

# Students Get a Taste of Southern Culture

By KIRSTEN VALLE  
Staff Writer

Will McKinney is a big fan of Carolina barbecue.

Eastern or western style, urban or rural, he can't get enough.

McKinney certainly isn't alone in his enthusiasm for this Southern tradition, but he might be the king of barbecue at UNC.

About a year ago, McKinney, a senior political science major, founded the Carolina BarBQ Society, an organization that meets about once a month to eat barbecue at various locations around the state.

"Some friends and I were just going out to eat barbecue a lot," said McKinney about what prompted him to found the society. "Ever since we could drive at UNC, we've been going to these restaurants."

McKinney, who hails from South Carolina, said most of his friends were from out of state or from major cities in North Carolina and had not really been exposed to rural culture.

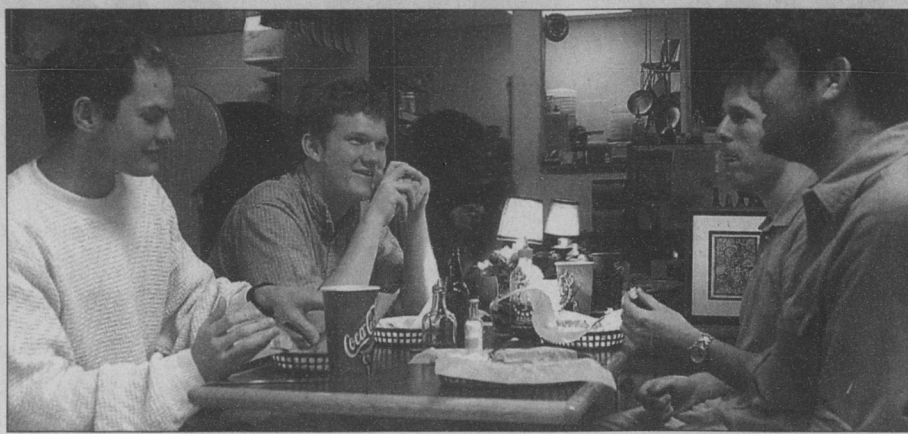
"There are so many little cultures in North Carolina," McKinney said. "A lot of people have never gotten off the highway."

The idea for the society was an immediate hit, with 40 people at the first meeting. That number quickly grew to 140 members, including students, faculty members and Chapel Hill residents.

In addition to eating barbecue, McKinney hopes members can gain some education and insight into the culture of the South.

"Will has done a terrific job; he's been able to put it in a historical context," said Eric Mlyn, the director of the Robertson Scholars Program at UNC and Duke University and the society's faculty adviser.

"The society's purpose is a combination of education and eating," Mlyn



Seniors Walt Kuhn (left), Will McKinney, Chris Sellers and Charles Epstein, all members of the executive board of the Carolina BarBQ Society, eat barbecue in Chapel Hill.

said. "Will always has a speaker, whether it's the owner of the restaurant or someone speaking about Southern culture."

John Shelton Reed, professor emeritus of sociology, spoke to members of the society last year at Bullock's, a restaurant in Durham.

"Traditional barbecue is an important and endangered aspect of North Carolina's cultural heritage. It's also good to eat," Reed said.

"Understanding barbecue as a food, a process and an event does help one understand North Carolina and the South."

Word of the society's promotion of Southern culture has spread all over the South since its humble beginning at UNC.

John Edge, director of the Southern Foodways Alliance in Oxford, Miss., has taken a profound interest in the club and hopes to attend an event in

the future.

His group, part of the Center for the Study of Southern Culture at the University of Mississippi, works to "celebrate, teach, preserve and promote the diverse food cultures of the American South," Edge said.

Edge said he finds the society both silly and inspiring. "I think it's intriguing that college students have such a passion for barbecue," he said.

The society goes hand in hand with the work he has been doing for years, Edge said.

"These students are doing what I get paid to do," Edge said. "The society speaks to a new generation of Southerners who understand Southern food culture."

McKinney said his favorite part of the society is the eating. "A close second, though, is seeing what is different about restaurants around the state," he said.

The society's upcoming event, the Down East Extravaganza, will allow members to do just that.

On Saturday, members will stop at about five restaurants along U.S. 70, referred to as "the road of barbecue" by McKinney.

"We won't eat too heavy at these places, but it will just be interesting to go and see a lot of the traditions used there," he said.

In a few years, the society might become a tradition itself.

If nothing else, Mlyn said, the society promotes Southern culture in perhaps the most entertaining way.

"I think the society is fun, and I think it's important to learn about North Carolina," he said. "I'm not sure if eating barbecue is the best way, but it's a fun way."

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

# 2 in Congress Resign; O'Brien to Run Again

Next special election scheduled for Nov. 26

By LAURA BOST  
Staff Writer

Two members of Student Congress resigned Tuesday, making it possible for one member who stepped down recently to run for election.

Congress members Kristin Taylor, District 16, and Ben Davidson, District 19, both announced their resignations.

Taylor said she had to resign because she recently moved out of her district and into District 18. She said she hopes to return to Congress in the future.

Davidson said he wished to announce his resignation now, before time conflicts prohibiting him from participating in Congress forced him to resign at the beginning of the spring semester.

Davidson represented the same district that former Congress Speaker Pro Tem Matt O'Brien moved into two weeks ago. O'Brien's move forced him to resign from Congress.

While Davidson said knowledge that O'Brien was in his district didn't influence his decision, O'Brien said Davidson approached him about a week ago.

O'Brien said Davidson let him know about the decision to resign, allowing him time to consider rejoining Congress as a representative for the district. O'Brien said he was grateful for the information.

"I didn't know about Ben's decision to

resign when I moved," O'Brien said. "But now I do plan to run for his position."

O'Brien will be on the ballot for the Nov. 26 special election called to fill vacancies in Congress. If elected, he will return as a regular Congress member rather than as the speaker pro tem. "I don't think it will be weird at all," he said. "Any member of Congress can be just as actively involved as any other. Just because I would no longer be pro tem wouldn't stop me from voicing my opinions."

Speaker Pro Tem Matt Liles echoed O'Brien's sentiments. "It could be strange with Matt coming back, but knowing him and knowing how he is, I don't think there will be any problems," he said. "He is so professional and legislative and good at making his ideas heard, I don't even think it will throw a kink in the works."

Liles said he has given no thought to stepping down and allowing O'Brien to resume his former position.

O'Brien said he is "only concentrating on getting in right now" and does not have a specific agenda in mind if elected. "People have been asking me if I'm going to run for speaker, but right now I have no idea," he said. "I have to get back in first - I'll decide all that later."

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

# Accused Terrorist Cell Leader Arrested in North Carolina

The Associated Press

DETROIT - A fugitive accused by the government of leading a terrorist sleeper cell in Detroit has been arrested in North Carolina and will be extradited to Michigan to face charges, authorities said.

Identified in court papers only as Abdella, the man was accused in an August indictment of acting with "a covert underground support unit" and an "operational combat cell" for a radical Islamic movement allied with al-Qaeda. The indictment alleged the man "provided direction" to the Detroit terrorist cell.

His alleged accomplices, Karim Koubriti, 24, Ahmed Hannan, 34, and Farouk Ali-Haimoud, 22, were arrested less than a week after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. A raid on a Detroit apartment the men shared yielded a cache of false documents and videotapes that

appeared to case U.S. landmarks, authorities said.

Abdella was charged with providing material support to terrorists and conspiracy to engage in fraud and misuse of visas, permits and other documents.

He was arrested Nov. 5 outside Greensboro, federal authorities said. He appeared in U.S. District Court in Durham and was ordered held without bond. He will be transferred to Detroit, Gina Balaya, a spokeswoman for the U.S. attorney's office in Detroit, said today.

Koubriti, Hannan and Ali-Haimoud pleaded innocent in September to a charge of conspiracy to provide material support or resources to terrorists. Their trial is scheduled for Jan. 21.

The indictment suggested the men were involved with an Islamic extremist movement known as Salafiyya, which became associated with Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network.

## Campus Calendar

### Today

noon - The Orange County Chapter of the American Red Cross and Morrison Residence Hall are sponsoring a blood drive from until 4:30 p.m. Appointments are encouraged. Contact Kenny Olson at [olsonk@email.unc.edu](mailto:olsonk@email.unc.edu).  
8 p.m. - UNC Opera Workshop: Mozart Opera Scenes - "Down Under" will be held in Hill Hall Auditorium. It is free and open to the public.

### Saturday, Nov. 16

7 p.m. - Tonight is the 16th annual

### The Daily Tar Heel

P.O. Box 3257, Chapel Hill, NC 27515  
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### Sunday, Nov. 17

7 p.m. - Student government will be having its weekly Cabinet meeting in 109 Lenoir Dining Hall. All are welcome to attend.

8 p.m. - UNC Chamber Singers are holding a concert in Hill Hall Auditorium. It is free and open to the public.

# GPSF Considers Letter Scale to Replace Pass/Fail

By MEREDITH CRAIG  
Staff Writer

Graduate students could face a letter grading scale similar to that of undergraduates as soon as next year if a proposal is approved by the Faculty Council.

In the meantime, graduate students can voice their opinions on the proposed grading scale in an online survey sponsored by the Graduate and Professional

Student Federation. The survey will be accessible online until Saturday.

As of Wednesday evening, 700 graduate students had taken the survey. The results will be presented to the Education Policy Subcommittee by the GPSF representative Wednesday.

If approved, the earliest the new scale would take effect is the 2003-04 academic year.

The undergraduate letter grading

scale is different from the current HPLF graduate scale, which consists of the grades "high pass," "pass," "low pass" and "fail" and does not provide students with a grade point average.

The proposed change would only impact those departments and schools that are a part of the Graduate School. The schools of Law, Medicine, Dentistry and Pharmacy, which do not use the HPLF system, would not be affected.

The new grading system was discussed by the Graduate School Administrative Board at the request of deans and professors, said Linda Dykstra, dean of the Graduate School. After data was collected, the board decided the change should be considered and forwarded it to the Education Policy Subcommittee.

The proposal is in that subcommittee and, if passed, will be forwarded to the Faculty Council for a vote.

"They felt that most students were at a disadvantage by not having a GPA when applying to other programs," Dykstra said.

Dykstra said a letter grading scale is traditional for graduate schools. UNC is one of five or six in the country that use the HPLF system, she said.

Some graduate students and professors also are concerned with the current

scale because of the wide range that a "pass" grade encompasses.

"The difference between the low end of pass and the high end of pass, in terms of communicating students' performance, is enormous," said Sue Estroff, Faculty Council chairwoman.

GPSF President Branson Page said the scale makes the graduate student experience less stressful than a letter grading system would.

"There are merits to both ways," Page said. "But I like the fact that Carolina can distinguish itself with this type of system."

Stephanie Schmitt, vice president of external affairs for the GPSF, sent an e-mail to graduate students Tuesday asking them to complete the brief survey to determine prevailing opinions on the proposal.

Schmitt, who sat on the Administrative Board, said the issue has been raised so early on in the approval process because it is such a new concept. "We just wanted students to have a chance to provide input before it went through."

The GPSF survey can be accessed at <http://www.unc.edu/~sschmitt/project/GradingSystem.html>.

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

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UNC-Charlotte School of Nursing

# Catholic Questions?

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