



Top Stories From the State, Nation and World

IN THE NEWS

New Visa System Gives Cubans Access to U.S.

HAVANA - Hundreds of Cubans lined up outside the U.S. mission in Havana on Monday to apply for visas under a new system that promises to eliminate months of waiting for some Cubans.

The new system took effect Monday. About 700 Cubans - most of whom meet visa requirements because they want to visit relatives or take part in cultural or academic events - appeared at the U.S. Interests Section to drop off their passports and pick up application forms.

"It's been 40 years since I've seen my brothers and sisters," said Alejandro Martinez, a 50-year-old carpenter standing in the line.

As he spoke, he pulled out a photograph of a man in a hospital bed who

was clearly ill. He said the man was his recently deceased brother.

Okla. City Conspirator Pleads Double Jeopardy

OKLAHOMA CITY - Bombing conspirator Terry Nichols asked a judge Monday to dismiss state murder charges against him, claiming they violate the double jeopardy guarantee against being tried twice for the same crime.

Attorneys for Nichols, who faces 160 counts of first-degree murder, argued in a court motion that it is unconstitutional to try him in Oklahoma because he has already been convicted in federal court for his role in the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing.

At a federal trial in Denver, Nichols was found guilty of eight counts of involuntary manslaughter and one count of conspiracy to use a weapon of mass destruction. He was sentenced to life in prison. Nichols, 44, was also found innocent of eight murder counts.

A co-conspirator, Timothy McVeigh, was convicted of murder and sentenced to death.

Oklahoma County District Attorney Bob Macy is seeking the death penalty against Nichols, and Nichols argues that the double jeopardy clause bars the state from seeking the death penalty.

Rare Copernicus Texts Stolen Around World

MOSCOW - Copies of one of the

world's rarest and most valuable books have been disappearing - a rash of mysterious thefts that have perplexed police from the former Soviet Union to the United States.

The first-edition copies of 16th century astronomer Nicolaus Copernicus' renowned treatise in Latin, "De revolutionibus orbium coelestium" ("On the Revolutions of Heavenly Spheres") have vanished from collections across the globe.

In Poland, a reader said he had to use the bathroom - and made off with the treasured volume. A thief in Kiev, Ukraine, pilfered the book using a fake police ID.

U.S. Delegates Discuss Rise in Drug Production

BOGOTA, Colombia - As new figures showed a 20 percent rise in Colombian cocaine production, a high-level U.S. delegation met Monday with leaders of this turbulent nation to discuss a drug-fighting aid package.

The visit was led by Thomas Pickering, the State Department's third-ranking official.

It came as the U.S. Congress was opening debate on the proposed two-year, \$1.6 billion aid package that would dramatically escalate the war on drugs in Colombia.

Primarily a military aid plan, the package includes 63 helicopters and the training and equipping of two new army counter-drug battalions.

- Associated Press

Dancing the Day Away For a Good Cause

Dance Marathon organizers and participants visited sick children who will benefit from the money they raise.

BY MEGAN BUTLER
Staff Writer

Sometimes the rest of the world seems a little uncaring toward families who are caring for children with diseases such as cystic fibrosis, multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy or cancer.

But UNC students are reaching out to those families through the second annual Dance Marathon, which is scheduled for Feb. 25-26.

After raising \$40,000 last year for the UNC Children's Hospital, the Dance Marathon is returning this year with more student participants and greater community support.

Organizers and dancers spent Sunday afternoon with the children and families the marathon will benefit.

Rosetta Morphis' 8-year-old daughter Amanda suffers from cystic fibrosis, a disease with no cure. Typically it leaves its victims with a life-span of 20 to 25 years, said Kelley Vance, chairwoman of the hospital committee.

Morphis said the best thing about the marathon was not the money raised, but the care that students showed in their commitment to the cause. But Morphis' biggest disappointment is a lack of parental support.

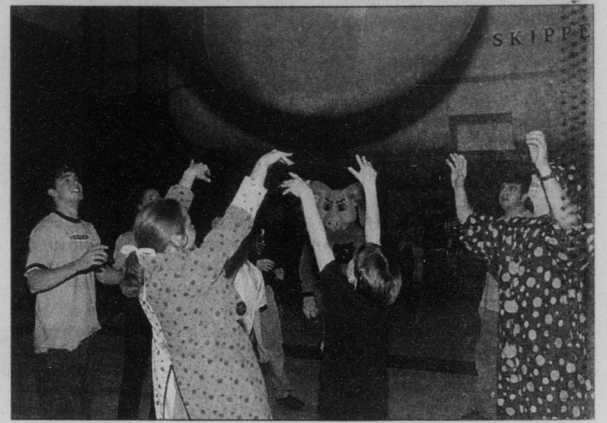
"I wish that more parents would make a special effort to support what (UNC students) are doing," Morphis said. "Parents should flock to see what these students are doing."

Theresa Samulski is the mother of 12-year-old Regina, who also has cystic fibrosis.

"In the paper, all you hear are negative things about high school and college students," Samulski said.

"It makes the world seem like a dark place. It's wonderful to see so many students that care," she said. "You often feel alone - like no one cares."

But after seeing the student participation at the marathon last year, Samulski said she was overwhelmed



Children from UNC Children's Hospital and UNC students keep a huge ball afloat during a social to kick off the upcoming Dance Marathon.

by the compassion of those who organized and danced.

"It's a very good feeling how they welcome my children," Samulski said.

Along with the students, the children who are healthy enough can participate in the marathon. But it also gives the siblings of these children a chance to do something to help, too.

Samulski said the healthy child in a family often felt left out because of the

attention placed on the chronically ill child. She said her son David, 8, enjoyed participating in the marathon.

"He's healthy, and he feels like (the students) include him fully," she said.

"David loves to dance. But other boys sometimes tell him boys are not supposed to dance. So he was thrilled to see so many college boys dancing there," she said.

The marathon was the brainchild of junior Mike Bucy, who coordinated the Dance Marathon. "A lot of people don't really understand why we

dance," Bucy said. "The key behind it is we need to show them emotionally we can make a sacrifice. The 24 hours is a commitment for the kids."

The objective is to provide the families with hope and the knowledge that students care,

Bucy said. "And it's not the easiest thing to do in the world," he said.

"But on the 22nd hour, the families come up and thank everyone." But this year there is more of a

push to draw

spectators to support the effort, said Phifer Crute, liaison between the Dance Marathon and the hospital.

"Last year we saw how much it helped the dancers when people showed up to cheer them on," she said.

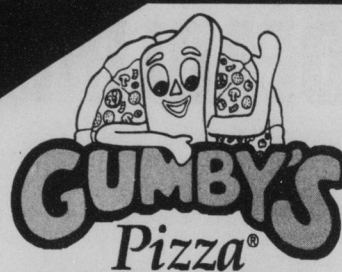
Bucy said he was sure anyone who stopped by to watch would be sold on the cause and efforts of the students.

Bucy said, "If you just stop by you'll see."

The Features Editor can be reached at features@unc.edu

"A lot of people don't really understand why we dance. ... The 24 hours is a commitment for the kids."

MIKE BUCY
Dance Marathon Coordinator



Gumby's Value Menu

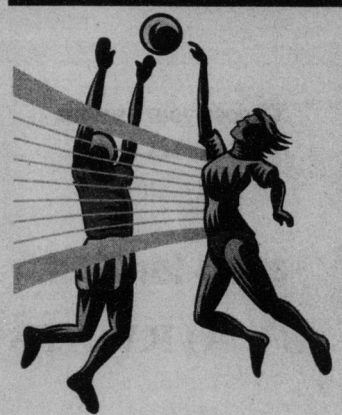
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Coca-Cola. CAMPUS RECREATION UPDATE

Intramural Sports



Employee Volleyball: every Tuesday, 5:15-7:30PM, Fetzer Gym B.

Free Play Badminton: every Friday, 5:30-9PM, Fetzer Gym B. Call 962-1153 for additional times.

Sport Clubs

*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****

Carolina Team Handball To Host National Tournament
Several 1996 U.S. Olympic Players To Be Featured

The olympic sport of Team Handball returns to Chapel Hill this weekend (Feb. 19-20). Team Handball, the second most popular sport in the world continues to progress in North Carolina when the Carolina Team Handball Club (CTHC) hosts the Tenth Annual Carolina Blue Cup Team Handball Tournament. Saturday play from 9am-8pm with Medal Round play on Sun from 9am till 3pm. All competition is in Fetzer Gyms A & B.

The competition will feature players from previous US Olympic Teams including several 1992 Olympic players. The 10 team field includes: Garden City, NY (defending champion) and West Point (1998 Blue Cup gold medal winner). UNC will field two strong teams in this year's competition - the CTHC and Carolina Blue (UNC's alumni team).

The 1999 season was one of the most successful in the history of the Carolina program. Currently, two Carolina teams are ranked in the country's top ten. The UNC team pulled in the silver at the US College Nationals, and ended the season ranked 8th in the nation. The Carolina alumni team is currently ranked 10th.

Since its inception in January, 1989, the CTHC has made significant advances. Carolina has qualified a team for the USTHF National Tournament every year. Eleven former CTHC players have competed on the US National Team. Two Carolina alumni, John Keller and Stephen Penn, were members of the 1996 Olympic Team Handball team that played in Atlanta.


Media wishing more information should contact Dr. John Silva at 919-962-5176.

Upcoming Home Sport Club Events include:

Women's Lacrosse: Fri, Feb. 18, 3pm, Ehringhaus Field (clinic), Sunday, Feb. 20, 1pm, Ehaus Field (game). Contact: Karen Imgrund at 968-9511 or kimgrund@email.unc.edu

Aussie Rules Football: Sat., Feb. 19, 3pm, Ehaus Field. Contact: Daylian Cain at 932-7289 or daylian@hotmail.com

Come enjoy Carolina Sport Clubs action. For any questions about the UNC Sport Clubs Program or for a list of all 40 clubs and contact numbers please call 962-1013 or email Sport Club Director Steve Bradley at smbredle@email.unc.edu GO HEELS!



Fitness & Aerobics

Student Recreation Center • February 14-20 • Mark this date:

BENCH PRESS COMPETITION
Date: Friday, February 25
Time: 3PM
Place: SRC weight room

The weight of the lift is calculated using the APF best lift formula. Individual male and female winners will receive a prize.

WOMEN ON WEIGHTS
Date: Saturday, February 26
Time: 10:30AM-noon


This session addresses specific concerns for women interested in beginning a strength program or those who currently strength train and want to progress. Come dressed to exercise. Space is limited, sign up at the SRC Front Desk.

HOW TO BE YOUR OWN PERSONAL TRAINER
Date: Sunday, February 27
Time: 3:30-5PM


Learn strength training principles and how to apply them to create a safe, effective, challenging workout. Sign up at the SRC Front Desk.

Carolina Adventures

at the OEC



Attention all climbers who have been certified but have not yet picked up their Belay Card. They are waiting for you in the Campus Recreation office. Cards not claimed by April 15 will be recycled and converted to climbing shoes. On belay? Belay on!



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www.unc.edu/depts/camprec