

Forest Frolics
Drama in the
woods. See Page 2



Get the Lowdown

North Carolina takes on Tulsa in its first home game of the season.

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A Little Sun

Today: Muggy, 85

Saturday: Rainy, 85

Sunday: Rainy, 85

The Daily Tar Heel

Serving the students and the University community since 1893

Friday, September 1, 2000

Owner: Parking Lot Set for Drastic Improvements

But some students say they won't use Tar Heel Parking even if owner Gus Mueller completes all the proposed renovations.

By KIM MINUGH
University Editor

Gus Mueller, whose Tar Heel Parking business has taken heat recently for questionable practices, said he is in the process of improving the lot's condition to alleviate concerns raised by his student customers.

"Our parking lot is not a pile of rubble," he said. "There was some, but not on our lot. I can see how people got mistaken."

UNC Student Legal Services has been flooded with student complaints about Mueller's business after students found the lot to be in shambles — or impossible to find at all.

Some students are angry that the parking lot's advertised features — such as 24-hour security and lighting — were nowhere to be seen.

Mueller contends that he had no control over the rubble that was left behind after the state demolished his former place of business, Romano's Pizza, which stood adjacent to the lot. And he says the lot, located at 1119 U.S. 501 South, is well on its way to being safe.

A Duke Power representative confirmed that the parking lot's lights Mueller requested were set Thursday morning. She said there are more lights on the way.

Mueller said he ordered a security camera from PSA Electronics to post in the lot, but that it will not be operational until Southern Bell installs a telephone line to transmit the signal to his office in Chapel Hill in a few weeks.

Mueller said his student customers got the wrong impression of his lot. "I can understand (the students) being upset. But it's very well-lit, and we're right by the intersection here."

But for the students who are finished doing business with Mueller, he said he might refund their money. "We're in the process of reassessing the policy for students who don't want to park here."

Mueller said his original policy was to allow

subletting as a form of returning students' money instead of an outright refund.

Freshman Daniel Cook, who purchased a parking spot from Mueller, is dealing with SLS to try to get his money back.

But he said that if that was not an option, he might consider parking there if the lot improved. "If that's the case, then I might consider parking there," he said. "I'd rather get my money back, but I could go for (parking there)."

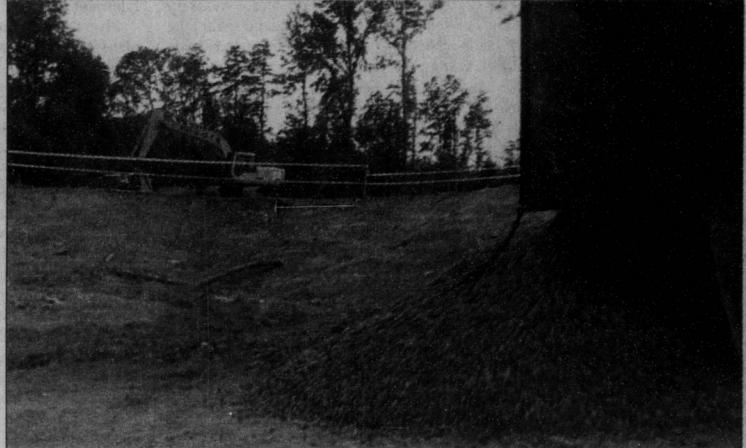
Not all of Mueller's patrons were as forgiving as Cook. Sophomores Shane Landrum and Mike Paduchowski said they would never consider continuing to do business with Mueller — or subletting their spaces.

Paduchowski said he did not want to involve anyone else by subletting. "I don't want to be responsible for anyone else parking there," he said.

Mueller said Tar Heel Parking has been legitimately doing business under the name of Mueller Corporation. "It's been a legal corporation in North Carolina since 1990," he said.

And he said his criminal record, which The

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DTH/SEFTON IPOCK

Gravel arrives at a parking lot that several students have claimed is inadequate. Gus Mueller said he is making improvements to the lot's condition.

Courtside Compromise Concludes Seat Debate

Students Gain Baseline Risers

By MARK THOMAS
Assistant University Editor

Two hundred students will cram painted bodies and bring rowdy voices onto risers during men's basketball games at the Smith Center this season.

Enthusiastic UNC officials presented an altered student seating plan at a press conference Thursday.

The plan, hashed out between the Department of Athletics, Carolina Athletic Association and the Educational Foundation, also calls for a shuffling of alumni, faculty and student lower-level seating.

"We wanted to move students closer to the action and enhance the atmosphere of the Smith Center," said Director of Athletics Dick Baddour.

About 200 standing-room spots will be created along the baseline in sections 116, 117 and 118, where the visiting team shoots in the first half of games.

Although students have lost 20 seats on the front row, they have gained 75 seats in the lower level, CAA President Tee Pruitt said.

He said construction on the stand-only risers has already started, and the risers will be ready for the Dec. 2 home game against Kentucky. Although the risers will not be ready for the NABC Classic tournament Nov. 10 and Nov. 11, the rearranged seating assignments will be in effect.

Student seating in the lower level will also be more dispersed. Seating had been restricted to a portion of section 109 and all of sections 110 through 117, located in the corner closest to the UNC bench.

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Seniors Jeremy Welch, Jay Williams and Simon Newman (left to right) sit on the new risers during the press conference for basketball game seating. The risers will be directly behind one of the baskets and reserved for students.

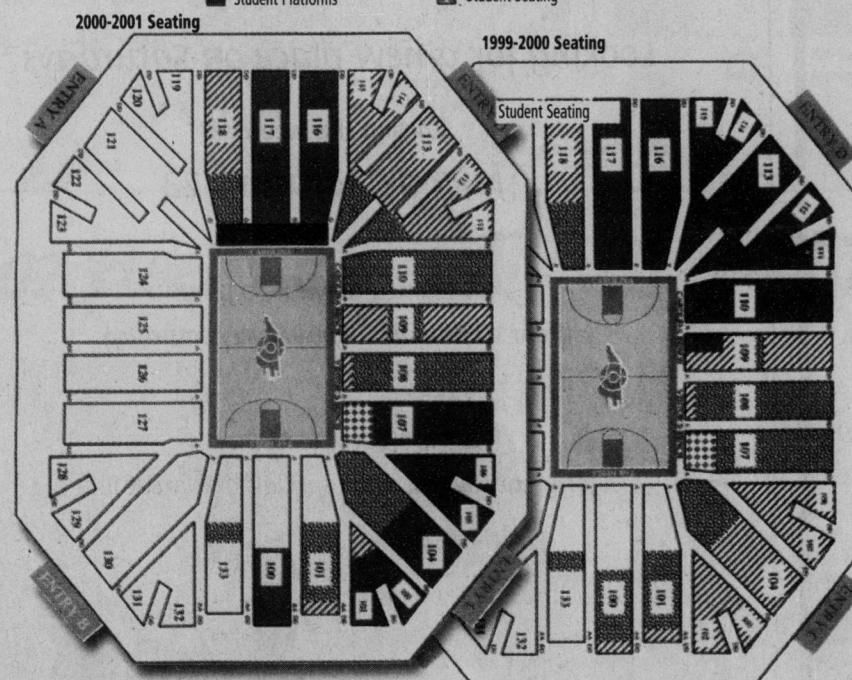
DTH/KATE MELLNIK

In the Hot Seats

This year's new seating program in the Smith Center brings students closer to courtside action. The Department of Athletics will oversee the construction of stand-only risers that will position 200 students on the baseline in hopes of adding some excitement to the game atmosphere.

■ Faculty/Staff Seating
■ Student Seating
■ Student Platforms

□ Foundation Permanent Seating
■ Foundation Endowment Seating
+ Student Seating



SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS

Football Game to Provide Outlet for Bond Campaign

By KATHLEEN HUNTER
State & National Editor

UNC bond campaign officials will use Sunday's Aggie-Eagle Classic as an opportunity to build support for the \$3.1 billion university and community college capital improvements package.

The annual football game between N.C. Agricultural & Technical and N.C. Central

universities will kick off at 6:30 p.m. at N.C. State University's Carter-Finley Stadium.

Bond supporters said they hope the game is the first of several events to provide an outlet for them to educate the public about the need for repair and renovation of the state's 16 university campuses and 59 community colleges. North Carolinians will vote on the bond proposal Nov. 7.

Reyna Walters, the campaign's student out-

reach coordinator, said she and close to 20 volunteers will set up a table outside the stadium.

The campaigners will try to persuade game attendees to register to vote. They will also pass out fliers detailing the need for capital funding, specifically at the state's historically black colleges and universities.

N.C. A&T and N.C. Central are two of the state's HBCUs.

Walters said she hopes education will erad-

icate any lingering concerns that HBCUs are not fairly represented in the proposal.

Several legislators voiced such concerns prior to the N.C. General Assembly's unanimous approval of the package in May.

Walters said the goal of the event is to increase public awareness and dialogue about the bond proposal.

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U.S. News Ranks UNC 3rd Among Public Schools

Although UNC has climbed two spots from last year, many University officials have downplayed the rankings' significance.

By ALEX KAPLUN
Assistant State & National Editor

U.S. News & World Report will release its 14th annual college rankings today, a publication that is popular among prospective college students but that often has its validity questioned by university officials.

In the 2001 edition of the magazine's college report, UNC ranked third among public universities and 25th overall.

But several University officials say the rankings are only a small indicator of a school's quality, despite UNC's improvement in this year's report.

Since last year, UNC has moved up in both the overall and the public university categories, where UNC placed 27th and 5th last year respectively. UNC is tied with University of California-Los Angeles and University of Michigan-Ann Arbor for third place in the rankings.

University of California-Berkeley and University of Virginia are tied for No. 1 among public universities.

Princeton University tops the list of best universities, knocking off last year's top dog, the California Institute of Technology.

Despite the improvement in UNC's ranking, University officials had conflicting views over the validity of the rankings.

"We would be mistaken to do what we do to move up on their pole," said Chancellor James Moeser.

He added that while his ultimate goal was to make UNC the best public university in the country, such a goal could not be achieved based purely on rankings.

"We want to be the best, but not for the sake of rankings, which can go up and down much like the stock market due to fluctuations in methodologies and other factors."

Student Body President Brad Matthews said he is pleased to see UNC rise in the rankings but that he does not put too much stock in them. "It's something that people pay more attention to than they should, but it's always nice to receive recognition," Matthews said.

UNC also went up in a category that was hotly debated last year — faculty resources. In previous years, UNC ranked behind its peer institutions in faculty resources. This figure was often cited last fall by proponents of a tuition increase to boost salaries. A \$600 tuition increase, to be phased in over two years, was approved by the N.C. General Assembly this summer.

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Diplomacy — the art of saying "nice doggie" 'til you can find a stick.

Wynn Catlin