



The University and Towns
IN BRIEF

Military Veteran Gains ROTC Command Post

Lt. Col. Frank J. Abbott will take command of the Army ROTC program at UNC today at 4 p.m. in the UNC-CH Armory. Abbott is a decorated veteran who has served in Grenada, Germany and Bosnia-Herzegovina. He will be met by the 40 cadets of the Tar Heel Battalion, all in battle dress uniform, in a free public ceremony. Upon exchange of command, Abbott will become a professor and department chair of military science. The post is usually filled by the College of Arts and Sciences from officers nominated by the Army.

NCSU Professor Shares Thoughts on New Book

Dr. John David Smith, a Graduate Alumni Distinguished Professor of History at North Carolina State University will speak about his recent book at 3:30 p.m. on March 1 at the Bull's Head bookstore. The book is titled "Black Judas: William Hannibal Thomas and The American Negro." Smith has written or edited 13 books, including "Anti-Black Thought," "Black Voices from Reconstruction" and "Slavery, Race, and American History."

Live WUNC-FM Series Broadcasts in March

The spring concert of WUNC-FM's Composers-in-Context series will begin at 8 p.m. March 4 at the N.C. Museum of Art in Raleigh. The concert will be recorded live for broadcast on WUNC. Tickets are available at the museum box office from Tuesday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Prices are \$6 for general admission, \$5 for museum members and free for students. The concert will feature the Ciampi Quartet, pianist Jane Hawkins and guest composer J. Mark Searce.

Fast Pitch Girls Softball To Hold March Tryouts

The Hot Shots 12-and-under Fast Pitch Girls Softball team will hold tryouts at 4 p.m. on Feb. 27 and March 5. Tryouts will be held at Lowes Grove Elementary School softball practice field.

Psychologist to Speak at Chapel Hill Library

Dr. Donald R. Deyer, co-founder of the C.G. Jung Society of the Triangle, will present a speech drawing parallels between his views and beliefs and Jung's on Feb. 27 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Dyer earned a humanities degree from Stanford University and a doctorate from Northwestern University. He is the author of "Jung's Thoughts on God: Religious Depths of the Psyche" and "Cross Currents in Jungian Thought."

He is a Chapel Hill resident and plans to show the connection that everybody has with each other in the search for inner spiritualism.

Literacy Council Seeks Volunteers to Tutor

The Orange County Literacy Council is recruiting volunteers for one-to-one tutoring, small-group tutoring, and family literacy. Orientation will take place from noon to 1 p.m. March 6 at the Orange County Public Library. Attendance is required for those interested in volunteering. The Literacy Council trains volunteers to tutor adult learners in reading, writing, basic math and computer-based literacy instruction.

Volunteer Orange! Looking for Workers

Volunteer Orange!, a group that recruits volunteers and refers them to local nonprofit and human service organizations, has several opportunities for work. Volunteers are needed to prepare breakfasts, lunches and dinners at area soup kitchens. Groups of adults or youth are needed to paint 12 offices at a nonprofit agency. Volunteers are also needed to continue the cleanup and rebuilding efforts in eastern North Carolina. There are several other volunteer opportunities available, including tutoring, offering social support and conducting phone surveys. For more volunteer information, call 929-9837.

From Staff Reports

Medical Students Debate Hefty Increase in Tuition

By KAREY WUTKOWSKI
Staff Writer

With a 270 percent tuition increase on the table, UNC medical students took advantage of a forum Tuesday night to voice their concerns to faculty and administrators. Jeffrey Houpt, dean of the School of Medicine, gave a 10-minute presentation to an audience of about 20 students. "This increase will allow us to do things we can't do now," Houpt said. "I think we can raise money, get some projects done and get a more diverse class." The proposed increase would boost first- and second-year student tuition from about \$3,600 for in-state medical students to about \$9,900. Out-of-state

tuition would rise by an undetermined amount. The plan would be effective for the entering class of 2001. The allocation of the money has not been finalized, but Houpt said he was contemplating putting 50 percent of the increase away for scholarship packages. "We could provide a better package for disadvantaged students," Houpt said. He said the increase would still keep the tuition at UNC's School of Medicine in the lowest 5 percent of all medical schools in the country. "It would get us out of last place." The tuition increase would generate about \$4 million more per year than the school's present revenue, a small chunk of the school's \$450 million annual budget.

In addition to supporting financial aid, the money would also go to building renovations, technology upgrades and the institution of new programs. "I pledge not to build research buildings with it," Houpt said. He said he would not ask the N.C. General Assembly to finance the improvements he laid out. "We only ask the state legislature for big things like buildings and major renovations." Medical students got a chance to talk with administrators and faculty about their concerns during a panel question and answer period. Patrick Link, a second-year medical student, said one of his main concerns was that the money from the tuition

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UNC Chancellor Search Extends Into 7th Month

The committee originally set a December target date to select three candidates for UNC's ninth chancellor.

By KATIE ABEL
University Editor

Still without a definite end in sight, the search for UNC's ninth chancellor is expected to extend into next month. Although the only remaining search committee meeting is slated for Thursday, Chairman Richard Stevens said he would schedule additional meetings for March. The committee, six months into its search, has not met for several weeks, but sources told The Daily Tar Heel that members had been conducting inter-

views during the last month. Although the committee originally set a self-imposed December goal to select its final candidates, Stevens said last month that the search had no deadline. UNC-system President Molly Broad originally set May Commencement as the deadline for a chancellor to be named. Committee members have been tight-lipped since the search began in August, but media leaks hampered their process late last year. Jeffrey Houpt, dean of the UNC School of Medicine, and Linda Christ, executive vice chancellor and provost at the University of California-Berkeley, both dropped out of the running in December after their names were leaked to local press.

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Home Is Where the Money Is

Housing Costs Peak On the Hill

By ROBERT ALBRIGHT
Staff Writer

Every morning Todd Taylor, UNC professor of English, leaves his Hillsborough home and joins the throngs of travelers who drive from outlying towns to their Chapel Hill jobs. Due to limited property and expensive housing, the possibility of living in Chapel Hill never materialized for Taylor.

He said he looked for a house in town when he first arrived in Chapel Hill three years ago but was unsuccessful. "I like lots of trees, and I didn't find what I was looking for here," he said. "I wanted a couple of acres, but property (in Chapel Hill) is so valuable." With the cost of living exceeding the national average and the demand for affordable housing rising in Chapel Hill, Taylor's situation is not uncommon as many town and University employees are often forced to live



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY SALEEM RESHAMWALA

beyond the town's limits.

Above the Average

According to a 1999 report by the Chapel Hill Chamber of Commerce, which measures several local economic factors including housing, Chapel Hill's cost of living was 12.5 percent higher than the national average. This keeps almost 60 percent of UNC employees living outside of Chapel Hill. Raleigh and Durham's cost of living figures only measure 3 percent above

the national average.

And with average home prices exceeding \$230,000 in town, affordable housing also has always been a major issue among local officials. Diane Reid, director of the Orange County Economic Development Commission, said she was concerned about Chapel Hill's rising living standards compared with those of surrounding cities. "Chapel Hill's high cost of living shows how significant this problem is," she said. "I don't get the impression

that there are a lot of vacant houses."

Off-Campus Housing

Many UNC employees said they looked beyond Chapel Hill and found cheaper, more spacious housing in neighboring towns like Graham, Pittsboro, Siler City, Hillsborough, Durham and Raleigh. Based on 1998 statistics from UNC's Institutional Research Office that grouped UNC faculty and staff by

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Residents, Officials Clash Over Trees' Fate

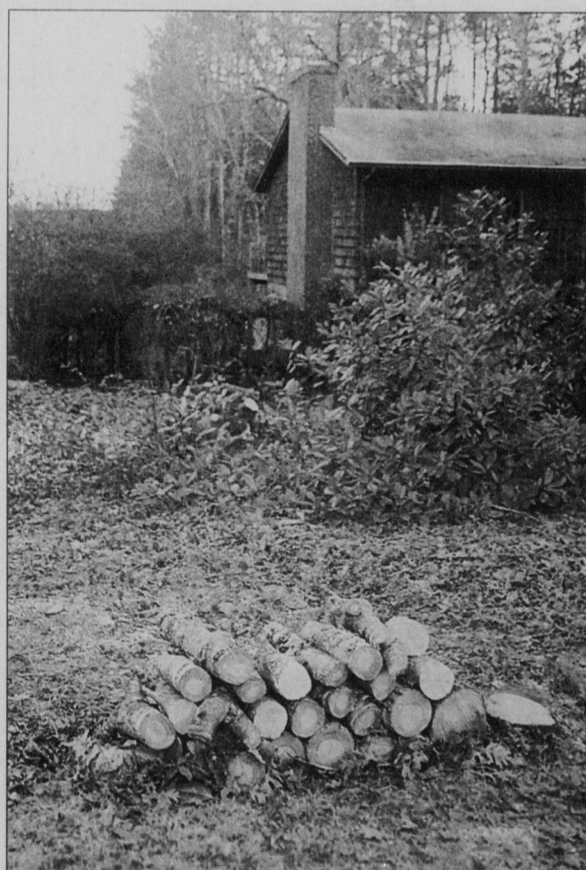
By JOSEPH PARDINGTON
Staff Writer

In a heated discussion at the Carrboro Town Hall on Tuesday night, residents faced off against Duke Power Co. officials, attempting to find a solution to the company's practice of cutting down trees on private property to make way for power lines.

The Carrboro Board of Aldermen attended the meeting in which residents grilled Duke Power about their toppled trees. At least 10 residents attended the meeting. Four complained about Duke Power policies. "I don't see your name on any of those trees," said Doug Terry of Cathy Road in Carrboro. "If they want those trees trimmed they should come and do it themselves and pay for it because those trees aren't bothering me."

Scott Gardner, Duke Power district manager, told residents the company would pay private contractors to remove the wood for the residents. But he did say it would not become a part of the company's regular practice. Duke Power did not resolve the issue of which specific trees would be topped, trimmed or removed, but officials did explain its guidelines for cutting repeatedly throughout the meeting. Duke Power has a right-of-way easement, which company officials said they were exercising by clearing trees that might threaten the power lines. They have also designated trees within 16 feet of the right of way as danger trees, or trees that will eventually threaten either the power lines or the equipment, such as the transformers. There are also two types of Duke Power services lines, distribution and

transmission. Gardner said one transmission line in question must be cleared of trees because it serves at least 60,000 customers including the University, UNC Hospitals, Chapel Hill, Carrboro and a small part of Durham. "We have a 68-foot right of way," he said. "Any tree that currently or in the next maintenance cycle will be in the right of way, we will remove." He said the maintenance cycles varied depending on weather conditions. "People don't want things left on their property," Alderman Allen Spalt said. "Maintenance involves cleanup." One resident said the loss of trees was an emotional issue for her. "If you do what you plan to do, we will lose all of the trees in our front yard, which is about 13 trees," said Cindy Kahler of 301 James St. Lonnie Schmid, supervisor of transmission right of way for Duke Power said the trees in Kahler's yard would have to come down because they are taller than the 15-foot limit. Schmid explained that there was not a specific appeals process if a customer had a problem with trees. He said fig trees would not be removed because of their smaller height. Paul Lassiter of the N.C. Utilities Commission observed the meeting. He said individuals had the right to appeal service and billing with the commission. Gardner explained that Duke Power would make an effort to work with the residents. "We will communicate with every customer and make them aware wood removal is available."



DITH GREG WOLF

Debate continues between Duke Power Co. and Carrboro residents over who is financially responsible for the removal of troublesome trees.

Congress Endorses S.C. Boycott

Student Congress ended their session just before results for the presidency were announced Tuesday.

By GEOFF WESSEL
Staff Writer

Student Congress voted Tuesday to endorse the boycott of South Carolina sponsored by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The boycott - which calls for students to avoid visiting South Carolina during spring and summer breaks - resulted from state officials' controversial decision to fly the Confederate flag over government buildings.

State officials chose to keep the flag flying despite the offensive connotations of white supremacy it represents for many.

The endorsement resolution, introduced on behalf of the NAACP's campus chapter by Rep. Bharath Parthasarathy, Dist. 16, generated the most discussion of all the items on the Congress agenda. "Duke (University student government) passed a similar resolution two or three weeks ago," Parthasarathy said. "This is appropriate for Congress to do."



Representative Bharath Parthasarathy said mandating the boycott was appropriate.

The resolution includes a provision that copies of it be sent to Student Body President Nic Heinke and to The Daily Tar Heel. The original language of the resolution called for Heinke to endorse the boycott, but that was amended before discussion began merely to forward a copy and allow him to make his own decision.

Fifteen of the 20 representatives present voted in favor of the resolution. Present but not voting were Reps. Emily Howell, Dist. 19, and Russell Jessen, Dist. 22. Reps. Jessica Smith, Dist. 8, Amanda Harrell, Dist. 17, and Rebecca Gumbiner, Dist. 23, voted against the resolution.

"For something like this, we should be able to consult our constituents first," Harrell said. "This isn't something Congress should decide for the whole student body." Rep. Joshua White, Dist. 22, disagreed. "If we wait on this, Spring Break is approaching and it won't be timely." Rep. Douglas Hatch, Dist. 1, also supported immediate action on the resolution. "You can pretty much guarantee that the majority of students at UNC would support this," said Hatch, who resolved one point of contention with an amendment to tone down the wording of the resolution. The amendment inserted language to state that the flag's status as a symbol of slavery and inequality was a common perception rather than a fact.

In other business, Congress granted funding to seven campus groups, including Student Congress. Finance Committee Chairwoman Lindsay Whitfield, Dist. 1, said earlier budget projections were low and requested a total appropriation of \$1,700, which was granted. "We were underfunded this year," said Speaker Mark Kleinschmidt. "Whatever is not used will be given back at the end of the year."

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