

The Daily Tar Heel

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1997
Volume 105, Issue 80

News/Features/Arts/Sports: 962-0245
Business/Advertising: 962-1163
Chapel Hill, North Carolina
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UNC rushing to fix computers by 2000

■ The Year 2000 Resource Team has been working on the problem since 1996.

BY KERI TARLTON
STAFF WRITER

As Jan. 1, 2000 approaches, UNC officials are forced to plan for more than how they are going to spend their New Year's Eve.

Decades ago, computer programmers abandoned true dates in data fields and opted to use the "year-in-century" format. This means many hardware and software systems use data which only stores the final two digits of the year.

The "Year 2000" problem, dubbed by some as the "millennium meltdown" or "Y2K," will arise when many computers assume "00" to be "1900" rather

than the year 2000. Computers will be unable to distinguish between a day in 1905 and one in 2005.

The "meltdown" could have effects ranging from stopping watches to erasing bank accounts. For students, "Y2K" could pose threats to student records systems by altering such information as graduation dates, their financial status, and UNC alumni records.

Ahmed Abdelkhalik, a sophomore computer science major from Cairo, Egypt, has already thought about protecting his finances in the year 2000.

"Basically, I plan to get a hard copy of everything," he said.

Considering the large amount of data entry required by a university the size of UNC, "Y2K" has serious implications for UNC officials in charge of student and faculty records.

Ken Thorn of the UNC Administrative Information Systems

heads a committee called the Year 2000 Resource Team. The team, formed in May 1996, has been compiling information on data-sensitive and data-dependent programs at UNC to prepare for the coming computer crisis.

"Fortunately, we had the foresight in the late '80s to set a University-wide standard requiring the use of four-digit year dates," Thorn said. "We're making the necessary changes in applications and programs still in two-digit dates."

Thorn said programmers in AIS analyzed current UNC computer codes and made the necessary changes. They then test the computers to make sure they are year 2000 compliant.

"We've bought software to make the computers think that it is in the year 2000," Thorn said. "This way we can manipulate dates to test the systems."

David Lanier, University registrar, said the registrar's office, which falls

"Because we've had to put so much manpower and resources on this, there have been other things we couldn't do ..."

KEN THORN
Year 2000 Resource Team head

under AIS computer management, started taking steps to rectify the "Y2K" problem more than two years ago.

"Last fall we began printing four-digit years on transcripts, and this spring we started listing courses using four-digit years," he said. "We're almost finished."

Eleanor Morris, director of the Office of Scholarships and Student Aid, said the financial aid office installed software more than six months ago.

"Some of the year 2000 fixes have already been installed," she said. "We are highly dependent on what AIS does."

Although he could not give an estimate, Thorn said the year 2000 project has been costly for the University. In addition to purchasing the software, an opportunity cost arises because some AIS workers have been removed from their other duties in order to address the "Y2K" problem more effectively.

"Because we've had to put so much manpower and resources on this, there have been other things we couldn't do such as modify or enhance existing systems," Thorn said.

The team has set December 1998 as a target date for completing the changes.

"It's not a negotiable deadline," Thorn said. "But we're in good shape, because we got an early start and we have top-management support."

B-GLAD petitioning for exhibit

■ The "Define Queer" exhibit would feature a board for viewer comments.

BY JESSICA GALAZKA
STAFF WRITER

B-GLAD is trying a new approach as it renews plans to display a controversial exhibit in the Carolina Union Gallery.

The exhibit, called "Define Queer," includes photographs of gay men and women and the effects of AIDS on them. It would be an interactive display that invites viewer comments.

The Carolina Union Activities Board would not agree to feature the exhibit sponsored by Bisexuals, Gay men, Lesbians and Allies for Diversity last spring because of its interactive nature.

Aninda Wilson, a board member in charge of the gallery, said most of the concern was with the free expression board that would accompany the exhibit. She said CUAB agreed to do the exhibit minus the free expression board.

But the board is the display's central part for B-GLAD members.

Ian Palmquist, co-chairman of B-GLAD, said, "It's something a lot of people don't encounter, and calling attention to it is one of the most important goals of the exhibit."

The display would be in an area surrounded by windows that gets a lot of traffic and attention daily. "It's a hard thing to supervise," Wilson said.

For B-GLAD, that is precisely why the space is so important. "The gallery is the best place for it," Palmquist said.

He said he was optimistic about the renewed efforts. B-GLAD has distributed a petition to student groups to solicit support for the display.

Student government officials met Sunday after receiving the petition to discuss what action they would take.

"We tried not to focus on what happened last year," said Reyna Walters, co-chairwoman of student government's Human Relations Committee.

"The position we are taking is we need to find where people are at," she said. "We are trying to start by initiating some conversations."

Palmquist said they were considering a completely different route this year by working with the Union Board of Directors. They don't require all members to agree on decisions like CUAB does, he said.

CUAB President Amy Lawler said every idea is reviewed by the 13-member activity board comprised of students who represent students on campus with differing views, she said.

Lawler said the activities board operated on consensus so that "every decision we make is solid."

Student Body President Mo Nathan said the University needs a place where students and faculty can say what is on their minds.

"I think B-GLAD is a good example of our need for this space."

Referee still serious; public offers support

BY ALEC MORRISON
SPORTS EDITOR

The cold reality of referee James Knight's stunning collapse at Kenan Stadium continued to spread across campus Monday.

Knight, a 51-year-old Charlotte native, suffered a massive heart attack Saturday while working the UNC football game against the University of Virginia. His condition worsened from serious to critical early Monday morning but improved to serious as of 6 p.m. Monday evening.

Well-wishing students turned out in the Pit during the day to sign sympathy cards provided by the Carolina Athletic Association for Knight and his family.

At his weekly press conference, UNC football coach Mack Brown offered words of encouragement for Knight before taking any questions.

"All of our thoughts and prayers are still with Jimmy ... as he continues to fight for his life," Brown said. "Everybody felt like the situation was handled as good as it possibly could have been handled."

UNC Hospitals spokeswoman Pam

Pearce said Monday afternoon that Knight's condition had changed to critical in the early morning hours. But a message left on UNC Hospitals voice mail at 6 p.m. said Knight had returned to serious condition.

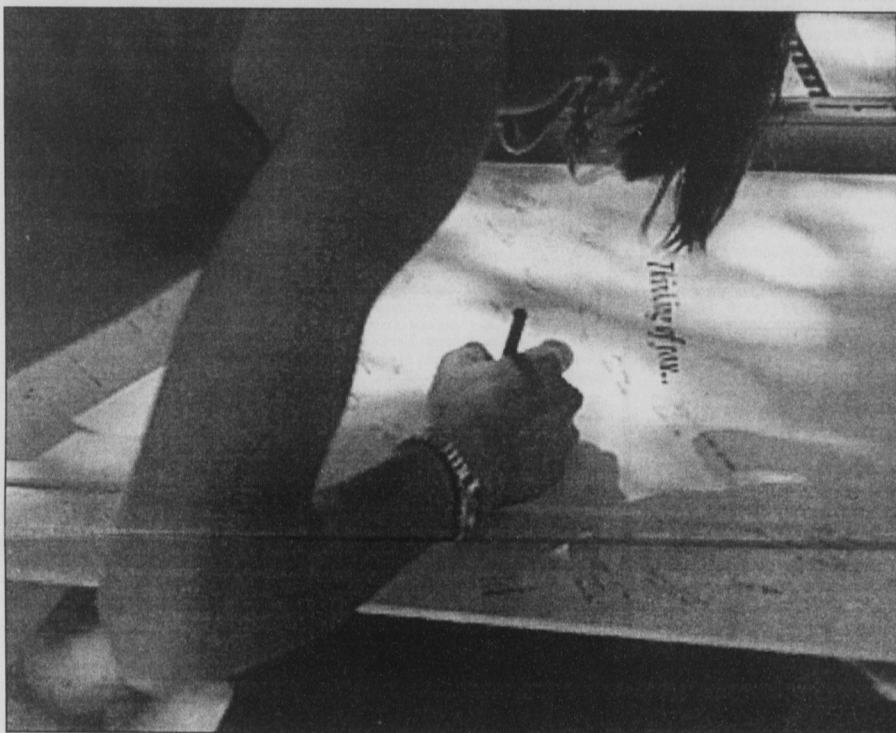
Knight's family, which continues to decline questions from the media, issued a statement through UNC Hospitals thanking the public for its sympathy.

"We wholeheartedly appreciate the outpouring of concern and support," Knight's family said in the statement.

Knight collapsed on the UNC 12-yard line just before a Tar Heel snap in the second quarter Saturday. Medical personnel and the other officials at the game rushed to his side.

Knight had a defibrillator applied to his chest to restart his heart, which stopped beating four times before he arrived at UNC Hospitals.

"Jim is one of our very best officials, and he has served our league in exemplary fashion for many years," said ACC Commissioner John Swofford in a statement released Saturday from Atlanta. "This kind of thing certainly puts life and the games we play in perspective."



Graduate student Joanna Pi-Sunyer writes her "get well soon" message to James Knight. Well-wishers lined up Monday afternoon to sign enormous cards for the ACC referee.

Colleges find programs to fight drinking

■ Personal responsibility is the focus of several college anti-drinking programs.

BY ADRIENNE BRANCHE
STAFF WRITER

College programs discouraging all alcohol consumption recently have taken the back burner to a more realistic message: students must be responsible for the alcohol they drink.

Alcohol's continuing prominence in students' lives, found in the Core Institute Alcohol and Drug Survey at the Southern Illinois University

at Carbondale, forced officials to search for new ways to deal with the issue.

Some schools, such as the University of California at Santa Barbara, pursue creative alternatives to alcohol.

"We have a Mock-tail catering service," said Judy Hearsom, director for alcohol and other drug programs at UC-SB. "(It) provides interesting non-alcoholic beverages."

Several universities have focused on presenting students with a realistic idea of how much their peers drink. At East

SEE ALCOHOL, PAGE 2

For the mentally ill, life has its challenges. But with the help of Caramore Community Inc., these individuals are building a future and ... LEARNING TO LIVE

BY HUGH PRESSLEY
STAFF WRITER

Joshua Chansky faces a challenge many young adults have to deal with everyday — finding a job.

"Right now I'm looking for carpentry, like being a carpenter's assistant," he said. "But I have a lot more I'm looking at, like a cook or a plumber — jobs like that."

However, unlike many young adults, 20-year-old Joshua has a mental illness that makes it difficult for him to find work on his own.

For three months, he has turned to the staff at

Caramore Community Inc., to give him employment training and to help him look for a job.

Caramore Community Inc., located on Smith Level Road in Carrboro, is a private, nonprofit organization that provides training programs for severely and persistently mentally ill and handicapped adults ages 18 and over.

Founded in 1974 by the late Caroline M. Livermore of Lumberton, Caramore offers job programs to enhance its clients' employability and attempts to provide them the transition into independent living.

"We do a lot of training here to help our young

men get jobs," said John A. Simonds, president of Caramore. "We run businesses which provide training on developing employment-related skills, and we run homes and apartments for our program clients."

Caramore accepts clients from across North Carolina and is staffed 24 hours a day, Simonds said. "We're clinically coordinated in the community, and we're staffed by trained people," he said.

Although there are no medical professionals at Caramore, Simonds said a professional psychologist is on staff.

Caramore funds come largely from the services it provides, Simonds said.

"We earn every dollar," he said. "We have contracts with the state of North Carolina for specific services, and we earn a lot of our own money with the businesses we run. We don't solicit any donations."

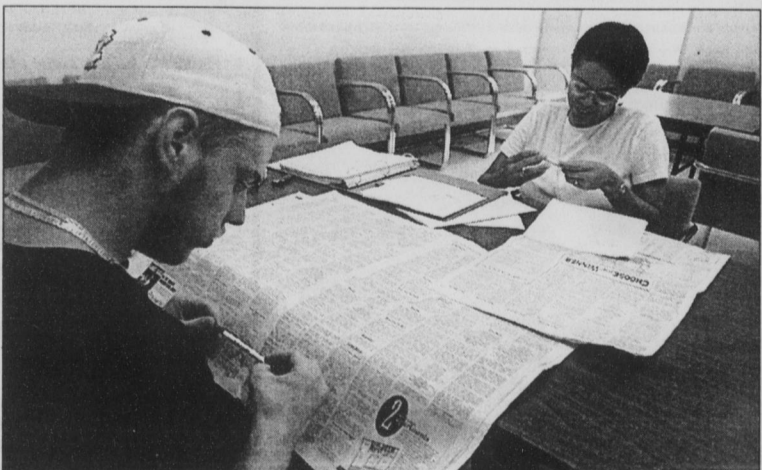
Before entering the program at Caramore, clients go through a thorough admissions process, Admissions Director Wendy Morrison said.

"I screen the applicants that come into Caramore," she said. "We have referrals coming into the program from hospitals and vocational rehabilitation offices from around the state, and we screen those referrals to see if they are appropriate for us."

The admissions process also includes a written application, a tour of the Caramore facility and a five-day visit, Morrison said.

"Both (the clients and the referral agencies) use us on a trial basis," she said.

Once clients enter the Caramore program, they are introduced to a variety of job opportunities. Caramore has two self-run businesses, Caraflorea and Caraclean, which specialize in lawn maintenance



Joshua Chansky (left) goes through the classified ads in search of a job, while Darlene Head assists in the process.



INSIDE Tuesday

The Bronco's battle

What's up with Administrators at Fayetteville State University blocked the student newspaper's production in what some decried as censorship. Page 5

Today's weather

Sunny;
low 80s
Wednesday: Sunny;
mid 70s

Awarding experience

Spend this semester looking into an issue in depth. Apply for this fall's Joanna Howell Fund award. To be considered, submit a detailed proposal to The Daily Tar Heel office in Suite 104 of the Student Union by Friday. Call DTH Editor Erica Beshears for further questions or details at 962-0245.

An honest politician is one who, when he is bought, will stay bought.

Simon Cameron