

Schools Enact Proficiency Standards

By SUSAN HALL
Staff Writer

Chapel Hill-Carrboro City schools are bearing down on students' proficiency standards, leaving school administrators torn between the benefits and costs of the new system.

North Carolina's state accountability model, adopted to improve education by tracking and being more strict about student progress, is slowly being enacted by local school officials.

One part of the system tests students on their comprehension of general subject matter to make sure they are prepared to advance to the next grade level.

The tests aim to identify students' problems so teachers can address them and ensure future success, said Emily Bivins, director of elementary instruction and staff development for the school system.

But David Thaden, principal of East Chapel Hill High School, said he worries that the new standards will have a negative effect on some students, forcing them to take more tests to move on. "Clearly the system has ratcheted up expectations of students," he said. "This could single-handedly double the number of kids who don't graduate."

The new state accountability model focuses on four "gateway" years — third, fifth, eighth and 11th grades. At the end of these years, students must pass an exit test in order to graduate to the next grade.

Parents can learn more about the new standards at a meeting at 7 p.m. tonight at the Arbor Meadows Community Room, 112 N.C. 54 Bypass.

Thaden and Carrboro Elementary School Principal Randy Marshall both said they worry that too much emphasis on testing will cause students who do

not perform well to be discouraged.

Marshall's main concern is for third-graders who he said he feels are too young to be tested so definitively.

"I'd prefer a situation where kids are given more time to become proficient. No matter how much we help them, we can end up creating frustration, and they'll decide they're not going to succeed."

But Chapel Hill High School Principal Mary Ann Hardebeck also said the new standards will create rigor within the curriculum.

Hardebeck said she thought the preparation students will get in elementary and middle school will better ready them for high school. "(The new system) is very good preparation because it sets a benchmark for the skills they'll need in high school," she said.

But Thaden said there would definitely be a difference in the results the new system produced, although he said he wasn't sure whether it would be a positive one. "A 2005 graduate's profile will be significantly different from a 2000 grad's."

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

Council Hears UNC Issues

The Faculty Council talked about the chancellor's trip to Mexico, the Master Plan and graduate student life.

By JENNIFER COUGHLAN
Staff Writer

UNC faculty, students and administrators gathered to discuss the recently approved Master Plan and a hodgepodge of other University issues at Friday's Faculty Council meeting.

Chancellor James Moeser opened the meeting in Wilson Library and addressed implications of the Master Plan, a model for long-term growth approved Thursday by the Board of Trustees.

Council members expressed concern that the relationship between UNC and town officials might become strained because town officials and local residents wanted to delay University action on the plan.

But Moeser reported cordial interac-

tion between the town and campus leaders.

"This is a plan which, in my view, greatly benefits the community as well as the University," he said.

"I think most people realize that a dynamic university must be allowed to grow."

Faculty Chairwoman Sue Estroff further expressed anticipation of the upcoming growth as a result of the plan's ratification.

"We are experiencing what seem to be growing pains and pleasures," Estroff said.

The council also used the meeting to discuss several other issues affecting the University.

Moeser thanked faculty members for their work in obtaining research grants, citing a recent increase in research money the University has been awarded from the National Institutes of Health.

Mikisha Brown, president-elect of the Graduate and Professional Student Federation, attended her first Faculty Council meeting and spoke to the council about her goals for the GPSF.

"A major part of my tenure ... will be focused on improving student life," she said.

Graduate students Andrew Leiter, Jon Lepofsky, Brian Thomas and

Michael Everton also attended the meeting to advocate increased pay and health care benefits for teaching assistants and other student employees.

The students stressed that these benefits would allow graduate students to focus on their studies rather than relying on second jobs to pay for daily needs.

John Hammond, chairman of the Administrative Board of the Library, spoke on several issues currently facing the University's libraries.

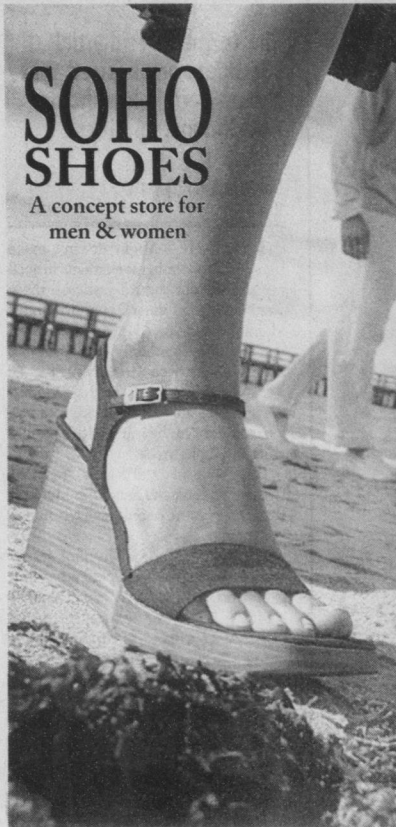
Hammond discussed the need to eliminate inefficiency in the library materials budget to keep pace with the library's growing expenditures and maintain the library's ability to promote scholarship.

Aside from local issues, Moeser discussed his recent trip to the Monterrey Institute of Technology in Mexico and the University's growing alliance with the school.

He described Monterrey Tech as one of the most technologically advanced universities of the western hemisphere and expressed hope that the alliance would contribute to UNC's study abroad programs in Mexico.

Moeser said, "I believe there is a very fertile ground for interaction."

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



SOHO SHOES
A concept store for men & women

Donald J. Pliner
Camper
Charles David
Kenneth Cole
Nine West
DKNY
BCBG
Coach
bebe
Via Spiga
and more...

SOHO SHOES
Northgate Mall
Durham 416-3963
www.sohoshoes.com

europa ON A budget SEMINAR

Learn everything you need to know about traveling to Europe on a budget. Our free seminar covers:

- Discount Airfares • How to Get Around
- Budget Accommodations • What You Need to Know Before You Go • Planning Your Itinerary • Tours • Travel Safety

Enter to win a trip to Europe

Other giveaways include: rail passes, travel gear, travel books and more!

March 27 at 6:00 pm


Location has changed:
Carolina Inn, Hill Ballroom Central
Please call 942-2334 to sign up

Council Travel www.counciltravel.com

DON'T GO AROUND HUNGRY!!

Buy one dinner and two beverages at regular price and receive a **second meal FREE!**

Limit one coupon per table. Dine-in only. Valid Thursday through Sunday.



BANDIDO'S MEXICAN CAFE

159 1/2 E. Franklin St. • Downtown Chapel Hill • 967-5048

summer at NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

www.northwestern.edu/summernu

earn EARN FULL-YEAR CREDIT IN BIOLOGY, CHEMISTRY, PHYSICS AND FOREIGN LANGUAGES

progress ACCELERATE PROGRESS TOWARDS YOUR DEGREE

fulfill FULFILL A DISTRIBUTION OR GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENT

live LIVE ON NORTHWESTERN'S LAKESIDE CAMPUS, JUST NORTH OF CHICAGO!

Call 800-FINDS-NU for a catalog.

Catawba Early Music Series

Exclusive Engagement

Featuring music by Purcell (Indian Queen), Handel, Scarlatti, and Bach (keyboard concerto, Cantata 51)

April 5, 2001 7:30 p.m.



Emma Kirkby



Crispian Steele-Perkins



London Baroque

Catawba College
Omwake-Dearborn Chapel

For reservations and information call **(704)637-4466**

