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Chapel Hill students will trek
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Students, Faculty Argue Fairness of Cheating Ruling

Students and faculty hold
strongly divided opinions
on the guilty verdict in this
weekend's Honor Court case.

By ROBERT ALBRIGHT
AND LOREN CLEMENS
Staff Writers

Computer screens were not the only things buzzing in Sitterson Hall on Monday, as students hotly debated the verdict of Sunday night's open Honor Court hearing.

Senior Mike Trinh and junior Brianne

Roth were found guilty of academic cheating in connection with unauthorized group work on a programming assignment for Professor James Coggins' Computer Science 120 class last semester.

Although many computer science faculty members feel the ruling was just, other faculty and students said they are outraged by the decision.

Senior computer science major Heather Morgan, who was in Coggins' class last semester but was not charged with cheating, said she thought the Honor Court could have interpreted the evidence differently.

"I don't agree with the way the

Honor Court is handling everything," she said.

"I have a really hard time believing that many people cheated."

Coggins turned in 24 of his Computer Science 120 students to the Honor Court this summer. He said there were a few procedural errors in the open hearing but that the Honor Court worked hard with little recognition.

He also said it is his duty to report any suspected cheating and that the Court interpreted the Student Code of Conduct correctly.

"I am not winning anything from doing this," Coggins said. "This is my duty as I see it under the (code)."

Steven Matuszek, a graduate computer science student last year, spoke in Coggins' defense.

"It sounds to me like (the groupwork) was definitely not fair to students who worked unaided," Matuszek said. "I don't know if the situation was dealt with correctly, but Coggins did what the department Web page says."

The site advises professors to take any instances of suspected academic dishonesty directly to the Honor Court.

But Roth, who received an F in the course and was suspended for the fall semester, said the court proceedings and outcome were unjust.

"I felt the Honor Court would be

fair," Roth said. "What happened made a travesty of the (UNC) honor system."

Roth cited her failure to receive an individual trial and Student Attorney General Taylor Lea's decision to testify against the defendants as examples of how the hearing was unfair.

Computer science Professor Sanjoy Baruah, who served as a character witness for Trinh, also said he was disappointed in the outcome of the court proceedings. "The Honor Court made a completely incorrect decision," he said.

Trinh, who also received an F and was put on academic probation, said he was "very disappointed" after the verdict was reached and will submit an

appeal soon. While Trinh did not comment further on the case, other students involved in the cheating controversy openly discussed the proceedings.

Senior computer science major Evelyn Salazar, who was among the students charged by Coggins, participated in a closed hearing last week. She said the court proceedings could have been avoided if Coggins had communicated better with his students last semester.

"I never felt we were breaking the Honor Code," she said. "We thought we were doing the right thing because group work was encouraged."

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Abortion Pill Fuels Old Debate

Now that the FDA approved
RU-486, the drug will be
available in some Orange
County health care centers.

By BEN GATLING
Staff Writer

An abortion drug recently approved by the federal government that provides a nonsurgical way to terminate pregnancies continues to fuel controversy on the local level.

The Food and Drug Administration approved the abortion drug mifepristone, or RU-486, on Thursday. The pill allows a woman to have an abortion without traditional invasive procedures by terminating the fetus and then helping the body to expel it.

Kaye Michaels, spokeswoman for Planned Parenthood of Orange and Durham counties, said she is overjoyed that women in the area have a new choice.

"It's just another option for women seeking an abortion," she said.

But even though the FDA has approved the drug, Michaels said Planned Parenthood will not offer it in the area until sometime next year to ensure that its employees are aware of all the dangers and advantages of the drug.

"We already do extensive counseling, but this is a little different," she said. "There is a little more education going on."

During a woman's first visit to the clinic, the FDA requires her to obtain counseling to receive the first dose of the drug, which blocks a hormone necessary for the pregnancy to continue. The patient returns a few days later to receive the final pill to expel the fetus.

After a woman aborts the fetus, she must go to her doctor again for a check-up to ensure the fetus has been completely removed. The only restriction for this type of abortion is that women must have completed the procedure by the seventh week of their pregnancy, Michaels said.

But Barbara Holt, president of Right to Life, a local chapter of the anti-abortion lobbying group, said the drug can cause problems for women and for future pregnancies.

"In addition to killing the baby, it poses great health risks," Holt said. "It's not just a simple little drug."

Holt said the drug can cause severe uterine hemorrhaging, and there is also a risk of future infertility. The FDA Web site states that this occurred in 1 percent of patients in clinical trials.

Although the drug has been available in France since 1988, certain obstacles

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PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY JASON COOPER AND LAUREN DAUGHTERY

Students Tote Textbooks in Style Bookbags Combine Accessory and Necessity

By SHAHRZAD REZVANI
Staff Writer

What used to be an efficient device for lugging around a day's worth of textbooks has become an element of style.

With the introduction of the messenger and sling-style bags, combined with redesigned two-strap backpacks, backpacks are being customized for stylish and technological appeal.

"I don't use it for function, only for fashion," said Kathy Nawabi, a junior from Durham, of her messenger bag.

Nawabi's backpack is decorated with a colorful array of Chinese characters, symbol and pictures.

While the structure of her bag is common on campus, its Chinese print speaks louder than a typical messenger bag. "There are so many colors, so it matches with everything. It's kind of got a tacky quality to it," Nawabi said.

With only one strap, the popular messenger bags cross over the torso and land

on one hip.

Sallie Fleckenstein, a sophomore from Statesville, said it was the dignified appearance of her messenger bag that led to her purchase. "I think it looks a lot more professional," she said.

While her messenger bag does not hold many books, she said she has easy access to it on her hip. "They're convenient if you want to get something out," she said.

Also prevalent on campus is the sling bag — a one-shoulder pack that sits diagonally across the back.

Sam Yellen, a junior from Raleigh who owns a sling bag, praised the new fashion statement.

"It's not as bulky as regular backpacks are, and you can fit a lot of stuff in them," Yellen said. "It also looks pretty cool, too."

But it's not all about appearance.

Students are also buying bags that carry their gizmos and gadgets.

So as people with cellular phones and CD players flood the Pit, and students prop open laptops in the quad's shade,

today's bags have pockets, once used for pencils and pens, which now carry compartments for portable necessities.

The Gap sells a backpack called the Urban Laptop, which has multiple padded slots for different devices.

The two-strap pack features a main compartment with a cushioned divider for a laptop ideal for students carrying their ThinkPads alongside their textbooks.

The bag also has a padded CD player holder and an earphone-jack opening to make it easier for those who want a dose of DMX between their calculus and history classes.

Cheryl Honeycutt, manager of the Gap at 108 E. Franklin St., said the store's sling-style bag with its detachable cellular phone case was the company's most frequently sold accessory. "It's definitely more of an urban look. It's not really for textbooks," she said.

Although these bags might bring a ver-

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Funding Needs Remain, Despite Slower Growth

Interim Provost Richard Edwards says the
University still needs capital funding, even
though enrollment projections are down.

By ALEX KAPLUN
Assistant State & National Editor

University officials still say they need \$500 million to improve facilities, despite the provost office's recent prediction that enrollment growth will be slower than previously projected.

At Thursday's Board of Trustees meeting, interim Provost Richard Edwards announced that UNC-Chapel Hill's projected enrollment growth through 2008 would be only 2,200 students.

UNC-system officials have projected that UNC-CH will absorb nearly 6,000 new students in the same time period.

University advocates have used projected enrollment growth as leverage in their quest for additional state funding.

UNC-Chapel Hill is set to receive half a billion dollars if voters approve a \$3.1 billion bond referendum to fund capital improvements at the state's universities and community colleges Nov. 7.

John Hood, president of the John Locke Foundation — one of the few groups whose members have organized some opposition against the bond — questioned the necessity of such a large bond package, especially if enrollment growth is slower than originally projected.

"The bond referendum's main purpose is expansion," Hood said. "If there's any question about the rate of expansion, then that questions the need of the whole bond."

Hood also said he questioned the need for rapid expansion because it would mostly add underqualified students into the system.

But Bruce Runberg, UNC associate vice chancellor for facilities, said the drop in projected enrollment will not have an impact on either facility needs or upcoming construction projects.

Runberg also said the determination of capital needs was based on three factors — renovation needs, existing deficiencies and projected enrollment growth.

"(Enrollment) was only one part of the requirement," he said, citing the need for a new science complex with a price tag of about \$90 million.

Edwards said the lower projected enrollment does not decrease UNC's facilities needs.

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NCSU Students Camp Out for Cash

Six campus organizations
are participating in this
week's Shack-A-Thon to aid
those in unsuitable housing.

By AIMEE BROWN
Staff Writer

RALEIGH — Seven wooden-slab shacks strung with Christmas lights and topped with garbage bag roofing are prominently positioned in the brick walkway in front of the D.H. Hill Library at N.C. State University.

The shacks are part of an annual weeklong effort called the Shack-A-Thon, which is meant to raise awareness

of inadequate housing and raise funds to eliminate it nationwide.

The event is sponsored by the N.C. State chapter of Habitat for Humanity and six other campus organizations — N.C. State Spanish Club, Parks Scholars, Bisexual Gay and Lesbian Alliance, Wolfpaws in student government, Hope 4 the Homeless and Inner Residence Council.

The organizations are staging a friendly competition to see who can raise the most money from passers-by willing to donate to their cause.

Bisexual Gay and Lesbian Alliance member Chloe Palenchar, a senior computer engineering major from Wilmington, said she is participating in the Shack-A-Thon to promote social justice.

"Helping stop one (form of) oppression helps all," she said. "Solidarity."

Students began building their shacks Sunday afternoon and worked into the night. The shacks will be manned 24 hours a day until Friday afternoon.

Jason Hedrick, president of the N.C. State chapter of Habitat for Humanity, said he hopes the effort will make more students aware of the conditions in which many people live.

"In general, our purpose is to raise awareness about lack of affordable housing and make students aware that people really do live like this," he said.

Hedrick said the event will likely help Habitat for Humanity reach its \$8,000

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DTH/MILLER PEARSALL

Jason Hedrick, president of the N.C. State University chapter of Habitat for Humanity, works on the group's shack on the campus Brickyard.

'Bagman' is not a legitimate career choice.

Bart Simpson, on the blackboard