



The University and Towns IN BRIEF

Former UNC Standout To Visit Local YMCA

Hubert Davis, former UNC basketball star, will be in Chapel Hill today and will speak to local children about his summer basketball camp. He will meet with fifth- and sixth-graders at the Chapel Hill-Carrboro YMCA at 980 Airport Road. Davis will also visit local schools to discuss his basketball camp. He will start today with a visit to McDougle Middle School. The camp is a three-day camp that will take place this summer. For more information, call the YMCA at 942-5156.

Neighbors Collecting Goods for Fire Victims

Neighbors of the people whose homes were destroyed by Monday's fire at Foxcroft Apartments are trying to collect money and food for the families and students involved. Boxes will be available at the desk at the Student Union. For more information, call Devan Myers at 942-3954.

Annual Unity Games To Take Place Friday

Student government, the Black Student Movement, the Residence Hall Association and the Carolina Athletic Association will join forces to host the second annual Unity Games on Friday. The event is a multicultural field day that uses sports activities as a means to unite different races from around campus. Various organizations formed the games last year in an effort to give members of the Carolina community a chance to interact with diverse groups in a fun manner. The afternoon will include games, food and free T-shirts. Festivities will take place on Ehringhaus fields from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Friday.

Museum to Showcase Students' Artwork

The Ackland Art Museum will feature new work from nine emerging artists beginning April 30 and running through May 28. The exhibit, titled "New Currents in Contemporary Art," is an exhibition by candidates for a master's degree in fine arts from Carolina. The museum is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays, and from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sundays. Admission is free. For more information, call 966-5736 or visit the museum's Web site at www.ackland.org.

Studio 1 to Premiere 'Waiting for Godot'

Studio 1, the student drama company, will present Samuel Beckett's "Waiting for Godot" in the Center for Dramatic Art next week. Student members of Studio 1 directed, designed and performed the play. Beckett's play focuses on postwar human condition. Performances will be at 4 p.m. and 8:15 p.m. May 1 and at 5 p.m. May 2. Tickets are free for PlayMaker Repertory Co. subscribers and drama Privilege Card Holders and cost \$3 for everyone else. For more information, call 962-PLAY.

UNC Faculty to Deliver 3 Lectures During May

Dr. Wayne Christiansen, professor of physics and astronomy, will speak on "Planet Earth From a Cosmic Perspective" at 7:30 p.m. May 2 at the Chapel Hill Senior Center. Norm Loewenthal, continuing education director, will discuss "Lifelong Learning at UNC" at 1:30 p.m. May 2 at Binkley Baptist Church. James Coggins, associate professor and chair of the computer science department, will discuss "Is There Virtual in Virtual Reality?" at 1:30 p.m. May 9 at Binkley Baptist Church. For more information, call Sandy Roberts at 962-1993.

Pastor Garner Honors For Volunteer Work

The Women's Center has given its third annual Woman of Courage Award to Carrie Bolton of Pittsboro. Bolton is a pastor at Alston Chapel United Holy Church and a volunteer director of the Mary Neal Child Care Center. She will receive recognition at an awards ceremony at A Gathering of Women from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. May 6. The Woman of Courage Award is intended to recognize a woman who has served as an example of strength and courage for women in our community. For more information, call the Women's Center at 968-4610.

From Staff Reports

Town, UNC Explore Fare-Free Busing Options

By ENYOMAM KPGLIO
Staff Writer

Before local and UNC officials could explore transit options for the area Wednesday, they had to rectify their own parking dilemmas. After struggling to find parking spaces in the overcrowded town lot, University officials met at Carrboro Town Hall with representatives from the Carrboro Board of Aldermen and the Chapel Hill Town Council to discuss funding possibilities for shared transit goals, focusing on fare-free busing.

As the deadline approaches for the towns to adopt their budgets, local officials are scrambling to find a way to allot tax money for transit improvements. Participants at the summit decided on a joint task force to fully explore a proposal that would allow UNC students and possibly all residents to ride on all Chapel Hill and Carrboro routes without fees. Chapel Hill Transportation Board Chairman Ken Robinson said the board was not completely supportive of the fare-free service. "Our investigation shows that transportation fees are the least important factor to both riders and nonriders," he said. "There is no guarantee that free fares will increase ridership." Robinson added that the transportation board did not object to the proposal, but other service improvements needed funding. "We want to focus on extending the operation times and expanding routes," he said. Alderman Diana McDuffee, however, said the fare-free proposal was worth considering. "I am in favor of the fare-free plan,"

she said. "The fares are, in some ways, a deterrent for student riders, and I think this plan should be implemented even if it has to happen in stages." Carolyn Ellland, associate vice chancellor for auxiliary services, said the University shared transit goals with the towns and was willing to help fund other improvements. "We want service improvements as well as free fares for students," she said. "The bill is just too high for the school to afford without help." When several aldermen and Town Council members voiced concerns about raising taxes for a program that would not totally benefit their residents, Ellland argued that many UNC students were residents of the towns. "Students that live off-campus pay taxes either on property or through rent," Ellland said. "We are not three separate entities and we need to work in partnership." Flicka Bateman, a Town Council member, said she was supportive of the fare-free proposal. "We ought to go ahead and institute See TRANSIT, Page 4

TEACHING OUTSIDE the BOX



Political science Professor Donna Lefebvre, far left, listens as freshman Valencia Butler expresses her opinion. The students met with Lefebvre at Ehringhaus Residence Hall to discuss segregation on campus and possible solutions for racial tensions.

Faculty Juggle Multiple Roles In University's Race for Future

By KATY NELSON
Staff Writer

It was the race the late Chancellor Michael Hooker promised he would run. And his successor, James Moeser, has wasted no time in picking up the baton. But while the administrators in South Building fly by on the track carrying their ambitious vision of UNC as the best public university in America, the professors bear the weight of reality on their backs. With this vision of UNC in mind, faculty at the University juggle teaching and research while human constraints, such as time, press down on them. To survive as a tenured faculty member at UNC in the 21st century, professors will continue to wear their many hats, a reflection of the complexity of the University's mission. To receive tenure, promotions and raises, faculty must maintain a productive research program that pleases departmental chairmen who keep a constant eye on the department's rankings. Risa Palm, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, said faculty members should ideally spend 40 percent of their time teaching, 40 percent of their time researching and the remaining 20 percent of their time in service to the University, community and beyond.

Creative Teachers Bridge Student Gap

By MARK THOMAS
Staff Writer

When students leave college, the professors they remember most are those who have found a way to connect with them beyond the constraints of the lecture hall. But at UNC, where classes of more than 200 students are commonplace, the relationship between teacher and student can be difficult to create and sustain. With this thought in tow, an increasing number of professors at UNC are stepping out from behind the podium and taking a proactive stance in creating a rapport with their students. From meeting outside of the classroom to utilizing alternative teaching methods, a number of

faculty members are attempting to enhance the educational experience at UNC by strengthening the vital link between teacher and student. Political science Professor Donna Lefebvre believes that creating an environment in which students are comfortable communicating their thoughts and opinions is key in cultivating the bond between herself and her students. Lefebvre says this approach also enriches students' learning experience. Taking students on field trips to the courthouse or prison and meeting outside of class for lunch are several of the vehicles she has used to achieve this goal. Lefebvre says creating a disarming learning environment translates into a heightened college experience for her students, and they seem to agree.

From the first class, she established a bond between all of the students in my class," said Tyler Hitch, a sophomore from Chicago who was enrolled in Lefebvre's Ethics, Law and Morality class last fall. "She created an atmosphere of complete comfort for us. Without a doubt, I learned and retained more in her class than any other I have ever taken. She is incredible." Inside the classroom, Lefebvre loosens the traditionally restrictive reins on typical classroom etiquette. "We bring food to class," she said. "I think it promotes a more comfortable environment and a sense of community development." See INNOVATIONS, Page 4

Vinroot Shifts to Right In 2nd Bid for Governor

Throughout this week, The Daily Tar Heel will profile the top five candidates in the N.C. gubernatorial race. Primaries are slated for May 2.

By GAVIN OFF
Staff Writer

A former UNC class president who played varsity basketball under the guidance of Dean Smith is again trying his hand at the game of state politics. Republican gubernatorial candidate Richard Vinroot, a former Morehead Scholar and mayor of Charlotte from 1991 to 1995, is preparing his second attempt to move into the N.C. governor's mansion, after having run unsuccessfully for the Republican nomination in 1996. UNC-Charlotte political science Professor Ted Arrington said the 1996 loss prompted Vinroot to abandon his moderate Republican roots. But Chris Nealey, Vinroot's campaign manager, said Vinroot was consistent in his political activities. He said Vinroot wanted to reprioritize the state's goals and weaken the control govern-

ment exercised on people's lives. "He wants to contain the growth of government in North Carolina," Nealey said. "He wants to implement a taxpayer protection act to limit government spending." Nealey said Vinroot believed in putting money toward road and highway improvement and public education. He said Vinroot wanted teachers to be paid according to performance, not tenure. "He wants to create competition in N.C. public schools," Nealey said. Arrington said Vinroot's history as Charlotte mayor suggested he was a moderate Republican. But he said Vinroot was campaigning as a staunch conservative. "(As mayor), he was not shy about spending public money for public good," he said. "As a candidate, he's been megalomaniacal and at times down-right ugly - very unlike the Richard Vinroot that was mayor." Arrington said this sudden switch damaged Vinroot's credibility. "We don't know who Richard Vinroot is anymore," he said. "Who knows what kind of governor he will be?" But Nealey said Vinroot proved his conservatism as mayor when he reduced Charlotte's crime rate by 17 percent, saving taxpayers \$19 million. Colleagues said Vinroot's legal career

Colleges Raise Admissions Bar

By LANI HARAC
Staff Writer

As the number of high school seniors that apply to college increases, top-ranked schools are finding a need to be even more selective in their admissions processes. But officials at Harvard University, Cornell University and University of Pennsylvania say it's not just sheer numbers driving the changes; the caliber of applicants has also improved. And the UNC system is no stranger to the trend. This month, the Board of Governors approved a proposal requiring high school seniors to take two years of a foreign language and an additional year of high-level math. Some officials view the action as an attempt to keep up with rising admission standards across the country. Marla McGrath Lewis, director of undergraduate admissions for Harvard, said 90 percent of this past year's applicant pool qualified for acceptance. In past years, that number was closer to 70 to 80 percent. "The excellence of the applicant pool (was) stronger than we've ever seen," Lewis said. "It was a very difficult year to make admissions decisions." Applicants for the 1999-00 entering

class exceeded 18,000 for the 1,650 spaces available, she said. That meant only about 11 percent of candidates were accepted. "This isn't the first tough year we've had, but this one really took the cake," Lewis said. Cornell and Penn experienced similar situations this past year. Don Saleh, dean of admissions and financial aid, said 3,180 students were enrolled in 1999-00, out of 20,000 applicants. He said 80 to 85 percent of those fell into the "admissible" category. "We end up with more qualified applicants, and we are admitting a smaller number of them," he said. At Penn, "the situation is one where we've seen a huge increase in applications," said Dean of Admissions Lee Stetson. This past year saw 19,000 applications arrive in the office for an entering class of 2,300. "We have to look very carefully at all the discriminating factors," Stetson said. Because all the applicants are academically outstanding, officials have to look beyond academic ability to what the students can provide outside the classroom. Although the surge in applicants has been attributed by experts, at least in part, to the "boomlet" population, school officials said higher visibility of their campuses also played a role. "Several things happened. High school students and parents are realizing more and more the value of attending a selective, prestigious institution," Saleh

said. "On top of that, we have done more in terms of recruiting." He said the university had actively recruited at both the national and international level, increasing the base of applications the school received. Lewis said Harvard had also pursued students. "We've done a very aggressive job in recruiting students who might be good matches for us," she said. "We've also been helped in that by a number of things." She said the information available to students, especially through the Internet, made it easier for prospective students to determine whether Harvard was a good match. Factors at Penn included more recruitment and travel by the school in the past few years, more national and international attention and more attention devoted to the college admissions process in general, Stetson said. "Penn's visibility has risen considerably in the last 20 years," he said. Understandably, most selective universities are pleased with this turn of events, although it means more students will receive disappointing letters by mail. "It's a challenge to be in this position, but it's obviously one you want to be in," Stetson said. "People still recognize you by who you say no to."

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Campus Connection