

EXPLORIS

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admission). Lower income children can't even afford to come to this," she said.

Unlike the N.C. Museum of Natural Science and other free museums, Exploris tapped corporate technology charity budgets around the Triangle to gain funding.

In addition to the plans for a 300-seat IMAX theatre in the fall of 2001, the center aims to update its technology as standards change.

To help cover operational costs, admission for children ages four to 11 is \$4.95, and adults must pay \$6.95.

Boasting technology that is unparalleled in the museum world, the five main Exploris exhibits vividly illustrate that you get what you pay for.

In "People and Places," children can hop aboard a virtual bus and speed down the Autobahn in Germany (while their parents joke that it looks like Interstate 40 traffic), or motorboat through canals in Indonesia.

The "Living in Balance" exhibit allows kids to pump a Volanta, a deep-well pump, to better appreciate the dif-

iculties of water collection in Third World countries.

"Many Voices," located on the second floor, is the Rosetta Stone of global communication exhibits.

Dotted with computers and offering live broadcasts from 42 countries, the exhibit allows children to create a Web site and send the address to grandpa.

Other interactive computer programs give children the chance to start learning French or Chinese.

"Can you find Senegal on this globe?" a museum worker asked a fifth-grade boy as she rotated the boulder-sized, unmarked globe upside down.

After pointing to where Morocco would be marked on a normal globe, the boy shrugged his shoulders.

The woman, Pam Hartley, pointed a few inches below the boy's finger. Exploris vice-president of programs, Hartley proceeded to give an energetic mini-dissertation on the country.

"This is a social place that shows how connected we are to the world," Hartley said. "Nobody can fail a museum - everyone can learn. This is a great place to come socialize and learn."

Kentucky resident Mariwether McClorey, 10, visited Exploris with her father John after taking a tour of St.

Mary's School in Raleigh, where she might eventually attend school.

McClorey's father said that since Mariwether was homeschooled, museums played a big part in her education.

"Her aunt told us we should come to Exploris," John McClorey said.

"I think she was getting bored with it until we stumbled onto this section on Russia's leaders. We travel a lot and go to a lot of museums, and this one is unique - we're impressed."

While Exploris doesn't offer a world beer exhibit, college students can enjoy a lot of the center's offerings - including the soon-to-be-opened Anne Frank exhibit and the likely addition of an IMAX theatre with 50-foot screens.

In a room profiling life in Senegal, 7-year-old Wesley Bittner shook a hypnotic iron-shaped musical instrument with dozens of jingling metal rings.

Shaking his head in unison, Wesley had his father bang an animal-skin drum while his sister wildly rattled cymbals. The jam session drew interest from passersby to the exhibit.

"We love the noise!" Goebel shouted. "We've been to science museums, but Exploris is all about culture. We love it - there's so much to play with."

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ENROLLMENT

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Richardson said the previous entering freshman classes had averaged 3,200 during the past six years.

During fall 1998, there were 3,437 entering freshman admitted, and this fall there were 3,396.

These numbers are expected to statistically decline even further over the next two years due to renovations,

Richardson said.

The University has had a 3 percent drop in Undergraduate admissions since 1995, according to the Institute for Research.

Some of the University's future plans for growth include new residence halls on South Campus to supplement the current four high-rise buildings.

These halls, which are a part of the University's Master Plan, will hold nearly 1,000 new students, said Interim Director of University Housing Dean

Bresciani.

Originally, the late Chancellor Michael Hooker pushed to have the new halls completed by fall 2001, but officials pushed the schedule back a year.

Bresciani said housing prices were expected to increase over the next year to meet the needs for renovation and inflation.

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PRIMARY

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need and the requirements to make our schools succeed."

Simpson said her platform included school safety, character education and improved technology programs.

Also running for school board are Keith Cook of 419 Calvary Court in Hillsborough and Richard Hathaway of 3500-B Oak Grove Church Road in Mebane.

Hathaway said his goals were to have children at or above their grade level, to implement more technology in schools, to provide teachers with needed mate-

rials and to make discipline more equitable.

"I'd hope to be a board member receptive to teachers and parents," he said. Cook was not able to be reached for comment.

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TREES

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Cindy Kahler, who lives at 301 James St. and also attended the meeting, said she feared what might happen to her neighborhood if Duke Power was allowed to cut down the trees and make residents remove them.

"What I would see when I opened my front door would be awful," she said.

"It would be a huge sacrifice for us. It would just break my heart."

Alderman Mark Dorosin said a second meeting was scheduled for 6 p.m. today at the Carrboro Town Hall.

"The N.C. Utilities Commission will be making a presentation to the aldermen," he said. "It is open to the general public. Duke Power is invited, and we hope they will attend."

Carrboro Town Manager Robert Morgan said that although the town

could not take specific action against the power company, he hoped the issue could be resolved at the meeting.

"There is no action that we can take unilaterally," he said. "The N.C. Utilities Commission is working with Duke Power to cut less trees. Hopefully the final determination will be made at tomorrow's meeting."

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STATE

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through Congress," Towey said.

He said the law would require banks to keep detailed customer profiles and if a customer's spending strayed from the norm, notify government officials.

"That was such a shocking violation of civil rights," Towey said. "That was the breaking point for me. They try to do these things all the time."

Republican candidate Jess Ward also said he wanted to reduce the role of the federal government and give more power to N.C. residents.

"I just felt like we weren't getting the type of representation we needed in

Washington," Ward said.

Ward said that unlike his opponents, he wanted to focus on local governments. "I'm looking at empowerment on the local level," he said.

Ward said the Democrats were trying to dictate what was needed, instead of giving money to local organizations and letting them decide what was needed.

Although Price's incumbency gives him an advantage, his opponents said they would work to beat Price.

Towey said Price already had an advantage because he had raised more than \$1 million in out-of-state special interest funds.

Ward said that although blacks tended to vote for Democrats, his involvement in the community and ability to

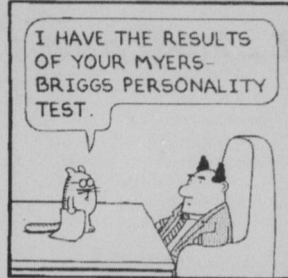
reach out to all types of people would work to his benefit. "I can compete. I can compete with any vote, whether it's African-American or not," Ward said.

But UNC-Chapel Hill political science Professor Thad Beyle said incumbents in this area would fare well in the 2000 election. He said a strong economy and a lack of other major problems would give voters no real reason to oust Price. "A relatively unknown will not beat the incumbent," Beyle said.

But Bates said Price still would have to work hard to secure a victory. "He never takes anything for granted, and he plans to run a very vigorous campaign."

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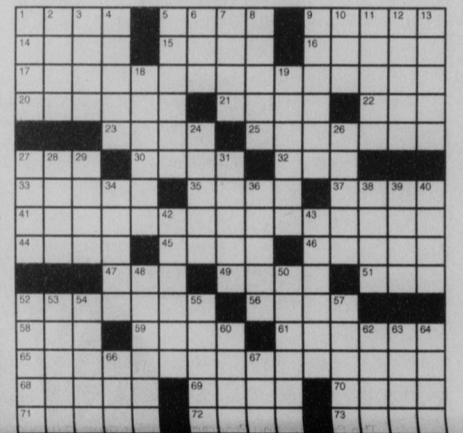
THE Daily Crossword

By James E. Buell

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