



PHOTO COURTESY OF FAYE SCHULMAN

Faye Schulman was in the Russian partisan movement from 1942-45.

SURVIVOR
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are and where we have been." Senior Priya Gupta explained why she found the speech so interesting.

"These people from the Holocaust won't be around much longer, and it's so much more interesting to hear the events in person than to read about it."

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RURAL
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Pierson said the idea for the commission came from a recommendation by the Rural Prosperity Task Force - a group aimed at improving economic conditions in less-developed N.C. counties. Leutze said the commission will research how to wire rural areas, what technology to use and how to finance the programs.

He also said statewide Internet access will help rural businesses compete with their computer-savvy counterparts in urban areas like the Research Triangle Park and Charlotte.

Leutze said he hopes competition will secure the future economic development in the state. "We hope it will stem the flow of people moving out of rural communities to urban communities."

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DIVIDE
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to 40.8 percent of white homes. This year, UNC began CCI - a program outlined by the late Chancellor Michael Hooker, requiring freshmen to own laptop computers.

UNC faculty agree on how vital computers are to the learning process. Todd Taylor, assistant professor of English, said he believes the educational benefits of programs such as CCI improve the academic experience.

"When each student has a networked computer, they can learn to share ideas and write more effectively," he said. Yet University officials realize that the national digital divide prohibits some freshmen from buying laptops.

According to a UNC Office of Scholarships and Student Aid report, the number of students on financial aid has been at 35 percent for the last few years.

While formulating CCI, Marian Moore, vice chancellor of Information Technology, and other officials concluded that some students could not afford a computer on top of tuition.

"We are experiencing a digital divide on campus. Students on financial aid are at a disadvantage," Moore said. "UNC would have never required a laptop if the financial aid was not available."

Moore is committed to uphold the words of Hooker: "No student will be denied admission to Carolina because they can't afford to purchase a laptop." The University has allotted grants for freshmen to cover portions or all of the two IBM laptops offered.

"Over one-third of the freshmen class qualified for some degree of financial aid in the form of grants," said John

Gorsuch, RAM Shop manager. If they buy their computers through UNC, students can choose between the IBM A20 or 600X laptops.

As of Sept. 28, 943 students received full grants for the A20 laptop - the less costly of the two.

Of the grants given, more than 50 percent were for \$2,000 of the \$2,309 for the A20. There is not a full grant available for the 600X, which costs about \$800 more.

To date, CCI has given \$2.31 million to incoming freshmen in grants.

But bridging the digital divide is not just left up to the government and UNC officials. Students on campus have been active in closing the gap.

Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity Inc. sponsored a "think tank" on closing the divide. "Reports showed that the gap in computer ownership between blacks and whites widened from 1994 to 1997, increasing from 16 percent to 21 percent," said Charles Campbell, who led the discussion.

The group also discussed ways to bridge the gap. "Ideas ranged from donating old computers to those who do not have one, to asking corporations to donate computers to those who need them," Campbell said.

And as the Internet begins to replace encyclopedias, the digital divide can prohibit students from obtaining a full educational experience.

Moore said the technological knowledge disparity at UNC has been lessened by CCI, but she has yet to stop her efforts. "We need more efficient ways to distribute knowledge because there is so much more of it. We must make information more easily available."

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SCROGGS
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made up his mind.

"Yes, (I would vote for Lee)," he said. "I think he is a very responsible man."

Lee said he was more than happy to speak to the students. "What we have been doing is going around to schools

and meeting with students," Lee said. "This has been a trend of mine when the legislature is not in session."

Lee said he feels talking with students is beneficial to both the students and to him. He explained how they helped him by sharing an anecdote of how the emergency alarm system came to exist in Chapel Hill.

Lee said that while speaking to a

LT. GOVERNOR
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while Cochrane supports privatization. He said the race was closely following issues debated in the gubernatorial race, particularly K-12 and higher education.

Both candidates say they support the \$3.1 billion higher education bond referendum, which will fund capital construction at the state's universities and community colleges. The lieutenant governor heads the Board of Community Colleges and sits on the State Board of Education.

Cochrane said new science labs and renovation of older buildings - which the bond would fund - are important.

But she wants to hold UNC-system leaders accountable for their expenditures. "I want to see to it that the trustees and Board of Governors do a good job setting spending priorities," she said, emulating the stance of Republican gubernatorial candidate Richard Vinroot.

Cochrane said she wants to make technological advancements at the community colleges by starting new degree programs specific to area job needs.

Cochrane also said she plans to enact tougher competency standards in grades K-12. "I will work to make a diploma mean 12 years of competency so we have a smart finish for schools," she said.

Cochrane said she supports removing the state's cap on charter schools and advocates a trial of private school vouchers for students in failing schools.

But Purdue said she opposes tuition vouchers and would examine future charter school expansion.

"We need to make sure that all our kids can have a top-notch education, not ripping millions of dollars out of our public school system," she said, echoing the campaign rhetoric of Democratic

gubernatorial candidate Mike Easley. Purdue said technological advances paid for by the bond are integral to the future of higher education in the state.

According to her Web site, Carter advocates changing K-12 education by making learning techniques more hands-on and tailored to the individual student.

Next to education, the state's economy is receiving the most attention. The next lieutenant governor will head the state's Economic Development Board.

Purdue said she would maintain the state's reputation as a good place to do business in, while expanding business to rural areas, increasing average wages.

Cochrane said she plans to maintain low tax rates, while strengthening transportation and water infrastructure.

Carter's Web site said she supports environmentally friendly businesses.

The lieutenant governor candidates have backed initiatives for the aging like prescription drug programs.

Cochrane said she supports using partnerships between businesses, communities and families to help focus on in-home care for the elderly, while Purdue focuses on patient protection and affordability of prescription drugs.

Carter's Web site said she is primarily concerned with preventative medicine.

With Election Day two weeks away, Guillory said the race is too close to call.

But he said the presidential election will bring more people than usual to the polls, dividing the vote along party lines.

"Once you get below the office of governor, it's very hard for candidates to break into public consciousness," Guillory said. "The lieutenant governor's role is much more of influence and persuasion than a position of direct power."

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the event was a success because he believes the issues discussed are now part of everyday conversation and not just the classroom.

"I would love to do this more often," he said. "The kids are much more in tune with the election."

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