



ANNE FAWCETT

## Voting Doesn't Get Any Easier Than This

The clock is ticking down for No Excuse Voting, so I stopped by the Morehead Planetarium last week to dig up insider details and pass them on to those who have yet to vote.

12:30 p.m. I enter the door of the Morehead Planetarium facing the quad, greet the girl sitting at the desk and follow the signs into the polling place. Three people are ahead of me in line.

12:33. I sit down to fill out the form certifying that I'm a registered voter in Orange County. I'm glad I brought my voter registration card with me so I could just copy the pertinent information onto my form.

I'm surprised they don't need my drivers' license, but I see they're checking on a computer to make sure the person with my name is registered in Orange County. They take the ballot away from a woman behind me when they realize she's not registered.

12:35. Chief Judge James Weathers explains the ballot to me in a speech he has given more than 1,000 times already. He shows me that even if I want to vote a straight ticket (all the candidates of a party at once) I must still vote for the president, the higher education bond and the soil and water conservation district supervisor separately.

12:38. Mr. Weathers sends me off with a black magic marker to connect the arrows on my ballot in one of seven blue-partitioned voting booths. I get busy, pausing only as I attempt to remember the name of the candidate for state dogcatcher I saw advertised the night before.

12:41. I survey in dismay the long list of judges, none of whose names I recognize. Because I don't believe in voting for judges based on political party, I leave them all blank and hope that other voters are more informed than I.

12:43. I slide my ballot into the electronic ballot box, which makes a satisfied beep as it swallows my votes into its belly.

That's it. It takes 13 minutes to participate in our democracy. But lines are getting longer, so don't put voting off too long.

Democracy doesn't have to be convenient, but that's the case in No Excuse Voting. As long as you're a registered voter in Orange County, you can vote at the planetarium from 10 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. through Friday.

Even students who live off campus can cast their ballots within walking distance of their 10 a.m. classes.

By Tuesday morning, 1,997 people had voted there. The Carrboro Town Hall and the Orange County Board of Elections house other No Excuse poll sites.

The new method appeals to adults because it allows them to avoid long lines after work on Election Day. "Our precinct has a lot of people and here we don't have to wait very long," said Nancy Dole, a staff member at the Carolina Population Center, who voted with her husband. "In presidential years, we sometimes wait half an hour."

Students like No Excuse Voting because they can cast their ballot whenever it's convenient. Natalie Crater, a freshman from Winston-Salem, was voting for the first time. "I (voted) because I know I'll forget," she said. "I remembered today, so I came."

But Weathers said the pollsters were disappointed in student turnout. This is especially deplorable since the Elections Board placed the site at the Morehead Planetarium for students' benefit.

To their credit, some students have voted and others have tried. Some ran into trouble when they tried to vote at the planetarium without changing their registration to Orange County.

But Weathers said most of the voters coming through have said they were pleased with the process. "The people coming through have generally been really excited about where the location is for them," he said. "We're in the center of town for people working with the University and Chapel Hill."

But it ends at 4:45 p.m. Friday.

You have three days left to cast your ballot before you have to wait in lines for half an hour or more next Tuesday.

Three days to vote on a student's schedule instead of an adult's. Or wait until Tuesday. But with the new options, there's really no excuse not to vote.

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# Local Officials Tour Possible School Sites



DTH/RYAN VASAN

Members of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Board of Education look on as Ken Redfrost (left) and Jim Wiley present plans for a new school.

By STEPHANIE GUNTER  
Staff Writer

Local officials and school board members gathered Tuesday to tour a proposed site for a new elementary school they hope will ease overcrowding in the school system.

Meadowmont, a development off N.C. 54, is the proposed site for the school. It will be the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools' ninth elementary school.

"We had a Long-Range Facilities Task Force that thought about what our school needs to be," said Board of Education member Teresa Williams.

Meadowmont is the preferred site being considered. The development, a 435-acre mixed-use site, will include new homes, apartments and a wellness center.

"It's not (a site) that we need to pur-

chase," Williams said. "It obviously became a favorable site."

The elementary school would be built on 22 acres of land in the Meadowmont community. The school board must commit to building the new school by 2002 and the new school must be completed by 2007.

But Meadowmont is not the only site the school board is considering for the new school.

"We have been asked by the (Orange) County commissioners to consider other sites," Elizabeth Carter, a school board member, said.

The school board and county officials also toured the Eubanks Road site Tuesday. But officials said they have a number of concerns with the Eubanks site. "The site on Eubanks has no utilities," said Steve Scroggs, assistant superintendent of the school system.

Scroggs said that in addition to utili-

ties, the road in front of the Eubanks site would have to be widened to include a turn lane.

But the board has some concerns with Meadowmont as well. About half of the school will be located in Durham County and the other half in Orange County.

Superintendent Neil Pedersen said he is confident this issue will not be a problem.

"We have special legislation approved that allows us to encroach into Durham County," Pedersen said.

Carter said the board hopes to create a design different from other schools in the area.

"My hope is that we will use another (model)," Carter said. "Not just the exact model but certain pieces."

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## Mall Event Keeps Trick or Treating Safe, Fun

By KENTIA ETHERIDGE  
Staff Writer

Hundreds of children, dressed as X-Men, Pokemon and Minnie Mouse, among other costumes, filled the University Mall, anxiously searching for candy.

The costumed children go to the mall to participate in its annual Halloween trick-or-treating.

The University Mall sponsors activities in the mall from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. where children can trick-or-treat at the different shops within the mall.

"There was an estimate of 500 kids, not including parents, from last year," said Allen Foster, representative of University Mall marketing department. "We had over 200 kids in the costume contest (last year)."

Several activities are provided for the children's entertainment, including a costume contest and a DJ.

Many children participate in the costume contest, which is divided into 11 categories.

For each category, a first-place prize of \$25 is awarded.

"There are different categories and it varies by age group," Foster said. Children as young as newborns and as old as 13 participate in such categories as Cutest, Scariest and Most Original

costume.

Lia Blue, a 12-day-old infant, won first runner-up for cutest costume in the newborn-to-10 month category with an orange pumpkin costume.

"The pumpkin I thought would be good for a baby," Lia's mother said.

Many parents attend the University Mall's trick-or-treat because of the safe and friendly environment.

"Even if he were to get lost, he's inside," said Michelle Berry, who was there with her 3-year-old son, Marcel Berry.

"Because store owners are giving out candy, you don't worry about whether they can get the candy," she said.

About 25 merchants participated in the event.

"It's something many malls do as a community service," Foster said. "If you want a nice, safe environment, if you don't want your kids to walk through roads, it's a safe alternative."

Many store owners, such as Martha Jenkins, who owns Kitchenworks, said they are happy to participate in the event.

"I'm just glad to give back to the people who have been so kind to make me have a successful store," Jenkins said.

The children enjoy the activities and

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DTH/MILLER PEARSALL

Heather Watkins, 3, joins in the costume competition at the University Mall on Tuesday night. Her mother, Jennifer, brought her from Durham for the festive occasion. Heather won third place in her age group.

## NCCU Starts Chancellor Search

Students and faculty had the chance to discuss their ideal candidate in two open forums at NCCU this week.

By FAITH RAY  
Staff Writer

DURHAM — Members of N.C. Central University's Chancellor Search Committee continued working to identify characteristics a new chancellor would need during open forums Monday and Tuesday.

Longtime Chancellor Julius Chambers will resign at the end of the 2001 spring semester.

The forums included discussion of the search process and of the next chancellor's role in the university.

The committee also heard student concerns regarding the next chancellor at a meeting Monday.

There were no students in attendance during the Tuesday forum.

The executive search firm of Heidrick and Struggles will conduct the search process along with members of the NCCU search committee.

Lisa Fisher, spokeswoman for Heidrick and Struggles, said she was surprised at the level of misunderstanding that students who attended the forum Monday had regarding the chancellor's role.

"Communicate, communicate, com-

municate," Fisher said, reiterating one goal of the committee.

Discussion at the forum ranged from the impact a new chancellor will have on university curriculum to how a new chancellor will financially manage the university.

Search committee Chairman William Smith said the group is looking for someone who can handle both aspects of the job.

"This is an open search," Smith said. "We want the best person to lead the university."

NCCU recently established a Web site for applicants to send in résumés.

From the résumés, the committee will select a pool of candidates, who will be interviewed by committee members in December.

The full search committee will interview the candidates, but each committee



A committee is searching for a replacement for NCCU Chancellor Julius Chambers, who is retiring.

member will be assigned a specific area of questioning for the prospective chancellor.

The interview process should come to an end at the beginning of January, at which point the committee will select the new chancellor.

But Veronica Biggins, partner with Heidrick and Struggles, said there are no leading contenders for the position so far.

She also said the committee will be looking for candidates who have a clear vision for the future of the university.

Biggins added that it would be essential to review past actions of the candidates.

"The best method to anticipate what they will do in the future is to focus on their past," Biggins said.

But she said that while the committee is still in the candidate development phase, they have been impressed by the accomplishments of candidates that have applied so far.

"I am pleased with the quality of people who are interested at this time."

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VERONICA BIGGINS  
Partner in Heidrick and Struggles

## P.E. Games, Festivities Await Seawell Students

By KIM PERRY  
Staff Writer

With Halloween costumes and music, physical education teachers at Seawell Elementary School are using holiday fun to show students the importance of what is being learned in the classroom.

During gym classes from Monday through Wednesday, students participated in Halloween Stations, where they could earn tickets by running laps or long jumping. They then used those tickets at different stations around the gym to play games.

This year, students could choose from activities such as rope swinging through a "snake pit" and dancing at "Franky's Monster Mouth."

"It's just a way to tie into the novelty of (Halloween)," said Sherry Norris, the school's physical education teacher. "In different years, we do different things. We've had a maze before, a giant bubble for the kids to go inside and a spider web to crawl through."

Norris said she thought of the idea about 24 years ago as a way to incorporate math into physical education and has been doing the activity ever since.

Michelle Wood, another P.E. teacher at Seawell, said she thought the students enjoyed earning tickets the most.

"Some kids spend so much time earn-

ing tickets that they don't have enough time to play the games," Wood said.

Several students agreed and said getting to use their tickets for the other activities was the best part of the class.

"I like when you swing on the rope," said Eli Powell, a second-grade student.

Both Norris and Wood said they feel that watching the students having to think and apply basic math skills was the most rewarding part of the activity.

"I had a kindergarten class in here today," Wood said. "They were just learning counting."

Norris said integrating curriculum and reinforcing basic concepts learned in the classroom, especially through things like physical education, helps children learn and develop.

"What they can't learn in the classroom, sometimes they can learn in here," Norris said. "If they can somehow make a connection here and take it back to the classroom, it helps."

As students ran from station to station, some in their Halloween costumes, they seemed to be having more fun than anything else. "When children can do things that they like to do, it motivates them," Norris said. "They're getting a really good workout, and they don't even know it."

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## Carrboro Hosts Halloween Carnival

By JAMES MILLER  
Staff Writer

A tiny winged dinosaur, pumpkin people and a slew of witches, cowboys and fairies were among the costumed children that descended upon the Carrboro Town Hall Commons on Tuesday evening.

They were joined by parents, volunteers of all ages and local residents who came to enjoy the Halloween Carnival, a family-oriented annual event set up by the Carrboro Recreation and Parks Department and Commission, a voluntary citizens' board that advises the department on town recreational activities.

"We want to provide a safe activity, primarily for children, but an activity

parents are comfortable with, too," said Carol Rosemond, recreation superintendent for the Carrboro Recreation and Parks Department.

"Commission members and other volunteers work the events and the staff plans and sets it up," she said. "It takes a whole lot of people."

Rosemond said the carnival was probably in its 25th year.

Free game booths and activities like the Bean Bag Toss, the Hungry Caterpillar and the Monster Mash provided plenty of entertainment for visitors like Brandon Henderson, a cowboy and Carrboro Elementary first-grader, who visited the Hungry Caterpillar.

The young cowboy squeezed one of

the sock caterpillars that was protruding from a wooden garden and guessed its contents.

"I guessed what the caterpillar ate, silly," Henderson said. "I won a spider ring."

This year's carnival also catered to older children, said Doris Murrell, chairwoman of the citizens' advisory board.

"We always have a lot of older kids out, but there have never been a lot of activities to keep them involved," she said.

The Monster Mash was just such an activity, said Tim Larson, a program assistant with the Carrboro Recreation and Parks Department.

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DTH/KATE MELLINK

Chisung Cho, 6 years old, tries to win prizes by tossing a ball into floating saucers at the Halloween carnival in Carrboro.