



BRIEFS
Stories from the University and Chapel Hill

Law School Information Day to Be Held Friday

A Law School Information Day sponsored by the UNC School of Law, Black Law Students Association and Student Bar Association will be held Friday at 8:30 a.m.

The conference is open to anyone considering law school.

The session will provide information about preparation, admission, financial aid policies and job opportunities. It will also offer a realistic view of law school and its demands on students.

Winston Crisp, assistant dean of students for the law school and a 1992 UNC graduate, will deliver the conference keynote address.

Assistant Dean for Admissions J. Elizabeth Furr will offer an overview of admissions.

Three concurrent midday sessions will allow students to attend a simulated class taught by a law faculty member.

The program is free and will be held at the Institute of Government and the nearby law school. Registration is required.

UNC Biologist to Receive Lifetime Mentoring Award

The American Association for the Advancement of Science will honor Lawrence Gilbert, William Rand Kenan Jr. professor of biology, for promoting science careers for women, minorities and people with disabilities.

Gilbert will receive the 1995 AAAS Lifetime Achievement Mentor Award at the group's annual Meeting in Baltimore on Feb. 10.

The professor's former students nominated him for the award.

Gilbert is a 1950 graduate of Long Island University. He earned his master's degree in 1955 at New York University and his doctorate from Cornell in 1958.

He taught at Northwestern University from 1958 until 1980, when he joined the UNC faculty.

Fraternity Raises 3,000 Pounds for IFC Shelter

The Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity collected 3,000 pounds of canned goods for the Inter-Faith Council Homeless Shelter last week.

The project was an effort to help meet the food needs of the surrounding areas. The effort was part of the North American Food Drive, the fraternity's national philanthropy.

Lambda Chi Alpha has been donating canned goods to the IFC shelter for the last three years. The largest food drives traditionally occur around Thanksgiving.

Business Students Win Consulting Competition

A team of four MBA students from the Kenan-Flagler Business School were awarded the grand prize for the Third Annual Deloitte & Touche LLP MBA Consulting Cup Challenge on Nov. 2.

UNC's and Duke's business schools competed, with each school represented by ten teams.

Competing teams of students were given an actual case performed by the management consulting division of Deloitte & Touche LLP and prepared presentations in front of a mock board of directors.

Visiting Artist to Speak On Black Equality Tonight

As a part of the Hanes Visiting Artists Lecture Series, Kerry James Marshall will speak on the "psychological inability on the part of white Americans to see 'black' people as equal and American."

The free lecture will take place tonight at 7 p.m. in 218 of Hanes Art Center.

Sale of Nutcrackers to Benefit Local Charities

Revco Drug Stores will be selling holiday nutcrackers from now until Dec. 24 or while supplies last.

Proceeds will benefit the Ronald McDonald Houses in Chapel Hill and Durham.

Nine different nutcrackers are available to choose from; they range in price from \$5.99 for smaller nutcrackers to \$9.99 for larger ones.

Last year, the Chapel Hill and Durham houses received a total of \$12,000 combined.

The Ronald McDonald House is a non-profit organization that provides a home-like setting for families of seriously ill children receiving treatment at nearby hospitals.

Mayor-Elect to Address Leadership Program Grads

Chapel Hill Mayor-elect Rosemary Waldorf will be the keynote speaker at the Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Program graduation Friday at The Siena Hotel.

The graduates of the program, which is sponsored by the Chapel Hill-Carboro Chamber of Commerce, spent 10 weeks meeting community leaders and discussing issues such as local government, Orange County health care and crime.

Twenty-six businessmen and businesswomen will receive their graduation certificates during Friday's special commencement program.

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Five-Foot Python Slithers Into Apartment's Kitchen

The snake apparently had lived behind the apartment's refrigerator for six months.

BY OLIVIA PAGE
STAFF WRITER

Laura Gross had plans to spend Friday night with Michael Steipe in a sold-out Smith Center. But when she arrived home with her arms full of groceries, she was greeted by a 5-foot-long ball python, and her plans changed dramatically.

Gross, a senior from Charlotte, and her two roommates were warned prior to moving into their apartment on Merritt Mill Road that the previous renters apparently had misplaced their pet snake while moving out in May.

But almost six months later, having seen no signs of the snake, the roommates had forgotten almost completely about the missing reptile.

"The snake was sort of a concern when we moved in, but we really weren't too worried about it," Gross said. "We always spoke of the snake in a half-joking way, but we didn't really think that it was still here."

On Friday night, however, Gross found out the "disappearing snake" had re-

appeared. As she set down her second load of groceries, she noticed a suspicious head and tail lurking under the kitchen cabinet.

"As soon as I saw the snake, I knew exactly which snake it was," Gross said. "I immediately ran out and looked for my neighbors, but they weren't home. Luckily, the father of one of my other neighbors was visiting for the weekend, so he came over and hit the snake with a broom and told me to call 911."

After calling 911 and learning an animal control officer was on the way, Gross perched herself on a stool four feet away from the snake and watched it patiently as she waited for help to arrive.

"I know it sounds strange that I just sat there and watched it, but I didn't want it to escape into another part of the house and lose it again," she said.

The snake remained almost motionless until the moment before animal control arrived. As the officer came through the door, the snake quickly headed for the cover of the refrigerator and positioned itself safely around the coils.

The officer was afraid of injuring the snake because of the awkwardness of reaching it, so she called for more help. Eventually, a snake specialist from animal control arrived and removed the snake from its hiding place.

The snake was in good condition overall but was suffering from mouth rot (foaming of the mouth) and burns on various parts of its body. The burns probably were caused by the refrigerator's coils, which most likely had been the snake's home for the past six months. The animal control officers said the snake probably had been surviving principally on a diet of mice but was capable of eating small pets and even newborn babies.

"The whole thing just kind of gives me the creeps," Gross said. "I'm not really afraid of snakes, but I don't like them that much, either. I just wonder what it's been doing all these months. I wonder if it's been watching us every time we opened the refrigerator."

Gross' roommates and neighbors were relieved it was she who stumbled upon the snake rather than one of them.

"If it had been me, I would have screamed, ran out of the apartment and not come back," said Schuyler Quinn, a junior from Gastonia. "It is really freaky to think that we have been living with a huge snake all of this time. I don't like to go into the kitchen now."

Carly Bryant, a senior from Fayetteville and a neighbor of Gross and Quinn, expressed similar sentiments. "I'm very glad it's gone," Bryant said.

Officials: North Campus Needs Better Lighting

BY RUTH BORLAND
STAFF WRITER

After touring the campus to assess safety, students and University officials agreed Wednesday that lighting improvements were most needed on North Campus.

More lighting is needed in the quad between Hanes and Gardner Halls, behind Lenoir Dining Hall, in between Lenoir and Davis Library, in the alley behind Winston Residence Hall, in the Olde Campus Upper Quad and near many North Campus residence halls, officials said.

The tour route originally did not include any North Campus dorms, where lighting is poorest, but University Police Chief Donald Gold and Susan Gelb, University watch coordinator for student government, asked officials to extend the tour to include the area.

Some of the lightposts and fixtures on North Campus were installed when gas was used to light the University.

They do not illuminate the campus as well as the newer lights on South Campus, said Phil Brooks, a secretary with UNC Hospitals. Officials said they planned to replace the old lights as soon as they could, but the process was still in the engineering stage, he said.

Members of the tour also suggested that the best way to address exterior lighting concerns on the University was to build a system of lighted corridors through the heavily traveled parts of the campus.

"Think of the Student Union and the library as the hub of a wheel and the dorms and other buildings as spokes off that wheel," Gold said.

He said he wanted a system of lighted pathways starting at the library and extending across campus.

Gelb said she wanted to work with the Buildings and Grounds Committee, the Physical Plant and the Department of Public Safety to create a campus map highlighting the brightest pathways and marking the emergency call boxes.

The tour identified spots on campus that needed better lighting and monitored people's feelings about campus lighting and safety, said John Laetz, the electrical engineer for the Physical Plant who organized the tour.

"Because of people's changing feelings, we are always trying to improve lighting," Laetz said.

"When construction occurs, it can change the exterior lighting. Tree and shrub growth can also affect it," he said. "If something has changed, this tour lets us find out about it."

The officials found lighting adequate in the Pit, between Fetzer and Woollen gyms and on most of South Campus.

'Cave Painting' Livens Up Parking Deck Atmosphere

A local artist and students have received much praise for their mural on Rosemary Parking Deck.

BY MEGAN MONTGOMERY
STAFF WRITER

It all began as a joke. But a local artist's idea of a joke ended up transforming a dark parking deck into a multicolored, creative mural.

Artist Michael Brown, with the assistance of many Chapel Hill public school art students and art teachers, painted the walls of the new parking deck on Rosemary Street in the spirit of a "cave painting" theme in April. Brown said the response from locals and out-of-town visitors to the mural had been very positive.

"People said, 'Wow, that's a nice, funny, witty addition.'"

Brown said even the parking deck architect felt fairly positive about the alteration of his work. "I received an overwhelmingly and extraordinarily positive reaction," Brown said.

The painting came about as a result of an art project for the Arts Downtown '95 Committee.

"The painting was Michael Brown's idea," said Robert Humphreys of the Downtown Commission, who also worked on the committee for the project. "It was sort of a play on the idea people have of parking decks being like a cave, a subterranean world, and he played off on the idea of a cave. I thought it was kind of clever."

Brown said the idea for the "cave painting" theme began as a joke in his head that he never imagined would become a reality. "There had been some comment at some point that although we'd put much effort into putting together one of the nicest parking decks around, it seemed cavernous," Brown said. "People asked me what we could do to make it look less like a cave. As a joke, I told them that I couldn't make it look less like a cave but could make it a friendlier cave."

The Arts Downtown project involved all the public schools in Chapel Hill, Humphreys said.

The "cave paintings" were conceived as the work of semi-nomadic peoples who lived about 12,000 to 9,000 years ago, stated Phyllis Lotchin, chair of the Arts Downtown committee, in a press release. The figures and their activities, done in warm brown, yellow and orange hues, created a series depicting the year-long travels of semi-nomadic peoples during

Infant Mortality Tied To Education, Income

BY JOHN PATTERSON
STAFF WRITER

Lack of education and income contribute to the higher rate of infant mortality among North Carolina blacks, said Irva Hertz-Picciotto, professor in UNC's School of Public Health.

The latest installment of the biweekly Blacks in the Diaspora Lecture Series, "Racial Differences in Infant Mortality in North Carolina: The Impact of Education," focused Wednesday on factors that contribute to the disparity in infant mortality between blacks and whites.

"This is a problem that many people are working on," Hertz-Picciotto said during her lecture at the Sonja H. Stone Black Cultural Center. "The ideas about what causes infant mortality have been evolving over time."

Factors such as education and income may explain why blacks consistently have higher infant mortality rates — deaths that occur within the first year of life, Hertz-Picciotto said.

"If you compare African-American mothers to white mothers, among those that have less than 12 years of education, there was about a 30 percent higher chance of infant mortality for the African Americans," she said.

Hertz-Picciotto, who works in the Department of Epidemiology, said financial security also affected infant mortality.

"Making a higher income and holding a job with more status makes one more receptive to health education messages," she said. "In this country, having higher income and job status definitely buys you access to health care."

Education also makes for a better relationship between physicians and patients, Hertz-Picciotto said.

"Physicians may themselves feel more confident talking to a patient with a higher education," she said.

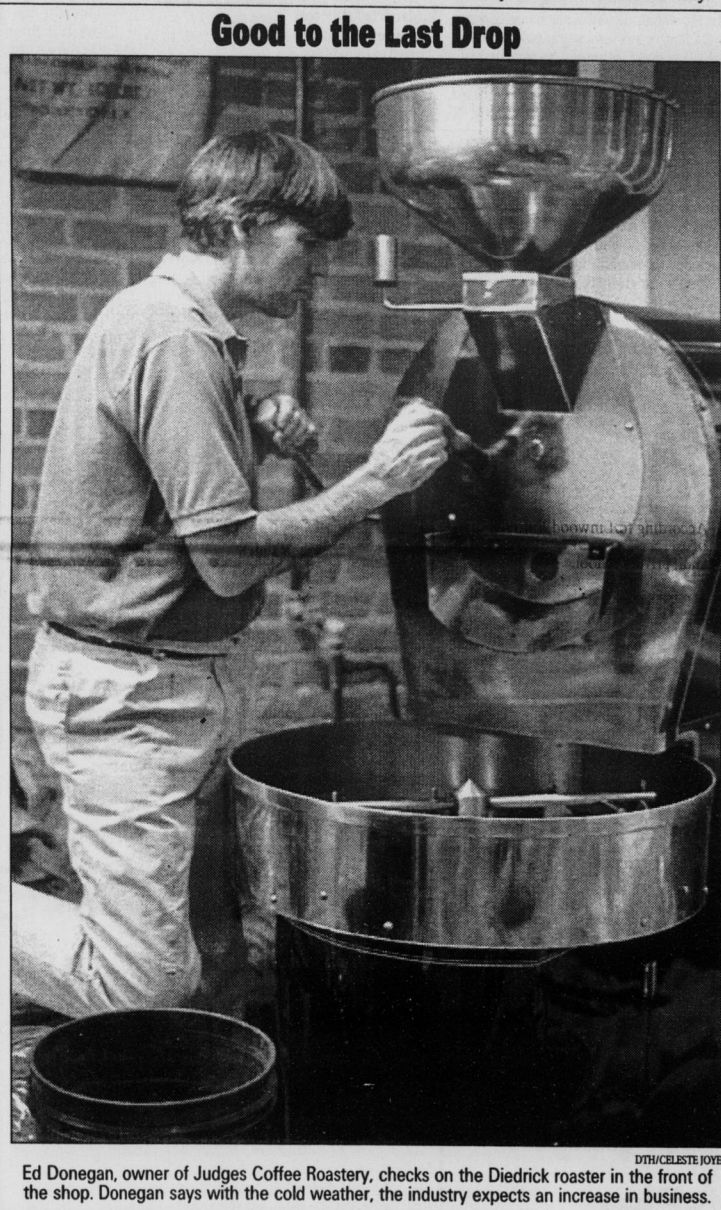
But factors such as marital status may also contribute to infant mortality rates.

"The babies of single mothers die at a higher rate than babies of two parents," Hertz-Picciotto said. "Personal behaviors like smoking and alcohol can also affect infant mortality. The epidemiologists' job is to disentangle which factors are playing a role in infant mortality."

Hertz-Picciotto said analyzing trends in infant mortality was also extremely important.

"North Carolina has been consistently having high rates of infant mortality in relation to other states in the United States," she said. "Within North Carolina, the counties that have the worst infant mortality rates are along the eastern section of the state."

Stress may also impact infant mortality. Often black mothers must deal with additional societal pressures that white mothers do not face, Hertz-Picciotto said.



Ed Donegan, owner of Judges Coffee Roastery, checks on the Diedrick roaster in the front of the shop. Donegan says with the cold weather, the industry expects an increase in business.

Schools To Provide Job Training

The town and the high school are cooperating to give students an opportunity to work and learn.

BY JENNIFER ZAHREN
STAFF WRITER

In the race to equip students for employment in the 21st century better, Chapel Hill High School is pulling ahead with the establishment of the Youth Apprenticeship Program.

Geared toward giving students on-the-job training that will potentially benefit the town, the program was opened officially with a ceremony Wednesday.

One year in the making, the program is the result of a joint effort by the school, the town and the N.C. Department of Labor.

"We have all put a great deal of work into this program," said George Small, town director of engineering. "Determining which areas of the town would be able to successfully handle an apprenticeship was the greatest challenge."

Following much deliberation, program developers narrowed the fields down to two areas, the transportation department and building maintenance and inspection. The program allows selected high school juniors and seniors to use technical skills learned in course work to train for municipal jobs. Closely supervised by an adult mentor, participants master the specified skills, and their hourly rate of pay is increased accordingly.

"If this program succeeds, it will be very exciting for the participants and the town," Small said. "Our biggest long-term goal is to teach a trade to a young person who will then return the contribution by either continuing to work for the town or at least making a concerted effort during their training."

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With the help of Chapel Hill area children, artist Michael Brown painted murals meant to create a cave-like atmosphere in the Rosemary Street parking deck. The project was commissioned by the Arts Downtown '95 Committee.

that stage of human development, she said.

Brown said about 100 to 120 students worked on the mural and that all public schools participated in the art festival. "The students came from art-related groups," Brown said. "I had a lot of kids wandering in and just asking to help, but many also

came with their art teachers."

Brown said the students worked on the painting for two days, and he spent two months on it afterward, adding, amending and refining.

The project cost approximately \$8,000 and was funded by Glaxo and the Town of

Chapel Hill, Brown said. He said the business had donated about \$3,000 and the town had pitched in roughly \$5,000. "This donation by Chapel Hill is unusual," Brown said. "Normally, the town doesn't give anything, but the painting involved their property."