

The Daily Tar Heel

**INSIDE
TUESDAY**
MARCH 18, 1997

I am woman ...

A UNC group organizes activities for faculty wives and female employees. *Page 2*

How sweet it is

Sweet 16 tickets for UNC basketball are now on sale at the Smith Center. *Page 3*

Bearable trip

California lost its coach and star, but gained a regional semifinal berth this season. *Page 7*

Today's Weather

Increasing clouds; upper 60s
Wednesday, Rain; mid 50s

104 years of editorial freedom
Serving the students and the University community since 1893
News/Features/Ads/Sports: 962-0245
Business/Advertising: 962-1163
Volume 105, Issue 12
Chapel Hill, North Carolina
© 1997 DTH Publishing Corp.
All rights reserved.

Forum to focus on schools' racism issues

BY MEEGAN P. SMITH
STAFF WRITER

Orange County students, teachers, parents and residents concerned about racism in area schools will gather Tuesday night to discuss the issue.

The Orange County Human Relations Commission is sponsoring a forum titled "Heart to Heart: Unseen Racism in City and County Schools."

Lucy Lewis, director of the commission, said Tuesday's forum would look at an education issue that had human relations implications.

"We see this as an opportunity to hear from the community and what

their concerns are on these issues," Lewis said.

She said the commission had identified racism as a major influence in city and county schools.

But Steve Halkiotis, Orange

County Commissioner, said the title of the forum misrepresented the real concerns of city and county schools. "The title, I think, is very misleading. It is very prej-

"A Heart to Heart: Unseen Racism in Our City and County Public Schools"

6:30 p.m.
New Hope Presbyterian Church between Chapel Hill and Hillsborough

udicial ... and I don't really know what they're going after," he said.

He said the Orange County and Chapel Hill-Carrboro Boards of Education had already implemented policies to bridge a gap between the races, and the major separation between the races was in the area of academic achievement, not racism in vandalism or violence.

Dave Thaden, principal of East Chapel Hill High School, said race was a significant element in society, not just in schools. "I think there's certainly racial issues that exist in our society at large," he said. "Some of these issues are manifested here (ECHHS)."

Kim Hoke, associate superintendent of Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools, said she agreed that academic performance was the most common way students were divided along racial lines.

"The issue we're more concerned with is student achievement and how we can increase the achievement of African-American students and what changes we need to make to make sure that all students have successful experiences," she said.

Bill Harrison, superintendent of Orange County schools, said he doubted active racism was the reason behind the separation among the races.

"There is a discrepancy between the

achievements of minority and majority students, but I don't know that I would characterize that as racism," he said.

Although area schools had already implemented policies to decrease differences between the achievements of races, Lewis said the forum could have greater results for both city and county schools. "We're not really going into the (forum) with an agenda or with the objective of creating some action plan. But action grows out of these," she said.

The meeting is one in a series of monthly forums designed to promote open dialogue directed toward increasing the community's awareness of human relations issues.

Revisions aim to improve Student Code

■ The changes are designed to make Student Congress more efficient.

BY DANA SPANGLER
STAFF WRITER

Student Congress members will soon hear a series of proposed revisions to Title II of the Student Code that are designed to make Congress more efficient.

"We are trying to create a better process," said Speaker of Student Congress Jamie Kilbourne, who will introduce the proposal at Wednesday's Congress meeting.

"Students aren't getting a full airing of their concerns, and this can't happen."

Kilbourne said the biggest proposed revision would require bills to pass two readings at different Student Congress meetings. The first reading would refer a bill to a committee and allow the University community to know in advance what will be dealt with in committee meetings.

"This extra week will allow students to get better involved," Kilbourne said. "There is nothing better in a democracy than a thoughtful process."

Kilbourne said this revision would also help Congress deal with the student body president's loss of ex officio status. "There has to be a process by which students can come to Student Congress, and this can't be done by the student body president anymore," he said.

Kilbourne said that by moving the vote back a week the student body president could decide which bills were important to him and attend the committee meetings himself or send someone else.

Kilbourne also proposed adding a fourth committee to the Congress. The new committee, the Rules and Operations Committee, would set the agenda and calendar, approve Congress-appointed officers, hear appeals and consider changes to Title II.

Kilbourne also proposed changing

SEE TITLE II, PAGE 2

Price uses weekend trips to keep community ties

BY DAVID COENEN
STAFF WRITER

U.S. Rep. David Price, D-N.C., shook hands, listened to concerns and answered questions from some of his constituents at the Chapel Hill Senior Center on Monday, wrapping up a whirlwind tour through the area.

"Whenever I'm home, I'm out doing this sort of thing," Price said, adding that he had not stopped meeting with residents since the 1996 campaign ended.

At the Chapel Hill Area American Association of Retired Persons meeting, Price addressed Social Security problems, saying cuts in Medicare would depend on which budget was passed.

"It's very hard to predict how it will unfold," Price said. Cuts of \$100 billion to \$200 billion are possi-

ble, he said.

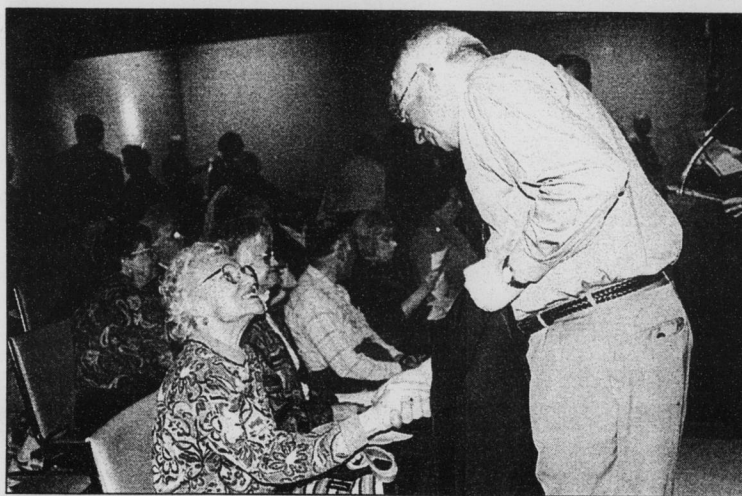
Price said bipartisan commissions should look at long-term proposals for Medicare and Social Security. He also fielded questions on topics ranging from military spending to campaign finance reform to home-care concerns.

Kym Spell, communications director for the congressman, said Price wanted to find out what his constituents thought about issues like the ones discussed Monday.

Price visits the 4th District every weekend, from Thursday night to Tuesday, she said. "Generally, one of those days is devoted to Orange County," she said. "His schedule is jam-packed with events to keep him in touch with voters."

Price spoke to McDougal Middle School on

SEE PRICE, PAGE 2



Rep. David Price, D-N.C., talks with a concerned senior citizen at the Chapel Hill Senior Center. Price spoke at the American Association of Retired Persons meeting Monday afternoon.

Man to drop assault charges in alleged 'gay-bashing' incident

■ Downtown businesses wrote a letter requesting discrimination protection.

BY STEVE MRAZ
STAFF WRITER

A Carrboro man will ask the Orange-Chatham District Attorney's office in two days to drop assault charges against an employee of Henderson Street Bar and Grill in connection with an alleged gay-bashing incident that took place Jan. 1.

Chris Pedigo, 25, filed assault charges against Chad Gammons, a Henderson Street Bar and Grill employee, after being allegedly removed from the establishment with force New Year's Eve.

"Nine times out of ten if the complaining witness feels that the matter is resolved, the DA will agree to drop the charges," said Alan McSurely, a lawyer who worked with Pedigo.

McSurely said Pedigo wanted to drop the charges because he was pleased with a resolution that has arisen out of the incident.

McSurely said he worked with Pedigo and the Downtown Commission to write a letter that would formally ask the county to give gays and lesbians more protection against discrimination.

"I want something to come out of this that will benefit the community as a whole," Pedigo said.

The letter, which several downtown businesses including Henderson Street Bar and Grill will endorse, asks area leaders to pass legislation to give the

Orange County Human Relations Commission jurisdiction over gay and lesbian discrimination.

The Downtown Commission said in its letter this was the best solution to the Henderson Street incident.

"Currently, the Human Relations Commission has jurisdiction over gender, nationality and racial discrimination," McSurely said. "Gay and lesbian discrimination will be able to be handled on a local level."

Gays and lesbians have no protection against discrimination under federal law, McSurely said.

"I feel that this solution will leave everyone happy," he said.

If the district attorney does not decide to drop the charges, Gammons will stand trial for assault on March 24, said Gibson Smith, the attorney for

"I just don't want this to happen to anyone else. This was an isolated incident ... As long as it's been taken care of I'm happy."

CHRIS PEDIGO
Carrboro resident

Gammons.

The bar owner contended Gammons removed Pedigo from the building because he threw a hamburger across the bar, Smith said.

Pedigo said he thought Chapel Hill was not unfriendly to gays and lesbians.

"I just don't want this to happen to anyone else. This was an isolated inci-

dent with Chad Gammons and not the bar," Pedigo said. "As long as it's taken care of I'm happy."

Pedigo said Gammons assaulted him and made slurs against homosexuals while removing him from the bar.

Earlier in the year local officials said the Henderson Street Bar and Grill had a history of anti-gay activity.

Carrboro Mayor Mike Nelson said he thought the bar should be boycotted because of these activities.

Former Chapel Hill Town Council member and local gay activist said he knew of a series of anti-gay incidents that occurred in 1984 at the bar.

Kevin Clyde, the manager of the bar, said despite the call for a boycott, his business had improved since the alleged anti-gay attack which occurred in January.

Student petitions call for renovated laundry facilities in residence halls

BY JENNIFER PENDER
STAFF WRITER

A University administrator said a decision was in the works that could answer about 360 students' complaints about on-campus laundry facilities.

Susan Kitchen, vice chancellor for student affairs, said the University still wanted to get input from students who signed a petition about the Trust Laundry residence hall facilities.

"We hope to get all of the residence halls governments involved in putting a proposal together," she said.

Residents of the Trust Laundry residence halls — Alderman, Cobb, Joyner, Kenan, Old West, Parker, Spencer and Whitehead — got 360 signatures on the petition during the first week of March.

"Many of us contend daily with pressures associated with outdated and inadequate laundry facilities; often we must make the choice of waiting several hours to wash and dry our clothes or hauling our laundry to another facility, on or off campus," the petition stated.

Residents also want decisions about

"Many of us contend daily with pressures associated with outdated and inadequate laundry facilities."

TRUST LAUNDRY RESIDENTS
From petition to the University

the contracting of Trust Laundries to be made by the end of the month so that renovations will be done by the beginning of the fall semester, the petition stated.

Kitchen said the University had planned to make this decision by fall even before she had seen the petition, which was addressed to her and Director of University Housing Wayne Kuncl.

In December, the University tabled plans to privatize the servicing of Trust Laundries.

But this delay means residents cannot get the services they need, said Ashley

Herring, president of Cobb Residence Hall and one of the originators of the Trust Laundry petition.

Herring said that although the Trust Laundry participants have funds to spend on renovations, UNC officials asked them not to spend the money until the University made its decision.

Residents generate these funds from coin-operated laundry machines.

Petitioners had different complaints with the current services.

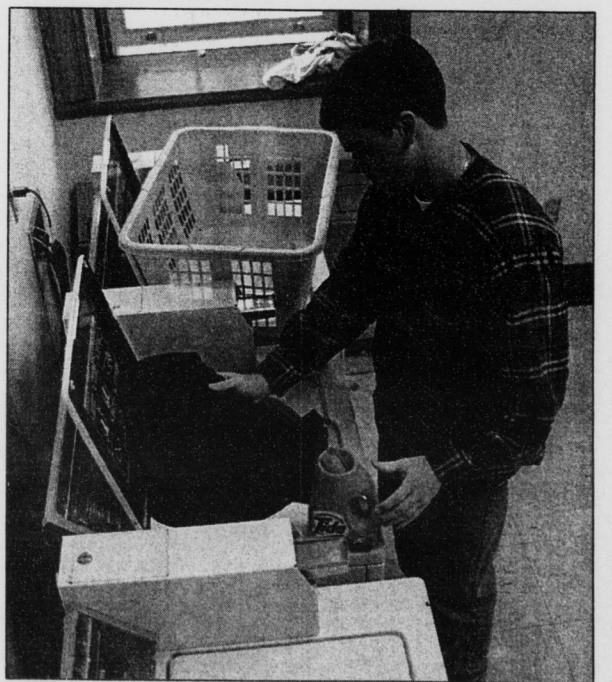
Kim Jung, a junior Kenan resident, said half the machines were broken, and only a few people could do laundry at one time. "If repairs were done more quickly, then it would be better."

If all eight halls had machines that were similar models, servicing them might be easier, other residents said.

"We want all appliances to be compatible," Cobb resident Angela Howell said.

Peter Brunner, a junior Old West resident, said he felt residents should be able to use their UNC ONE Cards like at other residence halls. "It's just a hassle to get quarters," he said.

Kuncl was unavailable for comment.



Patrick Perkins does his laundry at Old West Residence Hall, one of eight residence halls that filed a petition to say their laundry facilities are outdated.

Revenge is sweet and not fattening.

Alfred Hitchcock