

Expo Shows Off Advances in Technology

By GEOFF WESSEL
Staff Writer

Free popcorn and rubber ducks drew students and faculty to have their technology questions answered at the Carolina Technology Expo 2000 held Tuesday and Wednesday.

The two-day program featured speakers, presentations on topics such as technology in the classroom and various vendor displays and demonstrations in the Student Union.

"A picture is worth a thousand words," said Marian Moore, vice chancellor for Information Technology Services. "You can talk a lot about technology, but you get ideas about how you can use it when you have the opportunity to see it or have someone demonstrate it for you."

Most vendor exhibits were oriented toward educating faculty and administration, with a focus on using new technology as a teaching and research tool.

"We are always interested in what new technologies are available," said Fritz Klein, a medical school adminis-

trator. "[Expo 2000] is very complete - it has a lot of things I am interested in."

Computers are becoming increasingly important in UNC's classroom environment with the growth of the Carolina Computing Initiative, which offers special deals on IBM laptop computers.

All freshmen will be required to own laptops beginning next fall.

The expo marked the University's second annual technology exposition. Moore said the turnout for last year's one-day event was low.

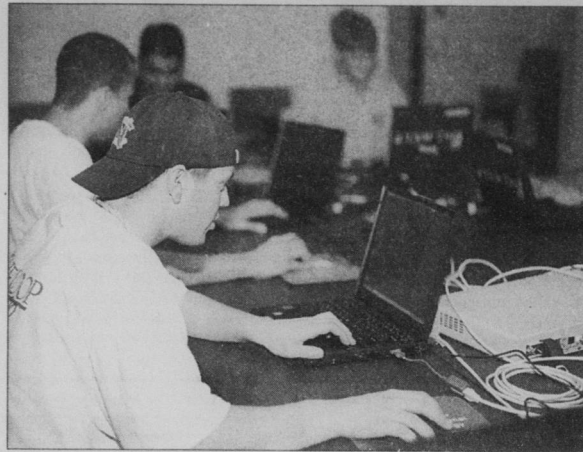
"We're hoping people who hadn't heard about it will see it (Tuesday) and have a second opportunity to go."

Interim Chancellor Bill McCoy spoke on the exposition's first day, addressing general issues of technology at UNC.

"I am increasingly amazed when I think of what's happened in just the last five years," McCoy said. "Computers are changing a lot of things about the way we work, learn and play."

"It's very important to have modern advances on campus."

The expo featured a keynote address



Ben Kunkel, a senior from Durham, plays Quake in the PC Games Tournament during the Carolina Technology Expo 2000 on Tuesday.

by author Michael Dolence, who spoke on changes to higher education with the arrival of virtual or distance learning.

"These are very high-quality learning environments," Dolence said in his speech Tuesday.

Moore said she expected the cost of Expo 2000 to reach \$10,000, which

would be taken from the University's ITS budget.

She said the event took many months to plan, and that ITS, the Faculty Information Technology Advisory Committee and student government contributed to the preparations.

"If it weren't for students helping out, there would not have been an expo," said Lori Casile, the event's coordinator.

Expo 2000 planners said they felt it was successful in teaching both students and faculty about new technological opportunities in education.

Moore said, "This was a wonderful opportunity for folks who may not be using technology as much to get some ideas."

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UNC Employees Oppose State Makeup Day Plan

UNC workers are upset the state decided that they will have to use their annual leave to cover missed days.

By JESSICA JOYE
Staff Writer

Despite the warming temperatures, January's record snowfall is still causing trouble for employees around campus.

During the past month, objections have been raised since the N.C. Office of State Personnel announced that UNC employees and all state staff would have to use annual leave to cover the three days missed because of the snowstorm.

At the Employee Forum meeting Wednesday morning, delegates and other employees were given the opportunity to voice their concerns.

Many UNC employees said the move was a great injustice because the days missed were scheduled in the budget.

Therefore, the state is not losing any money by paying staff for the days missed because it was already allotted in the budget, they claimed.

Mike Hawkins, a networking analyst at UNC, argued there would be no loss of money because UNC employees produced services, not products.

Thus, production of a product was not lost.

And because there was no one to

receive the services, no services were lost either, Hawkins said.

Interim Chancellor Bill McCoy briefly addressed his involvement in the issue.

The administration has been making efforts to reverse the situation and to further examine the adverse weather policy, he said.

Jack Evans, interim vice chancellor for finance and administration, said he was concerned because the chancellor was denied the authority to make the decision for UNC.

"Our adverse weather policy gives the chancellor the power to make these decisions," Evans said.

However, it was Gov. Jim Hunt who decided that all state employees would make up the snow days.

Employees said they wanted to talk to the governor and find out why he made such a "ridiculous decision."

Laurie Charest, associate vice chancellor for finance and administration, noted the fact that Hunt granted UNC employees two paid days in the fall to help Hurricane Floyd flood victims in eastern North Carolina.

Because the governor excused absences in the fall for a natural disaster, many employees are confused as to why he would not excuse days caused by the January storm that blanketed Chapel Hill with more than a foot of snow.

UNC computer consultant Elaine Tola said she was worried about the image the University was sending to the general public about how it treated state employees.

This type of behavior projects a negative image to both current and prospective employees, Tola said.

Employees said they felt unappreciated and taken advantage of as a result of the decision. "We are dedicated employees who sacrifice higher salaries for a work that we love," Tola said. "But we can't continue our hard work with legislators dictating our pay."

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MARIAN MOORE
ITS Vice Chancellor

"We are dedicated employees who sacrifice higher salaries for a work that we love."

ELAINE TOLA
UNC Computer Consultant

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