condemnation rights in order to proceed with plans to build the reservoir on Cane Creek, located about 12 miles west of Chapel Hill, because the water company has been unable to obtain all the land it needs through direct purchase.

OWASA has faced stiff opposition to the reservoir proposal from members of the Cane Creek Conservation Authority since the reservoir was first considered in the late 1960s.

Tom Bradshaw, EMC chairman, said Wednesday he expected the commission's involvement with the matter to be finished at next week's meeting. However, it is possible that the commission could decide to wait until the EMC's next meeting on April 14 before making a final decision.

Likewise, EMC member and Chapel Hill Town Council member Jim Wallace said Wednesday a decision could be postponed until April if tempers flared and a "cooling-off" period were needed following the March 10 meeting.

"We're down to the wire," Wallace said. "I sense that."

An EMC decision would bring an end to administrative action in the land condemnation rights issue, but it is generally expected that whichever side loses in the decision will appeal the case in court.

Everett Billingsley, OWASA executive director, said he could not predict the outcome of next week's EMC deliberations.

"We are hoping and anticipating that the EMC will affirm the recommendation of the hearing officer," Billingsley said last week.

He was referring to EMC hearing officer Virgil McBride's official recommendation that the commission grant OWASA the condemnation rights. His recommendation followed a public hearing held last Nov. 30-Dec. 4 at the Community Church

in Chapel Hill. The EMC will consider McBride's recommendation along with other evidence from the hearing when it makes its decision.

The EMC had already awarded condemnation rights to OWASA after a hearing in 1979, but the CCCA challenged that decision in court. The N.C. Court of Appeals decided in 1980 that an Environmental Impact Statement, as well as a new hearing, would be required before the EMC made a final decision. That statement was completed by the N.C. Department of Natural Resources and Community Development last September, prior to the second hearing.

But even with a new hearing, Ed Johnson, CCCA spokesman and professor of psychology at the University, said he was prepared for a repeat performance by the EMC.

"I would not be surprised to see us get only two or three votes," Johnson said last week. "I think the issue at the EMC level has already been determined." He said that many of the EMC members were also on the commission when it voted against the CCCA at the first hearing.

Wallace is one of those members. Wallace is also the only EMC member who lives in Chapel Hill.

Wallace favors the reservoir; but he took himself out of the voting last time and said Wednesday he will "probably do so again."

Wallace said he planned to be present at the EMC meeting, but preferred to let the commission members make their decision from the evidence itself.

Even with an almost certain court appeal following the EMC decision, Wallace said, "I think there will be a very rapid conclusion in the courts."

But even if the issue of condemnation rights is resolved soon, OWASA cannot proceed with the reservoir until a federal court decides that OWASA has a valid permit to build a dam on the creek — an entirely different issue. OWASA already has the permit it needs from the Army Corps of Engineers, but the CCCA has filed suits in federal court claiming that the permit has expired and was never valid in the first place. No court date has been set for either suit.

jobs

tion funds to areas represented by key lawmakers.

O'Neill made his comments as Republicans drafted their own alternative jobs bill, a move one side conceded was doomed to defeat when the heavily Democratic House votes today.

By his remarks, O'Neill indicated the \$4.6 billion measure would increase in size by the time it is finally approved, although he said he wants to avoid a veto confrontation with President Reagan. Reagan has endorsed a \$4.3 billion plan for jobs as well as food and shelter for the needy.

Rep. David Obey, D-Wis., is leading the move to increase spending on the Democratic bill by \$200 million for material and child health care, community based health centers and other programs. Comments by O'Neill and other Democratic leaders indicate that increase is almost certain to be approved.

As for transportation, O'Neill said a move by Rep. James Howard, D-N.J., to increase spending for mass transit and distribute it more evenly around the country "would pass overwhelmingly on the floor."

All of the \$110 million now in the bill for mass transit would go to areas represented by members of the Appropriations Committee or O'Neill's own area of Boston and its suburbs.

"I think it is wrong to do that," O'Neill said. "I will personally tell them. . . . I personally was disappointed in what they did."

Despite the objections raised by Republicans, the bill is expected to be approved easily, and the Senate Appropriations Committee will draft its own version next week.

There were these other developments as Congress seemed to be emerging from its traditional slow start in drafting legislation:

- O'Neill pledged House Democrats would

fell on a power line and tripped a circuit at the power plant, said Gale Winslow, power distribution supervisor of the UNC Utilities Division.

The tree was evidently rotten and had a bad root system, Winslow said. "With the ground super-saturated, it simply fell over." The tree damaged a pickup truck when it fell.

Most of the power was restored within an hour, though power to the fraternities and the pharmacy school was not returned until 4 a.m., Winslow said.

Though the electricity was off for only an hour, there was ample time for chaos to break out in the darkened dormitories.

"Although there was a lot of yelling and firecrackers, there was no real

damage," said Mark Brown, area director of Morrison dormitory. "It seemed to be an amazingly orderly situation," he said, adding that it was much more orderly than during some of the bomb threats a few years ago.

"When I was there in the dark groping for my shoes I thought there might be some bad problems, especially since a lot of people were running up and down the stairs," Brown said.

"But it was really less of a problem than I expected. The main problem was firecrackers — someone could have gotten hurt," Brown said. Also, two people were caught in an elevator when the electricity went out, but they were released soon after the power was returned.

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have a "phase two" package of recession relief ready in April, including health care for the unemployed, assistance for farmers and homeowners facing mortgage foreclosures, aid for workers whose industries have been devastated by the recession, and temporary public service jobs.

Neither he nor Rep. Thomas Foley of Washington, who is coordinating the legislation, offered any price tag.

O'Neill disclosed that the entire House Democratic caucus will vote on a proposed budget, evidently before it is drafted in the House Budget Committee.

All party members are being included in discussions on a tax and spending plan in a series of meetings that began on Tuesday. Party leaders say that is a move designed to avoid a repetition of the chaos that developed last year when neither Democrats nor Republicans could

muster a majority for their proposals. But it also has the effect of reducing the authority of Rep. James Jones, D-Okla., chairman of the Budget Committee.

Senate aides confirmed that a small group of moderate to liberal Republicans are drafting an alternative to Reagan's budget, and could include either limiting or repealing this year's 10 percent personal income tax cut. The group is expected to call for a sharp cut in Reagan's proposed defense budget and restoring money the administration wants cut from social programs.



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YOU'VE COME A LONG WAY TOO, SONNY.



Leaning out a courthouse window, Officer Floyd reprimands Laddie's "how you cut out those big boulevards signs?" ER A types are circling outside.

No dummy! he laughs. They don't make men wear scarves. Spotted the next day in the Durham Studio, one of the E.R.A. ladies leans over and whispers, Officer Floyd looks like you've been caught off guard.

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