

CAMPUS AND CITY

POLICE ROUNDUP

CAMPUS AND CITY REPORTS

Campus

Sunday, March 29

■ The Student Union Underground was the site of six counts of breaking and entering and larceny and three attempts of breaking and entering Sunday afternoon, according to police reports.

Between noon and 2 p.m., unknown suspects pried open the change doors of the Cyclone and Bad Girls pinball machines and the Galaga, Arch Rivals, Touchdown Fever and Turbo Force video games. The suspects then emptied the money drawers, carrying off about \$400 in quarters. Three other machines had been tampered with.

Damage to the machines is estimated at \$100. Police are continuing the investigation.

■ An unknown suspect damaged a vehicle parked in Hill Lot about 1:30 a.m., causing \$500 worth of damage.

The suspect walked on the vehicle's hood and fell on its windshield, police reports stated.

Saturday, March 28

■ A man who made his own license plate for his car was stopped by police at the corner of South Road and Stadium Drive.

William Douglas Young, of Franklinton, was seen driving down Stadium Drive by University Police officers at 1:30 p.m. When the officers found that they couldn't make out the stickers on his license tag, they stopped Young.

The plate was found to be a novelty tag with red stickers in the corners. When police ran an identification check, it was found that Young's license had been revoked.

Young was arrested for driving with fictitious plates, driving with a revoked license and operating a vehicle without insurance.

■ Officers stopped a man who was seen carrying a beer in the F-Lot about 8 p.m.

Darryl Jerome Coleman, a Raleigh resident, was issued a citation for underage possession of a malt beverage after being identified as under 21 years of age.

■ Shaun C. Donegan of Chapel Hill and Gabriel Pearce Godwin, a Raleigh resident, were issued citations on Stadium Drive for underage possession of a malt beverage.

Police spotted Donegan and Godwin walking south on Stadium Drive carrying beer. When their driver's licenses were checked and they were identified as under the age of 21, they were issued individual citations on the charge.

Friday, March 27

■ A visiting student from Duke University accidentally broke the gate arm in the Hanes Visitor's Parking Lot.

At 4:05 p.m., the attendant told the student to drive around the booth and go to another parking lot since the Hanes lot was full. A van was leaving at the same time, and the gate arm was still up. The student thought the attendants were holding the gate arm up for him, so he drove under the falling arm. On impact, the arm broke over the student's car.

The student was very cooperative and said he would pay for the damages if necessary, according to police reports.

City

Monday, March 30

■ A Chapel Hill woman reported that her neighbor accidentally discharged a firearm through the wall of her apartment, police reports stated.

The woman, who is a resident of Brookstone Apartments, was not at home at the time of the incident, according to police reports. Her neighbor wrote her a letter notifying her of the incident and agreed to pay for any damages, police reports stated.

A police officer spoke to the neighbor and confirmed that the shot was accidental, reports stated.

Saturday, March 28

■ An assault was reported at 303 Broad St. in Carrboro, according to police reports.

The victim of the assault said the suspect attempted to choke her after they had an argument, police reports stated.

The victim said she wanted no action taken against the suspect, reports stated.

Friday, March 27

■ A Durham man tried to pass a forged, stolen check, according to police reports.

Michael Shane Shatterfield of 2112 Broad St., Apartment E-45, was charged with uttering a worthless check, possession of stolen property and possession of drug paraphernalia, reports stated.

Shatterfield was placed on \$5,000 secured bond, reports stated.

Scientists, FDA differ on irradiation

By Brendan Smith
Staff Writer

Warning: Strawberries may be hazardous to your health.

Every weekday, workers in Mulberry, Fla., load strawberries into the nation's first food irradiator plant. The berries pass through chambers where glowing rods of cobalt-60 bombard them with 100,000 rads of gamma radiation, equal to about 10 million medical X-rays.

Despite guarantees by state and federal officials that the irradiation of food is safe, some scientists and environmentalists remain unconvinced.

Food is irradiated either to kill bacteria such as salmonella, which causes food poisoning, or to increase the food's shelf life. Irradiation does not make food radioactive.

The Food and Drug Administration approved irradiation for fruits and vegetables in 1986 and for poultry in 1990, but irradiated foods had not been readily available in the United States until the Florida plant opened in January.

Vindicator of Florida Inc., a private company, opened the plant after six years of planning and building.

There are more than 140 industrial irradiator plants located in more than 40 countries, but their primary use is the sterilization of disposable medical equipment.

Harley Everett, executive vice president of Vindicator, said food irradiation could greatly reduce deaths associated with salmonella bacteria in poultry.

According to a special Atlanta Journal-Constitution report, the Center for Disease Control estimates that at least 2 million people were poisoned by salmonella bacteria in 1990, and as many as 2,000 people died.

"I could have pointed to gravestones and said I could have stopped that (with irradiation)," Everett said.

The World Health Organization has approved the irradiation of poultry as a health safety measure for developing countries.

The Vindicator plant treats about 100,000 pounds of strawberries an hour to sell to local wholesalers, Everett said.

Irradiation doubles the shelf life of strawberries from one week to two weeks, he said.



The FDA-required radura is an international symbol for irradiated food

Company executives hope to expand the company and open more plants to treat more foods, Everett said.

Barbara Ward-Grobes, public affairs specialist for the FDA, said the agency had done many studies on irradiation.

"The agency has moved very carefully in the area of food irradiation," she said. "Without a doubt, we are sure the process is a safe one."

Despite FDA approval, some scientists and environmental groups have questioned the safety of irradiation and the reliability of the FDA's studies.

Michael Colby, president of the New York-based Food and Water Inc., said FDA toxicity studies have not been sufficient to ensure public health. The non-profit advocacy group formed in 1986 to oppose food irradiation.

Of the 441 toxicity studies commissioned by the FDA, 436 were ruled invalid by the agency because they did not meet its standards.

Two of the remaining five studies were found to be methodologically flawed, and a third study suggested adverse effects of irradiated food on older animals, according to an article in The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists by Dr. Donald Louria of the New Jersey Medical School.

"These three studies do not document the safety of food irradiation, and why the FDA relied on them is mystifying," Louria states in the article.

The remaining two studies were sound, but they used foods irradiated at

See IRRADIATE, page 9

Local man seeks ban on irradiated food

By Brendan Smith
Staff Writer

The management of a local market has refused to sell irradiated foods and is pushing state legislators to ban them because of health risks it believes the foods might pose to consumers.

Irradiated foods have been exposed to gamma rays either to increase the food's shelf life or to kill bacteria that causes food poisoning. Food does not become radioactive in the process.

Keith Hayes, communications manager for Weaver Street Market in Carrboro, said the Food and Drug Administration did not perform enough studies to determine the health effects of food irradiation before it approved irradiation for fruits and vegetables in 1986.

"The testing is inadequate, so many, many people would argue that the possibility of cancer evolving from (eating) irradiated food is possible," Hayes said.

After writing to about 20 state legislators urging them to support a ban on irradiated food, Hayes said he received no response. Hayes also said he had not found any local scientists who would support a ban.

Maine has banned irradiated foods, and New York and New Jersey have placed moratoriums on the sale of irradiated foods. Countries including Australia, West Germany and Denmark also have either banned or severely limited the production of irradiated food.

The radura, an irradiation symbol required by the FDA, is not sufficient, Hayes said. No information about the dangers of irradiation is required on food packaging, he said.

Hayes said he hoped consumers would reject irradiated foods.

"Now is the time that consumers can make a difference," he said. "They can refuse to buy irradiated foods and kill this industry. Now that this issue has become more prominent in the media, it raises the stakes for politicians."



Keith Hayes of Weaver Street Market is lobbying legislators to ban irradiated food

Robert Gordon, director of the N.C. Food and Drug Protection Division, said the state had not considered supporting a ban because it was satisfied with the FDA's testing of irradiated foods.

"We feel like we must use the experience of the FDA," he said. "No one state has the money or the expertise to test or clear something of this magnitude."

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Residents call for shaded, gravel sidewalks

By Julie Flick
Staff Writer

Chapel Hill pedestrians would benefit from extended sidewalk networks, gravel paths and shade trees, a group of residents told town planners at a public hearing Tuesday night.

Eva Metzger, a 30-year resident of Chapel Hill, said planners would have no trouble deciding where to build new sidewalks.

"All we need to do is go out there and look where pedestrians have made pathways and add sidewalks there," Metzger said.

David Bonk, Chapel Hill transportation planner, presented the town's 1992 pedestrian plan, which proposes establishing pedestrian precincts around high-activity areas.

Precincts would include land within a quarter of a mile of any activity center, such as a school or shopping mall. The town would construct convenient, user-friendly pathways within precincts, and the areas would be located on public transit routes, Bonk said.

Remaining Capital Improvement Program funds totaling \$30,000 have been allocated to fund sidewalk construction described in the pedestrian

plan.

Rachel Willis, a planning board member, said the town's sidewalks needed shade trees for the summer months.

"One of the main reasons people in Chapel Hill don't walk for five or six months per year is because it's too hot," Willis said. "Planting a strip of shade trees would change people's perceptions."

Henry Whitfield, a 55-year resident of Chapel Hill, said more sidewalks were needed near schoolhouses and in the periphery of town, not in the center of town.

"Unless you're going to double pave

these sidewalks or put them on campus, I think it's a waste of time," Whitfield said. "The University has paved every inch of campus with brick, and I don't know when they're going to stop."

Kathleen Cheape, a retired University law school librarian, suggested the town use gravel instead of bricks for sidewalks.

Cheape said she had fallen twice because of uneven or missing bricks on the University campus.

"I think if you're going to put in lay bricks, you should have careful maintenance," she said. "I think these bricks are expensive, and I resent the high

taxes. Chapel Hill gravel is fine. It's ecologically sound because the water runs off, it doesn't harm the trees, and it is compatible with the atmosphere of uptown."

Tim Stevens, an area resident, requested that a sidewalk be laid on North Columbia Street.

Pat Evans, a planning board member, suggested the town build a path along U.S. 15-501 Bypass.

"There is very little space to walk safely, even underneath the overpass," Evans said. "If we want people to walk instead of driving their cars, we need to provide them with safe sidewalks."

Dannar, Mullins opt to share class treasurer's post

By Kathleen Keener
Staff Writer

Michael Dannar and Kristin Mullins have decided to join forces and become co-treasurers for the senior class, pending Student Congress approval.

Due to complications with the Elections Board, the campaign was much longer than either candidate expected, Dannar said. He and Mullins became friends while they campaigned for the position of treasurer.

Congress representatives will vote next week on whether they will allow co-treasurers.

The run-off for the position originally was scheduled for before Spring Break, but was postponed until March 17 and then until March 24.

Dannar said he did not know why the run-off was postponed several times. "The Elections Board has been very difficult to work with — they don't return phone calls, and they are impossible to get in touch with."

Melvin Davis, Elections Board chairman, could not be reached for comment.

Mullins said publicizing another run-off election was difficult because students and administrators were ready for campus elections to be over.

Both candidates realized how much

the other wanted the office, so they decided to work together.

"We both really wanted it and had good ideas, and I knew Michael would do just as good a job as me," Mullins said.

Dannar said the length of the campaign also factored in to their decision to combine efforts.

"We decided to try to be co-treasurers because we had talked on the phone so much, we were really compatible, and we both really wanted it," he added.

Mullins said having co-treasurers for the senior class would be beneficial.

"It gives another person the opportunity to participate in student government," she said.

Mullins said she and Dannar would split the duties of treasurer in order to make the office more efficient.

"On paper I want the duties divided," she said. "That way we won't have double phone calls to (the Student Activities Fund Office)."

The vote was so close in the first election it was as if they were both elected, Mullins said.

In the first election, Dannar received 120 votes, and Mullins garnered 106.

Bob Paty and Elizabeth Mitchell are the newly elected senior class president and vice president.

Town planning to make buildings more accessible to handicapped

By Emily Russ
Staff Writer

Chapel Hill's enforcer of the federal act that requires removing physical barriers for handicapped residents said the town was formulating a plan to comply with the new regulations.

"We have been charged with making sure that the town is complying in the proper manner with the (federal) guidelines," said Joyce Smith, local co-coordinator of Americans with Disabilities Act.

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, which went into effect Jan. 26, requires local governments to appoint coordinators to execute the guidelines.

More accessible handicap parking

near building entrances, wider parking spaces and wider curb cuts are mandated by the ordinance. Doorways that are 32 inches wide, unobstructed pathways, wider bathroom stalls and accommodating bathroom facilities also are required by the ordinance.

Smith said another change outlined in the ordinance would have an impact on local buildings. Threshold levels in many buildings exceed 2 inches, making buildings inaccessible to people using wheelchairs. These levels must be shortened to 1/2 inch, she said.

Coordinators are determining how town facilities must be changed and are identifying specific alterations and deadlines that the town must meet.

An outline for the changes will be

complete by July 26, Smith said. Changes to public buildings must be completed in three years, she said, adding that the renovations would not be difficult for the town to complete.

Buildings constructed after Jan. 26, 1992, will be required by the town to comply with the new ordinance.

"There is a lot that can be done," said Martha Barbee, honorary co-chairwoman of the Orange County Disability Awareness Council. "When buildings are built, we want to be included to give our expertise."

Barbee, who is blind, said that she was happy with the upcoming changes and that she hoped the ordinance would

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Recession prompts council to cut funding

By Brendan Smith
Staff Writer

State cutbacks and the recession have forced the Chapel Hill Town Council to cut the town's Capital Improvements Program by more than 70 percent.

During the past five years, the council allocated between \$400,000 and \$500,000 to the CIP each year, but Town Manager Cal Horton recommended Monday that the council limit its CIP spending to \$230,000 during the next two years.

Horton said he hoped to increase CIP spending after the next two years. The council allocates funds to the CIP to

provide for costly projects that cannot be funded by the town department budgets. Department officials request CIP funds, and the town manager recommends proposals to the council.

From a list of 33 proposed projects, the council emphasized the importance of funding sidewalk construction, the Greenways projects and the leasing and upgrading of Glen Lennox Fields. The town has proposed leasing the fields from the University to use as soccer facilities.

Council member Mark Chilton said he was concerned that other projects needing funds would be denied.

"There aren't a whole lot of options

here," Chilton said. "We're really looking at a bare-bones program."

The Greenways project involves acquisition and landscaping of land along the town's streams to prevent erosion and provide hiking trails.

Greenways Commission members said during a work session with the council Monday night that they needed \$50,000 a year in CIP funds for the next five years. Under the present CIP plan, the commission would receive \$40,000 during the next two years.

Funds are limited because \$60,000 has been earmarked for projects the

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for Graduating Seniors and Graduate Students

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