

UNC Right To Consult Conscience

UNC-Chapel Hill has a pretty big ego. We're a community of just a few thousand people — of professors, students and staff scurrying about campus while focused on the daily grind of University life.

The daily activity of campus can seem mundane, but the truth is that UNC-CH has a higher place in society than many other institutions.



KAREY WUTKOWSKI
UNIVERSITY COLUMNIST

It's a well-deserved ego that comes from UNC-CH being a haven of higher thought that produces scientific research and ideas that can shape and improve society in the ways of medical

advances, political policy and literary contributions, just to name a few.

And it's an ego that comes with a certain responsibility that UNC-CH administrators seem well aware of.

This responsibility has increasingly come to light in the past year as the downturn in the state and national economy has forced people to reevaluate their priorities.

Perhaps the first example of UNC-CH realizing what a large social impact it can have on the outside community came last May when the University's Department of Athletics was poised to install a \$2 million dollar video board in Kenan Stadium.

Although the money for the video board came solely from private donations, University administrators were hesitant about the negative public perception that could come from flaunting private money when state officials were projecting a budget shortfall of about \$2 billion for the 2002-03 fiscal year and members of the N.C. General Assembly were discussing cutting funding for UNC-system schools.

"Even though it was a privately funded project paid for through broadcast rights, the symbolism didn't feel right," said Chancellor James Moeser. "It was a taxpayer sensitivity issue. Not only our staff, but thousands of people in North Carolina were without jobs."

A few months ago, the University showed again that it realizes the message its actions can send out when administrators decided to defer lighting the Bell Tower, a move that would have cost \$100,000.

Officials had private contributions identified and earmarked for the physical upgrade, but they decided to redirect it to support academic programs, sending out the message of where the University's priorities lie in times of budget constraints.

And now the University's sense of its outside impact is being tested once again as the Carolina First Campaign is entering its public phase, with administrators touting UNC-CH's goal to raise \$1.8 billion in private funds in the name of becoming the leading public university.

Although in the past year UNC-CH has shown that it is cautious about how it flaunts its private financial resources, it seems that administrators are slightly shifting their public attitude toward private money as financial times change.

The public phase of the campaign originally was scheduled to commence in October 2001, but administrators delayed the move after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, partly due to concerns of appearing callous while asking for donations when other fund-raisers were channeling money to the attack victims.

As the private phase of the campaign progressed this past year, administrators were cautiously boastful about announcing large donations and news that they were exceeding its goals, remaining sensitive about the continuing economic downturn facing the state and nation.

But as the tension of financial woes have eased, with the figure of potential UNC-system budget cuts being reduced, UNC-CH administrators have duly responded, now seemingly feeling freer to brag about its private coffers, as press releases and ceremonies have abounded.

UNC-CH does have a right to boast about its private donations, and administrators do have a right to assign the University a bigger ego as a result.

Alumni and corporations donate money to UNC-CH because they believe it is a great institution, and it's hard not to tell others about praise and compliments when you receive them.

UNC-CH's administrators, however, have proved their ability to take the high road, sacrificing publicity, video boards and illuminated landmarks to preserve the image of humility they know others will be noting.

There's nothing better than a little conscience to back up an ego.

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ASG Creates Student Administrator Post

By ELYSE ASHBURN
State & National Editor

WILMINGTON — The UNC-system Association of Student Governments created a position for a vice president of administration at its meeting Saturday — a move essentially made to sidestep the Board of Governors' ban on the hiring of a professional administrator for the group.

The vice president of administration will receive a \$20,000 salary and primarily is charged with performing day-to-day clerical duties.

ASG President Jonathan Ducote said

the position was created to relieve him of mundane operational tasks.

"I'm being bogged down with doing all this paperwork and can't do what I've been elected to do," Ducote said.

Association members attending Saturday's meeting, including UNC-CH Student Body President Jen Daum, reiterated Ducote's sentiment and approved the position in a 36-28 vote. "In order to lead the administration anywhere, we had to free (Ducote) up from those administrative duties," Daum said.

ASG members had intended for a professional administrator to perform the

duties of the newly created vice president, but the BOG froze the hiring process at its September meeting. Members expressed concern over ASG's hiring of an administrator, saying they wanted the association to remain student-run.

The administrator's original job description included not only performing clerical duties but also researching pertinent state legislation and performing minor management duties.

The board said the position had to be limited to clerical duties and halted the hiring process until an altered job description could be approved. The BOG is slated to

address the issue at its November meeting.

ASG President Jonathan Ducote said the new position is intended to temporarily replace that of the administrator. The \$20,000 salary for the vice president position will come from the \$40,000 allotted for the administrator.

"It's basically taking the administrative position and giving it a new name," he said. "It's solving what was becoming an external problem internally."

Ducote said he thinks BOG members will approve of the move because giving the administrative duties to a student addresses a key point of contention.

"One of the board's number one concerns was that the association remain under student control," he said. "I think this sits right in line with what the board has been saying."

But the student-filled position will exist, at most, until the end of the academic year. The vice president of administration will be responsible for hiring a full-time professional replacement meeting the BOG's revised guidelines.

Daum said that she wants the revamped position to be filled well before

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DTH/JESSICA FOSTER

Brian Stynchula feeds and pets the goats at the N.C. State Fair petting zoo Sunday. The 10-day fair opened Friday and drew crowds throughout the weekend despite overcast skies. The fair closes Sunday.

1st Weekend Fares Well

Thousands gather to enjoy fair's unique sights, sounds, tastes

By GILLIAN BOLSOVER
Staff Writer

"Do you have a towel? My tail's all wet," shouted Gerald Cook to his wife, Jill, after sloshing off the white-water-rapid ride Sunday morning.

For the Cook family, and many others, fun is the name of the game at the annual N.C. State Fair, where entertainment ranges from elephant ears to candy corn, exhibiting to clogging and eating to cheering.

The state fair opened its gates Friday at the fairgrounds in Raleigh and will run until Sunday.

Fairgoers can find the world's smallest pony near the world's longest snake and a 1,100-pound pig just a few feet away.

Michael Cox, who works in Florida with this famous pig, said he has never seen or heard of a bigger swine.

Chris Schiot, a 10-year-old from Garner, said he was amazed by the pig. "I have never seen anything as big," he said. "He's so fun. I wish I had a pet like him."

Pig lovers also can head over to

Hogway Speedway to see quartets of pigs — Vietnamese, pot-bellies, black, pink — running forward, backward, around and not at all.

These barnyard staples were joined by goats and ducks racing around the woodchip track.

Four-legged winners received cheese noodles.

Humans at the fair preferred a snack of the powdered sugar variety.

Funnel cakes — \$4, with an extra 50 cents getting the patron extra sugar — are a state fair tradition for Durham resident Ashley Moore.

"I only eat them at carnivals and fairs," she said. "But I'd give them a nine out of 10. They're good, sweet and fatty."

Ostrich meat was available for the daring and health-conscious.

This delicacy, reared on one of North Carolina's 300 ostrich farms, is lower in

calories and fat than most meats, said farmer C.W. Horsley from Oakridge Farm. He said ostrich meat tastes, looks and feels like beef.

"It's just like sausage," said Mike Larry of Greenville after taking a emu-sized bite out of his ostrich burger. "I was attracted by the huge plastic ostrich head above the stall. I have never tried ostrich before, but I will again — not regularly though."

Food was the last thing on the mind of 7-year-old Megan Harvell of Gibson as she waited in the wings of the folk festival tent.

Dressed in a denim skirt with red sequins and lace trim and oversized red leather boots, Harvell said she has clogged for the past four years. This was the first time she performed at the state fair.

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"When I was young we all used to get the same day off school to go to the fair. All the local children went together."

JO FALLOE
Fairgoer

'Sunrise' Gives Glimpse of U.S. Past

By ELLIOTT DUBE
Assistant Arts & Entertainment Editor

Many Americans are justifiably concerned with what the future holds for the United States. Playmakers Repertory

Company is shedding light on the question by looking at the country's past.

Specifically, the company has brought a folk hero back to life in "Sunrise in My Pocket: The Comical, Tragic, True History of Davy

Crockett," the first production of the season for PRC.

Edwin Justus Mayer's play, adapted and directed by Jeffrey Hayden, is running until Nov. 10.

Crockett always has been associated with the outdoors, so relocating the wilderness to an indoor theater was a necessary task. The play's crew has done wonders, using realistic tree props, changes in lighting, pre-recorded sound effects and other small touches to enhance the story.

The plot revolves around the famed frontiersman's journey from Tennessee to Texas to fight against Santa Anna's Mexican army. He also sees Texas as a "virgin country" that hasn't yet been violated by greedy speculators and bankers.

Davy has a ragtag team to accompany him. There's Crawling Caterpillar (Douglas Spain), his Harvard-educated Native American sidekick; Hardin (Mike Regan), a pugilistic pirate; Thimbliger

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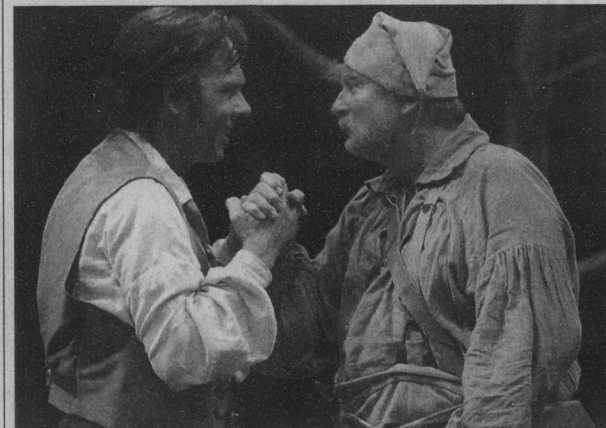


PHOTO COURTESY OF PLAYMAKERS REPERTORY COMPANY

Kenneth Strong (left), playing the character of Davy Crockett, talks with Mike Regan, playing the character of Hardin, in "Sunrise in My Pocket."

Campuses Find Individual Solutions to Budget Cuts

BOG must approve plans in November

By MATT HANSON
Staff Writer

Officials at most of the 16 UNC-system campuses will strive to protect quality of education and campus safety measures in their final budget plans.

The UNC-system Board of Governors will review final plans at its November meeting. The BOG released Oct. 11 the official amount each university must cut from its budget.

System schools were required to submit plans for anticipated budget cuts in April, said Jeff Davies, UNC-system vice president for finance. Davies said he expects to see the 16 campuses generally follow their April plans but that each university has the authority to distribute cuts within its departments.

"Preparations for final budget reductions have the benefit of several more months of research," he said.

UNC-Chapel Hill Provost Robert Shelton distributed cuts to departments before the BOG acted Oct. 11. At UNC-CH each department will be in charge of accounting for its own reductions.

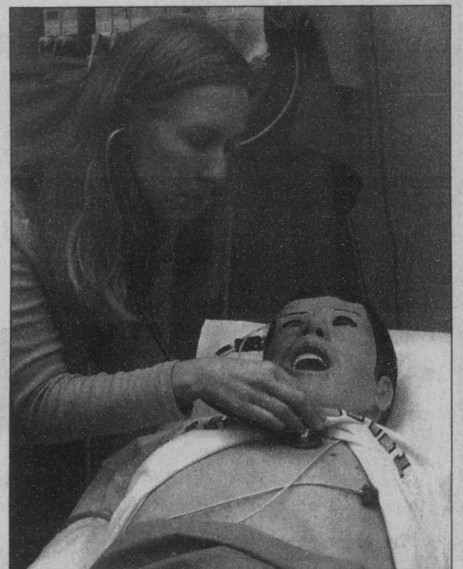
N.C. State University has planned for the reductions since June, said George Worsley, N.C. State vice chancellor for finance and business. "We anticipated a cut around 5 percent," Worsley said. "As a result of that, we laid off 50 people."

N.C. State's administration and academic departments will see 4.5 percent and 2.5 percent budget cuts respectively, he said.

But Worsley said increased enrollment funds allowed the safety department space to expand and enter a contract with Pinkerton Security to provide greater security after two recent robberies.

Appalachian State University also has acted in anticipation of the cuts, said Bob Shaffer, ASU vice chancellor for public affairs. The university has seen a \$5.7 million reduction in its budget since fall 2001-02, Shaffer said. He added that

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DTH/BRIAN CASSELLA

Second-degree nursing student Tracey Farmer checks the heart rate of mannequin "Stan the Man."