

The Daily Tar Heel

VOLUME 115, ISSUE 77

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2007

www.dailytarheel.com

Campus rallies for Jena Six

Students protest racial inequalities

BY ABBY FARSON
STAFF WRITER

Hundreds of UNC students joined protesters across the nation Thursday, decrying perceived racism and supporting the Jena Six.

Students waved posters depicting trees and nooses, chanted fervently and signed a petition in support of the six black high school students who were charged with attempted murder in Jena, La.

Many believe the charges against the black students were unjust and racially motivated.

"We need to stop injustice anywhere — wherever it is — on our campus or off," said Tiffany Whiting, a junior who is a member of UNC's chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

More than eight campus organizations united Thursday for the rally, which stretched from the Pit to Polk Place.

UNC's protest coincided with nationwide efforts to raise awareness of the incident.

About 50,000 people showed up Thursday to protest in Jena. Twenty of them were UNC students who drove almost 1,000 miles to support the cause.

"Our first goal is awareness," said Nikki Clark, who helped organize the event at UNC. "We still feel like a lot of people don't know about this."

Clark, who is president of UNC's NAACP chapter, said the rally also aimed to fight injustice by allowing students to give



DTH/LAUREN COWART

Senior Shawn Guy and junior Jennifer Alston protest in support of the Jena Six on Thursday in the Pit. Protesters from several campus organizations, including the NAACP, held posters and passed out fliers in Polk Place while marching, chanting and urging students to sign their petition.

donations and to sign electronically a petition to be sent to the Jena local government in support of the six students.

In September 2006, black high school students in Jena wanted to sit under a tree where white students typically sat, and some white students responded by hanging three nooses from the tree branches.

Several months later, white students attacked a black student as racial tensions continued to escalate.

The black students then were arrested and charged with attempted second-degree murder of one of the white students.

The final court ruling in the case is still up in the air. Clark said Thursday's rally aimed

to increase discussion on the charged subject of racial inequalities.

"(The media don't) want to touch on racially heated issues, but we need to," she said.

Some demonstrators, who wore black to show their support, said they think the majority of UNC students aren't aware of the Jena Six.

"Judging by the amount of peo-

ple not wearing black, I'd say a lot of people don't know what's going on," said junior Aazia Mickens-Dessaso, a member of the Black Student Movement.

The rally focused attention on the persistence of racism.

"People believe that racism is

SEE JENA SIX, PAGE 8

Funds assist rural areas

Federal grants go to N.C. colleges

BY ARIEL ZIRULNICK
STAFF WRITER

Two \$1 million federal grants awarded to N.C. community colleges this week could jump-start growth in two rural communities.

The funds are expected to make rural North Carolina more attractive to greater numbers of professionals, particularly in the health care field, who normally would gravitate to the state's urban areas.

The grants, funded by the U.S. Economic Development Administration, were given to Catawba Valley Community College in Hickory and to the city of Laurinburg, which has partnered with Richmond Community College.

"North Carolina is becoming a state of the haves and have-nots," said Laurinburg City Manager Craig Honeycutt. "The influx of grant money and the influx of new educational facilities is huge for our community."

The grants will fund innova-

SEE GRANTS, PAGE 8



DTH/RICKY LEUNG

Junior Katie Turek quarterbacks for the Maverick Renegades in a co-recreational intramural flag football game Tuesday on Hooker Fields.

Intramural women score extra points

Goals by females weighted more

BY MEGHAN PRICHARD
STAFF WRITER

When captain Amanda Marvelle scores a touchdown for her flag football team, Weapons of Grass Destruction, she brings in nine points.

But when her opponent, captain Josh Meyer of the Decrepit Elders, scores the same touchdown, he only gets six points.

In co-recreational intramural sports, women score more points for goals than men.

"The purpose of the rule is to get women more involved," said Dustin Van Sloten, intramural sports director.

But the rule, which was established by the National Intramural-Recreational Sports Association, has larger ramifications, as some see it as an inequality for women.

"I feel that the national guidelines are outdated and insulting to women," said Barbara Osborne, a professor in the Department of Exercise and Sport Science and an adjunct law professor.

"There may have been a time when you needed to make accommodations for women to feel comfortable competing with men. ... But those days are long gone."

This year there are 1,238 men participating in UNC's intramural sports program. But the number of women is more than four times that — with 5,584 participants.

Matt Ezzell, a sixth-year graduate student in the Department of Sociology, said the point rules are just one example of institutional discrimination in sports.

"The scoring discrepancy reflects a belief that women are not as capable and need allowances made for them," he said. "Changing sports rules for women implies that

SEE IM WOMEN, PAGE 8

Halloween crime goes unsolved

Cold case highlights behind-the-scenes efforts

BY ANDY KENNEY
STAFF WRITER

Daniel Blythe and Ryan Minicozzi were walking away from the annual Franklin Street bash last Halloween when it happened.

As the two UNC-Charlotte sophomores walked down Merritt Mill Road, two men and a woman approached them and asked to borrow a cell phone.

"The next thing I knew somebody had tackled

me and punched me," said Blythe, now a junior international business major at UNC-C. "When I looked up, (Minicozzi) had a gun to his head."

When Minicozzi and Blythe told the muggers they didn't have their wallets, the suspects became upset.

What began as a robbery ended with shots fired. The three suspects were picked up by what police reports describe as a tan or gold four-door, and one of the men fired a weapon

from the window. A bullet struck Blythe in the chest, "right next to the heart."

"Just a few inches, he could have lost his life," said Sgt. Jabe Hunter, the Chapel Hill Police Department's lead investigator for the case.

Close to 10 months later, no arrests have been made — as Hunter put it: "It's safe to call this one a cold case."

But the police have launched a renewed effort to gather information, issuing a press release calling on any witnesses to come for-

SEE COLD CASE, PAGE 8

Freshman QB exceeds expectations

BY JESSE BAUMGARTNER
SPORTS EDITOR

Around this time last year, the number nine could have meant a lot of things for North Carolina quarterback T.J. Yates — for instance, the number of fans who knew his name.

But now, after three impressive performances to open his freshman campaign, No. 9 has a slightly different value, such as Yates' national passing efficiency rating.

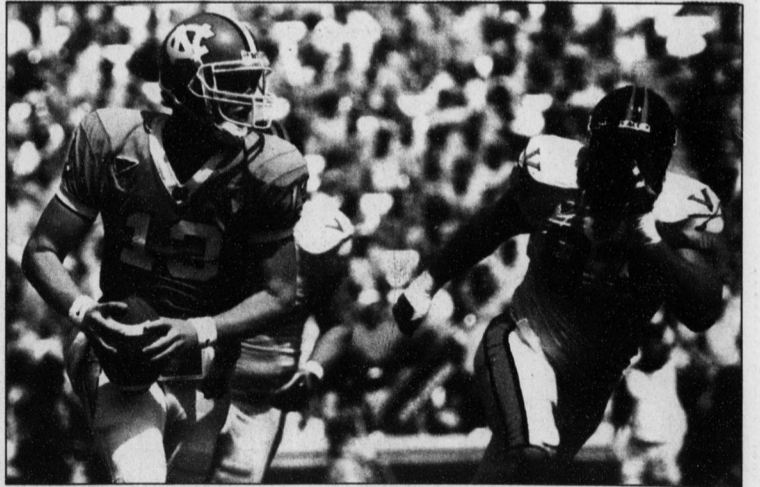
In the biggest surprise of the young season, Yates has shown little of the expected freshman jitters and has led a rushing-deficient offense to 88 points in three games on the strength of his 901 passing yards and nine touchdowns.

"I try not to think about (statistics) at all," Yates said Wednesday. "People, my mom, she always tells me that kind of stuff — I try to ignore it as much as possible."

Of course, head coach Butch Davis is quick to point out that his quarterback is learning every week.

"He's still got a long way to grow; he's only three games into his career," he said. "And obviously every single week provides him an opportunity to continue to learn to read coverages, to read blitzes."

But despite Yates' inexperience, the coaching staff has not been shy about letting him go for big plays, right from the opening drive against James Madison. Wide receivers Brandon Tate, Brooks Foster and Hakeem Nicks all have touchdown



DTH/RICKY LEUNG

Redshirt freshman quarterback T.J. Yates looks downfield for receivers during North Carolina's 20-22 loss to Virginia last weekend. Yates has thrown for nine touchdowns in the season.

catches for more than 50 yards this season.

"That was kind of our M-O from the start," Yates said. "(Offensive coordinator John) Shoop has always been like that, ever since he got here. Just big plays, high energy. Those type of plays get a team going really well."

And, as Yates is the first to point out, having athletic receivers to go deep enhances the odds of

the home-run ball working out for UNC.

"I think it all starts with the offensive line, a lot of big plays they take a lot of time to get those receivers all the way downfield," Yates said. "The athletes that we have, going and getting the ball — you saw Hakeem's catch on Saturday. That

SEE YATES, PAGE 8

online | dailytarheel.com

HOUSE AND HOME The senior class begins work on a Habitat house this week.

FLAWLESS SKIN A first-time novelist features dermatologists on his book tour.

BASEBALL FILM A movie will be shown this weekend about a Jewish baseball star.

university | page 5

UNC GLOBE-TROTTERS The Study Abroad program is hosting a fair in the Student Union Great Hall from 11 p.m. to 4 p.m. today. UNC offers about 300 programs.



sports | page 7

HEELS UNDEFEATED UNC's No. 1 field hockey team continued to roll Thursday night at Henry Stadium, defeating Appalachian State 7-0 to remain perfect this season.

this day in history

SEPT. 21, 1985 ... Student Body President Patricia Wallace petitions the Chapel Hill Town Council to let a UNC student assume a vacant position on the town's planning board.

weather

Shows H 82, L 64
index
police log 2
calendar 2
sports 7
games 11
opinion 12