

Dirty Ladies
Local event gets
muddy. See Page 3

WEEKLY
SUMMER ISSUE

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Graduating seniors fill the North end zone bleachers Sunday during the 199th annual Commencement in Kenan Stadium (above). 1987 UNC graduate Stuart Scott addresses the crowd of 32,000 that gathered to celebrate the occasion (below).

blue skies behind blue skies ahead

BRIAN FREDERICK
Editor

Vince walked. Stuart Scott spoke from the heart. Senior class president Jason Cowley raised a blue cup.

And the UNC graduates of 2001, though deprived of the traditional walk across the field in Kenan Stadium, were no less exuberant.

In a move that disappointed some students, organizers of the 199th annual UNC Commencement chose to lead undergraduates directly through stadium entrances to their seats.

In past years, students walked across the field, which resulted in such impromptu craziness as games of basketball, waterslides and dancing.

"At first I was upset," said graduating senior

Katie Wolford. "But it worked out really well in the end."

Students receiving graduate degrees were still seated on the field.

This year's ceremony was in the national spotlight because of former basketball player Vince Carter's decision to return to Chapel Hill to participate. He left early to fly to Philadelphia for Sunday evening's Game 7 of the NBA's Eastern Conference semifinals.

Carter, star of the Toronto Raptors, was criticized by some because of his decision to be away from the team on the most important game in its history. Still, others lauded his decision, claiming that it helped emphasize the importance of graduating from college.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DAN SEARS/UNC

The Raptors ended up falling to the 76ers after Carter missed a last-second shot.

Scott, an anchor on ESPN's SportsCenter and a 1987 UNC graduate, began his speech by referring to the criticism of Carter, asking, "Why is it we applaud a two-sport athlete who plays in a football game and a playoff baseball game in the same day?"

Scott then said he would be brief. "You've been up most of the night before gettin' your party on. The last thing you want is someone who's gonna take 45 minutes up here telling you 'go forth and prosper.'"

Instead, Scott gave the graduates "some things to think about."

He mostly focused on diversity. "Remember

the different walks of life you've seen here on campus: all colors, all creeds, all religions, all sexual make-ups, athletes, scholars, hippies, frat boys, sorority girls. I hope you've accepted whatever is different from you as simply what it is — just different."

Scott also emphasized the power of communication. "Don't be afraid to use [the power of communication.] Whether you're reaching out to five kids at a summer camp or whether you're addressing Congress."

Chancellor James Moeser spoke highly of Scott. "I thought Stuart did a good job of connecting with the undergraduates. He obviously spoke from the heart."

Most students seemed happy with the choice of Scott as speaker. "I think everybody enjoyed [Scott]," said Mindi McAteer, a graduating senior. "He was more personal than most speak-

See GRADUATION, Page 2

Flying Club Loses Lease at Airport

Chancellor Moeser gave the Chapel Hill Flying Club until June 30 to relocate from the Horace Williams Airport.

GEOFF WESSEL
University Editor

UNC officials announced the Chapel Hill Flying Club's lease on facilities at the University's Horace Williams Airport will not be renewed next year.

The decision, announced on May 16 by Chancellor James Moeser, comes in the wake of several crashes over the past few years. There have been three crashes at or near the airport since 1999.

After the most recent crash on April 19, club members did not notify authorities or the University until two and a half hours after the crash. The delay prompted a reprimand from the University and discussion that ultimately led to the decision to close the airport to the club.

"We were particularly concerned with the irresponsible reporting of an accident," said Moeser.

Flying Club President Stan Munsat said the decision was an unexpected blow to the club.

"It was arbitrary, it was uninformed, and it was ultimately unjustified," he said.

"We had no warning it was coming, we had no discussion with the Chancellor, there was no input from the flying club, and there was no opportunity for the flying club to correct misinformation and speculation that was running rampant."

Moeser disagreed, saying the club was given warning, though he had not spoken with them personally.

Munsat said the club was looking for a new home, which members must find by June 30, when the current lease allowing members to park airplanes and rent office space at the airport expires.

"We're looking at a number of places in the area, but it's not going to be real easy (to find a place)," he said.

UNC senior Giselle Hartl, president of the Carolina Flying Club, said members of the student club take lessons with the Chapel Hill Flying Club and will now have to travel for those lessons.

"I am disappointed," Hartl said. "The Chapel Hill Flying Club was a great resource for students, and it's disappointing that it won't be here for students to use."

Carolyn Elliland, assistant vice chancellor for auxiliary services, said Moeser's decision had been thoughtfully considered.

She said the effect would be a reduction in flight activity at the airport. The Flying Club, which has been based at Horace Williams since the early 1960s, has accounted for about one-third of all flights at Horace Williams in recent years.

"I don't know that there's any specific evidence (that this will improve safety)," Elliland said. "But that the Flying Club had three accidents in the last two years is a concern."

"One accident is an isolated incident, but three is kind of a pattern. Other based planes at the airport have not had accident problems," she said.

Elliland added that she did not mean to imply that Flying Club pilots are less safe than others, but the University felt the club's presence was still a concern.

Another effect of the decision would be a loss of revenue at the airport. Elliland said.

"It's probably a quarter of the airport's budget," she said.

"We're looking at that now and trying to figure out what we can do (to sustain that loss)."

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Budget Cuts Could Be Smaller Than Expected

MATT VISER
City, State and National Editor

State legislatures have projected that education budget cuts will not be as drastic as initially expected, putting hope in the eyes of education officials across the state.

Initially, the UNC system was asked to trim their budget by \$125 million, but sources have told the Associated Press that in all, the cuts would only total slightly more than \$40 million, a drastic reduction from the initial number.

The General Assembly Joint Appropriations Subcommittee hasn't officially decided on anything as of yet. Once they develop a recommendation, the subcommittee will report to the full Senate Appropriations Committee, which will then report to the full Senate.

For the student perspective on budget cuts
See Page 3

Jeff Davies, UNC Vice President of Finance, said he anticipates the subcommittee will make a decision as early as today.

"We're in a holding pattern right now, waiting for the General Assembly Joint Appropriations Subcommittee to make their decision," he said. "We're hopeful that we'll end up on the same page."

The UNC system, comprised of the 16 public universities in North Carolina, had earlier requested \$41 million in 2001-2002 and \$78 million in 2002-2003 to support an expected increase in students.

But rather than granting more money, education leaders were asked to make cuts in their operating budget to help balance a projected budget shortfall

in July, when North Carolina's fiscal year begins.

Legislative leaders sent out a letter on April 11 that requested community college, university and public schools to prepare for budget cuts totalling at \$290 million.

The UNC system was asked to cut \$125 million, or seven percent of the system's state allocated budget.

So UNC President Molly Broad submitted a proposal to the education budget-writing committees, indicating where the seven percent cuts should be taken.

The proposal showed drastic reductions, in administrative as well as instructional planning. "What we're hoping is the reductions will be reduced so we won't have to affect instructional programming," Davies said.

UNC-CH officials said the cuts

would result in eliminating 80 faculty and 90 staff positions, along with 6,500 journal subscriptions and 15,000 book orders.

NC State officials said 105 full-time positions and 211 full-time staff would be cut. In addition, \$868,000 would be cut from libraries, forcing evening and Saturday closings.

The cuts totaled \$25 million at UNC-CH, almost \$24 million at N.C. State, and nearly \$3 million at N.C. Central University.

The education cuts could come at an inopportune time because many universities have started building projects while increasing their enrollment for the fall semester.

"These reductions would come at a time when we're experiencing tremendous growth," Davies said.

The UNC system is expecting near-

I spent four years prostrate to the higher mind/got my paper and I was free.

Indigo Girls