

# Sunday Brings Chill To Franklin Street

The town and University are hosting the annual Apple Chill Street Fair, featuring arts, crafts, music and food.

BY LEE SPEARS  
Staff Writer

An estimated 35,000 people will flock to downtown Chapel Hill on Sunday to enjoy springtime weather and a wealth of local arts and entertainment talent.

The 29th annual Apple Chill Street Fair, featuring arts, crafts, live entertainment and food, will take place from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. on East Franklin Street just north of the UNC campus.

Parrish Anderson, events specialist at Chapel Hill Parks and Recreation, said Apple Chill will offer something for everyone, including a newly added entertainment area for young children and a new music stage near Schoolkids Records for college students.

Kids can spend the afternoon playing on the super slides and Velcro wall as well as participating in a bungee run and an obstacle course.

"You name it, we have it," Anderson said. "This year, the music is just amazing."

Anderson said there will be five performance areas altogether for music and dance, featuring rock, R&B, blues, swing, salsa and jazz.

One stage will be at McCorkle Place on campus and will feature performers from the UNC community.

Anderson said the majority of Apple Chill's entertainment groups for this year are local.

"I didn't know there were that many groups in Chapel Hill and Carrboro," he said.

There also will be arts and crafts and food vendors, most of whom come from Chapel Hill, Carrboro and the surrounding area.

Anderson, an artist himself, said the vibrant local arts community, centered in Carrboro, lends a wealth of talent to the annual festival.

"I have never seen such high-quality arts and crafts concentrated in such a small area," he said.

Some arts and crafts to be featured at Apple Chill will include pottery, glasswork, jewelry, leather and henna.

Anderson also said he thinks vendors' diverse food offerings, including shark and gator kabobs, Caribbean cuisine, ice cream, cotton candy and Mexican beverages, will be some of the fair's main attractions.

Anderson said Chapel Hill Parks and Recreation has been working closely with other town departments, volunteers and the University to make sure Apple Chill runs smoothly.

"It's a town effort, and I can't emphasize that enough," he said.

Chapel Hill police Capt. Everett Johnson said the section of East Franklin Street between Raleigh and Columbia streets will be closed from 10 a.m. until 8 p.m. Sunday.

Parked cars that are not moved before about 11 a.m. will be towed.

Also this weekend in conjunction with Apple Chill, the second annual Sculpture on the Green will display the works of sculpture artists from the Triangle at McCorkle Place on Saturday and Sunday.

The sculptures will be on display both days from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

This year's new addition of entertainment for children and college students means that Apple Chill truly has something for everyone, Anderson said.

"We have something for the old and the young," he said.

"It's really nice to see the community and families out enjoying this."

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

# Australia 'Survivor' Visits Burn Victims

"Survivor II" contestant Jeff Varner was moved by the burns a fellow survivor suffered in the outbreak.

BY ROB LEICHER  
Staff Writer

Jeff Varner says he loves children. And the former competitor on the television show "Survivor II: The Australian Outback," showed that love Thursday afternoon as he blew bubbles, took pictures and chatted with patients at the N.C. Jaycee Burn Center in Chapel Hill.

A UNC alumnus and former cheerleading captain, Varner said he has always supported children's charities and now wants to extend his support to burn victims. "I've been a children's advocate since I was 1 (years old)," said Varner, a Greensboro native.

A serious burn injury to Michael Skupin, one of Varner's team members and close friends on "Survivor II," made him realize the pain that burn victims and their families must endure.

"That was a very traumatic day for us," Varner said. "I heard his screams in my sleep for three days."

From the time he learned he was to appear on "Survivor II," Varner has tried to use his celebrity status to help various causes. As part of his charity

work, he brought a coloring book and crayons to Australia as his only luxury items. "I wanted all the survivors to color and autograph their pictures," Varner said. "This way I would have a body of work to auction off for a charity."

Varner said talk show host and "Survivor" fan Rosie O'Donnell will help him auction off the book in about one month. "I think it will make lots of money," he said.

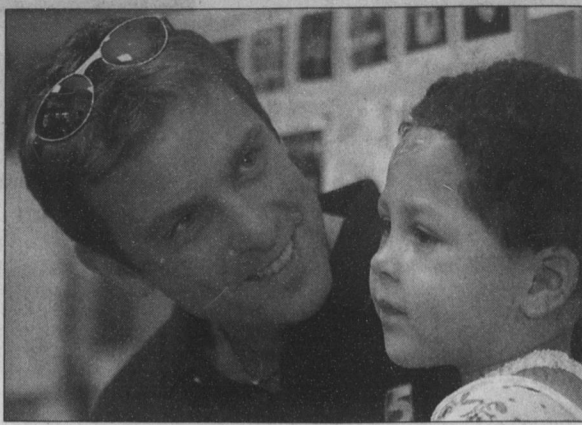
A large portion of the money earned from the sale will probably go to organizations that help child burn victims, such as those at the burn center, Varner said.

K Teague, division manager for the burn center, said Varner has been extremely active in his efforts to help. "He contacted me before the 'Survivor (II)' show ever appeared on television," she said.

In the past, other celebrities such as racecar drivers Jeff Gordon and Jeff Bodine have visited the burn center, as well as many UNC basketball and football players, Teague said.

She said the personal visits from celebrities, and the television cameras that often accompany them, provide a great morale boost for the victims and staff alike. "When people come in and pay attention to them, it makes a difference," Teague said.

Varner discussed Skupin's recovery story to lift the spirits of one teen who had



"Survivor 2" star Jeff Varner visits with burn victim Willy Accord during his tour of the N.C. Jaycee Burn Center at UNC Hospitals on Thursday.

been burned in a bus accident. "Skupin's doing great," Varner told the boy. "He's got no scar, and he's so positive."

Brian Craft, a 19-year-old victim of a motorcycle accident, and his mother, Tammy, both took away autographed pictures with Varner as a souvenir. "Yeah, I'm excited," Craft said. "He's a TV star."

A visit to 4-year-old Willie Accord's room left Varner covered in bubbles and Accord smiling widely. Varner brought a

suitcase full of coloring books for the hospital, and he let Accord take his pick. "He's so sweet," Varner said. "This is such a moving experience."

But don't get your hopes up, "Survivor" fans. Varner might be a humanitarian, but he's not revealing who'll leave Australia with the \$1 million.

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

# Mississippi River Crests; Floods Homes, Towns

The Associated Press

PRAIRIE DU CHIEN, Wis. — The muddy waters of the Mississippi River engulfed homes and pushed sandbag walls to the limit here after cresting short of predictions 60 miles upriver at La Crosse.

Dorothy and Al Reed moved furniture out of their home in this southwest Wisconsin river town Wednesday, then spent the night in the two-story structure despite water that filled the basement and covered a porch.

"It's starting to seep into the kitchen," Dorothy Reed said Thursday morning. "The whole house will have it."

The river was expected to crest early Friday in Prairie du Chien, and Reed said she planned to go to her daughter's nearby home, which is on higher ground, while her husband stayed behind.

"It's not easy to watch your house go under water," she said. "It's all your own, you don't have any choice. It gives you

a sick feeling in your stomach."

The city's downtown was flooded Thursday, and residents and local inmates continued to fill sandbags — about 15,000 so far, Police Chief Mike King said.

"People are just really beat," King said. "They've been sandbagging and pumping for a week."

The Mississippi crested at 16.41 feet Wednesday morning at La Crosse, a foot and a half below the record set in April 1965, and had dropped to 16.25 feet Thursday morning.

Officials said it could take weeks for the river to slip back into its banks and below the flood stage of 12 feet.

"Our dikes are still holding," said Pat Caffrey, public works director in La Crosse. "Our biggest concern is the weather forecast."

A chance of showers or storms was forecast for the region from Thursday night into early next week, but officials said the rain was not likely to raise the river's level.

# 'Spider Woman' Not A Typical Musical

BY DIANA CUNNINGHAM  
Staff Writer

The Pauper Players spring musical production opening tonight has the kiss of death.

But that's not a bad thing.

The character referenced in the musical's title, "Kiss of the Spider Woman," is an incarnation of death, and her kiss is just part of the musical's dark appeal.

The production was a 1985 Broadway hit and tells the story of two cellmates, Molina and Valentin, in a grim prison in Latin America who survive by sharing a fantasy, escaping into the many movies of the beautiful film star Aurora.

Like the original, the Pauper Players production is intended for mature audiences only due to the show's nudity and sexual content.

David Lorenc, a Pauper Players veteran and UNC senior, plays Molina, a gay window dresser arrested for sexual indecencies with a minor.

"When you think of musicals, you think of musical comedy. This is a much darker, and more haunting tale. It's not 'Oklahoma' by a long stretch," Lorenc said.

Even while dreaming of Aurora and a happier place beyond his cell, Molina is haunted by the Spider Woman's deadly presence.

Amber Ruskin, a UNC senior who has starred in many Pauper Player productions, plays both phantasms of

Molina's imagination. Ruskin said she actually prefers the role of the powerful role of the Spider Woman to that of Judy Garland-ish Aurora.

"A lot of the story's intensity comes from the interaction between two diverse characters and the development of their relationship," Lorenc said.

Molina's cellmate, Valentin, is a political revolutionary from the lower class. Both have to cope with being stuck in a cell with someone completely different, said Christian Barillas, who played Valentin.

Barillas is a senior at UNC, and also a native of Guatemala who can bring his own Latin American background to the show.

"The musical is a very controversial show, but it has a lot of appeal and raw emotion," Barillas said.

The director of the show, UNC graduate Jon Howle, used the original musical book and score for the production. Howle has worked with professional companies in New York, and this will be his last show at UNC before returning to the Big Apple.

"It's wonderful working with Jon," said Rustin of Howle's direction. "He brings such intensity to his work."


"Kiss of the Spider Woman" shows every night at 8 p.m. on April 20 through April 22 with a 2 p.m. matinee on April 21 and 22. Tickets are \$5 or \$10.

The Arts & Entertainment Editor can be reached at artsdesk@unc.edu.

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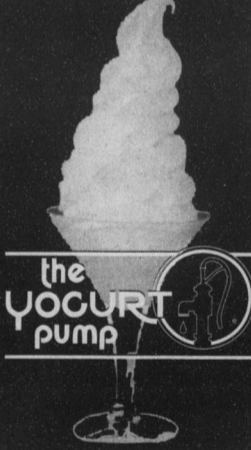
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## Campus Calendar

**Sunday**

7:30 p.m. — The world premiere of "With Perfect Faith," a choral cantata based on poems of the Holocaust and Hebrew scriptures, will take place at Judea Reform on Cornwallis Road in Durham.

The work consists of soprano arias and choral movements sung by UNC professors and students. Admission is free.

**The Daily Tar Heel**  
Friday, April 20, 2001  
Volume 109, Issue 35  
P.O. Box 3257, Chapel Hill, NC 27515  
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