

Shuttle to carry AIDS experiment

By WILLIAM TAGGART
Staff Writer

If all goes as planned, the 26th space shuttle mission will begin at 9:59 a.m. today with the launch of the spaceship Discovery, and a Research Triangle Park company's experiment involving the search for an effective treatment of the AIDS virus will be on board.

A crew of five will lead the first shuttle mission since the explosion of Challenger 32 months ago.

During the 97-hour flight, astronauts will release a \$100 million tracking and data relay satellite. This

satellite and a similar one released in 1983 will create a communications system to stay in nearly continuous contact with other satellites and future shuttle missions.

Another goal of the mission will be to check the more than 400 modifications made to the shuttle since the Challenger tragedy in 1986. Changes include several new safety precautions to protect the lives of the astronauts in the event of an aborted flight.

Research Triangle Park pharmaceutical company Burroughs Wellcome contributed one of the 11

experiments that will be conducted during the flight.

"We are sending up a protein crystal growth experiment," company spokeswoman Karen Collins said. The experiment will attempt to grow crystals of reverse transcriptase, a key component of the AIDS virus, she said.

"There seems to be some promise that we can get more perfect crystals in space," she said, because they may grow better in weightless conditions. The crystals may be able to provide a clearer picture of how the enzyme

functions within the AIDS virus.

"This could lead to future drug development," Collins said.

Burroughs Wellcome has already developed another drug, AZT, for the treatment of AIDS. This drug attacks reverse transcriptase, but causes toxic side effects in patients. More knowledge provided by the crystals about the molecular structure of the enzyme could lead to the development of a new, less toxic drug.

Burroughs Wellcome has been involved in similar experiments during four previous shuttle missions, Collins said.

Chapel Hill Police Roundup

■ A Chapel Hill man was assaulted in front of Chapel of the Cross at 304 E. Franklin St. Tuesday night. The man said someone grabbed him around the neck and shoved him against a wall at Chapel of the Cross, but he pushed the assailant away and ran. The assailant also ran. The man was not injured.

■ A Laurel Ridge Apartments resident reported that sometime between 10 a.m. Sunday and 12 p.m. Monday, someone broke into his Ford Escort and took a radar detector valued at \$239. The thief broke off the lock on the hatchback to get into the car. Estimated property damage was \$300.

■ A McDade Street resident reported a trespasser in her home early Tuesday morning. According to the police report, the resident fell asleep while studying.

When she was half-asleep, she heard her front door open and close more than once. She became fully aware, and found a person kneeling beside her bed. She screamed and ordered the suspect out. She then called out to her roommate. When her roommate replied, the suspect walked out of the house. The resident then called the police.

■ A Hillsborough man was arrested Monday in connection with a stabbing incident. An officer found a man at the Fast Fare on Rosemary Street who was bleeding from a stab wound in his upper right leg.

The wounded man said the suspect, Earl Lee Lane, 33, had stabbed him with a knife. Lane was subsequently arrested and charged with one count of assault with a deadly weapon with intent to inflict serious injury, and one count of drunk and disruptive behavior.

■ Two houses under construction were robbed over the weekend. Between 12:30 p.m. Saturday and 3:00 p.m. Sunday, someone broke into a house at Donagal Drive by kicking the door open and stole a microwave oven valued at \$550 and a generator valued at \$1,200. Property damage was estimated at \$600.

Between the same times, someone also broke into a house on Galloway Drive by kicking open the door. A cooktop oven valued at \$400, an oven valued at \$650 and a dishwasher valued at \$500 were stolen. Property damage was estimated at \$600.

— compiled by Will Lingo

Bond would improve schools, official says

By MARY PARSONS
Staff Writer

Chapel Hill-Carrboro and Orange County schools are in desperate need of major construction and renovation, and approval of a \$30 million bond will make this possible, a spokeswoman for Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools said.

Orange County voters will decide on Nov. 8 whether to approve a \$30 million three-part bond issue, of which \$22 million will be allotted to the schools, \$7 million to county buildings and \$1 million to purchase land for a reservoir.

"As it stands now, many students are being taught in trailers, temporary classrooms and even in space that was used for garbage," said Kim Hoke, director of school-community relations for Chapel Hill-Carrboro schools.

If the bond issue is passed, \$13 million will be used to alleviate problems in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro schools and \$9 million will be used for the Orange County schools, Hoke said.

The funds will be used by the Chapel Hill-Carrboro school system to implement a middle school system, to build more classrooms and to create additional space for programs set by the N.C. Basic Education Program.

PTA president Luan Smyth said, "The people in the community may not be aware of what happens at crowded schools, but parents of students are aware."

"All of the elementary schools are bursting at the seams."

A 3.1 cent increase in property tax for every \$100 value of property will be imposed on all taxpayers if all three parts of the bond issue are approved, Hoke said.

"If you had a house valued at

\$100,000 then the cost to you per year would be \$31.50, equivalent to the cost of dinner for four at a medium-priced restaurant, or \$2.50 per month, which could equate to a gallon of milk and a loaf of bread," Hoke said.

Neil Pedersen, assistant superintendent of Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools, said, "I think the bond is very reasonable because the taxpayer is only being asked to support a tax increase that is quite small, which is made possible by state funds supplementing local dollars."

The county is only \$5 million in debt, with the debt limit being \$260 million, so the county could handle the new bond, which would be retired over a period of 20 years, Pedersen said.

Hoke said if the bond issue is not passed, the Orange County Commissioners could decide to levy a 22 cent property tax per \$100 valuation.

The primary Chapel Hill-Carrboro schools that would be affected by the bond are Chapel Hill High School, Phillips Junior High School, Culbreth Junior High School, Seawell Elementary School and Carrboro Elementary School.

Chapel Hill High School would be the county's biggest project, and would be allotted \$6.4 million for improvements, Hoke said.

Such a large amount is necessary to accommodate the addition of the ninth grade to the high school, she said. Extensive renovations, an auxiliary gym and 24 new classrooms are on the agenda.

Changes at other schools include building new classrooms, libraries and multi-purpose rooms and updating some rooms already in existence, Hoke said.

The primary investment for Orange County Schools would be the construction of a new elementary

school, she said. The new school would serve students who are now in mobile units at other campuses.

In addition, some schools would receive new classrooms, bathrooms, libraries, air conditioning and additional supplementary learning areas.

"If the bond were to fail, the entire community would lose, because by having inadequate county and school facilities the value of the residents' property would not be enhanced as much as it would be if we had strong facilities," Pedersen said.

"The increases in the value of

property in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro area are related to the outstanding reputation of our school system, and if it fails people won't be as eager to move here," he said.

The last bond issue was voted on in the late '70s and was not approved. The projects that needed attention then were completed this year, Hoke said.

For residents who have not registered to vote, the deadline is Oct. 10. Pedersen said he expects a large voter turnout because of the presidential election.

Weekend to feature new sidewalk sales

By AMY WEISNER
Staff Writer

Our Town. Most folks hear those words and think of Thornton Wilder's play about small-town life.

But in Chapel Hill, Our Town means a celebration of the Chapel Hill Town Council's decision to temporarily allow sidewalk sales and street vendors downtown on Franklin Street Thursdays through Saturdays.

To kick off the new ordinance, the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Downtown Commission is sponsoring a celebration for the first weekend, beginning today at 5 p.m. and running until 6 p.m. on Saturday.

"The central business district is in need of special efforts to enhance its vitality," Town Manager David Taylor said.

The temporary ordinance, passed by the town council August 22, meets that need. It permits the sale of flowers and original two-dimensional art. Performances by jugglers, musicians and mimes are also allowed.

In addition, downtown merchants and restaurants can conduct sidewalk

sales. "The whole idea was designed not to compete with the local restaurants and shops," Logos Bookstore owner Bob Julian said. "So they (merchants) will put their own merchandise or food items for sale on the sidewalks."

Dick Gable's Dixieland Jazz Band will launch the weekend, playing on the front lawn of the University United Methodist Church Thursday from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

But registration for the first weekend has been slow. "There haven't been many sign-ups so far and we're a little worried," Julian said.

Most artwork will be photographs, tapestries and paintings, he said.

While the ordinance provides some artists an opportunity to show and sell their works, it excludes others who create three-dimensional art such as pottery and crafts.

The locations, available to artists on a first-come, first-serve basis, are on both sides of Franklin Street, from Four Corners at 175 E. Franklin St. to Alexander and Associates at 113 W. Franklin St.

Street-level merchants whose businesses or restaurants face Franklin Street may conduct sidewalk sales during the same period.

Taylor said the temporary ordi-

Parking

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those faculty members who might lose parking spaces they have held for years.

Committee Chairman Roger Lotchin said Wednesday that the committee would work with the seven-point faculty proposal first and then try to work with the student counterproposal. He said he did not know if the committee would try to complement the faculty proposal with the student proposal because he had not seen the student proposal.

Lotchin said the committee would work with the faculty proposal because the parking burden is already spread out between students, faculty and staff.

Students have the advantage in the parking situation because many live within walking distance of their

classes, he said. Students who do not live within walking distance of campus can take advantage of public transportation.

Students also live in high-density areas like apartment complexes, whereas faculty members live in low-density areas that are hard to reach, Lotchin said.

Many students park illegally, and many of the 3,000 student parking spaces are held by residents and not commuters, Lotchin said.

Lotchin said students are not overly burdened by the parking regulations on campus, as students are very much in control of the spaces right now.

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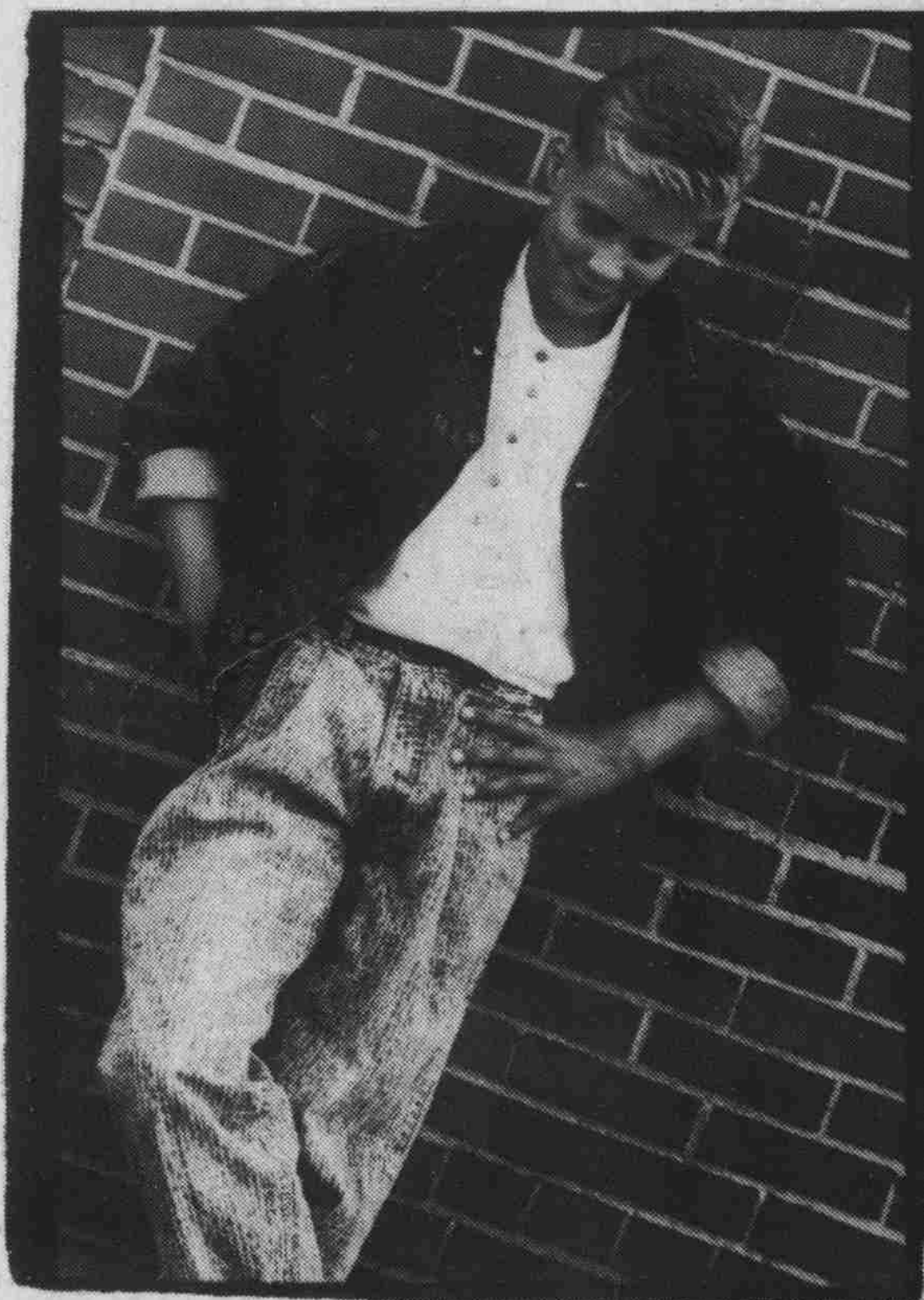
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