

CITY BRIEFS

Food reported stolen from Delta Kappa Epsilon house

Chapel Hill police reports state that \$250 worth of food was stolen Tuesday morning from the Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity house, located at 132 S. Columbia Street.

According to reports, an unknown suspect entered the house through the kitchen door and stole the food items.

No force was involved in the breaking and entering, reports state. The case is under investigation.

STATE BRIEFS

Black Political Caucus hit campaign finance violation

CHARLOTTE — The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Black Political Caucus was fined \$4,500 for violating state campaign finance law, and ordered by the State Board of Elections to follow stricter public disclosure requirements.

Board members scolded the caucus Tuesday for breaking the law just three years after it was warned about similar problems.

But the board declined to impose larger fines and took no action against N.C. Rep. Pete Cunningham, D-Charlotte, who loaned the caucus more than state law allows. The caucus broke the law by repaying the loan with money not meant for that purpose.

Kim Westbrook Strach, the state investigator who examined the case, disputed caucus officials' assertion that the violations were made through ignorance.

She also said in a report released Tuesday that the caucus treasurer realized she was making a mistake but was overruled by the executive committee. The main accusation involved more than \$20,000 that Cunningham loaned the group in 2002 to pay for a sample ballot with the names of candidates it supported.

The caucus repaid Cunningham with \$14,000 from its political account, which is subject to state campaign finance laws that limit contributions to \$4,000 per election cycle and require the caucus to list its donors.

NATIONAL BRIEFS

Changes in overtime pay to hurt some, Democrats say

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Democrats are challenging the Bush administration's overtime pay overhaul, saying many white-collar workers will lose premium pay despite election-year promises that the effects would be minimal.

The new regulations, which were previewed Tuesday and will take effect in 120 days, specify a number of white-collar jobs that will be exempt from overtime pay eligibility. They include pharmacists, funeral directors, embalmers, journalists, financial services industry workers, insurance claims adjusters and human resource managers. Others are management consultants, executive and administrative assistants, dental hygienists, physician assistants, accountants and chefs.

Even athletic trainers with degrees or specialized training, computer system analysts, programmers and software engineers generally will be exempt.

"The devil is in the details, and we just got the details," said Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, who led Senate opposition to the earlier version of the proposed regulations.

WORLD BRIEFS

Chinese officials confirm visit from N. Korean leader

BEIJING — China confirmed Wednesday that North Korean leader Kim Jong Il paid a three-day visit to Beijing, and said both sides agreed to "continue jointly pushing forward" for six-party talks on the North's nuclear ambitions.

It was the first word of the visit from the Chinese side, which usually withholds details until after Kim returns to Pyongyang.

The "unofficial" visit began Monday at the invitation of President Hu Jintao, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

Hu and Kim "exchanged in-depth views on peacefully solving the nuclear issue of the Korean Peninsula," Xinhua said. "Both sides ... agreed to continue the position on solving the issue through dialogue and in a peaceful way, and jointly pushing forward the six-party talks process," the agency said.

Citing Kim, the report also said that North Korea was willing to stick to "the final nuclear-weapon-free goal," adding that Pyongyang's position on seeking a peaceful solution through dialogue "has not changed."

Xinhua said Kim met with China's top leaders including former President Jiang Zemin, who now heads China's military commission.

From staff and wire reports.

Yusko's departure will create void

UNC, others face searches to fill slots

BY EMILY STEEL
ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY EDITOR

When Mark Yusko, the chief executive officer of the UNC-Chapel Hill Management Co., leaves the University on July 1 to pursue his career in the private sector, he will create a void at UNC that mimics several others across the nation.

Investment officers at more than

10 public and private universities, including the University of Virginia and the University of Florida, have pursued their careers in the private world, where their incomes multiply and they can manage creative and aggressive investment strategies.

"It is not just the money," said Yusko, who also served as the

University's chief investment officer. "One of the biggest reasons is the opportunity. You know people want to grow and develop and kind of be constantly moving toward goals, and in many university environments you've got difficulty providing those type of opportunities."

Officials said they are optimistic that a qualified CIO to manage the University's \$1 billion endowment will be in position by late summer or early fall.

"I think it is very integral that we have someone at the helm as quickly as possible," said Richard "Stick" Williams, a member of the management company's board and chairman of the University's Board of Trustees. "Our goal is to be the absolute best public university in the nation, and the endowment plays a critical role."

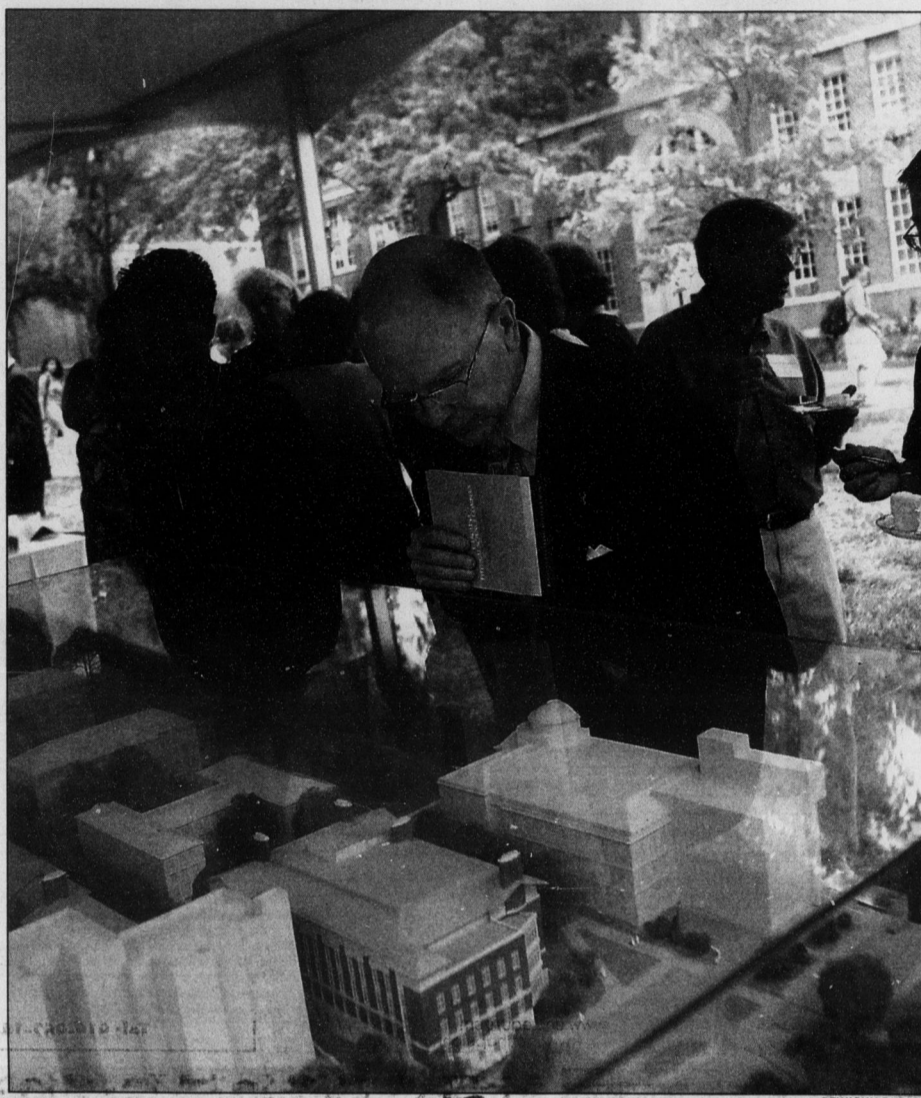
Officials said they will be able to lure candidates to the position by highlighting the work already

accomplished. The company has functioned as a private foundation for two years, and has pursued cutting-edge investment strategies.

But officials said they will hire a candidate who will not manage investments outside the University-system, a point of contention that led Yusko to his resignation.

"Institutions like this have got to be very, very careful in what people

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Chancellor James Moser views a model of the science complex at the groundbreaking Wednesday afternoon. The \$205-million project, the largest construction undertaking in UNC-Chapel Hill history, is expected to be completed by 2009.

BUILDING A FUTURE

\$205M complex, biggest in UNC history, prompts celebration

BY LAUREN HARRIS
STAFF WRITER

The University officially celebrated the groundbreaking for the largest construction project in UNC-Chapel Hill history Wednesday — the \$205 million Carolina Physical Science Complex.

The ceremony, postponed from its original September date because of Hurricane Isabel, brought 200 guests to Polk Place, including some of the top administrators in the UNC system.

The complex, which will replace aging buildings with state-of-the-art

facilities, will be built in two phases and is slated to be completed by 2009.

The complex will house the departments of chemistry, computer science, marine sciences, mathematics and physics and astronomy, along with a new Institute for Advanced Materials, Nanoscience and Technology.

Lowry Caudill, chairman of the project's steering committee, said the complex will facilitate collaboration between scientists of different disciplines, speeding up the rate of scientific research and discovery.

"Science today is more collaborative than ever and will continue to become

more collaborative," Caudill said. "(Some scientific problems) will require different disciplines to work together."

One of the buildings, which will connect the computer science facilities of Phillips Hall with the Schools of Medicine and Public Health, will contain state-of-the-art research laboratories for faculty and students, a rooftop astronomy deck, classrooms and lecture halls.

Other science facilities will be built where Venable Hall now stands and

SEE COMPLEX, PAGE 6

N.C. officials prepare for session's start

Growth, funding, salaries key for UNC-system leaders

BY CHRIS COLETTA AND LAURA YOUNGS
ASSISTANT STATE & NATIONAL EDITORS

A mix of familiar issues is on the dockets of the University, the town and the UNC system as they seek to curry the favor of lawmakers before the N.C. General Assembly convenes May 10.

UNC-Chapel Hill's satellite campus, full funding for system enrollment growth and salary increases for faculty and staff are just a few of the issues officials hope legislators will take up this summer session, which is expected to run until early August.

Although other things, such as the economy, might be foremost on the General Assembly's mind, officials expressed confidence that the legislature will do all it can to help them meet their needs.

"They have really done the best they can to protect education," said Kevin Fitzgerald, UNC-CH's legislative liaison. "In a difficult time, you see that the key higher education needs have been met."

Fitzgerald pointed to the funding of enrollment growth, which is also asked for in the UNC-system Board of Governors' legislative request list, as something he thinks will get funded.

Though allocating money for such growth will require about \$63.9 million for the entire system, legislators usually provide such funds.

Mark Fleming, UNC-system associate vice president for state governmental affairs, also said enrollment growth funding is key, adding that it could help lawmakers in their efforts to kick-start the state economy.

"We passionately believe that our university system is the economic engine for the state of North Carolina," he said. "An investment in the university system will be one of the best things legislators can do to help the economy."

In addition, both Fitzgerald and Fleming pointed to the BOG's request for a 6 percent increase in faculty salaries as a priority. The BOG made no specific request for staff who fall under the State Employee Act, but it did request that the workers see a substantive raise.

But in recent years, universities have come under fire for allocating money from tuition increases to faculty raises, and Fleming said finding the money might be hard.

"It's going to be another difficult budget year, and it's going to be tough to get 6 percent."

Plans to push for a new cancer center at UNC-CH also are under way. The Senate approved \$180 million in funding for the center last year, but lawmakers were unable to reach an agreement with House members before session's end.

On a local level, the Chapel Hill Town Council mostly wants the legislature to adopt changes that will make its job easier.

Council member Mark Kleinschmidt said issues such as funding for University fire protection and increased flexibility in choosing school sites are primary goals.

"These requests are things that come out of our daily functioning," he said. "That's really the source of all these."

Contact the State & National Editor at stntdesk@unc.edu.

Panelists debate same-sex unions

Marriage, DOMA take center stage

BY IRIS PADGETT
STAFF WRITER

The Campus Y and the Committee for a Better Carolina hosted a debate Wednesday night concerning same-sex marriages and the Defense of Marriage Act.

About 50 students attended the debate held in Murphey Hall.

During the discussion, Mark Kleinschmidt, Chapel Hill Town Council member, argued that same-sex marriages should be legal.

His opponent, who defended DOMA, was John Rustin, who works for the N.C. Family Policy Council. The council is an organization based in Raleigh that works with lawmakers to strengthen the qualities of families.

The act, signed by President Clinton, allows individual states to not recognize homosexual marriages and civil unions certified in other states. North Carolina cur-

rently does not recognize such unions.

Frances Henderson, from the Orange County Dispute Settlement Center in Carrboro, moderated the debate.

Kleinschmidt began the debate by defending the Town Council's request that the N.C. General Assembly repeal the act.

He said that he did not expect state legislators to respond, but that it is a small step in the right direction.

"Domestic partner benefits aren't enough, because the reality on the street is that town government raises an eyebrow at you when you ask for marriage benefits," Kleinschmidt said.

He said homosexual couples should not have to prove that they are permanent or an economic entity to qualify for legal benefits because this is not expected of straight couples.

Rustin argued against homosexual unions, contending that there is no gene for homosexuality.

SEE DEBATE, PAGE 6

Waters, 60, town visionary

BY EMMA BURGIN AND SHANNAN BOWEN
SENIOR WRITERS

Orange County Director of Emergency Management Nick Waters, 60, died Wednesday after a short battle with cancer.

Waters grew up in Windsor and started working with Orange County Emergency Management about 15 years ago.

His daily routine was to ensure the county was ready for emergencies like hurricanes and terrorist attacks.

Waters pioneered Orange County's emergency medical dispatch program, where telecommunicators are trained to deal with medical situations, said Rod Visser, interim director of emergency management.

Waters also led a strategic planning project in the mid-1990s to implement the Initial Response Vehicle paramedic system. "Every time a call comes in now, a paramedic is dispatched," Visser said. "He changed the whole system to focus on two words: patient outcome."

"He was a giant in the field. People all over the state looked to him for ideas and his down-to-earth, common sense way of dealing with things."



Nick Waters, the pioneer of Orange County's emergency medical dispatch program, died Wednesday at age 60 after battling cancer.

Orange County Commissioner Steve Halkiotis said that Waters was one of the most talented people in the emergency preparedness field.

"The skill, the expertise he exhibited — the man was top in his show," he said. "I watched Nick over a number of years. He was not afraid to speak his mind or step forward to a challenge."

Many who worked with him

considered him a visionary in his field, and Lt. Terry Russell of Emergency Management said Waters brought the county to the forefront of emergency preparedness.

"People look to us as a standard," he said. "There's no doubt in my mind we are the best emergency management department in this

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