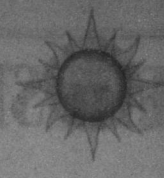


See Heels Run
Ground game on
fritz. See Page 9



Want to Write?
Applications for the Joanna
Howell Fund are available in the
DTH front office. See Page 2



Sunny Days
Today: Sunny, 86
Wednesday: Rainy, 86
Thursday: Sunny, 84

The Daily Tar Heel

www.unc.edu/dth

Serving the students and the University community since 1893

Tuesday, September 12, 2000

Digital Distraction

CCI Laptop Recall Announced After Many User Errors

By KIM MINUGH
University Editor

Critics called it overly ambitious. Cynics said it was unrealistic. Skeptics cried, "too much, too soon."

But no one guessed that the first problem with the Carolina Computing Initiative would be with the laptops themselves — and that it would stem from user error.

The late Chancellor Michael Hooker created CCI in 1998, hoping to cultivate the intellectual climate on campus by requiring all incoming freshmen to purchase laptop computers.

But Hooker's vision hit a roadblock at the semester's start when students began breaking a critical part of their laptops.

Academic Technology & Networks officials are announcing a recall today on all A20 IBM laptops purchased by freshman this year because of a problematic port. "This is really a preventative maintenance," said Tim CoyneSmith, a project manager with IBM and CCI coordinator.

He said some students have already ruined the networking, or Ethernet, port by forcing in the telephone cord, which should be connected in the adjacent port. This could pose a problem in the future for students making the same mistake.

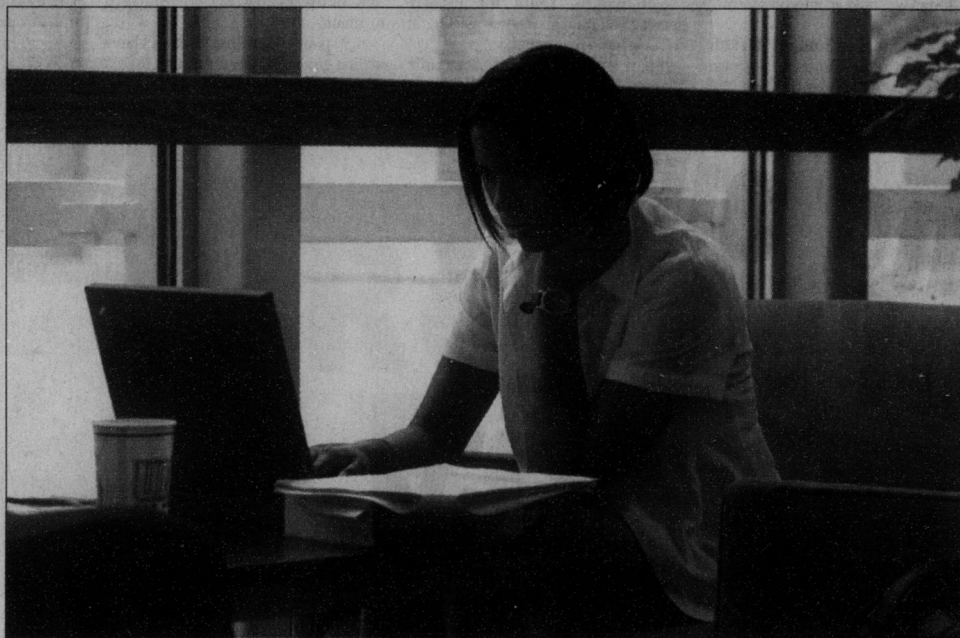
CoyneSmith said six IBM representatives will be on campus for two weeks, beginning next Monday. They will bring enough parts to replace the port in the 1,100 A20 laptops purchased by freshmen.

Linwood Futrelle, director of distributed support for ATN, said students will be notified via e-mail of their appointments with IBM representatives. Students will be assigned two days during which they can drop off their laptops and, depending on demand, pick them up the same day. "We want to get ahead before people start having problems," he said.

"We're sorry for the inconvenience, but it's better to get it fixed in advance."

See CCI, Page 5

Many UNC Faculty
Still Adjusting to
New Technologies
See Page 5



Norledia Moody, a freshman journalism major, works on a paper Monday in the Student Union. Moody said she thinks the laptops are very useful, but some students have complained that they are an inconvenience.

DTH/KATE MELLNK

Initiative Elicits Mixed Student Reactions

By ELIZABETH BREYER
Assistant University Editor

The sight of freshmen toting laptops across campus has become more familiar in the last three weeks, but only some of those newly wired students have smiles on their faces.

Although the Carolina Computing Initiative is living up to its promise for many, some students say the technology is too hard to use and the computers them-

selves often malfunction.

CCI, announced in 1998 by the late Chancellor Michael Hooker, requires all incoming freshmen to purchase a laptop computer starting this year. The University established a partnership with IBM, offering two models for sale to students at a discounted rate.

Norledia Moody, a freshman from Gaston, used her laptop to write a paper near a Student Union mural as she explained how convenient it is to have a

portable computer.

"It's so easy to pack it up and take it to class," she said.

Moody said she is required to use her new IBM laptop in her English 11 class and also finds it helpful for many other classes.

But freshman Rebecca Bennett said her computer is a mixed blessing, creating diversions at the same time it connects her to her teachers and her work.

See STUDENTS, Page 5

Candidate Withdraws From List

Peter Spear cited personal and professional reasons for taking himself out of the running for UNC provost.

By KIM MINUGH
University Editor

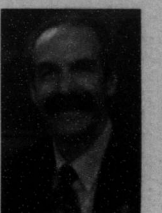
Officials announced Peter Spear's withdrawal Monday from UNC's provost search, less than a week before his scheduled campus appearance.

Spear, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Colorado-Boulder, said he notified the Provost Search Committee of his decision late last week.

He was set to participate in an open forum Thursday as the final candidate in the provost selection process.

The decision stemmed from personal matters as well as a commitment to Boulder, Spear said.

"My wife has a company that she is in the process of merging and she needs to stay in the Boulder area," he said from his Boulder office Monday. "And I have spent four years improving the governance and culture of the university and have decided that I would like to firmly establish it."



Ex-provost candidate Peter Spear said he will not leave the University of Colorado-Boulder for the UNC post.

Richard Soloway, vice chairman of the search committee, said Spear had some reservations even at the start of the search.

"I know he had some domestic considerations on his mind," Soloway said. "He was concerned about some initiatives at Colorado that made him ambivalent even at the beginning (of the search)."

Spear was the last candidate scheduled to visit UNC before the committee met to confer about the finalists.

Soloway said the committee hopes to refer three names to Chancellor James Moeser, who will then select the finalist for the post.

The forums conclude today with William Roper, dean of the School of Public Health at UNC. He will speak in the Wilson Assembly Room from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Upon his arrival at UNC, Moeser merged the roles of provost and executive vice chancellor, creating a post presiding over both academic and budgetary affairs.

The late Chancellor Michael Hooker created the executive vice chancellor position in 1995 for current Western Michigan University President Elson Floyd, who held the office until 1998.

The search for a provost first began under Hooker in May 1999 when former Provost Dick Richardson announced his plans to retire in June 1999.

But the search was postponed after Hooker's June death, and it did not reconvene until Moeser took office in August.

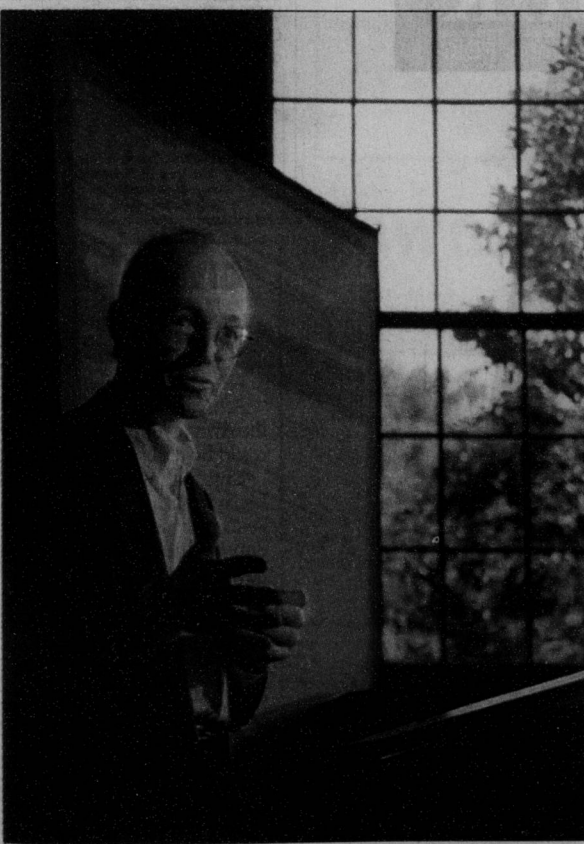
The remaining four candidates include Roper, Paul Courant of the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, Karen Lawrence of the University of California-Irvine and Robert Shelton of the University of California-Davis.

Soloway said the search will continue as planned.

"I think the process is right on schedule," he said. "I don't think there will be any effect on time."

The University Editor can be reached at udesk@unc.edu.

The University Editor can be reached at udesk@unc.edu.



DTH/MILLER PEARSALL

Red Hat co-founder Bob Young discusses [ibiblio.org](http://www.ibiblio.org), which was created to increase the amount of easily accessible information online.

File-Sharing Web Site Debuts

A partnership between UNC and the Red Hat foundation spawned [ibiblio.org](http://www.ibiblio.org), a site that offers free downloads.

By ELIZABETH BREYER
Assistant University Editor

Students looking for anything from Dolly Parton audio files to information on a virtual institute about lunar exploration have a new Internet resource from which to download multimedia files.

A partnership unveiled Monday between the Red Hat Center and UNC will create a Web site offering files in a format that anyone can download, copy or modify.

The site, dubbed "The People's Library" by organizers, is located at <http://www.ibiblio.org>.

The project was spurred by a \$4 million gift from the Red Hat Center, a Durham philanthropic organization established to promote sharing and availability of information. The center is endowed by Red Hat Inc., an information technology company that is one of the largest distributors of the Linux computer operating system.

Sen. Ellie Kinnaird, D-Orange, Chancellor James Moeser and singer-songwriter Roger McGuinn, formerly of

The Byrds, also attended the launch in Wilson Library's Rare Books Collection to show their support for the "open source" philosophy of information sharing.

"Throughout history, the university is dedicated to the freedom of speech, freedom of thought and the free exchange of ideas," Moeser said. "Ibiblio, which we call the public's library, is a natural extension of this university's freedom."

The site represents a partnership between MetaLab (formerly known as SunSITE), an archive and information-sharing site founded by UNC in 1992, and the Red Hat Center.

Organizers of the project stressed the importance of making information free and available and allowing contributions from the public.

"What we hope to do in the future is build a contributor-run library," said Paul Jones, a UNC professor and founder of MetaLab.

"We don't want to take ownership away, but we want people who are usually patrons to become participants."

McGuinn also discussed the importance of making information widely accessible. He testified July 11 before the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee on the future of downloading digital music from the Internet. McGuinn said he has been placing his own recordings on the MetaLab site for the last five years.

"The Internet is the only way to preserve tradition, because the mass media is so controlled that the Internet is the only way to have artistic freedom for (artists) to express themselves," he said.

Jones showed off the two new multimedia collections available on the site, "Goldband Recording Archives" and "Like A Family — The Making of a Southern Cotton Mill World."

These exhibits offer opportunities for clients to download files in formats such as photograph and film.

Bob Young, founder of Red Hat Inc., said this type of file sharing represented a spread of information that would lead to worldwide awareness.

"Dissemination of knowledge is starting to occur on a scale mankind has never seen before — it's pretty exciting stuff," he said.

Young said MetaLab is a world-renowned organization that UNC could utilize in numerous ways.

"SunSITE and MetaLab have made UNC one of the most famous institutions worldwide on the Internet," he said. "MetaLab produces hundreds of millions of bits of data every day, and to be in the position to make this contribution and take it to the next level is a great honor."

Moeser encouraged faculty and staff members attending the event to explore the site themselves on the laptop computers set up in the Rare Books Collection.

He said the expanding partnership would enrich the University's intellectual environment. "We are truly grateful for this opportunity and will use the tool to further the expression of knowledge, which is what the University is all about."

The University Editor can be reached at udesk@unc.edu.

The University Editor can be reached at udesk@unc.edu.

Technology ... throws daily another loop of fine wire around our souls.

Adlai E. Stevenson