

# The Daily Tar Heel

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Monday, January 31, 2000  
Volume 107, Issue 142

News/Features/Arts/Sports 962-0245  
Business/Advertising 962-1163  
Chapel Hill, North Carolina  
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## Cochran Likely to Speak at UNC

By DERICK MATTERN  
Staff Writer

The Black Student Movement is waiting for financial backing that will bring the outspoken and often controversial attorney for O. J. Simpson, Michael Jackson and Puffy Combs to campus. BSM officials will go before Congress on Tuesday to ask for more than \$5,000 to bring Johnnie Cochran to UNC on Feb. 20.

The visit has been in the works since

last spring, said BSM co-chairwoman Erica Lee. At this point, the last peg in the plan is getting funding approved by a majority of Congress members. The Finance Committee passed the request unani-



Former lawyer for O.J. Simpson, Johnnie Cochran

mously at a meeting two weeks ago. Cochran's speaker fees of \$5,000 is half of what he normally charges, said Bharath Parthasarathy, a Student Congress Finance Committee member. Congress has yet to pass the proposal because of snow delays. "It's the same procedure that any student group follows when they're seeking funds," said Lindsay Whitfield, chairwoman of the Finance Committee. "With a speaker we make sure (the group has) room, a time and usually a

written agreement," she said. "We probe them about dates, times, a place." The request lists the \$5,000 for Cochran's speaker fees and an extra \$800 for travel and lodging, Parthasarathy said. "I guess the reason we agreed was because he cut his fees in half for us." Student Body Treasurer Ryan Schlitt said such high amounts were not unusual for famous speakers. "I would say from my three years of

experience that for a speaker as well known as Johnnie Cochran, it's a relatively fair deal," Schlitt said. Issues of police brutality hit the map last spring, Lee said, and inspired her to invite Cochran, winner of a landmark 1982 police misconduct case, to speak on injustice and affirmative action. "He's always been working on cases of injustice, especially where race is concerned," she said.

See COCHRAN, Page 4

## Locals Call For Boy's Transfer

The fate of Elian Gonzalez was the focus of a protest which drew local activists to Miami on Saturday.

By KEVIN KRASNOW  
Staff Writer

Two local activists, including the mayor of Carrboro, traveled to Miami this weekend to speak out on an issue that has divided a family and a nation.

Carrboro Mayor Mike Nelson and Chapel Hill resident Joan Bartel joined in a nationwide demonstration Saturday against granting 6-year-old Elian Gonzalez U.S. citizenship. The protest, sponsored by Pastors for Peace, took place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Immigration and Naturalization Service's offices in downtown Miami.

"The energy there was great," Nelson said. "We marched with about 150 to 200 concerned citizens ... and then listened to speakers representing about a dozen interested organizations around the country."

Nelson and Bartel demonstrated on behalf of the Carolina Interfaith Taskforce for Central America in Chapel Hill, an organization 400-strong that aims to combat unnecessary U.S. intervention in Central America.

The target of a national media circus, Gonzalez was found clinging to an inner tube off the Florida coast Nov. 25. Much of his family, including his mother, perished while attempting to immigrate

See PROTEST, Page 4



Carrboro Mayor Mike Nelson went to Miami to demand the return of Elian Gonzalez to his home in Cuba.

## Ice Storm Keeps Motorists Home, Downs Power

UNC continues to be affected by harsh winter weather this month, as officials have delayed classes until 10 a.m. today.

Staff and Wire Reports

RALEIGH — A mix of snow, sleet and freezing rain knocked out power to tens of thousands of N.C. homes Sunday but caused few traffic problems as motorists heeded warnings and stayed home.

Officials from Duke Power reported more than 2,100 weather-related power outages in Chapel Hill on Sunday.

"All the outages at this particular time are related to ice on trees, limbs and wires," said Gwen Savage, corporate spokeswoman for Duke Power. "We have 2,200 employees and contractors working to restore power."

Icy conditions were expected to continue into early this morning, prompting University officials to announce Sunday that today's classes would be delayed until 10 a.m. The University is operating under condition 1 of the Adverse

Hunt Petitions Clinton for Aid In Wake of Storm  
See Page 5

See WEATHER, Page 4



A winter storm blew through North Carolina during the weekend, leaving behind ice-coated tree limbs and slick roads and walkways. The weather also knocked out power to thousands around the state.

DTH/MILLER PEARSAI

## Storm's Gone, So Back to Books

By ALEXANDRA MOLAIRE  
Assistant University Editor

After three days of canceled classes, students glided and slid back to class Friday as University groundskeepers rushed to salt the walkways.

Campus finally returned to some sense of normalcy after last week's storm dumped 16 inches of snow in Chapel Hill, as UNC officials decided conditions were manageable enough to hold classes Friday but delayed them until 9 a.m.

Many students disagreed on whether classes should have been in session.

"We should have had it Monday because no one was ready (Friday)," said freshman Lauren Reynolds from Lewisville.

Reynolds, who fell and hit her head while walking from South Campus to class, pulled down her black sunglasses to uncover the mottled bruise above her left eye. "I changed my hair and put on some big sunglasses," she said. "The paths on campus are more narrow than usual. It takes about 10 minutes longer to get to class."

But Nimit Shah, a freshman from Atlanta, said it was OK to hold classes, although he complained about the walking conditions. "There's ice everywhere," he said. "I saw a bunch of peo-

ple fall down and thought 'I'm not coming back this way.' That's the reason I took the bus back."

Noah Isserman, a freshman from Rockingham, echoed Shah's sentiments. "I think another day off would've been missing too much school," he said.

Some unfortunates trudged over to Student Health Service to take care of their injuries.

SHS Director Robert Wirag said employees were able to provide 24-hour service for the wide range of weather-related injuries. "We had a pretty decent day volume-wise with a broad range (such as) upper respiratory problems, soft tissue injuries and a fractured finger."

Wirag said students were patient while SHS employees focused on those with unusual discomfort or pain before those with less urgent injuries.

SHS employees weren't the only ones working long hours in spite of the weather.

UNC Grounds Department workers scrambled Friday to clear snow and ice from bus stops and cover the walkways with sand and salt, said Grounds Department Director Kirk Pelland. Their cleanup efforts today could be impeded by Sunday's storm, which left a slick layer of ice on campus.

He said workers were assigned areas

to clean but that they tried to respond quickly to trouble spots. "We do have a lot of walkways to clean," he said.

Pelland said the University was running low on salt but had been able to haul in sand from a local contractor. Workers will be out at 6 a.m. today to alleviate Sunday's damage, he said.

Grounds worker Bill Mazurek joined the long list of people inconvenienced by the weather.

While trying to salt the steep hill near the Kenan Field House that runs toward SHS, Mazurek's tractor started sliding backward. "I was going forward - then, the next thing I knew I was facing backwards and the trailer (full of sand) was against a tree."

The tractor had spun around and the trailer full of sand had unlatched from it, Mazurek said. It took a small group of grounds workers about 30 minutes to rearrange Mazurek's equipment.

Even though snow impeded movement across campus, officials stuck by their decision to hold classes Friday. "We started a little later to allow more time for the ice to melt and sidewalks to be cleared," said Provost Dick Richardson. "We thought it was a good decision."

The University Editor can be reached at [udesk@unc.edu](mailto:udesk@unc.edu).



Patience Whitehead, a freshman biology major, carefully skates her way home to Ehringhaus Residence Hall on Friday morning.

DTH/KATE MELLNIK

## Proposal Aims to Revamp Undergraduate Registration

By BROOKE ROSEMAN  
Staff Writer

As early as this fall, some UNC students will experience the first of a two-part proposal to restructure undergraduate advising.

Officials are aiming to improve students' quality time with advisers as well as to condense the registration period from four weeks to two.

UNC Registrar David Lanier said that as part of a trial run, the General

College would mail Personal Identification Numbers along with registration dates to some freshmen and sophomores as opposed to mandating that all students get the information directly from their advisers.

Officials say this move will force fewer students to see their advisers, thus leaving advisers to spend more time with those who do seek help.

However, all students would be required to see their advisers at some point, preventing students from never

having to meet directly with advisers.

Lanier said the proposal, which has been in the works since late in the fall semester, was part of the overall plan to restructure the advising system.

Reorganization of the advising structure began in fall 1998 when UNC created the Carolina Advising Initiative to address student complaints that advisers were not accessible.

As a result, the General College and the College of Arts and Sciences hired eight full-time advisers last summer.

Lanier said the new phase of restructuring would allow students who needed extra advising the opportunity to get more assistance. "It's not increasing advising; it's giving more time for advising," he said. "There would be more time for higher quality advising."

Advisers still want to see students, but they do not want students who did not need advising to feel forced to seek it, he said.

But, students are not released from the obligation to see their advisers,

Lanier said. The University will choose which students receive PINs in the mail, thus alternating which semesters students would have to seek advisers directly.

The second part of the proposal to revamp undergraduate advising aims to shorten the registration schedule, which currently allows one class to register per weekend.

Under the new system, seniors would See REGISTRATION, Page 4

Losing is the great American sin.

John Tunis

**Carolina, Speak Out!**  
A weekly DTH online poll  
What was the most pivotal event in 20th century black history?  
Go to [www.unc.edu/dth](http://www.unc.edu/dth) to cast your vote.

**INSIDE**  
Monday

**Housing the Elderly**  
First Baptist Church has received \$3.8 million in federal funds from the department of Housing and Urban Development to build housing for the elderly in Chapel Hill. See Page 3.

**One More Chance**  
Due to the inclement weather, the deadline for DTH staff applications has been extended to 5 p.m. Tuesday. We are seeking applicants for several desks. Contact Editor Rob Nelson at 962-4086 with questions.

**Joanna Howell Fund**  
Applications are now available in the DTH front office for the Joanna Howell Fund, which honors a DTH staffer who died in the 1996 Phi Gamma Delta fraternity house fire. The fund includes a \$250 grant for an in-depth story examining an issue that affects the University. Contact Managing Editor Cate Doty at 962-4103 with questions.

**Today's Weather**  
Cloudy; High 30s.  
Tuesday: Sunny; Mid 40s.