



The University and Towns IN BRIEF

New Fossil Disclaims Bird-Dinosaur Relation

By painstakingly studying a fossil unearthed in central Asia and first reported in 1970, a team of U.S. and Russian researchers has discovered what they believe are by far the oldest feathers ever found. Some 220 million years ago, the small primitive reptile could at least glide efficiently, the scientists say. The discovery casts serious doubt on the view that birds descended from dinosaurs, as many paleontologists maintain. Ornithologists say that could not have happened because feathers and the creatures that grew them predated dinosaurs. Instead, the latter believe both birds and dinosaurs undoubtedly evolved from earlier reptilian ancestors known as archosaurs. "This question has been debated since the late 1800s and debated heatedly for about the past 10 years," said Dr. Alan Feduccia, Heninger professor and chair of biology at the University. "But just as you can't be your own grandmother, birds can't have come from theropod dinosaurs because the fossil record shows the time line is all wrong."

UNC Signs Deal with Computer Companies

The University has signed license agreements with three new companies that will commercialize computer graphics technology developed by UNC computer scientists. The agreements cover three different technologies, 3-D laser scanning, high-performance, optical tracking systems and a unique user interface for an atomic force microscope. The inventors are the principal owners of the three companies, DeltaSphere Inc., HiBall Tracker Inc. and NanoManipulator Inc., with the University owning a small percentage of each. The agreements provide for ongoing technology transfer between university researchers and the three start-up companies. The university researchers will continue to improve the technologies, while the start-ups will commercialize them through hardware and software engineering, feature enhancement and manufacturing.

Area Group Announces Scholarship Recipients

The Triangle Community Foundation announced the first round of recipients of scholarship awards for 2000. These scholarships represent lasting partnerships between the foundation and caring individuals and businesses from all over the Triangle. The Rotary Club of Chapel Hill Advised Fund gave three scholarships of \$500 each to Jennifer Galassi, Lisa Weissman-Ward and John Huang to attend UNC. The Kate Parks Kitchin Scholarship totaling \$1,500, established by the Class of 1942 of Rocky Mount High School in honor of Kitchin and her influence as a wise and compassionate educator at the school, is being given to Elizabeth Johnson Hendricks, who will attend UNC. The mission of the Triangle Community Foundation is to expand private philanthropy in the area by helping donors to support their charitable interests and increase the influence of their giving to benefit the public good. Currently, the foundation manages more than 400 philanthropic funds totaling more than \$81 million.

Registration Open for Photoshop Conference

Graphic designers, photographers and advertising professionals are invited to register for a seminar, "Photoshop Magic," to be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Aug. 4 in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication at UNC. The seminar will be cosponsored by the North Carolina Press Association. The morning session will include discussion of and practice with artistic and production elements, such as cloning, retouching, color spacing and coloring images. The afternoon session will cover preparing graphic elements for the World Wide Web. Speakers will include Larry Gates, electronic imaging specialist in the Smithsonian Institution's Office of Imaging, Printing and Photographic Services; Robin Johnston, features design director at The News & Observer in Raleigh; and Stacy Wynn, editorial production manager at The Daily Tar Heel. Registration is \$50. Registration forms are available at <http://metalab.unc.edu/jomc/general/special/execeducation/index.html>. Applicants must print the forms and fax them to 919-962-0620. For more information or to have a form mailed, contact Sabrina Davis, director of executive education, at 919-966-7024 or via e-mail at ssdavis@email.unc.edu.

From Staff Reports

Town Approves Budget, Curbside Pick-up

Chapel Hill will implement curbside garbage pickup after the Town Council included it in the budget.

KATE HARTIG
Staff Writer

Residents crammed into the council chambers of the Chapel Hill Town Hall Monday night to voice their opposition to curbside trash pick-up, a part of the town's \$50.6 million budget for 2000-01.

The Town Council approved the budget 5-4, raising the property tax by 1.5 cents and increasing the rate to 57.8 cents per \$100 assessed value.

But residents were more concerned that back-yard garbage collection was canceled by the council's action.

On June 5, a 5-4 vote passed a new

policy that would phase in curbside garbage pick-up for Chapel Hill over the next three years. Roll-out carts offered through the town are recommended in the new policy, but residents are also permitted to use their own containers.

Following the June 5 meeting, the five pro-curbside council members — Bill Strom, Jim Ward, Flicka Bateman, Edith Wiggins and Mayor Rosemary Waldorf — asked Town Manager Cal Horton to include the curbside program in this fiscal year's budget, starting July 1.

Several residents pleaded to the council Monday night in a last-minute attempt to change the newly adopted policy. Signs were posted all around the chamber saying, "Cure Spending, Not Trash," and "Trash Curbside Pick-up."

"The main problem with curbside is that it doesn't do anything for Chapel Hill," resident Jill Blackburn said. "It doesn't help the environment or encour-

age recycling."

Blackburn informed the council that a petition with several hundred signatures had been started in opposition to curbside garbage pick-up.

"We are asking for a solid-waste program that is both environmentally and fiscally responsible," she said. "The curbside program doesn't really save any money — a savings of \$54,000 for a \$50 million dollar budget is not a lot."

Councilman Kevin Foy proposed a resolution for a flexible solid waste program that eliminates curbside carts and



Council member Kevin Foy proposed a failed resolution that would have gotten rid of curbside garbage pickup.

looks into pay-as-you-throw options as a way to reduce waste and increase recycling. Foy, along with three other council members, Pat Evans, Lee Pavao and Joyce Brown, voted against curbside pick-up.

"I regret that I cannot support this year's budget with the inclusion of curbside," Foy said. "It fails to advocate valid citizen concern."

The resolution failed, 5-4, provoking "boos" from residents in the audience.

"Curbside has been consistently rejected for 19 years," resident Bill Clap said. "This issue has been met with more opposition than any other item on the agenda."

"It's an outrage," resident Janet Kagan said. "There will definitely be an aggressive organizational effort against this. It's not over."

Also with the adoption of the town's 2000-01 budget, town residents will pay

a Chapel Hill-Carrboro school district tax rate of 22 cents per \$100 and a new Orange County tax rate of 92.9 cents per \$100, which is up one penny compared to last year.

"The raising of taxes are without as much complaint because we are paying for those services," Clap said. "But we are not paying for the Town to manage cans and trucks, we are paying them to manage the people."

The town budget also includes for 2000-01 expanded services from Chapel Hill Transit to provide more consistent and extended hours year-round and on holidays, pending on money from state funds, an average 6.25 percent salary increase for town employees and additional police officers for two area middle schools and the two high schools.

The City/State and National Editor can be reached at sntdesk@unc.edu.

Land Preservation Is at Issue in State

RUSS LANE
Staff Writer

A group of legislators and nonprofit land conservancies gathered in Chapel Hill Friday to discuss how to balance the growth of North Carolina's urban developments with rural preservation.

The farm and open space work group of the Smart Growth, Growth Management and Development Issues Committee convened at the North Carolina Botanical Garden to learn about techniques and funding options the state and land conservancies could use in preserving open farmland.

Smart Growth Senior Advisor Meg Ryan O'Donnell said the committee was created to proactively generate suggestions on stabilizing growth before North Carolina, one of the nine fastest growing states in the country, grows out of control.

"Basically, the state was concerned that if it didn't look at ways to manage growth now," O'Donnell said, "it would lose the qualities that make North Carolina such a beautiful place to live and work."

Jill Schwartz, large director for the American Farmland Trust, informed the work group of preservation techniques that worked successfully in other parts of the country and presented various funding options. Schwartz said she was pleased the state is looking for middle ground between urban development and rural preservation, but that much of land preservation is on the local level.

"We see North Carolina in particular as one of the states we're most interested in working with," she said. "People across the state are starting to ask the basic question 'What do we want North Carolina to look like?,' and it's exciting."

Orange County Commissioner Barry Jacobs, a member of the work group, said all of Schwartz's advice will be considered. "It's all applicable, but it's a matter of the interests in landowners, the attitudes the developers take and the kind of money we generate," he said. "It's a question of what is best for the state — and what the state can afford."

Although nine North Carolina agencies and seven national funding agencies exist that can fund open space protection projects, Schwartz also said that direct taxation can be legislated to fund open space or farmland preservation.

Robert Caldwell, president of the N.C. State Grange, said state taxpayers need to expect these land preservation techniques to come at a cost. "If the people of North Carolina want to protect our environment, they are going to have to spend some money," Caldwell said.

Sen. Allen B. Wellons, D-Franklin, Johnston, Vance and Wilson, said that significant amounts of farmland were sold due to financial difficulties and the general public's misunderstanding of agriculture's importance in the state.

"We are in a rural depression in Eastern North Carolina," Wellons said. "If we need to, use the money to keep farmers farming to support what we call our number one industry in the state."

To aid in funding land preservation and helping farmers, Wellons told the committee the state was trying to allocate \$1.2 million for farmland preservation and create tax breaks for farmers.

Money and funding was also the concern of Kate Dixon, executive director of the non-profit Triangle Land Conservancy. One of four non-profit representatives at the meeting, Dixon spoke to the committee on problems



Senator and farmer Allen B. Wellons speaks about farm and open space preservation at a Smart Growth, Growth Management and Development Issues Committee meeting Friday at the N.C. Botanical Garden.

that many of the state's 24 non-profit conservancies or "land trusts" face from a lack of funding. Without increased funding, she said, land trusts cannot hire enough staff to satisfy everyone interested in selling their land for preservation.

Dixon cited the Triangle Land Trust's recent establishment of the Johnston Mill Nature Preserve in Orange County as an example. She said a lack of funding significantly complicated purchasing the acreage from its original owners, since some landowners are reluctant to divide large blocks of land into small quantities the trust can afford.

"If the state gave us more money, we could've done it much easier and quick-

er," she said.

With the majority of land preservation driven by nonprofit land trusts, parks and recreation departments and local governments, Dixon said the meeting was a welcome opportunity to coordinate strategies for fulfilling Gov. Jim Hunt's recent Million Acre Initiative.

Introduced at the first Smart Growth meeting in January, Hunt challenged the state to permanently save one million acres of open space by 2001. Jacobs said Smart Growth's planning and the initiative were not complementary, but merely paralleled one another.

"We're obviously cognizant that the effort was proposed, but it isn't neces-

sarily the impetus (behind Smart Growth)," he said. "Our focus is bigger than that."

Having already met twice, with more meetings planned across the state, the farm and open space work group has three counterparts — community, regional partnerships and transportation. Each Smart Growth work group began meeting separately in January, with occasional collaborative meetings since then. They will present a final recommendation to the General Assembly for approval by January 15, 2001.

The City/State and National Editor can be reached at sntdesk@unc.edu.

Fire Safety Bill Sparks Interest Searches Set to Begin for Two New Directors

Despite legislation moving through Congress, UNC housing officials say the bill will have little effect.

JENNIFER BROWN
Staff Writer

Federal legislation pending in the U.S. Congress could mandate that university campuses nationwide take necessary fire safety precautions, keeping officials at UNC on their toes.

But, officials said, whether the bill passes or not, all residence halls at the University will be outfitted with sprinkler systems. They speculated that such a project might take up to 20 years.

Dean Breciani, vice chancellor of student affairs, said the start date for the project was undetermined due to a lack of money. Its projected cost of \$19 million is a conservative estimate that will take an unprecedented number of years to complete, he said.

"We don't receive state funding or anything like that," he said. "The way we have to pay for this is through student rental rates, and obviously we can't saddle a \$19 million debt on any current renter."

If passed, the legislation will mandate all university residence halls be outfitted with sprinkler systems, flame resistant furniture and smoke alarms. The bill also outlines the possibility of making funds available to universities for the undertaking of such a project.

Even if the legislation is passed intact

with the added monetary provisions, it might not help cut the cost enough, Breciani said.

At UNC, residence halls are self funding, meaning no University, state or public money is spent on residence buildings.

"We can only spend what we generate through student rent," Breciani said. Although the buildings operate on a self-funding method, they are still considered state-owned, Breciani said.

If legislation were passed to provide partial funding, where it might be applied is not well-defined. The University already has a variety of other fire safety systems installed. Breciani said the legislation might prioritize funds on the basis that some universities are in worse need than others for fire safety systems.

Assuming the federal government picks up some of the cost, the question of how to raise the rest of the money remains.

"It has taken some creative finance planning to avoid an undue rate increase for residents and careful timing to do this without displacing students," Breciani said. "I'm pleased that we're making the progress we are and have a plan that reaches well into the future."

Though all residence halls at UNC have heat and smoke detectors installed, not all of the buildings are outfitted with sprinkler systems. In order for residence halls to have sprinkler systems installed, they must go through extensive renovations that would shut them down for at least a year, Breciani said.

"For us to do that, not only does it

cost a lot of money, but it means we are not able to house all of the students who want to live on campus," Breciani said.

To counter this problem Breciani said that as new residence halls are built, as planned, an older building would be shut down and renovated with the inclusion of a sprinkler system.

The order in which buildings are chosen is based on the need of a new system, Breciani said. North Campus residence halls will receive the systems first, followed by Mid and South Campuses.

South Campus buildings are the safest without the sprinkler systems because of the physical designs of the structure used when constructing the buildings, Breciani said.

Robin Yamakawa, president of the Residence Hall Association, said other measures will be taken to insure the safety of residents. Residence halls will undergo a facility walk through next year by officials from the housing department.

"In doing this, we hope to make people more aware about fire safety," Yamakawa said.

Two residence halls are currently receiving slight renovations, though sprinkler systems are not being installed. Both Morrison and Craige Residence Halls are being refurbished, though Morrison is going through the most extensive work. The building is being completely repainted, all wood surfaces refinished and new furniture installed.

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MARK THOMAS
Staff Writer

With the search for a provost continuing, University administrators are preparing to go on yet another hunt to fill high-level administrative positions.

Gerald Horne, former director of both the Sonja J. Stone Black Cultural Center and the Institute of African-American Research, announced last week that he will be officially vacating his posts on June 30.

With this announcement, UNC officials are again forced to fill important positions at the University.

But Horne's departure does not signify a major interruption in the workings of both organizations, as he has been away from the University for the past year as a Fulbright Scholar in Hong Kong.

Provost Dick Richardson said Horne requested an additional year of leave in late May or early June in order to continue his research in Hong Kong for another year.

With Horne not scheduled to return

to the University until July 2001, the need for full-time replacements in these posts became apparent.

Harry Amana, a journalism professor, has held both posts in an interim capacity since Horne's departure, and he will continue to do so until a search yields individuals to take over each post. Amana feels that Horne's officially vacating these posts will have no great effect on his approach to his work.

"I am going to continue doing what I've been doing," he said.

Although both positions are currently held by Amana, the duties will be divided up with one man heading each post.

Searches for new directors to guide the Stone Center and the Institute have yet to begin.

"We haven't appointed search committees yet," Richardson said. "The searches should be going in the next ten days to two weeks."

Although the positions are currently held by one man, the coming searches will not be bound together.

"The members of the boards for both organizations requested that the searches be done independently," Richardson said.

As with recent searches for individuals to fill administrative positions at UNC, these searches could take several months.

"I very much hope we can have both

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