

DTH/BRAD SMITH

The Carolina Adventure Center offers various activities, like the high ropes course and mountain biking trails, that emphasize teamwork and cooperation.

Adventurous ropes course builds trust, communication

BY JENNIFER WILSON
STAFF WRITER

If you are up for a challenge, UNC is certainly the place for you. While professors try to fry your brain with exams and term papers, you can test your physical and mental strength at the new Carolina Adventure Center, located at the eastern edge of campus.

The CAC is an outdoor educational center for UNC students, staff and faculty, funded by a \$100,000 alumnus donation by the late Charles Aycok Poe.

"It is a wonderful addition to campus," said Mike Lyons, CAC director. "It is a great opportunity for people to try new things and learn about themselves and others."

Since it opened last October, more than 1,000 people have survived the ropes course, including groups of staff members, athletic teams, first-year medical and law students, fraternities, sororities, the Residence Hall Association, The Daily Tar Heel staff and Carolina Athletic Association members.

"The goal (of the CAC) was to offer University groups the opportu-

nity to work together through training in communication, leadership, group problem solving and facing individual challenges," Lyons said.

Junior Dave Wessels said he challenged the ropes course as part of a team-building exercise with CAA to get to know each other better and work as a group.

"I met a lot of people on the cabin I hadn't met before through trust-builders and icebreakers," Wessels said.

The CAC has two courses, a high course and a low course, and the difficulty of the course depends on the nature of the group.

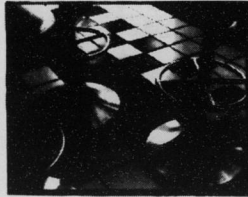
The low course is designed for groups of people who do not know each other as well, said sophomore J.B. Rosen.

The ropes course is only open to groups of 12 to 15 people, but there are open sign ups for individuals interested in participating. Prices range from \$10 to \$55, depending on which program you choose.

The center is run by a group of six to 15 students who serve as "facilitators."

SEE ADVENTURE, PAGE 17

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