Monday, December 11, 2000



Sprinklers Smother

At 10:30 p.m. Saturday night, the Chapel Hill Fire Department respond-ed to a structural fire at the Sigma Nu house at 109 Fraternity Court.

ed to a structural fire at the Sigma Nu house at 109 Fraternity Court. The fire began in a wastebasket on the second floor and spread to the fur-niture nearby. After assessment by Assistant fire Marshal Rodney Watson, the fire was blamed on improperly dis-carded smoking materials. But the flames were put out by the house's new sprinkler system before the fire department reached the scene. The sprinkler system had been put into operation just two days before the fire. "This fire was extinguished before the fire department came only because the sprinkler system was installed," said Aaron Nelson, interim director of Greek affairs. "If it had not had a sprinkler sys-tem, there would have been a disaster."

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Fraternity House Fire

Get New Court Date Four suspects, three adults and one juvenile, in two Chapel Hill bank rob-beries are being held on state-armed

robbery charges. At their first court appearance on Thursday, the suspects received a Dec. 14 date for a probable cause hearing to determine if there is sufficient evidence to proceed with trial.

Damage was estimated at \$5,000, and no injuries were reported. The deadline for all fraternity and sorority houses to install sprinkler sys-tems is September 2001, and Nelson said 22 of 33 houses currently have there in a full set.

them in place. The deadline was put in place after a fire at the Phi Gamma Delta fraternity house in May 1996 that killed five stu-dents.

Bank Robbery Suspects

Officials said the four suspects could be brought up on federal bank robbery charges, in which case they would be transferred to federal court.

Campus Calendar Today

noon – The Student Advisory Committee to the Chancellor will be holding an informal "Lunch With the Chancellor" on the first floor of Lenoir Dining Hall. All students are welcome

The three adult suspects are being held at the Orange County Jail in lieu of bond. The female suspect, Leowanda Mardell Kennedy, 29, of 1710 Palmer St. in Durham, is being held on \$100,000 bond. James Ryan Edwards, 25, of 2220 Glover Road, is being held on \$250,000 bond. Icee Omar Malik Ali, 39, of Durham, is being held on two separate bonds of \$250,000 and a \$30,000 bond for failure to appear on five unrelated charges from 1998.

Author, UNC Graduate To Read at Bull's Head

Author Robert Morgan, a UNC grad-uate, will read from his new poetry col-

uate, will read from his new poetry col-lection at 2 p.m. today. Morgan, whose novel "Gap Creek" was featured in Oprah Winfrey's book club in January, will read selections from his new book "Topsoil Road" at the Bull's Head Bookshop. He graduated from UNC in 1965, and his books focus on the history and culture of North Carolina and the Apopalachian Mountains.

Appalachian Mountains.

to stop by and talk with Chancellor James Moeser. 7 p.m. – Celebrate the end of the

er! The Public Policy Analysis Majors Union is sponsoring an end of semester mixer in 109 Lenoir Hall. Come relax and enjoy some food.

> The Daily Tar Heel Nonday, December 11, 2000 Volume 108, Issue 131 PO Box 3257, Chapel Hill, NC 27515 Matt Dees, Editor, 962-4086 Advertsing & Business, 962-1163 News, Features, Sports, 962-0245

Critique on N.C. Colleges Constructive, Leaders Say

By MONICA CHEN Staff Write

News

Gov. Jim Hunt and UNC-system President Molly Broad expressed cau-tious optimism after the state's higher education system received mediocre grades in a national report. They said the \$3.1 billion higher edu-

cation bond and other efforts will help the system improve its national standing. Measuring Up 2000, a report released Nov. 30 by the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, assessed

Policy and Higher Education, assessed each state's performance in six categories. North Carolina received a "D" in par-ticipation, a "D-plus" for benefits to the state, a "B" for preparation, an "A" for affordability, a "B-plus" for completion and an incomplete for learning. All states received an incompleta in

All states received an incomplete in the learning category, which aims to measure the knowledge that students acquire, because of a lack of usable data.

The center spent three years compil-ing data for this first issue of Measuring Up, said Thad Nodine, director of comnications for the center.

"We've used independent advisers who are not affiliated with the center and feasibility committees to look at the basic areas of higher education and see

if it was possible to compile enough data for them," Nodine said. He said the learning category could not be compiled because there was no evidentiate the same there was no the same t nationwide agreement on what students should learn in college.

Notine said the participation grade addresses the proportion of the popula-tion taking part in the higher education system. He said a high level of partici-pation also could improve a state's ben-oft estime, the two expensions which efit rating – the two categories in which North Carolina performed the worst.

"If more people have a bachelor's degree, then it would be more beneficial to the state," Nodine said.

Broad said access to the state's higher education institutions must be improved to increase the participation grade. "It has been clear to us at the

University that North Carolina does not have a level of educational attainment we can be proud of," Broad said.

In an interview with The Daily Tar Heel last week, Hunt said the \$3.1 billion higher education bond will improve the low participation grade by building more facilities to accommodate an expected influx of 40,000 new students

systemwide in the coming decade. Hunt added that boosting the partic-ipation grade would help increase the

state's benefits rating. According to the report, the small percentage of N.C. residents having a bachelor's degree or doing well on high-level literacy assessments could have resulted in North Carolina receiving a "D alwe" in the herefits asterret.

"D-plus" in the benefits category. Broad said improving access to high-er education in the state is the number one goal of the Board of Governors. She said the BOG set a goal in 1995

to reach the national average in college attendance rates by 2010.

The data compiled for participation looked at the percentage of N.C. stu-dents who enter college immediately after high school, adults aged 18-24 enrolled in higher education and the percentage of working-age adults attend-ing college or other training programs. Hunt said he views the report as con-

structive criticism.

"We can see a clear strategy for North Carolina to go way up the ladder on this," Hunt said.

"North Carolina has a lot of reasons to be proud and a lot of work ahead."

State & National Editor Kathleen Hunter contributed to this report. The State & National Editor can be reached at stntdesk@unc.edu

take a BREAK

in your studies

Carolina Women's Basketball vs.Winthrop Saturday, December 16th at 7:00 pm

Carmichael Auditorium



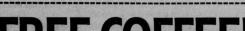
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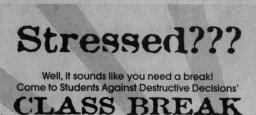
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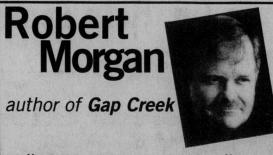
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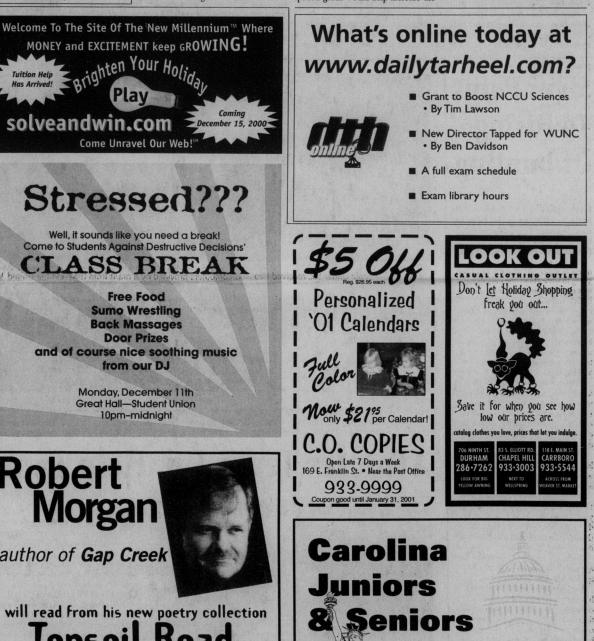
Come Unravel Our Web!



Monday, December 11th Great Hall-Student Union 10pm-midnight



will read from his new poetry collection **Topsoil Road**.



The Daily Tar Heel

KEE (OFFEE)

(Get a free regular size cup of coffee (decaf, original Javahh! or Hazelnut) with the purchase of any Bagel and Cream Cheese Sandwich.



With this coupon. One coupon per customer per day. Not valid in combination with other offers. Expires 12/31/00



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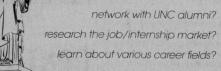
Topsoil Road is a treasury of snapshots in time, celebrating the past and present in Morgan's native region of western North Carolina and the Green River Valley. Morgan is a professor of English at Cornell University, and is the author of numerous volumes of poetry and fiction, including the novel Gap Creek.

Monday, December 11 2:00pm



Bull's Head Bookshop

UNC Student Stores • 962-5060 bullshead@store.unc.edu



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ALUMNI CAREER CONNECTIONS neral Alumni Association and the Se

miss

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Washington, DC: January 4

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