By JASON OWENS stant City Edito

Dilbert©

Hashing out ideas about a specialized business program, local financial leaders met with school officials Thursday to have breakfast and discuss the future of Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools. East Chapel Hill High School hosted

the meeting that mapped out the Academy of Finance, a program that will kick off in local schools during the 2000-01 school year

I CAN'T DO ANY-

THING BECAUSE

Superintendent Neil Pedersen intro-duced the program, which will focus on providing students with hands-on expe-rience and an enhanced business education

"It actually engages them in more meaningful and applied programs," Pedersen said.

The program is a branch of the National Academy Foundation, which implements specialized programs in finance, technology and travel and tourism in various schools across the

AND YOU CAN'T

QUIT BECAUSE

AM

I IN

Selected students will begin the program during their junior year when they will take two accounting courses, a bank-ing and credit class and a world finance class

Seniors in the program will focus on financial planning and Internet skills and will be allowed to take classes at a local college

Tony Asplin, a program consultant, explained that students in the finance academy would have advantages that

NO, I'M JUST

WORKING

other students might not experience without the new program. "(The mission of the academy is) to

create academic programs by partnering private industry and the public sector in order to provide quality, industry-spe-cific education," Asplin said.

"Students will actually do a paid internship." Pamela Bello, director of secondary education and work force development

for the school system, said the program would recruit students with excellent

attendance and average to above-aver-

age achievement in school. "We're hoping to jump-start their careers," Bello said. "The academy model is needed."

Community business leaders were invited to provide feedback as well as to offer help to the program by working directly with students.

Donna Cayonette of First Citizens Bank said the program was a good opportunity to help students interested in husiness

were also part of the schedule.

tive response from students.

effective.

Professors who are participating in the pilot program have received a posi-

"Students were glad to do things online," said ASU English Professor Emory Maiden. "As a writing course, (students) can do drafts online. It is very

Students could also exchange drafts

"For the most part, I was surprised by

and edit online rather than setting up a meeting outside of class, he said.

how students were serious about the work," Maiden said. "I was encouraged

by the interaction online." EXCEL does not specify the types of

technology professors use, giving them more freedom to determine how tech-

nology can fit into their particular course work, Breiner said.

had come out of EXCEL. "Students"

(grade point averages) shifted in a high-

er direction," he said. "Editing and writ-

ing has also improved." But there are still some kinks to be

worked out in the program. Some professors have been hesitant

to incorporate new technology into their teaching, Maiden said.

With the rate that technology is expanding, Maiden said learning to use

it was inevitable. "People are going to have to learn how to work (online) effec-

Breiner said the new program at ASU was part of a larger trend toward

tively," he said.

Although no determination has been made about the future of the pilot pro-gram, Breiner said many positive results

ASU Explores Benefits Of Online Education

A new program allows freshmen at Appalachian State University to complete classwork over the Internet.

BY TAENA KIM Staff Write

A pilot program at Appalachian State University is experimenting with com-puter-based classes to prepare students for the changing technology of the 21st century.

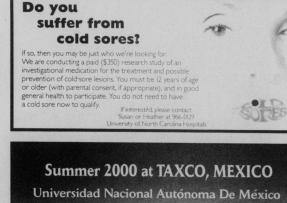
Project Experiment in Enhanced Learning is a one-year program ASU is sponsoring that connects students to a network, through which they can comclass

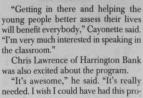
participate in chat rooms, edit papers and exchange information online

we can move less complex material out of the classroom and save time for high-ly critical skills," said Steven Breiner,

Sixty freshmen interested in EXCEL were required to purchase a computer compatible with the network and enroll in a specified class schedule. Breiner

said. "We targeted students who were not computer geeks," he said. "(EXCEL)





gram."

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



Europe Tries to Isolate New Austrian Regime

VIENNA, Austria - Austria's president agreed Thursday to swear in a coalition government that includes a far-right party whose leader Joerg Haider has applauded aspects of the Nazi regime and who campaigned on an anti-immigrant platform. Reaction was swift. Israel recalled its

ambassador and banned Haider from visiting, even though the right-wing leader has repeatedly apologized for pro-Nazi remarks made years ago.

European Union nations started making good on threats to politically isolate Austria, something the United States has backed. The EU also warned

it might suspend Austria's membership. The prospect of Haider's Freedom Party in government prompted about 2,000 protesters to take to the streets of Vienna late Thursday for a second straight night.

group of them pushed their way into the city's historic Burgtheater and stormed the stage, calling on the audience to join a protest rally Friday before fleeing the building.

Rebel College Students Occupy School Building

MEXICO CITY - They see them-

selves as a new generation of rebels. They like "direct action" and collec-tive decision-making. They oppose entrance exams, university fees and selective admissions. They sport ski

masks and Cuban-style field caps. These striking students would be just a group of 2,000 malcontents – if they didn't have the Mexican government backed into a corner.

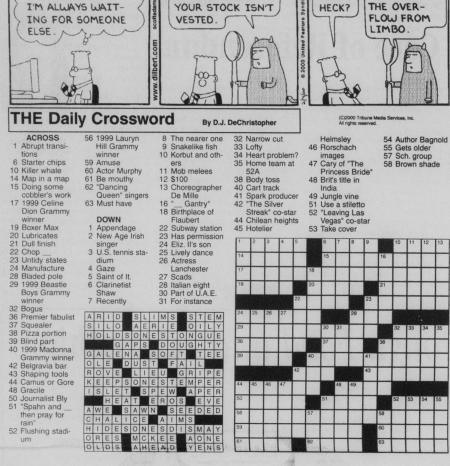
The strikers control the sprawling main campus of the National Autonomous University, Latin America's largest university system. For nine months they have occupied the

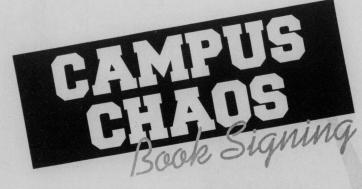
school, locking out 260,000 classmates. Many are young anarchists. They identify with Mexico's student protesters of 1968, hundreds of whom were gunned down by soldiers in a massacre that continues to haunt the nation.

Largely because of memories of that massacre, the government has shied away from moving against the strikers. Unwilling to retake the campus by force, it has encouraged university authorities to capitulate to some of the strikers' demands.

But this week, the strikers might finally have stepped over the line: On Tuesday, they staged a bloody skirmish with anti-strike students, security guards and adults hired to chase strikers from a university-affiliated high school.

R esearchers Pioneer





Dick Vitale

will be signing copies of his book

Campus Chaos:

municate with each other outside of EXCEL was implemented this year as a pilot program for freshmen and came at the same time that UNC-Chapel Hill introduced its Carolina Computing Initiative, requiring freshmen to purchase a laptop computer. The ASU program allows students to

"The idea was we wanted to see how

manager of EXCEL.

Breiner said.

increasing technology on college cam-puses. "The technology itself is infusing wanted students to leave with higher computer skills." into all areas of the university," he said. We're trying to make sure expansion EXCEL students enrolled in freshof technology is moving in the right men seminars to learn computer skills, direction. English composition, introduction to world civilization and biology classes







Students who wish to experience Mexican life, culture, and academics on a rural estate in a colonial city can study in *Taxco, Mexico* for a summer. This program is offered by UNC- CH through the Centro de Enseñanza para Extranjeros (CEPE) of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM)

Eligibility:

Sophomores, juniors, and seniors are eligible for the program, which is open to both UNC-CH and non-UNC students with a $2.5~{\rm GPA}$ or better. There is no language prerequisite, but at least two semesters of college-level Spanish or the equivalent is recommended

Summer 2000 students will be accompanied by Amy McNichols, a Ph.D. candidate in Latin-American literature from the UNC-CH Department of Romance Languages & Literatures. While on-site, Ms. McNichols will advise and tutor students, as well as serve as the Resident Coordinator in Taxco during the program.

A group flight will be available, and the orientation will take place in Mexico City prior to the beginning of courses in Taxco.

The dates: The summer 2000 program runs from June 16 to August 4, 2000.

The cost: Total billed cost \$1,451.

For further information about this program: Please contact the Study Abroad Office in 12 Caldwell Hall, or the program leader, Amy McNichols, in 114 Dey Hall, or our web site at http://studyabroad unc edu

APPLICATIONS ARE DUE February 15, 2000

NO LATE APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

New Insulin Treatment

WASHINGTON - A technique that allows insulin hormone to be stored in cells and then released as needed by a pill eventually might offer a treatment for diabetes that does not require daily injections, researchers say.

The experiments, thus far, have been performed only on mice, but researchers say a system using an implanted insulin gene might be ready

for human testing within two years. In a study to be published Friday in the journal Science, researchers at Ariad Pharmaceuticals in Cambridge, Mass., Memorial Sloan-Kettering and Cancer Center in New York said the cell engineering technique was able to control diabetes in a group of mice and is now being tested on larger animals.

Tim Clackson, senior author of the study, said that the technique caused insulin, or some other protein, to clump inside a cell with another protein, form-ing a molecule that is too large to leave the cell. A drug, given as a pill, breaks up the clump, allowing the insulin to flow into the blood stream in a way that mimics the spurt of hormone normally secreted by the pancreas. — Associated Press