

# Site Supplies Professor Reviews

Pick-A-Prof provides free grade statistics for previous semesters and will begin selling textbooks soon.

By Mike Callahan  
Staff Writer

UNC-Chapel Hill students making last-minute changes to their schedule and looking for an easy "A" might not have to rely on word-of-mouth to find the perfect class.

A new Web site, <http://www.pickaprof.com>, breaks down by percentage the grades certain professors gave out the previous semester. The site also allows students to post professor reviews.

John Cunningham, Pick-A-Prof founder, said he created the Web site so students can find the perfect professor and class. "The site allows students to

make an educated decision about what professors they choose."

The Web site provides free grade information from 40 universities nationwide, including UNC-CH and N.C. State University, North Carolina's only two universities on the site.

The first college to be on the Web site was Texas A&M University, Cunningham's alma mater. After three semesters online, more than 10,000 reviews have been posted about Texas A&M professors.

Cunningham said at first professors were afraid the posts could provide a negative view of them and their teaching abilities. But Cunningham said that has not been the case and that more than 75 percent of the reviews praise professors. "The faculty came to find they had nothing to be afraid of," Cunningham said.

He said each review is screened before it is posted for the public to read. Any reviews containing personal attacks or profanity are not released. In addition,

the posts are ranked for content, only allowing students to read the posts considered high quality by Cunningham or his staff.

Cunningham said Pick-A-Prof soon will begin selling textbooks through the Web site. The staff at Pick-A-Prof will look around the country for the best deals on textbooks and allow students to buy them through the Web site. Cunningham said he hopes by selling books and advertisements on the Web site, he can keep it up and growing.

UNC-CH economics Professor Boone Turchi said he found the Web site to be humorous. "If the information is public, then I see no problem with (the Web site),"

*"If the information is public, then I see no problem with (the Web site). I think it's kind of funny actually."*

BOONE TURCHI  
UNC-CH Economics Professor

Turchi said. "I think it's kind of funny actually."

According to [www.pickaprof.com](http://www.pickaprof.com), Turchi, who is an advocate of reducing grade inflation, gave "B's" to more than 50 percent of his Economics 10 class last semester.

Jonah Turner, a senior from Raleigh, said he has regretted taking several classes in his four years at UNC-CH and wishes he could have had a resource such as [www.pickaprof.com](http://www.pickaprof.com).

"It is a good idea because it gives you a better way to select a class," Turner said. "You know what you are getting into."

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

## Developments in the War on Terrorism

### Al-Qaida Fighter Commits Suicide

A wounded al-Qaida fighter blew himself up during an escape attempt Tuesday after leaping from the second story of a hospital where he has been held for a month. See Online.



FOR MORE UPDATES, SEE [WWW.DAILYTARHEEL.COM](http://WWW.DAILYTARHEEL.COM)

### Misery Abounds for Afghan Refugees

Shelter is scarce and temperatures dip below freezing at night. But residents of refugee camps in western Afghanistan say the conditions they left behind were even worse. See Online.

### Pakistan OKs Pursuit of Terrorists

Pakistan has agreed to allow U.S. troops in Afghanistan to cross the border in pursuit of fugitive al-Qaida or Taliban leaders. An undisclosed number of U.S. special forces soldiers are in Pakistan. See Online.

# U.S. Troops Seize 2 Senior Al-Qaida Group Members

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. troops captured two senior al-Qaida fighters and confiscated their computers and cell phones near a huge underground cave complex used by Osama bin Laden's terrorist network, the nation's top general said Tuesday.

The discoveries in eastern Afghanistan came as U.S. forces were wrapping up operations in Tora Bora and focusing on Zawar Kili, the complex used as a training camp and point for possible movement from Afghanistan into Pakistan.

The two men, found late Monday in a group of 14 suspected members of al-Qaida, were deemed sufficiently important to be removed immediately to the U.S.-run detention center in Kandahar,

Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Richard Myers said at a Pentagon briefing.

Army Gen. Tommy Franks, the war's commander, said clues to the pair's importance included "the way that they carried themselves, their language skill and that sort of thing." Franks, head of U.S. Central Command, spoke on Public Broadcasting Service's "NewsHour."

Besides the computers and phones, "some small arms and training documents were also found," Myers said. "We're exploiting those as we speak."

American warplanes have struck repeatedly at the cave complex and at other areas around Khowst in eastern Afghanistan's Paktia province. U.S. special forces teams are on the ground in that area, where a Green Beret soldier was killed in an ambush Friday.

# Panera Bread Finds Home at Old Hardee's

By Scott Warfield  
Staff Writer

The dilapidated Hardee's building that once served fast food will soon house a nationally popular bakery and cafe.

Prestige Associates, a local group of investors, bought the property, which has sat vacant on the corner of West Franklin and Mallette streets, last summer.

The group, which built 23-Michael Jordan's Restaurant, located at 200 W. Franklin St. in 1999, plans to tear down the abandoned Hardee's building and construct an office complex sometime soon.

But in the meantime, Prestige Associates will lease the property to Panera Bread.

Robert Humphreys, executive director of the Downtown Commission, said the commission is excited about this new investment.

"We are real happy about this new

opportunity," Humphreys said.

This property has been a problem since the closing of the Hardee's Restaurant in March 1999, Humphreys said.

"We have fretted over this building for some time now," he said. "The building has sat empty for so very long."

According to the Panera Bread Web site, the chain started when Ken Rosenthal opened the St. Louis Bread Cafe in 1987. The company then formed the St. Louis Bread Company and, in 1995, introduced a brand new identity, Panera Bread, the Web site states.

Panera Bread reached more than \$350 million in systemwide sales in 2000.

Humphreys said Panera Bread has several stores in the Raleigh and Cary areas. This will be the first in Chapel Hill.

He said, "This looks like a real good addition to downtown Chapel Hill."

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

## Campus Calendar

Monday

UNC Young Democrats are proud to announce that Monday they will host Sen. Russell D. Feingold, D-Wis., on campus. Feingold, in a free event open to the public, will deliver remarks entitled, "What We Can Do For Our Country" at Memorial Hall.

Feingold's address will focus both on the ramifications of the Sept. 11 attacks and on the policies he has pushed for during his two terms in the U.S. Senate. During this tenure, Feingold has established himself as one of the leading progressive voices in America through his unwavering support of civil liberties, staunch opposition to the death penalty and racial profiling, and sponsorship of the McCain-Feingold campaign finance reform bill. Feingold's comments will be followed by a question and answer session with the audience.

For more information, please call the UNC Young Democrats at 960-7328 or visit their Web site at <http://www.uncyd.org>.

### The Daily Tar Heel

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# Economists Predict End of Nation's Recession in 2002

The N.C. economy will most likely grow at a slower rate than the national economy, one economist says.

By Jamie McGee  
Staff Writer

Despite the current economic slump, some local economists are optimistic that conditions will improve sometime later this year.

The N.C. Bankers Association released a report Jan. 3 stating that the nation's recession will be "short and shallow" because several factors, primarily growing consumer confidence.

Harry Davis, a NCBA economist and professor at Appalachian State University, said the recession will be short-lived.

"This recession should continue until about the end of the first quarter (of 2002), making the duration about 12 to 13 months," he said.

Davis attributed the predicted brevity of the economic downturn to a rise in consumer confidence and a strong housing sector.

But he added that North Carolina will not benefit from the improving economy as much as other parts of the nation. "The state economy will grow slower than the national economy this year," Davis said.

Mickey Levy, chief economist for Bank of America, also issued a statement on the optimistic economic outlook, emphasizing that the turnaround will not occur until the second half of the year.

Levy pointed to monetary and fiscal stimuli, lower energy prices and effective price adjustments as factors that will boost the economy.

Last year, Congress passed a bill authorizing \$40 billion in tax relief, and an additional \$70 billion was approved this year. In response to the events of Sept. 11, Congress approved the allotment of \$40 billion for national security and emergency relief.

Levy said these efforts, along with the

Federal Reserve Board's decision to decrease interest rates, will result in an economic rebound.

"Consumer spending will rise, housing activity will remain firm," he said. "Over the next four to six quarters, businesses will increase production and resume a moderate inventory building. This will add 1 percent to (gross domestic product) growth."

While Levy said he expects an economic comeback, he said he does not think that unemployment rates will see a similar change.

"Employment is expected to continue to decline modestly through (the first quarter of) 2002 even as the economy recovers," Levy said. "The unemployment rate is expected to drift sideways as businesses increase production without adding significantly to their payrolls."


UNC economics Professor James Wilde also said the economy likely will improve.

"My expectation is that the economy will turn around during the year and start to expand again," he said. "When this will happen is not easy to predict. I would expect that by the second half of the year, the economy will have improved."

Wilde credited government efforts — such as spending for wartime and recovery expenditures in New York — as significant help to the economy. He also said that tax cuts will contribute to a turnaround. Wilde said, "Tax relief will be forthcoming and turn the economy in a positive direction."

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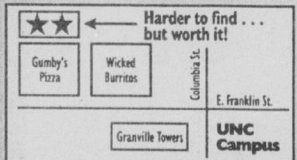
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