#### CAMPUS AND CITY

# UNIVERSITY Politics disrupt festival planning stage

### By Anuradha Seth Staff Writer

BRIEFS

Rams Club gift to aid

libraries, preservation

historic preservation efforts at UNC.

\$3.65 million donation to the University's Bicentennial Campaign. The pledge is believed to be the largest

ever from a campus athletic organiza-tion to an academic fund-raising drive,

and is the second-largest contribution

It's only fitting that this portion of their

gift will help meet such important aca-

Library will count towards a National

Endowment for the Humanities chal-

lenge grant that will support the general

humanities collection, special collec-tions and conservation laboratory and

preservation projects. By raising \$3

million in private support, the library is

eligible for \$750,000 from the NEH,

include the restoration of Old East, the

nation's first state university building.

A private gift will pay part of the cost of restoring Old East to its appearance in

Another \$2.3 million Educational

UNC is more than halfway to its

Foundation pledge will help construct a

new facility in the Kenan-Flagler School

\$320 million Bicentennial Campaign

goal, with \$173 million in gifts and

**Fellowships will honor** 

late English professor

A \$32,000 gift from an Atlanta busi-

nessman will help fund three faculty

fellowships honoring the late Lyman

Cotten, a professor emeritus in English.

ate, was one of the students Cotten

influenced. Cotten died last year at the

by the College of Arts and Sciences'

Institute for the Arts and Humanities.

They are the institute's first fellowships

The fellowships offer faculty mem-

bers a seminar away from departmental

responsibilities to learn more about their

field and revitalize their teaching skills.

both history professors, will be the first

faculty members to hold the new fel-

lowships in fall 1992 and spring 1993,

1974, specializing in Victorian poetry.

Among the students in his English

classes was Washington Post columnist

Cotten taught at UNC from 1940 to

Gilbert Joseph and Melissa Bullard,

to honor a former professor.

The fellowships will be administered

C. Knox Massey, a 1959 UNC gradu-

1848.

of Business

pledges to date.

age of 82.

Historic renovations on campus will

bringing the total to \$3.75 million.

The pledge to the Academic Affairs

demic and historical needs.

Chancellor Paul Hardin will direct \$300,000 each to the library and a his-

to the campaign.

toric preservation fund.

Political tensions threatened an at-A \$600,000 portion of a gift from the mosphere of international understanding during the planning stages of this Educational Foundation will be used to week's International Festival, said a help the Academic Affairs Library and spekesman for the Association of International Students. The funds are part of the foundation's

The festival's theme, "Diverse in Culture - United in Spirit," was challenged when Foreign Student Adviser David Austell asked Arab-American Association members not to air a movie because of its political nature.

"Stolen Freedoms," a film recom-

mended by the Arab-American Association, exposes human rights violations against children in Israeli-occupied territories.

AIS President Victoria Muse said, This created conflict, because David felt the movie was not a correct representation of the entire Arab population.

The conflict occurred at an International Student Advisory Council meeting to set guidelines for the festival. Austell said he believed after a long discussion, all parties were satisfied with his decision

"The film had a strong political con-

tent, and we felt that we'd de-empha-size politics during the festival," he said. "It could be more appropriately shown at a later date."

But Samara Hamze, a member of the Arab group, said although she understood why the film might threaten the festival's objectives, she could not accept the committee's initial reasons for not airing it.

What pissed me off was their first objection that the Israelis didn't have something prepared, and (the Arab Americans) did," she said. "Just because the group on the other side of the coin hadn't got stuff prepared isn't good

The groups eventually reached a compromise with Arab-American Association members agreeing to air a less controversial film, "Arabs - a Living History." The film will run today. The association plans to air "Stolen Freedoms" during Race Relations Week.

Austell said the decision to avoid political issues during International Festival Week was a first.

"In the past, we've had political issues discussed during the International Festival, and we'd try to give a balanced approach to different issues," he said. "But this time we decided to emphasize social and cultural issues."

Muse agreed with the board's final decision. "The movie was too political for this kind of setting," she said. "We want people to get along and not let politics get in the way of international understanding and appreciation of all cultures."

Politics are for the bureaucrats, and the festival is for the people, she said, Diana Levy, international center pro-

gram coordinator, said the object of the week-long festival was to reflect the growing spirit of world cooperation, as

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## **Income tax** help offered to students

By Brendan Smith Staff Writer

The tax man cometh. But students and area residents need not face the Internal Revenue Service alone.

Two local organizations, a fratemity and a group of retirees, provide the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program for people who want free help completing their tax returns. Beta Alpha Psi, the University's pro-

fessional fraternity for master's of accounting students, has about 50 members who have volunteered for the VITA program, said Lauren Brooks, co-coordinator of the program.

The IRS provides information and training packets for volunteers, who must take a test before being admitted to the nationwide program, Brooks said.

In the past, Beta Alpha Psi's VITA program operated out of Carroll Hall. but the program's office has moved to Carr Mill Mall, Brooks said.

"We decided to move it off-campus this year to reach more of the community," she said.

About 30 people per week have vis-ited the office since its opening Feb. 1, and Brooks predicted an increase in customers as the April 15 tax deadline drew near.

Student volunteers are willing to help anyone with their returns, but they are not qualified to handle very difficult returns, Brooks said. Volunteers are trained to complete 1040 EZ, 1040 A and 1040 federal tax returns and state returns

"It's really meant to be a community service," Brooks said. "It's nice that we can help out in an area that's suited to our talents.

The Retired Senior Volunteer Program also has VITA-trained volunteers who staff seven local sites, said Kathy Mangum, RSVP director.

More than 650 people took advantage of RSVP tax services last year, Mangum said.

"It's for anyone with a low-to middleincome who cannot afford professional help," Mangum said.

#### Author Vonnegut gives "The foundation's generosity will help strengthen the library and also help refurbish some of Carolina's most hishumor, insight at Duke torically significant buildings," he said. "Educational Foundation members are among the most ardent supporters of academic programs at the University.

## By Dana Pope Assistant City Editor

Students, faculty and others came in from the rain at Duke University Tuesday night to get an anecdotal uplift from popular American author Kurt Vonnegut.

Vonnegut, best known for works such as "Slaughterhouse Five," brought his special brand of humor to Page Auditorium and covered a variety of topics, including censorship, education, illiteracy and transcendental meditation.

Before Vonnegut began his speech. he took time to remember another famous American author. Alex Haley's book "Roots" should

be considered one of the most influential books in American history, he said.

"(Roots) radically educated us in a way we very much needed to be educated," he said. "(Haley's death) was a terrible loss for this country. He was a great man, and of course, he was part Irish."

Vonnegut compared writing to skiing and said his books focused on normal people.

"Intuitively, reflectively, it's like skiing down a mountain slope with no time to think," he said. "I wrote again and again and again about ordinary people who have tried to behave decently in an indecent society.

Vonnegut mentioned a letter he had received from a pregnant woman who was concerned for her child growing up in an "indecent society"

He replied by saying that his life was made better by meeting people who were saints and lived decently in an indecent society.

"I hope as many of you out there are, or will become, such saints for her child," he said Vonnegut also said he had received

letters from readers in the former Soviet Union concerning censorship of his books

"They were told my books had all been burned up, and I got letters saying they had copies of my book over there, if I wanted to see what they were like," he said.

Vonnegut also spoke about the revolutionary change in American civil rights.

me, this can very easily start up again." A native of Indiana, Vonnegut attributed some of his success to the public school system in Indianapolis.

"The public schools in Indianapolis were better than any university I subse-quently attended," he said.

Vonnegut also suggested his "quick fix" plan to improve education in America, including reducing class sizes to 18 students and treating teachers

fessions and the most important, especially in a democracy, and if any of you become teachers, then God bless you," he said, earning loud applause from the audience.

was another topic Vonnegut touched upon, specifically mentioning the B-2 Stealth Bomber.

ers," he said. "You know those big, black boomerangs we bought that are supposed to be invisible? We conducted some experiments, you know, and by God you can still see them. That's a big disappointment."

America, Vonnegut said, adding that he thought reading was a difficult skill to master.

at all.

Vonnegut said "alliteracy" was often worse than illiteracy. He defined alliteracy as a condition in which a person is able to read, but does not.

Transcendental meditation was popumeditate

"Those of you who are participants in western civilization and are literate are already meditators, and I suggest to you that our form of meditation is superior to that of the Orient," he said.

Giving up reading in exchange for television would be a disaster for society, Vonnegut added.



Strokin' the strings

fairly. "Teaching is the noblest of all pro-

Redistributing government spending

"We can't afford \$1 billion bomb-

Illiteracy is another problem facing

"It is an elitist skill, and we can't expect everybody in a democracy to read extremely well," he said. "If they can read a little bit, then God bless them. It's a miracle for anybody to do it

lar in the 1960s, Vonnegut said, and he proceeded to teach the audience how to

But he added that reading was better than far-eastern meditation.

Edward Yoder

respectively

#### Schoolchildren board Morehead's space bus

Space Bus, a new children's show offered by Morehead Planetarium, will open Feb. 29.

The show tells the story of elementary students who take a field trip through the solar system on the space bus, learning about the planets during their adventures.

"The main thrust of the show is to point out how amazing and special our own planet Earth is when you compare it to the other planets," said Geoff Holt, the show's producer.

The show also features video footage, including a trip across the surface of Mars.

"Space Bus" is intended for a slightly older audience than the planetarium's usual children's program. It is suited for children in 2nd through 5th grades, although younger children should enjoy the show.

"Space Bus" will be shown on weekdays at 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. and at 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

#### Ackland will sponsor jazz improv workshop

The Ackland Art Museum will sponsor a jazz workshop featuring Triangle vocalist Nnenna Freelon March 8.

The workshop is free to the public and will focus on the theme of improvisation. Audience participation and response will be encouraged.

Freelon, who moved to Durham with her husband in 1979, has an album due out in May. She won several awards at the Musicfest USA Competition in Philadelphia in 1989, including a Gold Award for Jazz Combo, the American Heliz "Best in Fest" award and the Music fest All Star Award for Top Solo-

In addition to jazz, Freelon's repertoire includes spirituals, blues and traditional African-American song. She often performs without instrumental accompaniment or amplification.

The March workshop will be held in conjunction with the current exhibit "Who'd A Thought It: Improvisation in African-American Quiltmaking."

"Certainly, the most extraordinary "If we are going to give up the book and turn it all over to cathode ray tubes,

change in this country in my lifetime is the decline in racism," he said. "Believe very first order," he said.

Sophomore Doug Largent plays the bass Monday afternoon in Hill Hall. Largent is part of UNC's Jazz Band, which will perform Saturday with Rick Lillard and Tim Eyerman.

RSVP is a sponsored by the Orange County Department of Aging. Orange

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## **Art exhibit at Horace Williams House** spurs bride to change reception plans

#### By Jennifer Brett Staff Writer

When Julie Wyne became engaged, she and her fiance planned to hold their wedding reception at the historic Horace Williams House on Rosemary Street.

But a controversial art exhibit displayed in the house prompted Wyne to change her plans and move the Feb. 15 reception to the Siena Hotel.

The exhibit, by Hillsborough artist Sudie Rakusin, includes paintings of scantily clad and bare-breasted women.

"I have no problem with the gallery showing the paintings," Wyne told The Raleigh News and Observer last Saturday. "I do have a problem going into the house in my virginal ivory wedding gown with my new in-laws.

But Rakusin said Wednesday her art was perfect for a wedding reception.

The art reflects the empowering of women and the healing that can go on when we feel connected with nature and animals," she said. "The paintings are full of life. The pageantry is wonderful.'

Rakusin said she regretted Wyne's cancellation, but she failed to understand the problem.

"The people who were offended are not living in abundance; they're living in limitation," she said. "I guess I see beauty where others don't.'

House Administrator Diane Day said she was surprised by the objections.

A committee of artists and art experts meets several times a year to decide what to display in the house, she said. "Our policy is that once a show is

hung, it's up for good," Day said. "That policy is not going to change.' Day said she dealt with Anne Wyne,

the mother of the bride, and that Julie Wyne received a full refund.

"Our primary responsibility is to operate as a cultural center," Day said.



#### "Summer Solstice," by Sudie Rakusin, is on display until Saturday

'Anyone who comes here is fully aware of what we do, and so was Mrs. Wyne, but she saw fit to go to all the newspapers and make a big deal about it." This is the first time art has caused a

problem at the house, Day said. "This show isn't risque," she said. "There's actually very little nudity. It's an excellent collection of rare, beautiful work.

# **Researchers at UNC** study link between protein, heart beats

DTH/Debbie Stenge

#### By Jenny McInnis Staff Writer

Researchers at the UNC School of Medicine are studying calcium channels in order to understand more fully irregular heartbeats and the role channels play in heart attacks.

Robert Rosenberg, assistant professor of pharmacology and physiology, said calcium channels were proteins in the surface membranes of all heart cells. The proteins open and close channels.

An open calcium channel allows calcium ions to flow freely, he said. When the channel is closed, the ions, are not able to flow. "It's a barrier, and there are doorways in the barrier that can open and close."

Calcium ions are an important regulator of many different functions, including those of the heart, he said. The heartbeat is the contraction of calcium ions

"Calcium ions are a trigger for the heartbeat. The more calcium, the stronger the heartbeat," he said. "The less calcium, the weaker the heartbeat."

Calcium channels also help control the rate at which the heart beats, Rosenberg said. "How fast the heart beats is determined by how active the calcium ions are."

When damage occurs because of a heart attack, for example, it causes an abnormal situation that leads to calcium channels opening at the wrong time, he said. This causes the heart to beat irregularly.

Arrhythmias, which are heartbeat

rregularities, therefore could be controlled by the calcium channels, he

"Calcium channels are absolutely crucial for the normal function of the heartbeat and play a role in the function of arrhythmias.'

"The heart is a complex structure," Rosenberg said. He said he hoped to simplify the study of the heart by analyzing individual proteins that were important for controlling the heart rate, and then figuring out how all the pro-

teins worked together. "Breaking down the proteins into a small block and then putting the blocks together can help us to understand the whole puzzle," Rosenberg said.

Jim Loehr, a pediatric cardiologist at UNC Hospitals, said arrhythmias could be stopped with surgery or with electricity.

Electricity is used in more specialized centers, he said.

Rosenberg said researchers were now focusing on trying to understand how the calcium channel worked.

"We are hoping a clinical cardiologist may read our findings and take our knowledge and apply it to a clinical setting.

Lochr said some arrhythmias could be life threatening. However, "a lot of them are just irritants," he said.

Rosenberg agreed arrhythmias could be fatal. "This is one of the reasons why we are studying it.

"A minor heart attack can set up an arrhythmia that can kill you," he said. We're trying to work out a cause of cardiac arrhythmias."