

CAMPUS AND CITY

Police catch driver who fled accident

Truck splits telephone pole downtown, streets blocked

By Amber Nimocks
City Editor

Police apprehended the man who fled the scene of an accident caused when he drove a transfer truck into a telephone pole on the corner of Rosemary and Columbia streets Wednesday.

The driver, whose name police have not released, headed his truck down Rosemary Street, leaving the telephone pole splintered in half and power lines dangling near the busy intersection around 4:15 p.m., according to police.

Harry Crosby, who watched the accident from in front of Columbia Street Bakery, said the truck had stopped for a red light at the corner.

The vehicle was turning right onto Rosemary Street when it scraped the telephone pole and lifted it out of the ground, Crosby said. When the truck continued its turn, the pole split in half, he said.

The driver tried to back up the truck, which bore the name Coretta Trucking Co., and drive it around the pole but was unsuccessful, Crosby said.

"I was just incredulous," Crosby said. "I was trying to see what a person who could have done a thing like that looked like. I don't believe that anyone would be that stupid."

Crosby said a man operating the parking booth on the corner notified police of the accident.

Chapel Hill police Lt. Joe Jackson

said the man continued driving on Rosemary Street and police officers apprehended him on Franklin Street near Estes Drive.

No one was injured in the accident, Jackson said.

Jackson said he did not know if the driver was arrested but added that the man would be charged.

Police blocked Columbia Street from Franklin Street to the fire station on Airport Road. Rosemary Street from Franklin Street to Henderson Street also was closed to traffic.

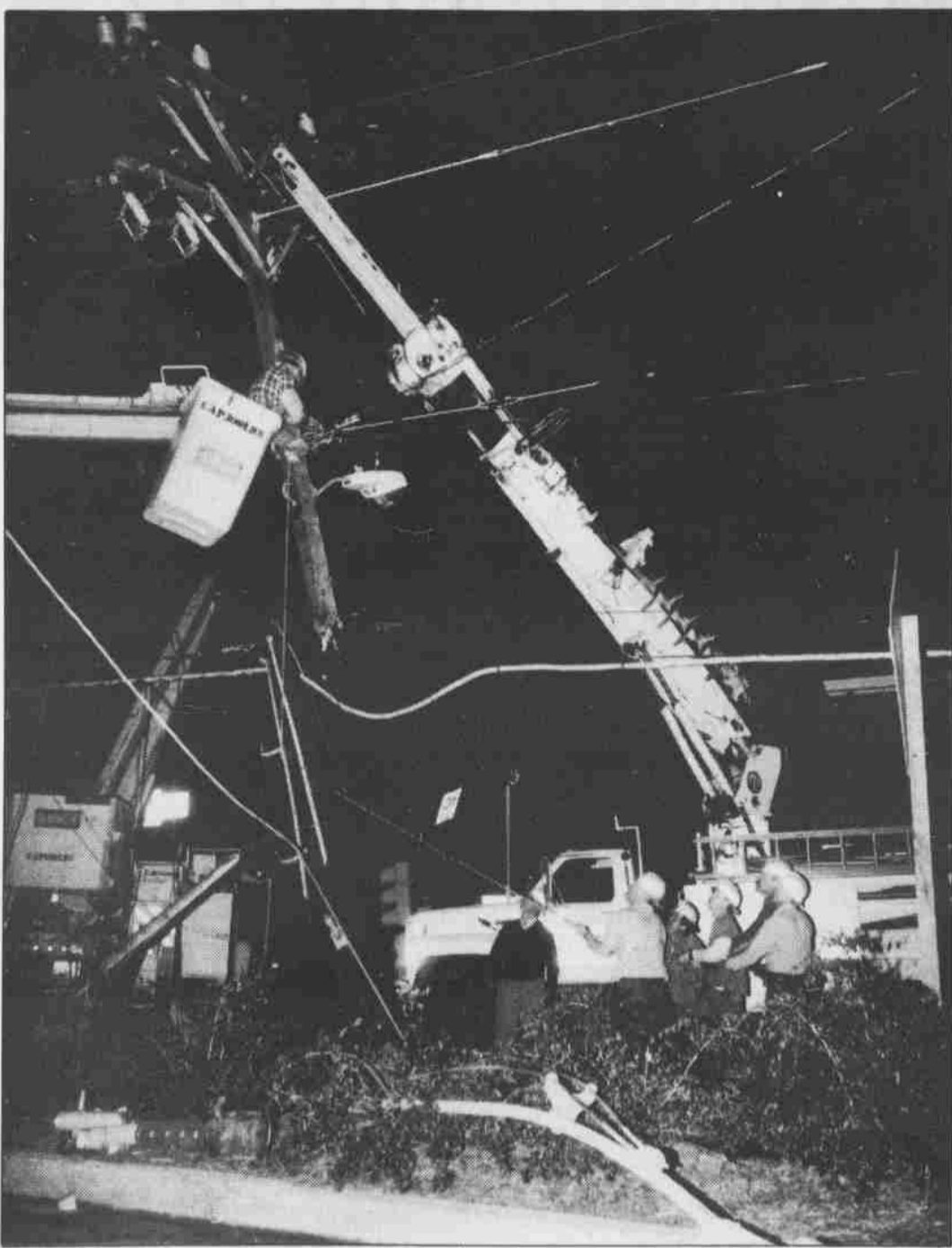
None of the power lines, which sagged into the empty intersection, were severed, Jackson said, adding that the lines were still live while Duke Power employees worked to replace the telephone pole.

"That's why we're being so particular about keeping people away from the scene of the accident," Jackson said. "All the lines are still live, and if they (split), somebody is going to get electrocuted."

Assistant Chapel Hill Fire Chief C.M. Maynor said safety workers were most concerned about pedestrians near the site of the accident.

Officials working on repairing damage caused by the accident said they expected the replacement work to take between three hours and six hours.

Jackson said the only business near the intersection that lost power was Hardback Cafe. Lights also were turned off at Spanky's Restaurant.



Duke Power employee Warren Miller works on a telephone pole, split in half when a transfer truck hit it Wednesday. DTH/Andrew Cline

Honorary societies seek nominations

By Beth Tatum
Assistant Features Editor

Up in the Frank Porter Graham Lounge in the Student Union sits a round, wooden table with hardwood chairs complemented by burgundy cushioned seats. The floor is carpeted in red and on the walls are gold plaques, each bearing the names of members of The Order of the Grail-Valkyries.

Sound a little mysterious, mythological — like a scene from King Arthur's court?

No mystery here. The Order of the Grail-Valkyries is just one of the four groups that comprise the UNC Honorary Societies.

The others are the Order of the Golden Fleece, the Order of the Old Well and the Society of Janus. Each group represents a different area of excellence in the University.

The Order of the Golden Fleece is the oldest of the societies, founded in 1903. It chooses for its members students, faculty and staff who exemplify high character and have made lasting contributions to the University. It's an honorary society based on overall excellence, said Vann Donaldson, president of the Order of the Golden Fleece and member of the Society of Janus and the Order of the Grail-Valkyries.

The Order of the Grail-Valkyries made its debut in 1920, when only men (Grails) were admitted. In 1941, the group started taking in women (Valkyries). Its function is primarily to recognize student organizational leaders who show excellence in scholarship, leadership, character and service. Members must have a 3.2 grade point average, Donaldson said.

The Order of the Old Well deals more with recognition of service. Its members are students who work more behind the scenes to bring about positive change.

"We have more of the low-profile students — the ones who will not appear in the upper folds of the DTH every day," said David Ball, president of the Order of the Old Well.

Finally, there is the Society of Janus, founded in 1957, that recognizes students who have made contributions to the quality of residence hall life, especially through programming.

The societies serve two functions: to recognize unique contributions to the University and to serve the University in some capacity, Donaldson said.

As honorary societies whose main purpose is to recognize those who go above and beyond the call of duty, the groups select members through nominations.

Each group will take a maximum of 25 new members per year, but the average is usually around 10 to 15, Donaldson said.

Once the groups receive their individual nominations, they will follow up all the references and look for unique and lasting contributions made by the person, he said.

Those filling out the nomination forms should be as specific as possible. "We're looking for someone who goes above and beyond, not just someone who goes to meetings," Donaldson said.

In the past, nominations have come from all over campus — including medical students, undergraduates and special interest groups, he said. The orders represent as many segments of campus life as possible. For example, Rick Fox was recognized as a member of the Order of the Golden Fleece for his contributions to the University on the men's varsity basketball team.

Once members are selected, they move on to the second function of the honorary societies — serving the University. This year, the Order of the Old Well is hoping to establish an unrestricted scholarship fund.

"This is a first," Ball said. "It embodies why we are in the group."

The Society of Janus also has a scholarship fund, and the Order of the Golden Fleece helps with Upward Bound, a group bringing high school minorities to campus to encourage them to apply to UNC-CH.

The groups are accepting nominations this week, and forms are available at the Student Union desk, the Undergraduate Library, Davis Library and the Campus Y.

Nominations must be submitted by 5 p.m. Friday.

School bond would mean new property taxes

By Tiffany Ashhurst
Staff Writer

The Chapel Hill-Carrboro and Orange County school systems will receive \$52 million in bonds if the Orange County Board of Commissioners approves a bond package proposed earlier this week.

Passage of the bond package would mean a slight increase in property taxes, Orange County Assistant Manager Rod Visser said earlier this week.

"Every \$10-million bond will require a tax increase of three cents and (the bonds) are normally paid over a 20-year period," he said. "The top figure would be a 15- to 16-cent tax raise."

Ted Parrish, a member of the Chapel

Hill-Carrboro City School Board, said he thought the bond issue would be met with positive response from residents.

"The majority of people in Chapel Hill will probably support the issue," he said.

Kim Hoke, assistant to Chapel Hill-Carrboro school superintendent Gerry House, said the two systems each would receive \$14 million for middle schools and \$2 million for technology plans, such as computer upgrades.

Chapel Hill also will receive \$22 million for a new high school, which eventually will be shared by both districts, he said.

Hoke said Chapel Hill schools should receive more of the bond money because of the system's growth rate.

"Chapel Hill is growing faster than Orange County," she said.

Mary Bushnell, chairwoman of Chapel Hill-Carrboro City School Board, agreed with Hoke.

"We are talking about capital needs, and I believe it would be desirable to have both systems receive the same expense money," she said. "But if one system needs more space, we need to make sure children have enough space."

The number of students attending Chapel Hill-Carrboro schools meets or exceeds building capacities in all grade levels.

"Chapel Hill-Carrboro school district had to compromise by giving up space for our elementary schools, so Orange County could have some of

their needs met," Bushnell said.

Robert Bateman, an Orange County School Board member, said that a big part of the bond money would go to the Chapel Hill system, and that residents in the Orange County district would have mixed feelings about it.

"The bond split will be 70-30 with 70 percent going to Chapel Hill," he said.

Bateman added that he did not think it was an opportune time to raise taxes.

"The school districts should bite the bullet and wait," he said. "We can make do in Orange County with what we have, and I believe Chapel Hill can do the same thing."

Bateman said he was concerned by the strain new taxes would put on lower- and middle-class residents.

Refreshed BOT to focus on education, student concerns

By Maricia Moye
Staff Writer

The new year has brought new faces, new ideas and a new agenda to UNC's Board of Trustees.

This year's BOT promises to follow the traditional Tar Heel footsteps of maintaining the University's integrity as an institution of higher learning as well as addressing concerns of the student body, several trustees said Friday.

Robert Strickland, BOT chairman, said the five recently appointed BOT members contributed to a continuing enthusiasm.

"We have never had such a high turnover," he said. "I am very pleased by the high level of interest shown by all the new members."

"Each appears so eager to learn and contribute."

The recently appointed members are Angela Bryant of Rocky Mount, J. Gregory Poole of Raleigh, Annette Wood of Edenton, David Whichard of Greenville and William Woltz of Mount Airy.

Bryant, Wood and Whichard were

appointed by the Board of Governors last summer.

Woltz replaced John Medlin several months ago. Poole filled Arch Allen's position, who was recently appointed as vice chancellor for University development and relations.

One BOT spot still needs to be filled, that which was held by William Darity. He resigned in December 1991.

Angela Bryant, a recently appointed member, said her first concern was to learn the ropes and fit in.

She said she also wanted to make sure that the concerns of the students were addressed.

Old and new trustees said they had strong views about the issues that were discussed in the meeting Friday. These issues included student fees, application fees and campus security.

The BOT presented a proposal Friday that would increase both student fees and application fees.

Bryant said that she agreed with the proposal to increase fees, but that she was concerned about the effect on students.

"I think that the increase in student

fees and application fees is reasonable," she said.

"However, my only concern is that it does not act as a barrier to people who cannot afford to pay, thereby hindering them from receiving an education from the University."

Strickland said he thought the increases would benefit the University. "I strongly support the increase in student fees, provided that the fee charged is appropriate for the services received," he said.

John Pope, a trustee for seven years, said he agreed that the BOT should address the increase.

"I think the BOT should pay more attention to student fees than they have in the past."

Matt Heyd, ex officio BOT member and student body president, said he felt good about the BOT's collective effort to address major issues on campus, especially security.

"So far (this academic year), 15 women have reported being attacked on campus," he said. "There were probably hundreds of attacks which went unreported."

School board vote excludes teachers from search group

By Christy Hardee
Staff Writer

Excluding teachers from the committee to select Chapel Hill-Carrboro's next school superintendent reflects a lack of faith in system employees, a teacher told the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Board of Education earlier this week.

Members of the board voted 6-1 to allow only board members to serve on the search committee.

Betsy Barrow, Chapel Hill-Carrboro Association of Educators copresident, told the board she thought the group should include teachers.

"The teachers should be heavily involved in the process," Barrow said. "It comes across as not having confidence in your employees."

Board member Sue Baker said she opposed including non-board members on the selection committee.

The media puts tremendous pressure on people to obtain information, and confidentiality could be sacrificed by including non-board members, she said.

But board member Ken Touw, the only member to vote against exclud-

ing teachers, said that other adults can pledge confidentiality.

"We shouldn't expect (teachers) to be any weaker than ourselves," he said.

Representatives from schools and the community will be allowed to participate in the search through a survey and a public hearing.

Residents and teachers also will be invited to attend presentations made by the final candidates.

Community members will have opportunities at public hearings to complete evaluations of each candidate. The evaluations will be reviewed by the board.

A survey, which will attempt to determine characteristics that community members desire in a superintendent, will be distributed to employees and parents at the end of February.

Superintendent Gerry House will leave his position in March to become superintendent of the Memphis, Tenn., school system.

The public hearing will be held during the March 2 board meeting at Grey Culbreth Junior High School.

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