

# WORLDWIDE

## Clinton signs health bill

WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton signed a bill into law Wednesday that will help people who already have health insurance to keep it. Sponsored by Sen. Nancy Kassebaum (R-Kan.) and Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.), the bill protects those who change jobs or become ill from losing their medical benefits. White House spokesman Mike McCurry acknowledged that the bill does not address the question of the uninsured, who currently number 37 million, and said health care reform will be a very important part of Clinton's second-term agenda, which will be more specifically laid out when Clinton accepts his nomination for the presidency at the Democratic convention next week.

## ValuJet delays reopening date

MIAMI — ValuJet Airlines, which had planned to reopen Friday after suspending service since June for maintenance problems, said Wednesday that it will not be able to resume its service on the target date. ValuJet said that it became clear late Tuesday that its executives would not have the necessary approval from the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Federal Aviation Administration in time. The *Washington Post* quoted unnamed sources Wednesday as saying the DOT was at least 11 days away from giving ValuJet its regulatory go-ahead. ValuJet closed its doors in the aftermath of the May 11 Florida Everglades crash that left 110 people dead. The FAA stepped up safety inspections at the airline after the incident.

## Funeral held in Belgium

BRUSSELS, Belgium — A grieving nation prepared on Wednesday to bury two eight-year-old girls who were victims of a pedophile gang as Belgian police continued their search for other missing girls. Convicted sex offender Marc Dutroux, 39, led police to the bodies of Melissa Russo and Julie Lejeune in the garden of a house he owned near Charleroi, in southern Belgium. The girls, abducted in June 1995, starved to death earlier this year and will be buried Thursday after a televised public memorial service in the east Belgian town of Liege. Dutroux also told police of two other abducted girls, 14-year-old Laetitia Delhez and 12-year-old Sabine Dardenne, who were found alive in a makeshift concrete dungeon in another of his houses. Both had been sexually abused.

# Freshmen anticipate seminars

## Seminars offer in-depth discussions and professor interaction

By JOE DOBNER  
Graphics Editor

Starting this year, all incoming students will share an academic experience. All freshmen are now required to take a first year seminar class. These classes are taught on a voluntary basis by professors from as many departments as possible. With titles like C.S. Lewis, The Federal Deficit and Medical Ethics, these courses offer subjects not found in the regular curriculum. They are primarily centered around in-class discussion, with required readings outside of class. Professor of anthropology J. Ned Woodall, who is teaching Problems With the Past: Controversial Topics in the Cultural and Physical Evolution of Humans, plans to give his students journal articles to read. "It's always bothered me that in the standard course you just don't have time to look at all the explanations for a given subject," he said. "I thought it would be fun to present the students with all the alternatives and let them wrestle with choosing the answer that

best fits the facts." Associate professor of education Leah McCoy, who is teaching The Internet and Society, plans on using sources from popular culture to teach her class, such as Bill Gates' *The Road Ahead* and Clifford Stoll's *Silicon Snake Oil*. Both classes will focus heavily on discussion of the reading materials. Freshmen do not get to register for the seminars as they would regular courses. All freshmen were sent a list of all the seminars, and for each semester were asked to pick 10 seminars they would like to take and three that they would dislike taking. Professor of English Anne Boyle, a member of the first year seminar committee, said that all students who correctly completed and returned the forms were assigned to one of their preferred courses. This means that students were assigned to one of 20 preferred courses. Fifty-eight were offered in all. The system was not satisfactory for all incoming freshmen. "I wish I could have ranked my choices," freshman Dan McNair said. Some freshmen said that they picked

their preferred seminars by what sounded interesting to them. "I wanted to take something that wasn't offered at my high school," freshman Brandy Peaker said. The possible difficulty of seminars influenced some students' decisions. "I didn't want to get something that was a lot of reading and writing, so it wouldn't conflict with my other classes," McNair said. All seminars had to be submitted to the first year seminar committee for approval. Boyle said that about half the courses submitted were approved with no changes, and that the rest needed only minor clarifications. "We wanted to make sure that (each) course was academically rigorous, and it would introduce students to critical thinking, close reading of texts, debate, and oral and written communication," Boyle said. Another aspect of the first year seminars is their small size, suggested in the Plan for the Class of 2000. Seminars consist of only 15 students, which makes class discussions easier to manage.



### Welcome home

Freshmen Ellen Scarff and Sarah Graham are instructed by sophomore resident advisor Cecilia Pressley. RAs were on hand Wednesday to help students check in and get acclimated.

Karen Hillenbrand

# POLICE BEAT

## Theft highlights summer crime

**MAY**  
**THEFT** — A student's bicycle worth \$600 was taken from a Polo Road residence. The student was getting a glass of water for someone who had come to the door. While the student went to get the water, the person stole the bike and other items. Two speakers were stolen from a student's car that was parked in Lot Q, next to the Scales Fine Arts Center. The speakers were worth \$200. A student's bicycle worth \$1,500 was taken from an unlocked room in Davis House. **DAMAGE** -Four tires on a student's car and one tire on another student's car were slashed. Both cars were parked near Bostwick Residence Hall. **MISCELLANEOUS** — A university subcontractor's employee was issued a citation for possession of drug paraphernalia. The paraphernalia was found after the worker consented to a search of the car. A city resident, who had a knife and baton-type weapon in Reynolda Gardens, was charged with carrying a concealed weapon. The individual was cited for possession of marijuana, drug paraphernalia and issued a trespass warning. **JUNE**  
**THEFT** - A car worth \$5,000 was taken from a parking space along Jasper Memory Lane. The keys were left in the car, which belonged to a university subcontractor's employee. The Winston-Salem Police Department later found the car and arrested a suspect. A car stereo worth \$250 and compact discs worth \$200 were taken from a student's car. A window was broken on the car, which was parked in Lot F at the intersection of Wingate Road and Jasper Memory Lane. A computer system worth \$2,090 was reported missing from an office in the Worrell Professional Center. **JULY**  
**THEFT** — Three bicycle thefts were reported in July. A student's bicycle worth \$500 was taken from a bike rack along Jasper Memory Lane. The bike's lock was pried off. Another student's bike worth \$250 was taken from a rack at Bostwick Residence Hall after the lock was cut. A bike belonging to a campus visitor was removed from a rack in Lot M, next to Reynolda Hall. The bike, which was worth \$1,000, was tied to the rack with straps. A student's laptop computer worth \$3,200 was taken from an unlocked office in the Benson University Center. Someone took a videocassette recorder worth \$360 from an unlocked room in Olin Physical Laboratory. The item belonged to the university. Two golf carts worth \$700 were taken from a fenced area at Groves Stadium. The fence and gate were damaged during the robbery.

# ThinkPad security takes time

By BRIAN DIMMICK  
Managing Editor

The incoming class of 2000 has made a large investment in their ThinkPads, and according to Donna Horosko, a university prevention specialist, freshmen need to take appropriate steps to protect that investment against theft. Horosko said that ThinkPads are most vulnerable to theft when left unattended and unsecured. She cautioned students against leaving the computers unattended in their bookbags while in the Pit, the Benson University Center Food Court, study lounges and the library. "ThinkPads are targets of opportunity. Everyone is going to know what's in that bookbag," she said. "Keep your bookbag with you or make sure your buddy is watching it. Don't leave it unattended; that's being naive," Horosko said.

Horosko also said she recommends that students purchase a Kensington Micro Saver security system for their machines. Available in the College Book Store, the devices cost \$49.95 and plug into the side of a ThinkPad. The other end is wrapped around a secure object such as a piece of furniture. If someone attempts to steal the machine, the Micro Saver will rip off the side panel of the ThinkPad and disable the keyboard, making the machine unusable. Horosko said that students should mark their ThinkPads so they can tell them apart from the other machines on campus. This marking should be done in a way which is not permanent, since students will be turning in the machines after their second year. Other things students can do to safeguard their computers include recording and keeping in a safe place their serial number and never check-

ing laptops in their luggage during air travel. If the ThinkPad does get stolen, the student should contact Campus Police immediately. If the machine has just been stolen, the student should call the police emergency number at Ext. 5911. If the machine was stolen several hours before, however, students should call the police office number at Ext. 5591. If their machine is stolen, students may have to pay to replace it if the theft is determined to be the result of negligence. "At times, safety is inconvenient, and there's a reason for that. If it's inconvenient for you, it's inconvenient for a thief," Horosko said. Horosko will be in front of the Benson University Center from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday to answer questions about ThinkPad security, bicycle security and the Operation ID program.

# ThinkPad

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cerned that in classes heavy with ThinkPad users, those students without ThinkPads will be at a disadvantage or feel "left out." Hayford also expressed concern that professors' office hours may become more oriented towards solving computer-related issues rather than giving students academic help and improving student-faculty relations. Included with the ThinkPad was a CD-ROM, with remarks from President Thomas K. Hearn, Jr., which introduces students to the basic functions of the laptop computer. The ThinkPad 365XD comes equipped with 16 megabytes of random access memory, a 100 megahertz Intel Pentium processing chip, an 810 megabyte hard drive, and Ethernet and modem cards to enable students to connect to the campus network or the Internet from almost anywhere on campus. Each ThinkPad also comes with a standard software load that includes Windows 95, Microsoft Office for word processing and spreadsheet development, and Netscape Navigator Gold and Eudora Lite for Internet and e-mail capabilities. Provost David G. Brown, the head of the Program Planning Committee that developed the Plan for the Class of 2000, will teach a first-year seminar using the ThinkPad

entitled "The Economist's Way of Thinking." Brown believes that the chief benefit of the ThinkPads in the classroom will be a high level of collaboration among the students. Brown taught the same class last semester as part of the pilot program, and was pleased with the amount of student interaction. "I received 1,247 e-mail messages over the course of the semester discussing topics we covered in class. Discussion was lively both during the week and the weekend. Often, one student would make a class presentation, and the other members of the class would send comments to the rest of the class over e-mail. Then the students began making recommendations on the first set of comments," Brown said. "The key challenge that the students will face in these classes is to know when to use the computer, and when to speak to someone face to face," Brown added. In addition to the large volume of e-mail he received, Brown noted that the number of student visits during his office hours increased as well. Brown attributes this rise in student visits to a "comfortable rapport" between the students and himself, made possible by the constant e-mail interaction. Nine out of the 14 students in the pilot class continued the e-mail discussion group with Brown well into the summer months. The requirement for incoming students to purchase an IBM Thinkpad 365XD laptop computer was a major portion of the Plan for the Class of 2000, which also contains provisions for the addition of 40 new faculty members and a first-year seminar program.

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