

KULL

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"We knew he was coming close to the end," Crofton said. "We weren't waiting, but we were delaying the inevitable."
Crofton said Kull remained in high spirits and kept hopes of recovery alive. "He was very optimistic to see what the doctors could do to get him through this."
Kull enrolled at the University in fall 1997 and made an immediate impact for the lacrosse team. During his freshman year, Kull earned a starting position on defense in UNC's fifth game, an 18-10 loss to Princeton. He started for the remainder of the season.

He appeared in 14 games for the Tar Heels and had 17 ground balls and 20

takeaways while committing only three turnovers. Last year, Kull started the Tar Heels' first six games before symptoms of his illness forced him to sit out the rest of the season.

"He loved to work hard," UNC junior attacker Kevin Mehm said. "He was inspiring."

Kull, who was born July 3, 1979, in Waldorf, Md., was the son of Gary and Denah Kull. He graduated from Yorktown High School in 1997 and earned All-America honors in lacrosse as a senior before choosing to attend UNC.

"He was always a member of the team," Martin said.

"He never really left us."

The Sports Editor can be reached at sports@unc.edu.

Town Manager Proposes Tax Increase

By TRICIA BARRIOS
Staff Writer

Chapel Hill residents could be in for a five-cent increase in property taxes, according to a preliminary assessment of the town budget by the town manager.

Town Council members, though, said they would not support such a drastic increase and would try to find alternate sources of money to supplement any additional costs.

Town Manager Cal Horton said the tax forecast was the first step in culminating the budget finalization in June.

"It's based on the present conditions and reasonable assumptions," he said. "It's preliminary right now."

Town Council member Jim Ward said he was not willing to accept the

increase. "I think it is alarming," he said. "We can't expect the town citizens to sustain that kind of increase."

Ward said the increase would only fund existing town programs.

"We have more people to serve each year," he said. "That means town services must accommodate more people."

Ward said no one on the council wanted to see the increase implemented.

"I don't think any of us want to vote for a property tax increase," he said, "but (Horton) is saying to just hold even we have to have an extra five cents."

A one-cent increase in property tax would bring town government an additional \$300,000 alone. Council members said they were not sure of where the money would come from otherwise. "That's the 64 million-dollar ques-

tion," council member Flicka Bateman said. "What do we do? No staff raises? No town repairs?"

Council member Edith Wiggins suggested alternate means of generating revenue than raising taxes, adding that the tax increase would probably not pass and was just a preliminary report.

"I'm sure it's not going to be that," she said. "The manager just throws out the worst-case scenario at first."

Horton said a change in fees, such as increasing the price of downtown parking, would help generate revenue.

"The more revenue from fees, the less the tax rate will have to go up," he said.

Ward said a new method of trash collection would also help the town by cutting down on the cost of town services. "Curbside collection would require

residents to take their garbage carts to the curb," he said. "And it would be once a week."

Bateman said the curbside method could save the town \$700,000 in about four years. "We know that that's definitely a way to save money," she said.

Horton said it was too early to discuss budget propositions in great detail.

"The council hasn't even had its first work session yet," he said.

The council will hold budget hearings that will be open to the public Jan. 25 and March 29. Ward said the budget was scheduled to be finalized June 12.

"It needs a lot of work. We need to find other ways."

The City Editor can be reached at citydesk@unc.edu.

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N.C. Ski Season Picks Up After Swath of Snow

By LANI HARAC
Staff Writer

Besides the snowmen, the snow angels and the snowball fights, snow is good for one other thing: skiing.

The recent snow accumulation in North Carolina has meant good things for local ski resorts, despite a late start to the season.

Gil Adams, marketing manager at Ski Beech Resort on Beech Mountain, said business had picked up significantly in the last few weeks.

"The number of calls has been off the wall," Adams said. "We started out slow. We opened the fifth of December, and we usually open around Thanksgiving. What happens is, when it snows away

from (the mountains), people start to think about skiing."

Wintergreen Resort in Virginia was expecting a lot of snow this past weekend. Communications Director Dave Zunker said the resort opened all of its slopes Friday, including 19 trails and a snowboard park. "Everyone comes out of the woodwork (when it snows), and it's party time," Zunker said.

"It's been remarkable this week."

At Appalachian Ski Mountain, in Blowing Rock, the last two slopes were opened Saturday.

General Manager Brad Moretz said Appalachian also opened late.

Before Christmas, business was "drizzly," Moretz said. But starting in late December, it was ideal skiing weather

and business this weekend was at normal levels.

Moretz also said a lot of snow-making had been going on since Christmas. With the temperatures so low, natural snow is no longer a prerequisite for skiing. "We could not make snow for three weeks, and still have a lot of snow left," he said.

Ski Beech also makes its own snow, as does Wintergreen. "We have an awesome system that can make snow really fast," Zunker said. But natural snow triggers an awareness of skiing, he added.

He said many people did not realize that it's always several degrees colder in the mountains, so they can ski even if it's 40 degrees where they live.

The mountains received an average

of 4 inches this weekend, with as much as a 6- to 8-inch accumulation in the high points. More snow could also be expected midweek, said Jim Hudgins, a meteorologist at the National Weather Service in Blacksburg, Va.

According to insiders in the business, the best times to ski are during the week, unless it's a holiday, Zunker said. Wintergreen gets about 1,000 skiers Monday through Friday. That number increases to about 4,500 on Saturdays.

Adams, of Ski Beech, said, "Watch the weather. Don't come up blind, without watching the weather reports and being unprepared for snowstorms."

The State & National Editor can be reached at stntdesk@unc.edu.

LAWSUIT

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required, highlighting the fact that the Constitution does not specify a two-thirds vote in regard to voter referendums.

"The most fundamental rule is that you go with the meaning of the text," said David Neal, counsel for the plaintiffs.

Graduate and Professional Student Federation President Lee Conner said it was wrong to assume that the two-thirds vote was not required simply because it was not made plain in the Constitution.

He said Title I, Article VI, Section 1 of the Constitution gave Congress an oversight role in campus elections, but Title II of the Code explicitly spelled out how representatives must carry out referendum procedure.

Kleinschmidt said the complaint raised valuable questions, but in his response to the court, defended his actions under the Constitution.

Supreme Court Justice Ed Page said he hoped to hear the case by Thursday.

The University Editor can be reached at udesk@unc.edu.

BOGUE

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Welfare.

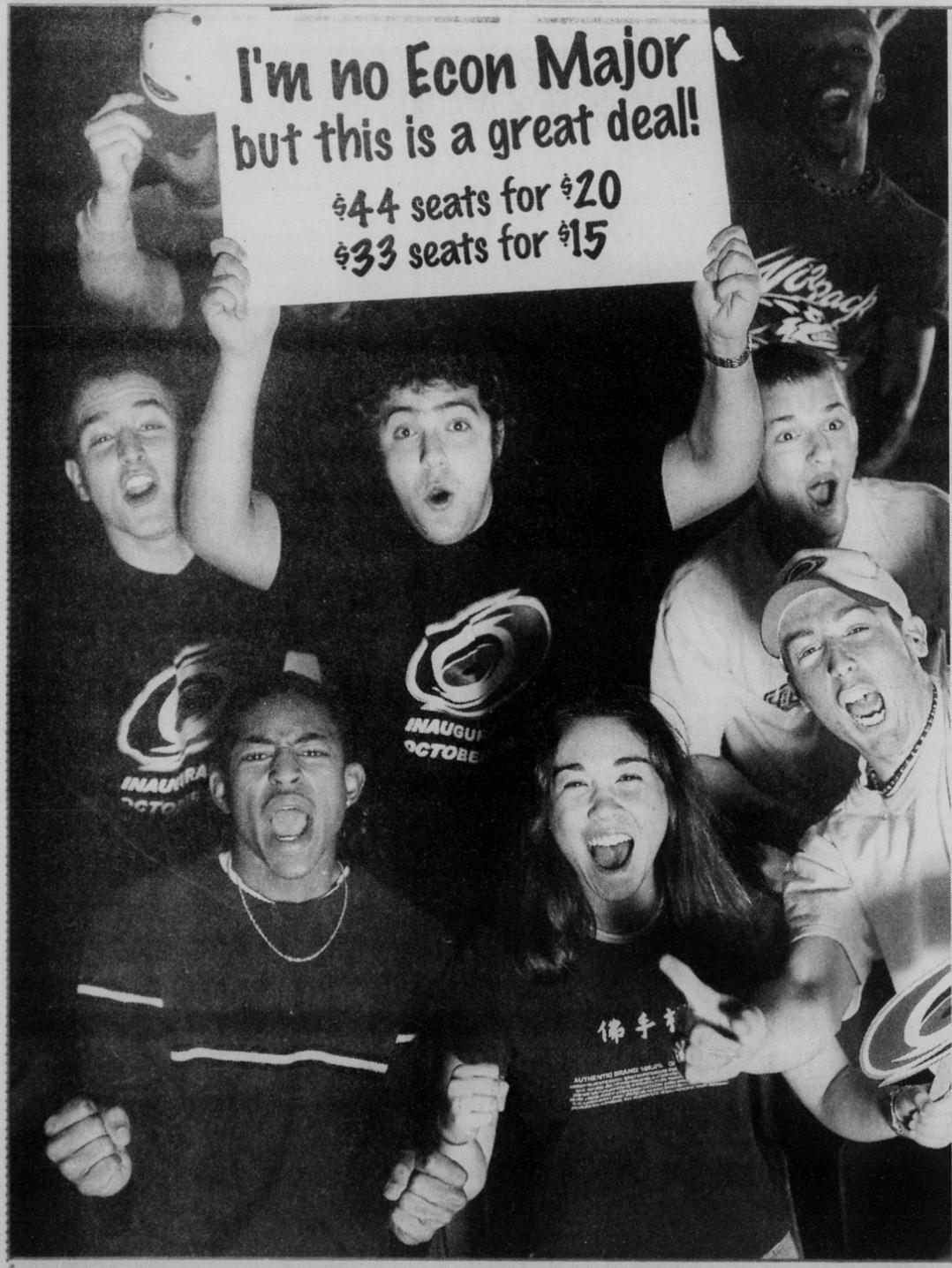
Pendergrass said that even though Hailey was found in Orange County, the Orange County Department of Social Services was not involved because Hailey lived in Chatham County with Christie. Christie could not be reached for comment.

Orange-Chatham District Attorney Carl Fox said he had been working with the sheriff's department to keep abreast

of the details in the event that charges were filed. "I've conferred with the officers and the investigator a couple of times," he said. "I have listened to the evidence they have."

Fox added that although the case had received a swarm of attention, he would treat the case no differently than any other. "If charges were filed, we'd prosecute just like in any other case," he said. "This case has just gotten a lot more attention."

The City Editor can be reached at citydesk@unc.edu.

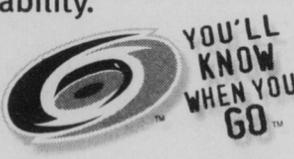


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New Jersey Devils	Jan. 28	7:30PM
Florida Panthers	Feb. 1	7:30PM
Montreal Canadiens	Feb. 17	7:30PM
Tampa Bay Lightning	Feb. 19	7:30PM
Washington Capitals	Feb. 21	1:30PM
Florida Panthers	Feb. 24	7:30PM
Chicago Blackhawks	Mar. 8	7:30PM
Boston Bruins	Mar. 10	7:30PM
Atlanta Thrashers	Mar. 12	1:30PM
Edmonton Oilers	Mar. 15	7:30PM
St. Louis Blues	Mar. 22	7:00PM
New York Islanders	Mar. 26	1:30PM
Buffalo Sabres	Mar. 27	7:30PM
Nashville Predators	Mar. 29	7:30PM
Philadelphia Flyers	Apr. 2	1:30PM
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