

# News

## Rats infest Lenoir basement after recent storms



Tar Heel/Jonathan Serenius

Dead rat photographed in the basement of Lenoir Hall.

By Lane Mitchell  
News Editor

Circulating rumors that rats were festering in the basement of Lenoir Hall, home of ARA food services, were confirmed as *Tar Heel* photographer Jonathan Serenius captured a dead Big Mac-size rat on film Friday.

When Serenius returned Sunday bags of poison were scattered around the area and the rat had been removed.

Tony Hardee, director of University Dining Services, said he noticed rats one week previous to our confirmation and immediately took action to alleviate the problem. "I noticed rats last week and we

immediately put out a lot of poison. I think the problem is getting under control," Hardee said.

Hardee said that rats usually reside in the storm drains of most of the buildings on campus. He said he noticed the rats in the basement of Lenoir one day after a heavy rain. "When the rain came and filled up the storm drains, the rats were forced out of their habitats. They came out into the basement," he said.

Claude E. Swecker, director of the Physical Plant who coordinates pest extermination with Clegg's Termite and Pest Control Inc. of Durham, said he was notified by Hardee of the "increasing infestation" one week to ten days ago.

He said Clegg's immediately began bathing the basement with rat poison.

Hardee said Clegg's carried out daily poisoning in the basement to keep the rat problem under control.

Swecker said the Physical Plant was in the process of capping the six-inch-diameter drain openings from which the rats entered the basement with steel grids. He said three drain covers were already in place and the Physical Plant was in the process of "fabricating arrangements for the installation of a couple more."

Hardee said he carries out daily inspections of all ARA territory, including the basement, to search for

pests. During the time of my interview with Mr. Hardee an ARA employee was scrubbing the receiving area of the basement with a cleansing disinfectant. Hardee said all areas of the basement were cleaned daily in this manner and a high pressure washer was used daily on the loading area.

Swecker said that although the physical plant routinely exterminates in Lenoir every four weeks, rats still become a problem from time to time. "I don't know if anybody ever gets rid of rodents 100 percent," he said.

"Anytime you have an area where food is stored you have a chance of attracting rats," Swecker said.

Hardee said that the two dumps-

ters in the basement that are emptied only two or three times a week can cause pest problems.

He said that Lenoir Hall had not had a major infestation since Lenoir had been renovated.

"There are ceramic and rubber baseboards on the walls and this prevents any rats from entering the eating or cooking areas," Hardee said.

Hardee said it was impossible for any rats to enter the building because the only way they could get into the building is through two steel doors.

"There is no chance a rat will get into this building unless he can walk up this ramp and eat through these steel doors," he said.

## Barbershop quartet singing provides unique experience

By RALEIGH C. MANN

Male students who have enjoyed singing in their high school choruses and church choirs have an off-campus outlet for their talents in a new barbershop singing chapter in Chapel Hill.

The chapter chorus, which meets at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays in the choir room of University United Methodist Church, is open to male singers of all ages. Students and town residents learn and perform songs in the traditional barbershop harmony and style. They also join with other area

chapters for weekend singing festivals, conventions and competitions.

The church is at 150 E. Franklin St. adjacent to the UNC—Chapel Hill campus.

The chapter was formed a year ago by the quartet Carolina Blue, whose members are on the faculty and staff of the University. The new group is in the process of satisfying requirements to become an official chapter of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America Inc.

The organization and its chapters attract large numbers of young men,

including university, high school and junior high students who enjoy the challenge of a cappella singing of barbershop harmonies.

New quartets are often spawned among members of a chapter chorus. One is already forming in the Chapel Hill chapter.

Information is available from me, Raleigh Mann, at the UNC—CH School of Journalism, at (919) 962-4071 or 942-7035.

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