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Human subjects participate in studies for better or worse

By Priti Chitnis

Whether the ad is bold or unobtrusive -- "Earn \$\$\$\$" or "Paid Volunteers Needed" - it usually arouses a certain amount of curiosity and even wariness in readers. To some it looks like a simple way to earn some money, but many may wonder what occurs in research studies involving human subjects and why people choose to participate in them.

Douglas Long, a philosophy professor who teaches a bioethics class at the University, said the world began to focus on the negative aspects of using human subjects in research after World War II because of the dramatic case of

The Nuremburg Codes, established after the war, required human subjects to provide informed consent before participating in research, Long said.

He added that before public outcry rose against practices in the United States, "there was a time when drug companies

would use (prisoners) as a stock population for tests,"

Modern researchers are limited by stricter requirements. Researchers must meet federal regulations as well as Food and Drug Administration guidelines in order to receive approval for their projects, said John Herion, chairman of the committee on the protection or the rights of human subjects, an institutional review board that serves the faculty and students of the UNC medical school.

Susan Bauer, the committee coordinator, said there were 1,470 active studies this year at UNC alone."Any research that involves human subjects has to come before the commit-

Each study has to be looked at on its own merit, but factors like the money offered and the risk-benefit ratio involved are also considered in the evaluation process, she said.

Myron Cohen, professor of microbiology and immunology and director of the division of infectious diseases in the medical department, is currently conducting a study to develop a vaccine for a common bacterial infection

The six-day study involves creating a mild, bacterial infection in the human subject and at first sign of the infection's success, curing it, Cohen said.

"The treatment we have is 100 percent effective and works very fast to eliminate the infection," he said.

Cohen explained that the bacteria take on important characteristics while growing in humans. The characteristics need to be understood to create an effective vaccine, he said.

"If there was a reasonable animal model, we would use it." Cohen emphasized that extreme caution was being used because the study involved human subjects

"The number one priority has to be the health and safety of the subjects," Cohen said. "The study is organized so that the chance of complications is rare."

He said the study paid subjects only enough so that, "if they worked for six days, they would earn the same amount of money. In any human experiment, you don't want the money to be so much that it clouds the judgments of the subjects.' Remuneration, or monetary payment, for subjects is a

major ethical concern in the research community today "Fifty dollars is much more coercive to poor people than the wealthy," Long said. "The burden of research may fall on those who are more needy

The main thing is don't offer sums which to an average person would look like an offer he couldn't refuse.'

But most researchers and subjects admit money is the main reason people participate in studies.

Herion said, "These are individuals who have nothing as an incentive to participate, yet it's terribly important that

David Dolan, project manager for the Bionetics Corpora-

tion, is working with the Environmental Protection Agency and the University to conduct various studies in air pollution See EXPERIMENTS, page 3

mshot, assaults mar dorm party

By Adam Ford

An unknown person fired a gunshot into the ceiling at Morrison Residence Hall about 1 a.m. Sunday morning after a fight erupted in the dormitory lobby.

The incident occurred after a dance in the Morrison Recreation Room on the first floor. The dance was sponsored by Phi Beta Sigma fraternity. No security guards were present at the event

Michelle Reid, a Morrison resident assistant, and GeWana Heath, a sophomore from Charlotte, said they were in the lobby when the fight started.

Reid said the fighting started about 1 a.m. "There was a big crowd in between the glass doors (of the back exit) and we realized that someone was about to start fighting.

According to the University police report, about 80 people were in the lobby at the time of the shooting, but no one was injured from the gunshot. Witnesses said the man who fired the shot was not a UNC

Lt. Walter Dunn, the chief investigator in the case, said University police recovered physical evidence and had some leads in the case.

"The bullet was recovered and it appears to be from a .25 could leave. caliber, possibly a .32," he said. The victi

A female UNC student said she was assaulted by a group of six to eight black males during the fight. She said the fight occurred after an argument between the group and her boyfriend, who is also a UNC student.

The student said one member of the group began to talk to her and then discovered she had a boyfriend. His friends then began harassing her and her boyfriend, she said.

The woman and her boyfriend attempted to leave the lobby by an elevator, but the doors would not close, she said. "One of (the group of attackers) was in the doorway and three or four of them had run to the car and gotten guns and came

The victim said a short dark-skinned male came into the elevator, hit her boyfriend and pulled her into the lobby

"They pushed me on the ground, pulled my hair and hit me," she said. "That's when the shot went off.

At least three of the attackers had guns, she said. "I saw two guns and the other one that the person shot in the air.' The man who fired the gun was a black male wearing a red

cap and a red sweatshirt, she said. An eyewitness said the gunshot was not directed at anyone but was fired at the ceiling to scare people so the attackers

The victim said that after the shot was fired, one of the attackers pulled her outside and tripped her.

Conseula Thompson, a Morrison resident, said she was hit in the face while trying to help the victim after she was pulled

"He hit me with his fist and I had to get three stitches in my lip," Thompson said. "One of my teeth went through my lip, and I have two knuckle marks.

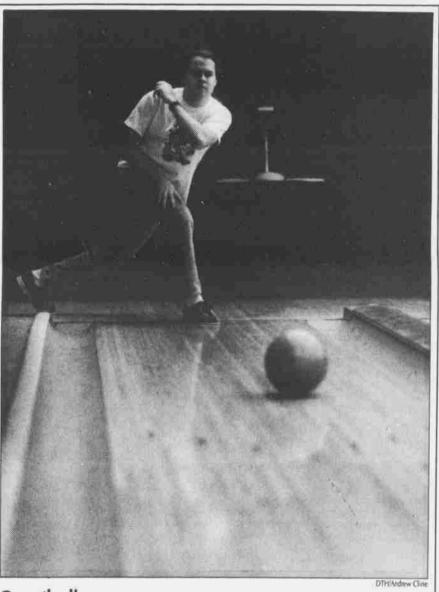
The victim said fraternity members should have hired security guards for the dance.

Andre Tippens, the fraternity president, said the party ended at 12:30 a.m. and most fraternity members already had left by then.

'Most of the party crowd had already left," he said. "Usually on Morrison nights at that particular time there are a lot of people in the lobby anyways.

Rick Bradley, Morrison area director, said the policy for reserving lounge and common areas such as the recreation room would be reviewed as a result of the incident.

'Any time there is an incident as serious as gunfire in a residential lobby, there is naturally going to be a look at the



Over the line

Adam Duggan, a senior from Durham, tries for a strike during his beginning bowling class Monday in the Student Union. Joe Angus teaches the class, which Dugan said is entertaining and stress-relieving

Sophomore finds basketball stolen from Duke arena

Student a suspect in theft, police say

By Steve Politi University Editor and Heather Harreld Staff Writer

Duke University's missing basketball is no longer missing.

William UNC sophomore Holshouser said he found the ball Sunday night in a bush near a parking lot between Fraternity Court and Granville

The ball was stolen early Friday morning with several trophies and other memorabilia from Duke's 1991 national basketball championship. The basketball was the only stolen item that was not found by UNC police Saturday morning in front of the Old Well.

Holshouser and his fraternity brother Sam King took the basketball to WCHL radio Monday morning. King, who is a reporter for the station, said, "We figured it would make a decent news story.

The basketball was returned to Duke's athletic department by Barry Jacobs, author of the Atlantic Coast Conference Handbook, who was appearing on WCHL's morning show.

The ball was not actually used in the Final Four, but the score of the championship game is painted on it.

Det. Charles Nordan of Duke police said Holshouser is a suspect, despite the fact he returned the ball. "But on a scale of one to 10, he's on the low end of the scale because he turned the basketball

Nordan said he could not reach Holshouser Monday afternoon by telephone. "We're going to talk with him and get further information on how he got the basketball."

Duke police will continue to investigate the incident, Nordan said. "It's like a bank robbery - the FBI wouldn't stop the investigation because all of the money was returned," he said. Holshouser said he wasn't sure if he

would receive a reward and he didn't know who took the trophies from Duke's Cameron Indoor Stadium. Nordan said a reward still was of-

fered, but it was for information leading to the apprehension of the robber or

Richard Kilwien, Duke assistant sports information director, said most of the recovered memorabilia was dam-

"Everything is pretty scratched up and some of the trophies are broken," he said. "We're taking steps to repair or replace them.

The 1991 ACC championship trophy and Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski's coach of the year trophy were damaged.

This is the first time Duke officials have had problems with people tampering with the trophies, Kilwien said. Officials may install security alarms and cameras, but "these security measures are still in the developmental stages," he said.

Room assignment process to be changed for first-year students

By Michael Workman

First-year students applying for oncampus housing now will indicate only a preference for South, Mid or North Campus instead of specific residence halls Housing officials developed the plan

in an effort to simplify the process of assigning rooms, said Larry Hicks, associate housing director of administrative services. Under the new plan, the housing de-

partment will reserve at least 25 percent of each residence area for first-year students instead of the 50 percent now set aside, he said. "Not holding each building to 50 percent gives us greater flexibility for

returning upperclassmen and the (Residence Hall Association) diversity proposal," Hicks said. RHA members have proposed set-

ting aside 15 spaces in each Mid or North Campus dorm for black students. Michael Barnes, RHA minority af-

fairs executive assistant, said changing the way rooms were reserved for firstyear students would help RHA's proposal work.

The spaces freed up in each residence hall opened spaces for the proposal," he said. Hicks said first-year students also

would receive a brochure with general information about University housing instead of the traditional Hallways and Highrises booklet with their acceptance

"Hallways and Highrises is officially no longer," he said. "In the past, we tried to put a lot of information in a little The new brochure will contain more

general information about each area of campus instead of specific facts and What we wanted to do is give them

an idea about the flavor of each area," he said. "The first brochure will give them a general feel for campus hous-

Instead of providing information about all housing programs, the new brochure will ask students to request information and the department will send them the information later, hesaid.

Returning students will benefit from other changes in the way rooms are assigned, Hicks said.

"We are trying to eliminate the com-

plexity in the process," he said. "Our catch phrase has been simplicity."

Students who want to return to campus will receive assignments through a four-option process. The first option, commonly known

as "squatter's rights," allows students who are happy with their present rooms to return to them the next year. Under the second option, students

can pull friends who live on campus or are first-year students into their rooms if their present roommates don't want to stay in the rooms. The third and fourth options apply to

students who want to move to a different room within their area or a different area. A random four-digit number will be used to place these students in rooms based on the last four digits of their social security numbers.

Housing Director Wayne Kuncl said he was pleased with the new plan.
"I feel very good about it," he said.

"Overall, I feel like we're moving in the right direction in terms of responding to student needs.

Scott Peeler, RHA co-president, said, "They are trying to get more customer, or student, service. On the whole, we think it's a really good process.'

Top of the Hill plan backed at council hearing

By Dana Pope

A proposed development on the corner of East Franklin and South Columbia streets received enthusiastic support from neighboring businessmen and town council members at a public hearing Monday night.

The development, which would replace the Top of the Hill convenience store, would house retail, office and restaurant space spread out over three floors. Chapel Hill Mayor Jonathan Howes

saidhe was "wildly enthusiastic" about the project and the development possibilities it presented to downtown. "I am delighted the owners have brought forth this proposal," he said. "It is the most exciting project in the

100 block in recent memory. Council member Nancy Preston asked whether the University had been considered in the planning, because the town now requests more input on

University development proposals. Roger Waldon, town planning director, said the University had been notified in a formal letter, because Ackland Art Museum, a University building, is adjacent to the property. He also said the town and the University had communicated in staff-tostaff meetings about the proposed development.

The proposal complies with required regulations and standards of the development ordinance with the exceptions of parking, floor area and height limits, the town manager's report states.

Riddle Commercial Properties, the Fayetteville-based developer, requested that the parking requirement be waived. Under town ordinance, the building would require about 83 parking spaces.

Mickey Ewell, the owner of Spanky's, which is across the street from the proposed site, said that he was pleased with the council's enthusiasm on the project, and that the only concern he had heard from other merchants was parking problems.

"As it stands now, lack of parking discourages downtown development, he said. "We would like to encourage such development in our neighborhood.

The two driveway connections at Top of the Hill would be closed under the new plan because no parking would be

Waldon said he supported waiving the parking regulations to eliminate most traffic problems on the site.

Town council member Joyce Brown said she would like to see a move toward more transportation planning. The proposal had included the possibility of giving the building employees bus passes so they wouldn't drive to work. "I would like to see us have something really strong," she said. "I'm not sure that bus passes do that. I'm not in favor of building more parking spaces, but we should look at more transportation planning.

Town council member Art Werner agreed that waiving the parking requirement was a step in the right direction toward efficient transportation.

"We are trading inappropriate park ing for more square footage, which we need in this area," he said.

The report states that present town ordinance allows only 20,645 square feet of space on the site, but Riddle contends that the 33,000 square feet is necessary to make the project eco-

nomically and financially feasible. Waldon said the building almost would fill the lot and suggested the floor space requirement also be waived

The building on this site makes a lot of sense," he said, Waldon added that the height limit

would also be waived. Mark Zack, an architect for Hakan, Corley & Associates, who drew the plans for the project, said the residents of Chapel Hill were considered in the

development plans. Howes said the new building would be something that UNC alumni could appreciate when they returned. "Alumni will find this to be fully compatible to the 100 block they knew when they were students here.'

Request denied. — Caroline