Wednesday, March 8, 2000

### **INFLATION** From Page

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proposals this year to lower GPAs. Alton Banks, co-chairman of the aca-demic advisory committee at N.C. State, said the issue had not been brought to the academic policy committee this year, despite the fact that N.C. State's aggregate GPA increased 17 percent from 1990 to 1999. UNC-CH's GPA rose 18 percent during the same time period. Similarly, UNC-W administrators

said they were not overly concerned about a GPA increase there. The school saw a 24 percent boost in aggregate GPA from 1990 to 2000, well above the creases at UNC-CH and N.C. State. Melton McLaurin, UNC-W associate

vice chancellor of academic affairs, said the increase was not a concern for two reasons. First, UNC-W's aggregate GPA is 2.55, well below UNC-CH's 3.0. Second, the school has seen an enormous jump in SAT scores, indicating students are better prepared for college and thus, able to garner higher GPAs.

Other system schools have also seen an increase in the SAT scores and GPAs of incoming freshmen. At ASU, GPA has increased 16 percent from 1991 to 1998. "(Grade inflation) is something of a concern but not a front-burner issue right now." Ward said. Gary Lowe, interim vice chancellor

of academic affairs at ECU, said that while statistics reflected a 17 percent GPA increase between 1992 and 1999, grade inflation was not the only explanation. Lowe said other reasons could be an increase in student quality. This is the explanation several UNC-CH stu-

dents offered as part of backlash to the unc-Pembroke saw the smallest

increase in GPA during the 1990s at only 3 percent. Charles Jenkins, provost and vice chancellor of academic affairs, said he was not aware GPA had risen.

Not all system schools are experienc-ing increased GPAs. One school where the aggregate GPA actually decreased was UNC-Charlotte, falling by 4 per-cent between 1991 and 1999. UNC-C administrators attributed the decrease to changes in academic policy.

Administrators speculated on why ade inflation had become a concern at UNC-CH. UNC-W Faculty Senate President Lynne Snowden said concern ver grade inflation at UNC-CH might be due to the fact that the aggregate GPA at UNC-CH had reached 3.0. Monika Moore, UNC-CH student

ody vice president, said the University had to research SAT scores of incoming freshmen and advanced class enroll ment more before acting on grade infla-She said rumors that actions tion. mending grading policies would be taken in April were false. Economics Professor Boone Turchi, chairman of the UNC committee and primary author of the report, said fall was the earliest time chan

anges could be implemented. Moore said, "The fact that other universities in our system have researched the issue and have not opted to make changes says to me that they have come to the decision that it would be more harmful than helpful to students to implement a grade inflation plan."

> The State & National Editor can be reached at stntdesk@unc.edu.

### News

PARKING

get a permi

INTERNET

From Page 1

board room.

ideas

equipment, Weiss said.

online

11:59 p.m. March 31.

From Page 1

she said. "I'm a senior, and I can't even

Bates said she had not been able to

ore, and they just don't care." University Police Officer Doug

What all this really does is take care of the expenses and logistics of starting a new business so the student teams can

focus on their concept and vision, he said. He said StartEmUp would take the student's business from "dorm room to

UNC students must submit their

StartEmUp.com submission form by

StartEmUp is not necessarily looking

for extensively thought-out plans, Weiss said. The submission form requires a

summary of the idea along with what

market the business would target and a

Huang said. And that is how these guys

group of investors out of Miami as well

"There is a lot of value in a new idea,"

StartEmUp is funded by a private

background of the team members.

sold their own idea to investors.

through

the

Arwood said parking tickets were a nec

park anywhere lately without receiving a ticket. "I've gotten four or five tickets in the past year. I've noticed the officers

essary evil on a campus with a messy parking situation. "There's no good solution," he said. "The parking guys are just doing their job

Hawkins said the DPS, which accrues \$850,000 a year from parking fines, did not want to issue a lot of tickets. "We just want to catch the people who are in violation."

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Associated Press

of Lent

French Quarter.

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NEW ORLEANS, La. - Revelers

shed inhibitions - and some their clothes - as hundreds of thousands of people jammed the streets for Mardi

Gras, the final fling before the austerity

along mansion-lined St. Charles Avenue

nudity went mostly unenforced in the

While families with children gathered

a day of parades, a police ban on

"I haven't had a shirt on in five days,"

While an artist painted designs on

Kennedy's breast, four police officers

watched from across the street. "It's Mardi Gras, and a little flash of

flesh adds to everybody's fun," Kennedy

Judi Jones strolled down Bourbon Street with her breasts concealed only

that read "The right to bare breasts.

a layer of paint and carrying a sign

"They cost me a fortune, so why

shouldn't I show them off?" asked Jones

said Ashley Kennedy, a New Orleans

founders. It has an advisory board made up of business executives and entrepreneurs who help the founders te the entries as business models

StartEmUp will take a 20 percent cut of the profits from the new Internet nies it helps found, once they are compa up and running. But do not be fooled by the exten-

siveness of the backing these students were able to procure. The brunt of the work is done by the four students "It is for students, by students," Weiss

said. The company is based on a partnership between StartEmUp and its

incubator companies. Weiss said, "Our success depends on the quality of the companies we help."

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

### Dilbert©

## Nudity, Drunkenness Mark La. Mardi Gras Free-for-All

#### 24, of Dallas.

No problems were reported, police Chief Richard Pennington said. The annual celebration is normally

trouble-free and most arrests are only for drunkenness, which police say usu ally means a drunk who bothers people

around him, and public urination. Police do not release arrest figures: until after Mardi Gras, which ended at midnight Tuesday - the last day of feasting and celebration before Ash Wednesday and the sacrifices of Catholics during Lent.

Southern Louisiana is heavily Catholic.

This year's later-than-usual Mardi-Gras, coinciding with Spring Break formany colleges and 80-degree weather; was expected to produce a record crowd in excess of the million or so that usually jam New Orleans and its suburbs.

"This is my sixth Mardi Gras, and it's the largest crowd I've seen," Pennington, said. "I'm sure we'll set a record. I'd estimate we have well over a million, maybe a million-and-a-half people on the streets."

as by the families and friends of the

# **Outdoor Theater Seeks Talent**

By MATT MANSFIELD Staff Writer

When performing, the last thing an actor wants is to be heckled by a "baa ing" goat.

But the actors in the Snow Camp out door drama program in Burlington last summer had to contend with that mishap for half an act.

"We had live pyros for battle scenes," said Christa Arnold, a Snow Camp vet-eran, whose play used livestock. "It just freaked the animals out," she said, recalling the animals rioting backstage.

These instances highlight some of the unique aspects of working in an outdoor

hold auditions at UNC for 16 outdoor theater companies, hailing from states as far away as New Mexico and Texas. And the 13th is the final deadline for aspiring actors to register to audition. The Carolina-based program brings

in performers from across the nation, but its home school is continually underrepresented, said Cindy Biles, an Outdoor Drama representative. To encourage involvement, UNC stu

dents will receive a \$5 discount from the \$30 cost of auditioning this year.

The companies put on historical plays local to the area, Shakespeare fes-

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poleci

tivals, or religious dramas called passion plays. They hire actors, singers, dancers and technicians to work on shows run-ning 10 to 12 weeks in the summer.

"They try to tie it in with most college summer breaks," Biles said. In fact, 90 percent of the performers are college age, she said.

"I auditioned here at the Great Hall with the Institute of Outdoor Drama," said Amber Sherrill, a sophomore

panies for her dancing, Sherrill signed on to the Manteo production of "The Lost Colony.

there the entire summer," she said. The actors move into apartments or

communal housing offered by the company, and Arnold said she experienced most unique living conditions. "There were 14 people living in one house in the middle of nowhere," she

said. "We were together 24-7." In addition to tolerating dirty dishes all over the living room, the performers spent a grueling 10 hours a day in the hot sun rehearsing for the production. "You're trudging in the hot sand, it's

a hundred degrees outside and even at night it's hot," Sherrill said.

But all the toil and suffering paid off when performances started.

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"You're out there performing for an audience that wants to see you perform, and it's exciting," she said.

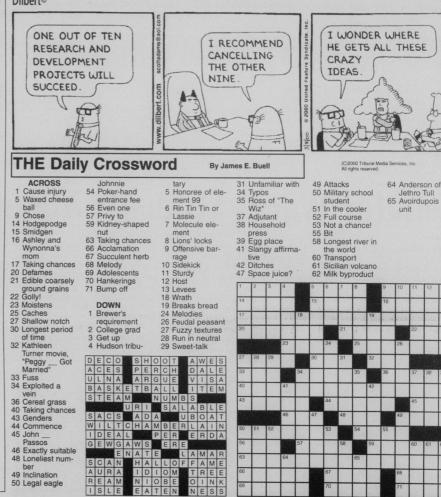
If the two weeks of rehearsals are rough, the nightly shows are arduous. In a 30-minute process, Sherrill would routinely paint her whole body

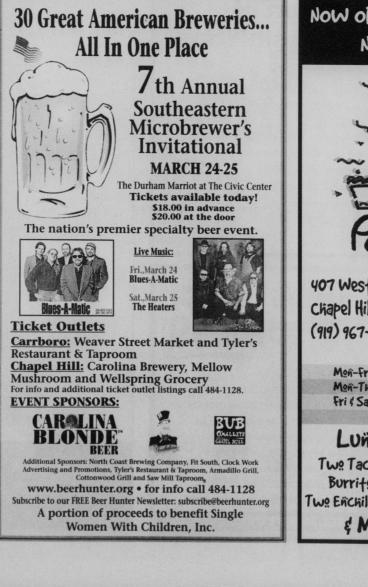
in brown paint to transform into an Indian. Add a wig, braids and skimpy

with a confident attitude that you can conquer the audience and that you're professional, even at the age of 19.'

Most companies put on three shows during the summer as well as a children's show, so performers who audi tion this year will have many opportu-

gram offered outweighed the hardships, and she encouraged others to audition





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leather outfit, and she was ready. Her first of two quick changes had her rinse the paint off her body in four

minutes and change into Elizabethan garb for her character as a queen's page. But the pressure gave Sherrill new strength. "You just have to go out there

nities to take the stage, Biles said. Arnold said the experience the pro-

"It was hard work, but I learned a lot." So never mind the "baa-ing" goats, they're just keeping in spirit with the rowdy, front-row hecklers in the outdoor drama of the Shakespearean era.

The Arts & Entertainment Editor can be reached at artsdesk@unc.edu.

graphics design major. After being called back by three com-"I moved after school and stayed

drama production. The Institute of Outdoor Drama will the



\* Burrito

(Beyond Bandido's ALL the way thru the Rathskellar Alley)

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Fri & Saf		5:00-10:30
clesed Sunday		
Lunch		Dinner
Two: Tacos \$1.95		Empañadas \$4.95
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