



The University and Towns  
**IN BRIEF**

**RHA, CAA to Sponsor Pregame Pep Rally**

Students have the chance to celebrate before the UNC vs. Duke University basketball game at a pep rally at Hinton James Residence Hall tonight.

Free food and live music will be provided at the rally, which will begin at 6:30 p.m. and last until 8:30 p.m.

Refreshments are being provided by several local establishments, including BW-3 Restaurant, Gumbo's Pizza and Subway.

ESPN will be at the pep rally after 7 p.m. Planned activities include speakers about the student seating situation at the Smith Center, a hotly debated topic since students crowded the Smith Center at last week's basketball game.

**Sorority Set to Sponsor Annual Shamrock Race**

Kappa Delta sorority will sponsor a 5-K race at 10 p.m. Feb. 19 with 20 percent of the proceeds going to the National Committee to Prevent Child Abuse and 80 percent to local child abuse programs.

Participants can register for the race Feb. 14 to Feb. 18 in the Pit and also the day of the race. The cost of the event is \$10, which includes a t-shirt, post-race entertainment and raffle.

For more information, call 960-8109 or search the Web page at <http://www.unc.edu/student/orgs/kd/fm ain.html>.

**Binder Receives Award For Top Greek Service**

Ron Binder, director of the Office of Greek Affairs, has received the Fraternity Advisors' Distinguished Service Award for 2000.

Binder was one of five fraternity and sorority advisors selected for the annual award. Binder has been a Greek adviser for 14 years. He was recognized for his achievements in risk management and scholarship.

**School of Law to Host Race, Class Conference**

The fourth annual Conference on Race, Class, Gender and Ethnicity, co-sponsored by the UNC School of Law and the UNC School of Social Work will be held Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The conference will take place at the School of Social Work.

Registration is free for students and \$15 for non-students.

For more information, contact MaryLee Perry by e-mail at [muperry@email.unc.edu](mailto:muperry@email.unc.edu) or Dana Rudikoff by phone at 969-9733.

**Youth Ballet to Hold International Dance**

The Triangle Youth Ballet is sponsoring an International Day of Dance Dance-A-Thon.

The event, which will last from noon until 7 p.m. Feb. 5, is being held to benefit the Jacqueline C. Barnett Scholarship fund.

The scholarship is designed to help young aspiring dancers to attend the pre-professional summer dance program of their choice.

Classes offered include Irish Step Dancing, Flamenco, Scottish Highland, Indian, American Swing, Chinese and European Folk. Tickets are \$10 per class or \$50 for the whole day. All dancers are invited to attend.

**Ballroom Dance Studio Offers February Classes**

The Fred Astaire Studio, located on 4702 Garrett Road in Durham, is offering ballroom dancing, the Triangle StarDusters ballroom dance.

The cost for the dance, which is from 8 p.m. until 11 p.m. Feb. 12, is \$5 for members and students and \$10 for others. Couples and singles are both welcome.

For more information, call 942-7232.

**Award Nominations Get Later Due Date**

Nominations for the Pauli Murray Awards that were due in the Department of Human Rights and Relations offices on Jan. 31 are now due to the offices Feb. 14, because of inclement weather.

Nomination materials are available at the Orange County Department of Human Rights and Relations in Hillsborough, Orange County public libraries, Chapel Hill and Carrboro and Hillsborough town halls. For more information, call 245-2250.

From Staff Reports

**Employees Select New Leadership for Forum**

By GEOFF WESSEL  
Staff Writer

The University's Employee Forum elected a chairwoman at its February meeting Wednesday, filling a leadership position that had been vacant for a month.

The forum, which is comprised of representatives from nine employee divisions, elected Assistant Registrar Joanne Kucharski as chairwoman for the year 2000.

"I'm very proud to be chosen to represent all the employees," said Kucharski, who as chairwoman will serve on committees such as the Chancellor Search Committee. "I'm eager to make sure that (employees') voices are heard (by the administration)."

"I take this role very seriously," Health Services Outreach Librarian Jill Mayer also accepted a nomination before Wednesday's forum meeting.

"I think (Kucharski) will be excellent," Mayer said. "She's very enthusias-

tic; I think (the forum is) in good hands. "I have great confidence for the forum this year."

Kucharski, who serves as one of three delegates representing professional employees on the forum this year, said she accepted the nomination only after receiving encouragement from her staff and from other forum delegates.

"I was caught completely by surprise," she said. "My staff has given me more than 100 percent. I couldn't be here if not for them."

Design technician John Heuer, chairman of a forum committee, said he supported Kucharski as forum chairwoman.

"I work extensively with (Kucharski), and I think she'll make a terrific chair," Heuer said. "She's very dedicated."

Kucharski said she planned to focus on staff education programs during her term. "This may be a year of education for employees on campus," she said.

"We have a commitment to reach more of the staff."

She said she was interested in nailing

down a specific policy with the administration for employee education programs.

But Kucharski said she would have no specific plans for the forum until she had met with its executive committee and spoken with several of the delegates.

"I'm just going to enjoy the day right now and let it fall out as it will later," she said.

"I've learned to be very flexible."

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



DITH/ALISON DOMNAS

A triptych, which is a three-part painting, by Vickie Mitchell is one of three finalists in a contest sponsored by the Chapel Hill Town Council. The winning artwork will be placed in Town Hall. The triptych features familiar architecture from around the town.

**Town Unveils Public Art Finalists**

The artist of the chosen piece will receive \$4,000 and must finish the commissioned project by July 1 of this year.

By WALTER HERZ  
Staff Writer

Three local artists are vying for the opportunity to add a little color to the walls of Chapel Hill's government offices.

Painters Vickie Mitchell and Katherine Schlessinger and weaver Anita Wolfenden have all submitted artwork in a competition to cover a bare brick wall in the Chapel Hill Town Hall.

Karen Slotta, a staff member of Chapel Hill Public Arts, said the artists turned in submissions after the Town Council advertised for a piece of artwork to hang in Town Hall.

"These are the finalists," she said. "They had about eight weeks to finish their models, and they turned them in on Jan. 18."

Slotta said a community panel would meet at Town Hall at 5:30 p.m. today to review the works and possibly make a decision on which artist earned the wall space.

"The panel will interview the artists and ask them questions about their work," she said. "Members of the public are invited to attend."

The winner will receive \$4,000 to finish the commissioned product, which would have to be completed by July 1.

Mitchell said she was inspired to enter her work into the contest by a combination of factors.

"I'm a proud citizen of Chapel Hill, and art is my livelihood," she said. "It's a very exciting process."

Mitchell's submission was a triptych, or three-piece painting, showing famous Chapel Hill landmarks such as the Bell Tower and Silent Sam.

"I'm thrilled to live in this area," she said. "It's a great place to live, and Town Hall should have something that really represents some of our architectural monuments."

Mitchell, who has been painting for 15 years, said her style could be described as abstract-expressionist.

"I'm a colorist and vibrant colors are a very strong part of my work," she said. "This piece, however, is a little bit more figurative than my other ones."

Schlessinger said she entered the contest because she found its premise challenging.

"I had never done a publicly commissioned work before," she said. "Also, it's a rather daunting space to work with. It would be interesting."

Schlessinger, who submitted a two-piece abstract oil painting, said her art was her No. 1 priority.

"I consider myself an artist first and other things second," she said.

"When I'm not painting, however, I'm a professional cook."

Wolfenden was the only artist who did not turn in a painting.

Instead, she submitted the idea and sketches for a tapestry.

She said her tapestry would be a large hand-woven hanging basket.

Her sketches, which contain different greens and blues, revealed her inspiration for her artwork.

"I found an old map in the document room in the Wilson Library which shows a drawing made by land surveyor John Daniel in 1792," she wrote in her proposal to the Town Council. "I was intrigued by this map."

Wolfenden, a native of Sweden, said this would not be the first time her work would be shown in the area.

"My work has been exhibited all over the Triangle, and other various parts of the country," she said.

"I've done commissioned work before. This is what I do."

Wolfenden said she was uncertain about her ability to win the commissioned project.

"I have a small chance against two painters," she said. "I'm honored to be part of these three artists, but I'm not counting my chickens."

Mitchell also said she was not too sure about her prospects.

"It's hard to say," she said. "I hope I get it, but if I don't, my hat's off to the winner."

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**Oregon to Emulate UNC-System Model**

By MATTHEW B. DEES  
State & National Editor

Tuition increases. Noncompetitive faculty salaries. Outdated academic facilities.

Sound familiar? Well, it probably isn't surprising that the UNC system is not the only higher-education system struggling with these same problems.

Perhaps more alarming is the fact that at least one state is looking to North Carolina for ways to solve them.

The Oregonian, a major newspaper based in Portland, recently ran a series of articles outlining the major problems with the University of Oregon system.

One article keyed in on the UNC system, specifically the economic boom generated by Research Triangle Park, as a model for how Oregon could revamp its higher education system.

The reports found that Oregon's historical underfunding of the university system caused the decline.

It advocated investing in academic

programs that would attract partnerships with private businesses.

Bill Graves, an Oregonian reporter who worked on the series, said he focused on the UNC system because it meshed with the economic and social fabric of the state so well, creating a happy marriage between academia and business. "We decided North Carolina would be a good place to go because of the striking relationship with industry," Graves said.

"Research Triangle Park and Centennial Campus (at N.C. State University) were just such vivid examples of that industrial partnership."

The Oregon system, on the other hand, has struggled to turn itself into a viable economic force.

"Industries, if they have a choice, are going to go to North Carolina because your universities just have more to offer," said Graves, who conducted the study to show that "there is a cost for not having a major league university system."

He said UNC bested Oregon in

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**Dipping Into a Family Tradition**

By ROBERT ALBRIGHT  
Staff Writer

Julia "Bon" Smith's cooking experience almost goes as far back as her unusual nickname.

As a matter of fact, Smith's entire family knows quite a bit about the art of serving up homestyle cooking.

At 13, Smith began working at Bill's B-B-Q in Carrboro, which was owned by her grandfather, Bill Minor.

Smith's mother, Mildred Council, opened the Carrboro institution Mama Dip's Kitchen 24 years ago.

And in October, at the age of 46, Smith finally fulfilled her childhood dream when she opened Bon's Bar-B-Q in Carrboro Plaza off N.C. 54.

"I always wanted my own restaurant growing up," Smith said. "It took me a little while to get it, but I've finally made it."

With the clanging of pots and pans, the savory aroma of barbecue sauce and a wall full of family pictures behind her, Smith sat in her own restaurant and recounted her family's experience serving food to Chapel Hill and Carrboro residents for four decades.

"(My mother) has worked long and hard and taken her restaurant quite far," Smith said. "She's taught me the majority of the things I know now."

Smith is a food service veteran, with



DITH/MILLER PEARSALL

Julia "Bon" Smith, who has spent most of her life cooking, realized her lifelong dream in October with the opening of Bon's Bar-B-Q.

past employers ranging from sandwich shops to UNC's Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity.

"I loved working at the (Pi Kappa Alpha) house," Smith said. "You're with these guys for four years, and then they move on, so at times it was kind of sad to see them go."

But in fall semester, after 18 years at Pi Kappa Alpha, Smith herself moved

on to open Bon's Bar-B-Q.

The food at Bon's Bar-B-Q, located at 104 N.C. 54, resembles much of Mama Dip's country-style menu with such choices as freshly cooked vegetables.

But Smith said her restaurant was different from Mama Dip's Kitchen because of its barbecue and unique

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**Gotham to Host Friday Party for Gay Community**

Gotham's owner says the festivities are designed to attract a different crowd than generally frequents the nightclub.

By KATHRYN MCLAMB  
Staff Writer

Chapel Hill's social scene will diversify Friday night when the nightclub Gotham invites an alternative crowd to its party dubbed *Insomnia*.

The premier party will be characterized by house music popular in larger cities like New York and Miami and aims to draw an alternative crowd, including the gay and lesbian community.

"The music is not geared towards hip hop - it's geared towards house music," said Daniel Markscheid, co-owner of Gotham. "The fact is that for gay and lesbian groups, that's what a lot of them like."

*Insomnia* will become a regular feature at Gotham, with parties from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m. Fridays.

One of the goals of *Insomnia* is to offer something different in the nightclub scene, both in its music and its atmosphere, Markscheid said.

"(Thursday night) is more of a mainstream night - this isn't," he said.

Large numbers of gays and lesbians are expected to attend the Friday night parties, but Markscheid said he did not want to limit *Insomnia* to a stereotype.

"I don't like labels," he said. "Gotham has been more about social tolerance. I don't want to limit this to someone who is living an alternative lifestyle."

Glenn Grossman, president of Carolina Alternative Meetings of Professional and Graduate Students, said *Insomnia* would offer a social environment for the gay and lesbian community.

"We have to create a safe place for (gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgenders) to hang out," Grossman said.

Markscheid said he expected the club to be at its 500-person capacity, partly because of limited options in the area for parties like *Insomnia*.

"There don't seem to be many opportunities for a night like this, especially on this side of Raleigh," he said.

The party will draw from communities beyond Chapel Hill, where news of the first gay and lesbian night has sparked attention. "People are coming from really far away for this," Grossman said. "From Greensboro, Raleigh, the Triangle and elsewhere."

Melissa Siebert, member of the Rainbow Youth Coalition, said *Insomnia* would offer a unique environment for the area.

"Most of the (gay and lesbian clubs) around the Triangle are segregated either for men or women," she said. "But (*Insomnia*) is really catering to both."

UNC students are also expected to comprise a large portion of the crowd Friday, as Markscheid said there was a large interest on campus.

"We've had some tremendous help from on-campus organizations," he said. "Students have responded strongly through phone calls since we have started the advertising."

Markscheid said he did not expect a lot of community resistance to the party. "If anyone has a problem with it, then they have a problem with it," he said. "That's not my concern."

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