

Fifth Estate's Getting Medieval on the Printed Word

By ALICIA PETERS
Staff Writer

As computers replaced typewriters, the entire world was thrown into a cyberspace abyss. E-mail replaced snail mail, and people are no longer required to get out of bed in the morning to shop or go to work.

UNC students do not even have to pick up different magazines to find out what special events are going on around campus. They can just click their way to the Fifth Estate's Internet site.

On September 26, 1996, the Fifth Estate became the first student-run online magazine at UNC. Although it is registered as a student organization, it receives no funds from student fees.

Both graduate and undergraduate students work for the Fifth Estate. The name for the magazine was derived from medieval times.

"The nobility was known as the first estate, the clergy the second estate, the common man was the third, the press the fourth, and today, computers are considered to be the fifth estate," said Dan Lucas, a junior from Raleigh and the managing editor of the Fifth Estate.

The last two estates inform and reach out to the public. Although there is an obvious difference between online magazines and magazines that can be purchased on campus, both publications share a similar goal.

"We try to be a UNC-focused online magazine where we get out regular issues but do features issues, too,"

Lucas said.

Other goals of the Fifth Estate include giving students "real-world" experience in publishing and allowing high-quality instruction about publishing on the Internet, which supplements classroom instruction.

Students working on the Fifth Estate understand that their computer and technology expertise might be skills that will probably help them obtain decent jobs.

"The job helps because it is what I plan to do after college, which is Web design, and it is useful as a portfolio for any student," Lucas said.

Deb Aikat has been the group's faculty adviser since the Fifth Estate's inception in 1996.

"I devote about four to six hours

physically, but mentally, I am always thinking of new ideas," said Aikat, a professor in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

A recent project focused on redesigning the publication. As times change, so do computers and the software available to enhance a Web site, Aikat said.

The students who work for the Fifth Estate realized that they could give some creative input while replacing old graphics and text with different technology available today.

"We have a new Internet every day," Aikat said. "Before it, (the Fifth Estate site) was just text and graphics, and now we are trying to incorporate video, music and audio into the site," Aikat said.

Fifth Estate staff members have put a lot of creative ideas and hard work behind the redesign project, Aikat said. The major problem that the staff ran into was losing members.

"Students would have so much technical expertise that they would get better-paying jobs," Aikat said.

Although the Fifth Estate is a relatively new publication, students hail the benefits of participating in the online project.

Harlen Makemson, the publisher of the Fifth Estate and a graduate student said, "The Fifth Estate is a wonderful opportunity to get experience producing online material."

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

Census Bureau Employs Door-to-Door Visits to Fetch Forms

The bureau is hiring locals to track down residents who didn't return censuses by the April 14 due date.

By NISHANT GARG
Staff Writer

Local residents might not receive adequate government representation in the future with the census return rate falling far short of the Census Bureau's expectations.

According to the Census Bureau's Internet site, www.census.gov, the local initial response rates were: 63 percent in Chapel Hill, 59 percent in Carrboro and

62 percent in Orange County. The target rates for the three municipalities were 76 percent, 70 percent and 71 percent, respectively.

The bureau's Web site defined the initial response rate as a preliminary one that told the bureau how many housing units returned a census questionnaire delivered either by the U.S. Postal Service or by the bureau's staff.

Wade Chestnut, office manager of the Hillsborough Census Bureau division, said residents had been asked to mail back their census forms so census officials could increase the community's response rate.

"Over the last year-and-a-half, we have been telling people about the importance of filing census forms,"

Chestnut said. "This will ensure adequate representation."

Census results are used to determine how federal funds are dispersed throughout the country.

Chestnut said accurate census data helped officials plan construction operations such as building hospitals, schools, churches and facilities for trash collection and disposal.

He said Census Bureau workers had not yet ended their efforts to solicit census data for this year, even though April 14 was the due date for residents to turn in their forms.

"In the coming week, we will have census workers going door to door of those residents who are yet to fill and return their forms," he said. "And we

urge residents to cooperate with our workers."

There are full-time and part-time opportunities for those interested in working on the census.

"We continue to have jobs available for census workers for a minimum of 20 hours a week to a maximum of 40 hours a week," Chestnut said. "Jobs are available for \$13 per hour, and we give 32.5 cents per mile for use of their car," he said.

Chestnut said census workers had taken adequate measures in order to ensure that homeless people were properly represented in census data collection.

"We had a special operation on March 29 which began at 4 a.m.," he

said. "It aimed to target homeless residents, and we captured those individuals at their location."

Chapel Hill Town Council member Joyce Brown said the town had no involvement in matters dealing with the census.

"To my knowledge, the town is not directly involved," she said. "The census is a federal issue and I know that it affects Chapel Hill tremendously, but we are not doing anything."

To find out more information about working for the Census Bureau, contact officials at 541-4037 or (888) 325-7733 toll-free.

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



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IN THE NEWS

Memorial Ceremony Remembers Bombing

OKLAHOMA CITY — Church bells chimed on streets that once rang with a bomb's blast. Children saw their reflections in a calm pool where there was once an ugly crater. And families found serenity Wednesday in a place that has pained them for five years.

On the anniversary of the April 19, 1995, bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building, 168 sculpted chairs stood in silent tribute to the 168 victims of the most deadly terrorist attack on American soil.

"To me it's like my funeral for him, my time to say goodbye," said 20-year-old Sarah Broxterman, who lingered over the stone-and-bronze chairs inscribed with the name of her late father, victim Paul Broxterman.

The chairs soon overflowed with flowers as thousands came for the first of two ceremonies to dedicate the Oklahoma City National Memorial at the site of the federal building.

Later, President Clinton walked with representatives of families, survivors and rescuers through the 168 chairs before the second dedication ceremony. At one point he paused to straighten flowers knocked over in the strong Oklahoma wind.

He stopped before one chair with Jeannine Gist, the mother of a victim, and placed a hand on her shoulder.

Clinton dedicated the memorial with the promise that "America will never forget" the suffering inflicted by the bombing. "There are places in our national landscape so scarred by freedom's sacrifice that they shape forever the soul of America," the president said. "This place is such sacred ground."

Bells tolled at 9:02 a.m., the exact moment when the fuel-and-fertilizer truck bomb exploded and stripped the face from the building, turning its nine floors into a tomb of concrete and steel.

'Dirty Joke' Triggers Deadly Mich. Rampage

LINCOLN PARK, Mich. — When tenants at a senior citizens complex accused a resident of using vulgar language, officials at the residence called a meeting between both sides to try to defuse the situation.

Instead of ending tension, Tuesday's meeting apparently sparked a rampage. After angrily denying the charges, the accused man abruptly left — and came back shooting.

When it was over, two women were killed and another critically wounded. One of those killed was a resident who had originally filed the complaint.

"All of this is over a dirty joke," said Phyllis McLenon, deputy director of the housing commission.

City Attorney Edward M. Zelenak identified the gunman as Kenneth Ray Miller, 56. He was found asleep in his suburban Detroit apartment after a self-induced drug overdose, police Lt. Donald Gentner said today.

A .22-caliber rifle that police think was used in the shooting was confiscated. No other weapons were found in the apartment, police said. Gentner said Miller was hospitalized then released to police custody late Tuesday.

Skin for Profit Is Over With Arizona Ruling

TUCSON, Ariz. — Human body parts donated in Arizona will no longer be given to a for-profit company to use for cosmetic purposes, the state's organ and tissue donation agency announced.

Donor Network of Arizona, the agency that coordinates all organ and tissue donations in the state, said Tuesday it hastened the decision in reaction to outrage over reports this week in The Orange County Register in California detailing profits made from donated body parts.

The Register said burn victims awaiting skin from tissue banks often found themselves behind people signed up for cosmetic surgery because it is less profitable to sell skin in the burn market.

Federal regulations ensure that vital organs such as kidneys, livers and hearts go to patients in greatest need, but skin is not covered by law.

Jack Shafer, a Tucson paralegal who is a donor on his Arizona's driver's license, expressed concern.

"I don't mind giving away my heart and lungs and liver and kidneys — I know how they'll be used," he said. "But does this mean that someone can come in and take my skin and give it to a cosmetic company for a model's lips? That's not what I intended when I checked the donor box."

Associated Press

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