



The Daily Tar Heel

www.unc.edu/dth

Serving the students and the University community since 1893

Wednesday, September 20, 2000



Marisela Vazquez, an IBM technician from Mexico, works on a recalled laptop Tuesday.

ATN Officials Say Freshmen Not Lining Up for CCI Recall

By DANIEL THIGPEN
Staff Writer

Academic Technology & Networks officials envisioned massive lines of freshmen awaiting service on their newly purchased computers when they launched a recall of A20 IBM laptops this week.

Instead, the basement of Wilson Library was desolate for Monday and Tuesday's repair schedule. "Right now, it's pretty slow," said Steve Fearrington, ATN associate director. "We were hoping for a much better turnout."

At the start of the semester, many students unknowingly damaged the networking ports on their laptops by forcing in telephone cords, Fearrington said.

When ATN noticed a surge of these incidents reported since classes started, it promptly offered free maintenance to squelch the inconveniences.

ATN issued multiple e-mails to nearly 1,100 A20 owners, urging them to have their laptops inspected. Technicians anticipated 100 to 150 students a day and began scheduling visits based on students' last names.

But officials say the actual turnout is not meeting expectations. Fearrington said IBM is offering six technicians and hopes students will take advantage of the resources.

"We're ready when (the students) are able to come in," said Bruce Egan, a computer consultant with the IT Response Center.

Egan said the procedure for inspection and repair is simple. Upon check-in at ATN, the computer is quickly disassembled. The faulty part is removed and replaced, and diagnostic tests are run before the computer is returned.

The process takes about 20 minutes, and students get their computers back within hours, depending on how many students come to the center. "I think they're pleased that we can do it so quickly," Egan said. "We've done the hard part — we've gotten the logistics down."

Both Egan and Fearrington stressed the importance of making students aware of the services being offered.

But the 1,100 e-mails sent to students only produced about 30 student visits Monday and just over that Tuesday, Egan said.

Fearrington said he believes that the word is

getting out, but that many students are not as concerned as expected. "Unfortunately, it tends to be human nature to think, 'Well, (ATN) will be there for two weeks,'" he said.

Students are not charged for the service or replacement part, and Tim Blair, spokesman for IBM, said the cost to IBM does not seem to be a prevalent concern. "We haven't determined any costs from that perspective," he said. "It's just the cost of business."

Among the students who actually heeded ATN's e-mails, few seemed to have any problems with their computers. "I'm just bringing it back just in case," said Elizabeth Crutcher, a freshman political science major. "It's just a pain to lug (the laptop over to ATN)."

Fearrington said a recall so early in Carolina Computing Initiative's development is not a negative predictor of the program's future.

"The biggest concern is to make sure people are aware and to come on down," he said. "I think they'll be pleased with the process."

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

Push Starts To Relocate Students

Officials say students living off-campus limit affordable housing options for needy residents of Chapel Hill.

By ISAAC GROVES
Staff Writer

Two UNC alumni have been hired to rewrite a town ordinance that would push students out of residential neighborhoods, freeing up more affordable housing.

Because of the large number of UNC students moving off campus, affordable housing options across town have decreased, Chapel Hill planning consultant Dwight Merriam said during a Tuesday morning press conference.

In response, the Chapel Hill Town Council has hired two planning experts, Lane Kendig and Merriam, to revise the town's development ordinance, which sets regulations for residential construction and zoning.

Because of its age and evolving housing issues, the 1981 ordinance needs simplification and clarification, which Kendig and Merriam said they intend to provide. But the effort is still in its fledgling stages, so no concrete plans have been established.

Merriam said families found it difficult to compete with "six or eight students with four cars and two keys."

"Students in single-family neighborhoods are at least a nuisance, if not a blight," he said.

A possible solution, Merriam said, is steering students to housing closer to campus where they can get by without a car and without disturbing neighbors with children.

Chapel Hill Planning Director Roger Waldon agreed that students' combined buying power is a problem for working families but said many parts of town already have regulations reserving the neighborhood for families.

"The general rule is that if there are more than four unrelated people, that does not qualify as a family," Waldon said.

While the process of updating the development ordinance began in July, Waldon said the issue picked up speed after Monday night's Town Council meeting. Council members had the opportunity to discuss some of their hopes and concerns for the project.

"The process is fewer than 24 hours old," Waldon said.

But Merriam and Kendig stressed that, even at these early stages of the project, residents' comments are important.

"This is the most critical period for public input and, characteristically, the lowest point of public interest," Kendig said.

Kendig and Merriam will return with their diagnosis Oct. 18. The Town Council also will hold a public hearing at that time.

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

The Napster Battle Rages From Courts To Campuses

By DANIELE EUBANKS
Staff Writer

A nasty little word has wriggled its way into American culture; perhaps someone has shared it with you. It rolls off the tongue and pricks the ears, enticing many and inciting others.

The word? It's Napster. Naaaap-sterrrr. Sounds dirty, doesn't it? Perhaps that's part of its appeal to the more than 20 million members of the Napster MP3-sharing community.

But while a computer program that allows members to download virtually any song from the Internet for free seems great to the average Joe, many musicians and members of the recording industry say Napster is allowing people to steal their music.

They want to put the company to bed for good.

It's funny, then, that the chief operating officer, Milton E. Olin, Jr., used to work for the companies suing Napster, A&M Records and the Recording Industry Association of America.

The RIAA is waiting for its second bout of bickering with Napster, which will be staged in the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals beginning Oct. 2.

The RIAA represents a number of musi-



DTH/JASON COOPER AND SALEEM RESHAMWALA

cians, like Dr. Dre and Metallica, who think Napster's file-sharing technology helps people steal music and is a violation of copyright law.

On July 26, the U.S. District Court agreed, ordering Napster to take its service offline. But Napster refused to pull the plug. "We believe that the District Court simply did not understand the Napster technology and how it is used by the Napster community," Napster said in its appeal.

Two days after the ruling, Napster was granted a stay, allowing it time to present its case. The problem with this case is that no one is sure how to apply existing copyright laws to the

new Napster technology, said UNC media law instructor and attorney Karl Schmid.

Erik 4-A, founder of Vagrant Records, an independent label based in Seattle, thinks Napster robs artists. "At this point in time, everything I have worked for is no longer valid because they steal it," he said.

4-A started the small, punk label in 1989. A large part of Vagrant's profits comes from Internet sales, 4-A said, and while Napster may help publicize some of the label's bands, he thinks its benefits do not outweigh its costs.

"It becomes accessible to everybody, which is great in theory ... but harms little businesses like myself who are selling their stuff."

4-A said he is also concerned about protecting his artists' creative property. "I don't give a shit about greedy bastards like Lars Ulrich (of

Metallica), but his fear is that he is going to lose control of his stuff, and that's valid."

Some might say Shawn Fanning, who created Napster during his freshman year at Northeastern University, does not give much thought to Ulrich's feelings either.

Sporting a Metallica T-shirt at the recent MTV Video Music Awards, Fanning told MTV VJ Carson Daly, "You like it? Thanks, a friend shared it with me. I'm thinking of getting my own though." The camera caught his coy wink and panned to a grimacing Ulrich.

Roger McGuinn of '60s rock icon the Byrds testified before the Senate about the controversy in July. He explained his fence-straddling position when he spoke at UNC on Sept. 11.

See NAPSTER, Page 7

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

Magazine Names UNC 'Best Buy' of Public Universities

By LESLIE BUMGARDNER
AND MICHAEL MCKNIGHT
Staff Writers

Despite this year's \$300 tuition increase, one publication recently named UNC the best bargain among public universities.

The October issue of Kiplinger's Personal Finance magazine ranked UNC the best value among the nation's public colleges and universities for the second time. The rankings are primarily based on two factors — quality and cost.

UNC received the high ranking in spite of the largest percentage tuition increase of any public university in the nation last year — 22 percent.

This summer, the N.C. General Assembly approved a \$600 tuition increase at UNC and N.C. State University to be phased in over a two-year period.

UNC-system officials are also in the preliminary stages of discussing a 4 percent across-the-board tuition increase that would go into effect next school year.

Kiplinger's Senior Associate Editor Kristin Davis said UNC could easily increase tuition even further without impacting the ranking.

"Even with an increase in total costs of up to \$1,000, UNC would remain the nation's best value among public universities," Davis said.

But Shannon Goodrum, a senior political science major, who was an outspoken opponent of last year's tuition increase, said she doesn't think rankings are a reliable measure of value because they vary in methodology.

"I don't trust any rankings because they differ so much in qualifications," Goodrum said.

Many students vehemently opposed the tuition increase last year when it was being considered by University officials, claiming that rising costs would prevent lower-income students from gaining access to UNC.

But several University officials said the high rankings vindicated the decision to raise tuition.

Jerry Lucido, undergraduate director of admissions, said the recent tuition

increases will not impact lower-income students because the University will continue to provide an appropriate level of financial aid to such students.

Lucido also said the tuition increase would not hurt the University's placement in future rankings and in recruiting top students.

"Obviously, we are pleased that an independent source has recognized what we already knew," he said. "When you look at institutions of similar quality, our tuition is very low."

UNC's tuition increase went to fund

faculty salary increases — a factor some tuition proponents claim is crucial to ensuring a school's quality.

Economics Professor John Stewart, who vocally supported the tuition increase last year, said he did not expect the University's rising cost to dampen its image as an affordable, quality institution. "(The ranking) doesn't surprise me, given how low we were, even with the tuition increase."

The State & National Editor can be reached at stntdesk@unc.edu.

Music is the only one of the arts that cannot be prostituted to a base use.

Elbert Hubbard