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Closing a Chapter

"History is a relentless master. It has no present, only the past rushing into the future."

— John F. Kennedy



This is a picture of campus shot shortly before sunset from the top of Davis Library. The evolving landscape of the University embodies the changes and challenges it has faced in this century. But still it stands — having weathered the past and now bracing for all the future has in store.

DTH/JOHN IKEDA

In 31 days, we will enter the year 2000. Today, The Daily Tar Heel concludes its look back at the 20th century with a special section on the 1990s. And in taking stock of contemporary times, we also look ahead to the uncharted frontier of a new year, decade, century and millennium.

By BRIAN BEDSWORTH
Staff Writer

The gilded opulence of the 1980s swiftly eroded as violence shook the world at the close of the 20th century.

But most Americans tried to ignore the wars, riots and killings as the U.S. economy surged forward, creating unprecedented wealth.

As the gap between the rich and the poor began to look more like a chasm, an explosion of communications technology at least made the distribution of information more equitable.

Television news brought the roar of Operation Desert Storm into American living rooms. U.S., British, Saudi Arabian and allied armies had flattened Iraqi forces by February 1991.

The Western world ignored a vicious eth-

nic war in the Balkans while Serb aggression prompted accusations of genocide. International peacekeeping forces eventually intervened in Bosnia in 1995 and in Kosovo four years later.

But suddenly violence was not limited to other countries. Much of South Central Los Angeles was destroyed by riots in 1991, and terrorists bombed New York City's World Trade Center in 1993.

The worst domestic terrorism act in U.S. history occurred in 1995 when a car bomb exploded in front an Oklahoma City building, killing 167.

And in Chapel Hill, UNC law student Wendell Williamson killed two people and wounded three in a shooting rampage on Henderson Street in 1995.

The 1999 Columbine High School massacre in Colorado, and several other school shootings, led many Americans to call for

stricter gun control laws.

Amid the violence, technology thrived. The Internet provided a new network of information accessible to anyone with a computer and telephone line.

Communications technology made face-to-face chats unnecessary. E-mail allowed instant correspondence, and cell phones exploded in popularity.

And while fans mourned the retirement of coaching legend Dean Smith in 1997, satellite technology helped a global audience watch his most famous protege, Michael Jordan, lead the Chicago Bulls to six NBA championships.

Americans had more time to focus on such leisure activities after the economy's booming recovery from a languid start in the early 1990s.

President Bill Clinton was elected in 1992 on his promise to pull the country out of recession. The public re-elected him in 1996, largely because of the United States' renewed economic stability.

But the economy could not keep the media's attention away from Clinton's personal life.

In early 1998 the Monica Lewinsky scandal broke, saturating the public with sordid details of the president's affair with the White House intern.

On Dec. 19, 1998, Clinton became the second American president ever impeached by the U.S. House of Representatives. The Senate acquitted him two months later.

And UNC struggled with its own political battles. Student activists rallied to win support for a freestanding Sonja H. Stone Black Cultural Center, to protest a \$1,500 tuition increase and to stop the sweatshop manufacture of UNC apparel.

The University celebrated its 200th birthday in 1993, but mourned the loss of its leader six years later as Chancellor Michael Hooker succumbed to cancer.

The 1990s could be seen as an amalgam of all that came before it — a schizophrenic end to a tumultuous century.

Pedestrians To Demand Protection

Protesters want to heighten awareness of dangerous campus intersections and increase pedestrian safety.

By LEONNA BYRD
Staff Writer

Following the recent death of a post-doctoral dental fellow, University students, employees and other pedestrians will stage an hourlong protest Wednesday starting at Manning Drive.

Protesters will cross all the dangerous intersections and pedestrian accident sites on campus to demand the installation of more safety devices such as pedestrian traffic lights.

Since August, there have been four on-campus accidents between vehicles and pedestrians reported by the UNC Department of Public Safety, including a fatal accident involving Dr. Fusayoshi Matsukawa on Nov. 4.

Jeff Campbell, who helped develop the idea of the rally, said there were many people concerned with the increasing need for better pedestrian safety.

"For the past five years that I have been here, I have heard numerous complaints involving the lack of consideration for pedestrians," he said.

"The rally is a way for the faculty and students to join together to raise awareness and implement positive alternatives to the current vehicle-pedestrian accidents facing the University," Campbell said.

The event will begin with a moment of silence in memory of Dr. Matsukawa.

Protesters will then cross the Manning Road crosswalk and follow a route across other trouble spots in and around campus, concluding in a rally at South Building.

However, in recognition of the special needs of patients who need access to UNC Hospitals, the Manning Drive disruption will be limited to 5 to 10 minutes. At all crosswalks, protesters will give way to emergency vehicles.

Gary Slade, a member on the grassroots committee that formed the pedestrian awareness march, said the tragic death of Matsukawa prompted the need for more preventative measures.

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Carolina, Speak Out!
A weekly DTH online poll
Where will you be for New Year's Eve 2000?
Go to www.unc.edu/dth to cast your vote.

INSIDE
Tuesday

Crime Wave

Police are investigating the sixth and seventh armed robberies in just over two weeks. They say the incidents are unrelated and at this time have no suspects in the cases. See Page 5.

Library Needs Building

UNC's music library, which boasts an admired collection and the third largest campus circulation, is housed in a condemned basement. See Page 5.

Pot Debate Heats Up

New findings on the effectiveness of marijuana-use for medicinal purposes might force states to impose more strict regulations. See Page 9.

Today's Weather

Sunny;
Low 40s.
Wednesday: Sunny;
Low 40s.

Matthews Makes Bid for SBP

By KATY NELSON
Staff Writer

With student body elections less than three months away, junior Brad Matthews said goodbye to his colleagues in the executive branch Monday to pursue his long-term political vision.

Matthews, a political science and international studies major from Boise, Idaho, resigned from his Cabinet position to run for student body president.

The election season officially kicks off next week with an interest meeting for candidates intending to running for any elected post.

As senior adviser to Student Body President Nic Heinke, Matthews was Heinke's top political adviser on issues such as the proposed tuition increase.

In accordance with student government's neutrality policy, Heinke set Monday as his deadline for resignations from Cabinet members who wished to run for elected office.

Matthews was the only Cabinet member to resign.

"It is ironic that I have to step away from the work that I care about in order to ensure that the work will continue," Matthews said.

During the meeting, Heinke announced Matthews' replacement, executive assistant Mark Walters.

Heinke said he was thankful his administration was losing only one person. Past administrations have had as many as five officials resign, he said.

If elected, Matthews said he would like to expand UNC P2P Xpress Shuttle

services, reform C-TOPS and simplify perspectives in graduation requirements.

"I want to maintain strong connections with the student body and make sure that student government is not just working for students but with students," Matthews said.

Heinke said Matthews changed the philosophy of student government this year by calling for more direct interaction with the student body.

He linked weekly Cabinet meetings with door-to-door visits to students on campus and off campus.

Matthews said student input from knocking on doors had already spurred improvements in campus residence

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Study: Chancellor's Pay Below Private Schools'

By COURTNEY OBRINGER
Staff Writer

A report indicating that UNC-system chancellors make less than presidents at some private colleges has caused some officials to question whether UNC-Chapel Hill will be able to competitively recruit a new chancellor.

The Chronicle of Higher Education released a report outlining top administrators' salaries and benefits at 475 private American colleges. Salaries paid to UNC-system chancellors are lower than the compensation for several of the state's private colleges, the report stated.

The study comes on the heels of con-

cerns over low faculty salaries, prompting a recent Board of Trustees' proposal to increase tuition at UNC-CH.

The increase would attempt to maintain a top-notch faculty base, following a UNC-CH study indicating that the faculty salaries fail to compete with other top public schools nationwide.

Likewise, some system officials worry that low chancellor salaries will make UNC-CH less competitive as it looks to attract a new leader.

With a salary of \$235,767, interim Chancellor Bill McCoy earns less than heads of smaller private N.C. schools.

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Remember that man's life lies all within this present.

Marcus Aurelius Antoninus