



BRIEFS

Stories from the University and Chapel Hill

Broderick will still star in play despite injury

Matthew Broderick, who is in town rehearsing Horton Foote's "The Death of Papa" for PlayMakers Repertory Company, injured his left knee while playing racquetball Thursday but will still perform in the play's Feb. 8 world premiere.

Broderick underwent corrective surgery at UNC Hospitals on Monday. "The Death of Papa," which is sold out, will run at the University through Mar. 2.

Copy-editing fellowships available for fall 1997

Applications are being accepted for the second Knight Foundation Fellows in Copy Editing, who will spend the fall 1997 semester at UNC. The deadline for receiving applications is Mar. 1.

The midcareer fellowship program for newspaper copy editors is funded by a John S. and James L. Knight Foundation grant of \$175,000 to the School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

It is the only sabbatical specifically for newspaper copy editors.

Three Knight Foundation fellows are in Chapel Hill this spring.

Each copy editor will pursue an independent study under a university faculty mentor, either in the school or in another department.

Participants will sit in on classes, read, conduct research, attend campus lectures, use the university libraries and have informal discussions and meetings with faculty members and students. Each will propose a project or paper and complete it before the end of his or her semester in Chapel Hill.

Participants will receive \$1,000 for transportation to and from Chapel Hill, \$6,000 for housing for the four months, \$3,000 for meals and a monthly stipend of \$3,333.

Each copy editor's newspaper will agree to provide his or her employee benefits but no salary.

A committee of representatives from the school and industry executives will choose the fellows.

To receive an application form or submit an application, contact Bill Cloud, School of Journalism and Mass Communication, CB #3365, Howell Hall, UNC-CH, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3365.

Cloud can also be contacted by phone at 962-4070 or by e-mail at bill_cloud@e-mail.unc.edu.

Mexican music ensemble to perform at Hill Hall

La Fontegara, Mexico's premier baroque chamber music ensemble, will perform the first concert of the 1997 William S. Newman Artists Series at 8 p.m. on Jan. 31 and Feb. 1 in Hill Hall Auditorium.

Violinist Richard Luby and soprano Susan Klebanow, both associate professors of music at UNC, will join La Fontegara in several of the works. Luby and Klebanow are specialists in baroque music study and interpretation.

La Fontegara features faculty members from Mexico's National Conservatory who use their instruments — the recorder, viola de gamba, guitar and theorbo — to evoke the dynamic, striking harmonies that characterize baroque music. The artists tour Central and South America and frequently perform in early music festivals in the United States.

Tickets for the performance cost \$12 for the public and \$5 for students. Tickets can be purchased by phone at 962-1039 or in 104 Hill Hall, and will also be available at the box office before each concert.

Tar Heel Voices to give special request concert

The University's a capella group Tar Heel Voices will perform a special request concert at 8 p.m. on Jan. 31 in the auditorium of the School of Social Work's Tate-Turner-Kuralt Building.

The audience can request favorite songs from the group's repertoire.

Tickets can be reserved by calling 962-THV1.

Population researcher to speak to Sierra Club

The Sierra Club's Orange-Chatham Group will present a program titled "Agricultural Frontiers, World Urbanization and Emerging Diseases," at its Feb. 13 general meeting.

UNC Professor Melinda Meade will speak about her latest world population research at the meeting.

The meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the Church of Reconciliation in Chapel Hill.

The church is located on North Elliot Road, about a block from Wellspring Grocery.

For more information, call Byron Papa at 493-1232.

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Loans at black schools threatened

BY MELISSA STEELE
SENIOR WRITER

Former college students' financial woes might cause students attending 22 historically black colleges to lose access to federal student loans next year.

A recent study by the General Accounting Office revealed that, due to high loan default rates, 22 of 104 historically black colleges and universities might not be eligible for the federal student loan program in 1998 if the federal higher education bill changes.

The study, which included 98 histor-

ically black colleges and universities, determined whether the schools had a loan default rate of more than 25 percent for three consecutive years.

Currently, historically black colleges and universities are exempt from a federal law that takes away federal loan eligibility from schools with high default rates.

Lawmakers say they have the exemption because of their special mission.

Theodore Hindsman, director of financial aid at Winston-Salem State University, said students should be offered quality educations despite their monetary situation. "Because (historically black colleges and universities) haven't deviated from their original mission of educating the poor and the disabled, (their advocates on Capitol Hill) fought for them to be exempt from the rule," he said.

The Associated Press reported that Rep. William Clay, D-Mo., top Democrat on the House Education Committee, requested the updated figures in case Republicans tried to end the exemption in this year's rewrite of the higher education bill.

"We're trying to educate students to be responsible and repay their loans," Hindsman said. He said he saw default rates going down across the board as a result of good counseling for students.

Jay Eglin, the assistant director for higher education issues with the GAO, agreed about the mission of historically black colleges and universities, but said, "We need to try to get schools to recognize that they have to be responsible and educate and counsel students about their loans."

Eglin would not name the 22 schools with questionable eligibility.

If these 22 schools are not exempt in this year's rewrite of the bill, it could affect enrollment rates of future students, he said.

"I support the exemption," said Sharon Oliver, assistant vice chancellor for scholarships and student aid at N.C. Central University. "I think (if the 22 schools aren't exempted) it will be hard for students to pay for their education, and a hardship for the institutions as well."

Hindsman said the government needed to provide alternatives if these 22 schools aren't eligible to receive federal student loans.

"Replacement programs need to be developed," Hindsman said.

Oliver said she believed students should have money to attend college available to them under all circumstances.



CAMPUS CONNECTIONS

Students gather for unity rally

Students braved the rain to commemorate the spirit of Martin Luther King Jr.

BY CHERRIECE WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Quietly, students and faculty gathered in a circle holding hands on the steps of South Building in a scene not unlike the Washington speech given by Martin Luther King Jr.

Dozens braved the rain to attend the ninth annual "A Show of Hands for Peace and Unity" rally Wednesday to

SEE HANDS, PAGE 4



Chancellor Michael Hooker and Student Body President Aaron Nelson were among the participants who gathered at Polk Place for "A Show of Hands for Peace and Unity," in spite of wet weather conditions.

Teachers feeling pressure to inflate students' grades

BY SHARIF DURHAMS
STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

While high school students feel pressure to attend top colleges, a new study indicates teachers feel pressured to artificially boost their chances.

The study, conducted by The University of California at Los Angeles, reports that the 250,000 college freshmen surveyed had higher grades than in any of the previous 30 years.

While the number of A averages jumped from 12.5 percent in 1969 to 31.5 percent in 1996, the number of C's has halved from 32.5 percent to 14.6 percent, said Linda Sax, director of cooperative education at UCLA.

"There has been a definite reversal from C to A grades," she said.

"If an increase in grades reflected an increase in student test scores, you might say the higher grades reflect an increase in ability, (but) that's just not the case."

Sax said pressure from students who want to

attend top colleges and administrators who want the school to have a good college placement record might affect teachers' grading.

"Students feel pressured to get better grades, so teachers feel pressured to give better grades," she said.

Charles Patteson, principal at Chapel Hill High School, said grade inflation did not directly concern educators he spoke with, but teachers are pushing for students to meet higher standards.

"Our discussion is all about getting students to standards — motivate kids to take more and better courses," he said.

Patteson agreed that students and teachers feel pressure from colleges.

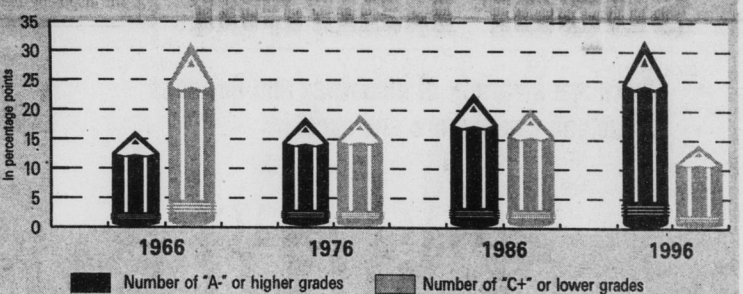
"The colleges have turned up the heat," he said.

Laurie Wilcox, director of cooperative research programs at the American Council on Education, said students have tried to tackle the pressures by taking more advanced classes.

"This year a record number of students took at least three years of math," Wilcox said.

Higher learning

While the percent of 'A's earned by high school seniors doubled between 1969 and 1996, the percent of 'C's more than halved.



SOURCE: UCLA

DITH/PHILIP MOLARO

High school students are also taking a record number of foreign language and science courses, she said.

Patteson said colleges want students who complete advanced classes.

"Certain courses get more attention," he said. "That encourages kids to take those courses."

The increasing need for students to take advanced courses to obtain college acceptance con-

tributes to the inflation, Sax said.

"These survey results appear to reflect reaction to an increasing societal pressure to go to college in order to get ahead in life," she said.

UNC freshman Ryan Keefer said students who attended his high school in Durham felt the pressure.

SEE INFLATION, PAGE 4

Groups scramble for Student Union offices

BY KERRY OSSI
STAFF WRITER

While the number of campus organizations has continued to grow, the Student Union has not gotten any bigger, leaving student groups scrambling to apply for its limited office spaces.

Student Body Secretary Lacey Hawthorne said groups must reapply for office space each year, and this year she expects more applications than there are spaces available. "With 350 recognized organizations on campus, it's hard to put them in only 44 spaces," she said.

Because of the limited space,

Hawthorne said, the yearly reviews are necessary to assess how groups are using their offices. "If we didn't do it every year, available spaces might slip through the cracks. Like with the Carolina Course Review — that office hasn't been used at all for the majority of the year."

Some groups shared offices this past year, Hawthorne said, and this year's application asks if groups would be willing to share spaces again. Applications went out on Tuesday and are due back in Suite C by Feb. 11.

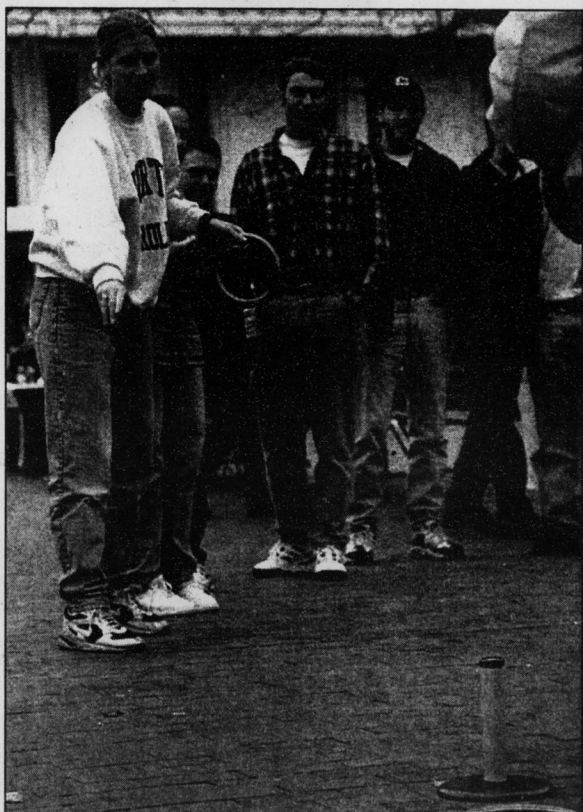
Student Body President Aaron Nelson is in charge of reviewing the applications and allocating the spaces.

Hawthorne said she and other members of the Executive Branch would probably work with Nelson on the review process. Their decisions will be posted Feb. 18.

Any dissatisfied groups will then have until March 4 to submit appeals. Lee Conner, chairman of the subcommittee, said only one or two groups appealed last year and he did not expect many more this year.

"It all depends on how the spaces are initially allocated and how satisfied groups are with that. But it's a very tough job to take a resource as scarce as space in the Union, and use it to satisfy such a large number of groups."

DEAD RINGER



Alison Pratt tries her hand at ring tossing in the Pit on Wednesday afternoon. UNC club sports teams sponsored the activity.

DITH/ASHLEY BROOME



Potential candidates receive official warnings

Potential student body president candidates Mo Nathan and Shawn Fraley have been warned by the elections board for violating campaign rules.

A campaign staff worker of potential candidate Nathan began petitioning a day early. The elections board nullified the staff worker's two petitions and officially warned Nathan.

Fraley was also given an official warning by the elections board for petitioning too early.

The petitions he was gathering were nullified.

2nd interest meeting draws 14 more students

Fourteen students turned out for a second student elections interest meeting Wednesday.

Elections Board Chairwoman Ange Dicks said she had calls before the meeting of students who are interested in participating in the upcoming elections.

"Turnout was good," Dicks said. A second interest meeting was scheduled after only 16 students showed at the initial meeting.

Students announce intent to run for senior class

Dan Martin and Mimi Van Wyck

have announced their intent to seek the offices of senior class president and vice president.

Martin said the team's platform will focus on unity as a class as well as an effort to prepare for the future. "We want to make sure we're all ready to enter into the real world," Martin said.

Board to verify petitions before posting candidates

Contrary to information in Wednesday's "Elections Notes," Elections Board Chairwoman Ange Dicks said candidate names would be posted as soon as the board was able to verify petitions, which could take as long as 24 hours after petitions are turned in on January 30.

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Any student who wishes to announce his or her intent to run for office or report on any other elections-related news should call DTH Managing Editor Laura Godwin at 962-0246.