

The Daily Tar Heel

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Coldbusted!
N.C. State officials hope for subdued Brent Road bash.
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Join the Party
Visit 103 Bingham Hall to learn more about becoming a DTH staffer.
7 p.m. Aug. 28 and 29

Unleash Hell
UNC football makes its 2001 debut.
See Tab Section

Weather
Today: T-storms; H 87, L 67
Saturday: Sunny; H 87, L 69
Sunday: Partly Cloudy; H 88, L 68



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Friday, August 24, 2001

Lewd Act Could Cost Employee

The UNC School of Medicine resident has 30 days to respond to charges against him for indecent exposure.

By Stephanie Horvath
Assistant University Editor

A poolside sex offense could leave a resident at UNC Hospitals without his medical license.

Stephen Michael Dingman, a UNC resident in nuclear medicine and a 1999 graduate of UNC School of Medicine, is now facing formal charges from the N.C. Medical Board after he was arrested Aug. 3 for indecent exposure.

Two undercover Raleigh police officers arrested Dingman, 37, of 20 Striding Ridge Court in Durham, at an apartment complex pool in Raleigh after the officers witnessed him remove his thong bathing suit and masturbate, reports state.

According to a police report, the undercover officers were tipped off by a report of a similar incident that allegedly occurred at the same pool July 21.

An employee called the police to report the first incident, but Dingman already had left when they arrived. Before he left, Dingman reportedly gave a business card to the employee advertising erotic dancing under the name "Michael's Entertainment."

A female officer used an e-mail address on the card to contact Dingman. Sgt. A. H. O'Connell of the Raleigh Police Department said the officer did not solicit Dingman's services.

"I can tell you she did not ask him to come back to that pool," he said.

O'Connell said Dingman replied to the officer's e-mail and told her when he would be back at the pool.

The two undercover officers returned to the pool Aug. 3, and Dingman approached them without being asked, removed his thong bathing suit and masturbated.

O'Connell said Dingman was at the Raleigh apartment complex because he used to live there.

Dingman is being suspended with pay from UNC Hospitals, where he has worked since July 1, 2000, said Tom Hughes, a spokesman for UNC Hospitals.

He has 30 days to respond to the charges from the N.C. Board of Medicine by either surrendering his license or consenting to a hearing. Dingman's lawyer, David Long of the Raleigh law firm of Poyner and Spruill, said he and his client have not yet discussed Dingman's motives or course of action.

"There are all kinds of possible resolutions," Long said. "What we're doing now is trying to gather as much information as we can. Once we do, we'll do everything we can to bring this to a prompt and fair resolution."

Depending on the outcome, Dingman's medical license could be reinstated, suspended, revoked or annulled.

Whatever the decision, the incident

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General Assembly Nears Budget Completion

By Alex Kaplun
State & National Editor

After a busy day at the N.C. General Assembly, lawmakers came a little closer to reaching a conclusion to the ongoing budget conflict and finalizing a tuition increase.

The Senate passed a continuing budget resolution Thursday that would keep the state government operating until the end of September.

The resolution also includes a provi-

sion for an across-the-board 9 percent tuition increase for all UNC-system students. The proposal would increase in-state undergraduate tuition at UNC-Chapel Hill by \$200, while out-of-state tuition would increase by \$1,000.

The tuition increase would be retroactive, meaning students would have to pay additional money for the fall 2001 semester.

Also on Thursday, the House made progress in resolving a budget stalemate that has lasted two months into the fiscal

year.

House Speaker Jim Black, D-Mecklenburg, introduced a tax increase proposal Thursday that was a combination of the two different plans proposed by the two legislative chambers and a third plan proposed by Gov. Mike Easley.

"The reason for this compromise proposal is that it has elements of all the other proposals - some elements from the House, some from the Senate and some from the governor," said Danny Lineberry, spokesman for Black.

Black's plan calls for a 1 cent sales tax increase, half of which would replace an annual tax reimbursement the state gives to county governments. The proposal would also increase taxes on wealthy individuals, create a 6 percent sales tax on liquor and boost several tax credits.

While Black's plan breezed through the House Finance Committee on Thursday morning, its real test will come early next week when it goes before the full House. It is unclear if the legislation has enough votes to pass the House.

Previously, Democratic House leaders have been unable to build a consensus on any tax increase proposal because of staunch opposition to any tax increase proposal from the chamber's Republican minority.

But with just a four-seat majority in the House, the real challenge for Black has come from a small group of liberal Democrats led by Rep. Dan Blue, D-Wake, who favor more targeted tax

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Drawing From Breakfast

By Sarah Kucharski
Assistant Arts & Entertainment Editor

Two UNC alumni are hoping their satire of cereal will become a full-fledged Cartoon Network serial this weekend.

"Major Flake," the brain child of Adam Cohen, class of '89, and Chris (Casper) Kelly, class of '91, is one of 10 different pilots in the running to become a Cartoon Network series, with audiences making the deciding vote online as part of "The Big Pick."

Cohen and Kelly's satirical look into the world of children's cereal mascots, "Major Flake" delves into the sociological evils and advertising spins of mass-marketed sugary goodness to youngsters.

Major Flake, a Napoleonic dude in a purple suit, and his sidekick, Sparkles, are spokesmen for Major Flake cereal. Major Flake loves his job and completely fails to understand why the goopy, ghastly goo that is Major Flake cereal (imagine eating white paste) is a less than popular with the kids.

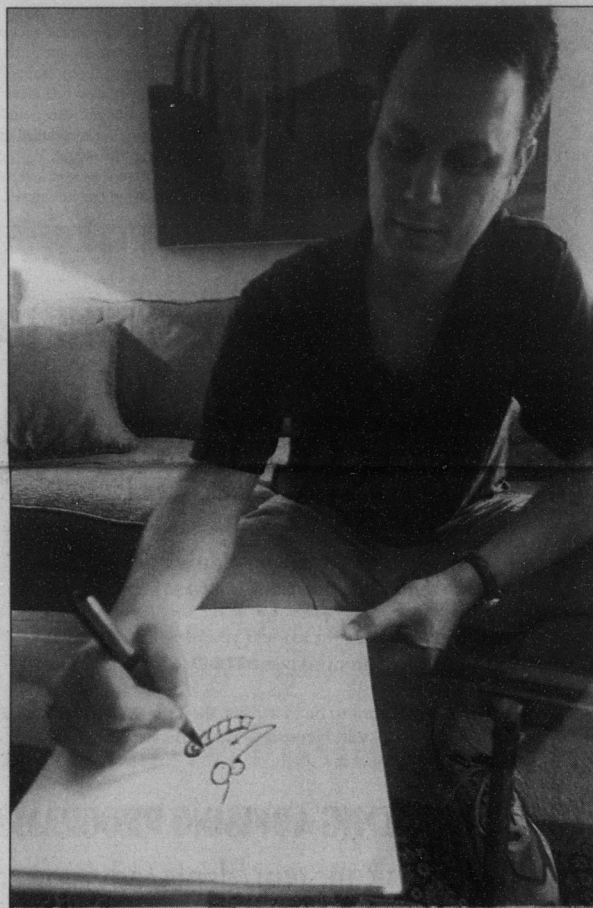
"He's an egomaniac - he thinks he can do anything and doesn't know the meaning of the word fail," Kelly said.

Sparkles, on the other hand, the absolute antithesis of Toucan Sam and Tony the Tiger, loves Major Flake cereal for one reason only - his paycheck. Sour and cynical, Sparkles can only maintain his sugar fairy persona during their commercial takes.

To keep from being canned by Sylvia Soggy, CEO of Soggy Cereals, Inc., the Major and Sparkles have to win the public's affection for their substandard product.

Other characters include King Sweet, the pompous ruler of the cereal market, Sugar Buzz, a super-hyped up, sugar-addicted bumblebee, and Reverend Ruffage, the mascot of Moral Fiber cereal.

The creation of the pilot stemmed from Cohen's days as an advertiser for the Cartoon Network. Based on the pop-



DTH/KARA ARNDT

Adam Cohen sketches the main character of his cartoon series, "Major Flake." Sparkles (left) and Major Flake (below) are characters in the pilot.

ularity and success of his print advertisements, Cohen was approached by the network's program directors, who felt his advertisements were funnier than some of the show pitches they received, Cohen said.

When he was asked if he had any ideas for new shows, Cohen, a former cartoonist for The Daily Tar Heel, seized the opportunity. He called in old friend and fellow DTH cartoonist Kelly to collaborate on the effort.

"We were

kind of looking for something satirical that hadn't been done before, and we were eating brunch, and it occurred to us that no one had done a cartoon about the backstage lives of cereal cartoons," said Kelly, a senior writer of promotions and specials at Cartoon Network.

During the 3 1/2 year process, Cohen and Kelly began sketching out ideas, writing scripts and working with animator Bob Kurtz to produce Major Flake. Using the same actors who voice Johnny Bravo and Pinky from "Pinky and the Brain," Cohen and

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Departments' Resources, Classes Scarce

Popular departments such as psychology are especially hard hit as they try to oblige an ever-increasing student population.

By Ann Hau
Staff Writer

As the first week of classes draws to a close, heads of the University's most popular departments are working to make sure resources are available to accommodate an influx of students.

This year's increased student population, combined with scarce faculty resources, might make it difficult for some departments to offer enough highly demanded classes for their majors.

Since class standing determines registration priority, some of the 3,650 students in this year's freshman class - the biggest class in UNC history - had trouble enrolling in courses they wanted.

More students are registered for a full course load now than at this time last year. But departments with popular majors, such as psychology, biology and communications, are feeling pressure to accommodate the increasing student population.

"From last year to this year, the situation has worsened significantly," said Gustavo Maroni, associate chairman and professor of biology. Like other department chairmen, Maroni blames several factors, including lack of staff, for the problem.

Maroni said the department also is having problems hiring teaching assistants and finding space to open more lab sections, adding that a resolution of the lingering budget dispute in the N.C. General Assembly would help. "Knowing ahead of time how much money the department had to spend to hire would lead to better planning," he said.

Despite the strained resources, Maroni said the department is doing everything it can to ensure that its majors have the courses they need and that it is making sure each class is enrolled to capacity. "We are at 99 percent efficiency," said Maroni.

Seth Leibowitz, associate director of academic advising, said frustrated students should be persistent, talk to professors and sit in on lectures. But Leibowitz said he had never seen cases where students were denied their first-choice major. "The departments do an excellent job in accommodating the needs of their students despite limited resources," Leibowitz said.

William Balthrop, chairman of communications, said several factors are responsible for the improvements made within his department, which experienced similar woes several years ago.

"There was a merger with communications and the radio/TV department, resulting in a tremendous increase in enrollment," said Rosemary Howard, academic adviser for communication studies. "Since then, they've been interviewing and hiring, but not fast enough."

After the merger, many communications students were forced to take summer school classes and were worried they would not be able to graduate on time.

Balthrop said the decline in communications majors over the last four years, combined with an increase in qualified teaching assistants and faculty, have aided the department.

"You can't just quickly shift faculty resources," he said. "It

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Viruses Vex Students, Officials

By Karey Wutkowski
Assistant University Editor

UNC officials are encouraging students to practice "safe computing" to protect themselves from recent viruses that send out users' saved personal documents while spreading the damage to their friends.

Now is a particularly dangerous time because students are coming back from summer and might be bringing comput-

er viruses in tow, said Bruce Egan, assistant director for the Information Technology Response Center.

Egan said students need to be proactive when dealing with viruses like SirCam, a worm-type virus that goes after individual computers in the form of an e-mail attachment.

The worm then sends the user's Microsoft Word documents to the people in their e-mail address book.

SirCam, which Egan called the "virus

flavor of the moment," surfaced this summer with subject lines like "I send you this file in order to have your advice" and "I hope you can help me with this file that I send," according to Symantec, the corporation that produces the Norton AntiVirus software.

Pat Lunday, an Academic Technology & Networks virus specialist, said SirCam is especially deceptive because it usual-

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When Worms Attack

ATN officials are warning students to be cautious of all e-mails sent to them because some could contain attachments with worm-type viruses.

Worm enters computer by hiding in an e-mail attachment.



SOURCE: CNET NEWS.COM

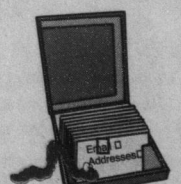
Person must open the e-mail attachment to set a worm loose on the hard drive.



Worm infects the computer.



DTH/MARY STOWELL



Worm e-mails itself to everyone listed in the user's address book.

I am a part of all that I have met.

Alfred Lord Tennyson