

**Campus Calendar**

**Today**

4 p.m. - The annual **TA Appreciation Barbecue** has joined with **SpringFest** to become an entire afternoon of fun for the whole family!

Graduate and professional students are welcome to bring their families.

The SpringFest aspect of the event will feature **great entertainment** with performances including music, dance and comedy. It will also include lots of great activities like an **obstacle course**, **face painting**, **crafts**, etc.

The **4th Annual TA Appreciation Barbecue** will have its usual free barbecue and free T-shirts. Baked ziti will be offered as a vegan option. The event will take place on Polk Place until 9 p.m.

7 p.m. - The Campaign to End the Death Penalty will hold **"Close to Death,"** a forum on crime, punish-

**ment and the death penalty.**

The event features Darby Tillis, former death-row inmate who was later proven innocent and released; Rose Clark, sister of N.C. death-row inmate; and the sister of a murder victim. The forum will be held in 05 Mitchell Hall and is free and open to the public.

**Friday**

3 p.m. - Sign up in the Pit all week (until teams are full) for the **Unity Games**, a **field day encouraging interaction between diverse communities on UNC's campus**, on Carmichael Field.

**The Daily Tar Heel**

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**ACC**

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the best tennis player, Mejia said: Ursula, the evil octopus from *The Little Mermaid*.

"I guess she would be the best because she has so many arms," Mejia said. "She would be able to hold lots of rackets."

Katelyn Hoffman, UNC's freshman lacrosse goalie, will make her own dreams come true this weekend by making her third start of the season.

Favorite characters? Pluto and Gus, the fat mouse from *Cinderella*.

Character that would make the best lacrosse player?

"I think Goofy because he's tall," Hoffman said.

Ah, yes. Goofy.

The same Goofy who once served as a caddy to one Mickey Mouse in an old Disney cartoon.

Mickey winds up in a very deep sandtrap and after exhausting his supply of clubs, throwing them at Goofy and hitting nearly all the sand out of the trap, he grabs his putter - the last club left.

He sinks the shot.

"I'm sure if I tried, I'd get it out in like 10 tries," UNC sophomore golfer Ramon Bescansa said. "It's really not the club you want to try it with."

But would he let Goofy be his caddy? "Definitely," Bescansa said. "Just being a part of Disney would be nice."

He'll get his chance. They all will.

The Sports Editor can be reached at [sports@unc.edu](mailto:sports@unc.edu).

**RAND**

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she has been working on the leadership for months, so far she has not been successful. She said the leadership is the key.

"If they can be persuaded, the bill might be able to move," Kinnaird said.

As pro tem, Basnight appoints chairmen of committees and holds influence over the largely Democratic Senate.

Payne added that this year is different from 1999, when a similar bill was pigeonholed in a Senate committee.

"We've been doing e-mails, phone calls and also petition drives in communities to show that people outside of the university care about the issue as well,"

he said. "We've honed our argument better to respond to objections raised in the past, and I think Student Day at the Capitol showed legislators how much students care about this issue."

Student Day at the Capitol was an event where dozens of students congregated in front of the General Assembly building on Feb. 20 to lobby for the issues. Both versions of the student vote bill were proposed on that day.

Although Rand has not moved Kinnaird's bill out of the Rules Committee since the event, Kinnaird and Payne plan to press on. Kinnaird said, "We are in the same situation we were in (for 1999), but we'll keep trying."

The State & National Editor can be reached at [stntdesk@unc.edu](mailto:stntdesk@unc.edu).

**COMMUNITY**

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tor for state Judicial District 15-B, which includes Orange and Chatham counties.

"We emphasize a treatment disposition rather than a punishment disposition, but we use the leverage of the court to ensure that someone remains engaged in the treatment process," she said.

Orange County has held community resource court officially since May 2000, when it was created under the guidance of Orange County District Judge Joseph Buckner.

The court is held twice monthly - once in Chapel Hill and once in Hillsborough - and is staffed primarily by attorneys and judges who have training in or knowledge of mental illness treatment.

As of January 2001, more than 60 people had come through the court, Lamoureux said.

And the number of cases is increasing. Almost 20 cases were on the docket for the court's April session in Chapel Hill.

The district attorney's office sends cases to the court, but private attorneys, judges and people within the mental health community can recommend cases for the special court, said D.C. Rhyne, a case manager at the OPC Northside Clinic and OPC's liaison to the court.

In community resource court, offenders do not enter a plea, said Assistant Public Defender Timothy Cole.

"A person enters an admission of responsibility as opposed to a formal plea," he said. "And instead of having a trial, the prosecutor defers the process."

After a deferred prosecution is agreed on, "the court determines, along with myself and other people from the treatment community, what that person's needs may be," Rhyne said.

The court then sets conditions the offender must meet that commonly include counseling, alcohol or drug screening and an agreement by the defendant to stay out of trouble.

The defendant must meet the conditions of the court for a set period of time. After that, the state can dismiss the charges.

"It's mostly a three-month deferral of prosecution right now," Lamoureux said. "But I think we're probably going to propose, at the minimum, six months, with a longer after-care period."

Lamoureux said it is too soon in the process to determine whether the community resource court had been effective in rehabilitating defendants.

The court has been successful in terms of the number of cases dismissed because defendants followed the conditions of the court, she said.

"But if you're looking at long-term goals such as people remaining in treatment, not reoffending and reaching stability, it's a little too early to tell."

Some offenders have returned to community resource court, said Glen Veit, a Hillsborough-based attorney who sometimes represents defendants in the court.

"In my experience, the kind of people we're dealing with that have serious mental health problems are going to continue to have serious mental health problems," Veit said.

But the value of the court is not diminished by their return, he said.

"This court is quite wonderful," Devine said. "What it does is bring to bear the community's resources to help people who are willing to own mental illness or substance abuse."

DeVine said she is sympathetic to the struggles of the people who come to community resource court, in part because a person close to her suffers from mental illness.

"We have no idea what some people go through just for shelter from the storm, let alone for a moment's peace," she said. "The whole point of the court is that as awareness in the community broadens, we have this resource available."

For Kenny Sigmon, the message seemed clear.

Looking in the direction of public defender Cole, Sigmon said, "Tim just wants to know that I'm staying out of trouble."

The City Editor can be reached at [citydesk@unc.edu](mailto:citydesk@unc.edu).

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**TRIALS**

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said, because another person was initially charged with the crimes. Evidence had to be presented to clear the other individual before Pratt could be arrested, which took about 90 days from the time the crime was committed.

But Pratt's trial has had delays of its own. He was originally in custody in Nash Correctional Institute, a closed-custody facility about 90 miles from Hillsborough, which made it difficult for the defense to talk to him, Fox said. In addition, his attorney changed employment during the course of the investigation.

Fox also said that because the state made a motion for Pratt to be examined by state psychiatrists as a result of his intent to plead insanity, there was a delay in transferring his medical records from Dorothea Dix Hospital. These records then needed to be examined by the defense's psychiatrist.

Another delay was caused by the witnesses being out of state, he said.

"It's a combination of things that don't normally happen," Fox said.

After spending more than two years in jail, Pratt is finally scheduled to appear in court April 24 for a competency hearing to determine his mental status, officials said.

Not only has Pratt displayed the need for rapid case disposition, the victims of the crimes and their families depend on it for closure.

"Victims of a crime can be very unhappy if cases are not tried in a prompt manner," Farb said. "Resolution brings finality."

Delayed case dispositions can also jeopardize convictions, Farb said, which is unfortunate for the victims and the rest of society.

"You could potentially lose your witness and your defense if they (the suspects) are gone a long time," Farb said.

Speed has also been known to be a factor in causing district attorneys to plea bargain rather than go to trial, Superior Court Clerk Joan Terry said.

"It all depends on the case, what kind, the witnesses and the victims, who may want to get it over with quicker," Terry said.

But Farb said plea bargaining occurs when defendants admit to being guilty or the state offers them a lesser plea.

Both Farb and Terry agree that plea bargaining is necessary.

"If everyone pled 'not guilty' and there were no plea bargains, there is no way we could ever keep afloat," Terry said.

The City Editor can be reached at [citydesk@unc.edu](mailto:citydesk@unc.edu).