

Carolina Four Square Brings Back Good, Old-Fashioned Fun

By ALISON ROSS
Staff Writer

When the Smith Center was packed with thousands of Tar Heels cheering on the men's basketball team against an eventually victorious Maryland, there was another heated ball game unfolding at UNC.

The players met in the Pit at 9 p.m. With blue chalk they drew the lines - 23 1/2 bricks by 23 1/2 - before labeling the squares with single letters: K, Q, J and A.

Snow was expected later in the night, but winter coats and gloves can be a hindrance to the game, so many were peeled off and thrown on the Pit steps. Beside the pile of outerwear sat an old boombox nicknamed the GhettoBlaster, blaring Hindi music from "Monsoon Wedding."

"Bring it," one player challenged in the early minutes of the match.

"Oh, it's already been broughten," another responded.

Welcome to the world of Carolina Four Square. And yes, it's for real.

What started last October with a few students meeting Wednesday nights to have a good time playing a childhood game has ballooned into a weekly ritual in which 80 to 100 people take part.

"I have a friend at Bard College who knew someone that started a four square

game on campus," said sophomore Nicole Martin, one of the originators of the tradition at UNC. "I thought it would be fun to do."

Since the first game the week before Fall Break, the weekly four-squaring hasn't stopped, with the exception of Winter Break and the Wednesday of the recent ice storm.

"The first game we weren't that good, but now we have moves," Martin said. "And everybody's welcome, so you meet really cool people."

The game itself is a purist's dream: four, sometimes five hours of continuous play unfettered by the tricks so popular in grade school.

"We play straight simple four square," Martin said. "We don't really go for the special rules stuff."

The few interruptions that do come happen when there is a dispute among players or when the ball is knocked out of the Pit.

"What are you doing?" player Russ Grimmatt asked Jacob Liddell one Wednesday after he sent the ball flying toward Lenoir Dining Hall.

"I was going for blood!" Liddell

shouted over his shoulder as he ran to retrieve the ball.

The players gained a larger audience after the Maryland game let out and spectators began trickling past the Pit. Some stopped to look on and even to join the action.

"Do you want to play? It could be fun," a man in Carolina blue asked his girlfriend. She laughed and shook her head.

"Are you kidding? I haven't played since second grade," she said. "Let's go."

That reaction is typical of some passers-by, but Shelley Fullwood said about 60 percent of the players

each week are newcomers who are convinced by those already playing to join in.

"We yell at everyone who walks by - the Lenoir workers, cops," said freshman Michael Jerch. "One time there was a girl dressed as a gorilla; she played. I have pictures."

The group also puts up signs in the libraries that say things such as, "Do something concrete, play 4-Square."

The only negative reaction the group received was when two guys ran into the

middle of a game one night and held the ball hostage for 15 minutes.

"It was like bullies on the schoolyard again," Jerch said. "We had all grown up, and nothing had changed."

But most spectators are at least amused, if not supportive, of the four square revival in the Pit. "You all should make this an official club," one bystander said during a game.

"Why?" Martin asked, hitting the ball from her position in the jack square. Conversation lulled while the group considered the benefits of University recognition.

"We could buy snacks," a person in line said.

"We already have those," Fullwood responded.

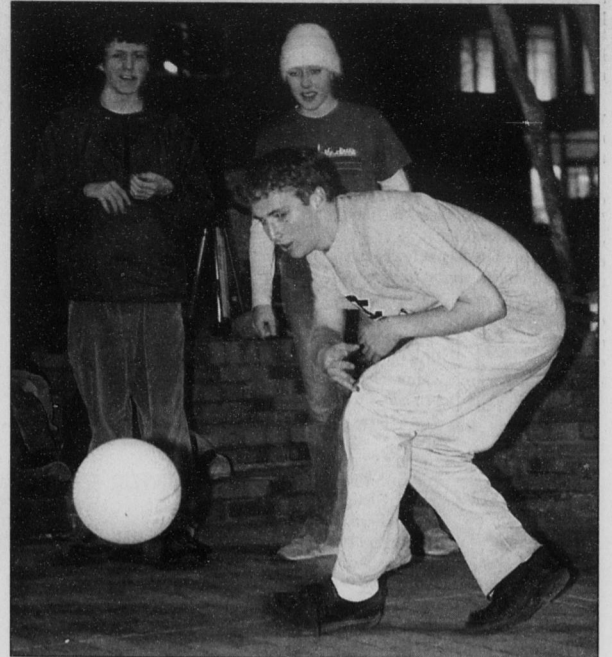
"We do want to become an official club eventually because we're going to want Web space," Martin said. "But we're trying to avoid the idea that you're either in the four square club or you're not."

Martin also had hoped to set a global record for longest four-square game, but the Guinness Book of Records turned down the idea.

"Whatever. We'll keep playing four square in the Pit every Wednesday at nine," Jerch said.

"Be there or be a regular quadrilateral."

The Features Editor can be reached at features@unc.edu.



DTH/GARRETT HALL

Freshman David Brown plays four square in the Pit while sophomores Russ Grimmatt (left) and Nicole Martin wait for their turns.

Student Elections Violations Total 3

Staff Report

With about a week left in this year's student elections campaign season, the Board of Elections has made four separate decisions, including levying two small fines against candidates in two different races.

The most recent punitive action taken by the board was Jan. 28, when senior class officer candidates Zack Mansfield and Daniel Walker were fined \$5 for illegally staking campaign posters with wooden stakes. The posters were found outside of the Student Union and on Polk Place, the board's decision states.

A week earlier, Dan Pickel, write-in candidate for student body president, was fined \$5 for posting fliers prior to the allowance of public campaigning using campaign materials. Candidates were

not allowed to use campaign materials, such as fliers and posters, until Jan. 28.

Student body president candidate Matt Tepper received an official warning from the elections board Jan. 21 for a violation involving campaigning over an e-mail listserv before the period of time designated for that type of campaigning.

The board's decision states that Tepper's campaign forwarded an e-mail to the Outing Club's listserv Jan. 18.

In an administrative decision made Jan. 31, the board opted to take no action against senior class officer candidates George Leamon and Doug Melton.

Allegations were forwarded to the board that Leamon and Melton campaigned Jan. 15, before the designated public campaigning period. But elections board officials did not find evidence supporting the claims and took no action.

Elections board Chairman Brian Fauver said the board is looking into a few other possible minor violations but has yet to make any final decisions.



Vandalism Causes 3,000-Gallon Sewer Overflow

By BILLY CORRIHER
Assistant City Editor

A sewer main, blocked by sheets of plastic that someone dropped in a manhole, spilled at least 3,000 gallons of wastewater Sunday morning before Orange Water and Sewer Authority could clear the sewer system.

Greg Feller, OWASA director of public affairs, said the blockage constitutes an act of vandalism because it occurred when someone intentionally put the plastic in the sewer and, consequently, damaged the surrounding environment.

Though the spill was the second in the past month in the Erwin Road area, Feller said the previous spill was caused by grease blockage and was unrelated.

The spill Sunday occurred in the New

Hope Creek drainage basin, and Feller said OWASA personnel flushed nearby streams with clean water, in addition to normal disinfecting measures, to minimize damage.

OWASA measured the spill at 3,000 gallons between 9 a.m. when personnel arrived and 10 a.m. when the spill was stopped, but Feller said the manhole could have been overflowing before 9 a.m.

OWASA handled 21 wastewater spills from July 1, 2001, to June 30, 2002, with an average of a little more than 1,000 gallons per spill. Feller said the average volume and number of spills varies from year to year.

Spills can be caused by debris, grease blockages, root pressure or pump failure.

Feller said it is difficult for OWASA to predict overflows. "It's like trying to

predict the weather," he said.

Many of last year's spills resulted from debris blockages such as the plastic sheeting in Sunday's overflow.

Feller said OWASA officials asked neighbors in the area if they had seen anyone dumping things into manholes but were unable to find out who was responsible.

"It was done intentionally," Feller said. "There was no other way for it to have gotten in there."

Feller said OWASA wants residents to report anyone they see dumping anything

into the sewer system. "We are concerned about protecting the sewer system."

OWASA unblocked a manhole stoppage caused by a plastic bucket about 18 months ago, he said. "This is something that does happen on occasion."

Feller said using the sewer system in an inappropriate way or vandalizing the system can cause an overflow

that will damage the surrounding environment.

"It was done intentionally. There was no other way for (the plastic) to have gotten in there."

GREG FELLER
OWASA Spokesman

The City Editor can be reached at citydesk@unc.edu.

Fisher Launches Write-In Campaign for CAA President

By JOSEPH SAUNDERS
Staff Writer

Junior Betsy Fisher announced Tuesday that she plans to run as a write-in candidate for Carolina Athletic Association president in the Feb. 11 general election.

Fisher, a psychology major from New Bern, has waited to announce her write-in candidacy until one week before the

scheduled student elections.

Previously, the only candidate running for the position was junior Sherrell McMillan, a journalism major from Hope Mills and CAA vice president.

Fisher's campaign manager, senior biology major Scott Brittain, says they have been preparing their campaign for a while.

"We've been planning for a week and a half," Brittain said.

"But we've waited until Tuesday to announce it."

Fisher emphasized the fact that she is not part of the CAA administration and can bring new ideas to the organization.

"I'm an outsider to CAA," she said. "I see a different perspective."

According to her platform, Fisher says she will work to increase the speed and efficiency of basketball and football ticket distribution, strengthen the pres-

ence of Carolina Fever at sporting events and create weeklong events and nighttime social activities during Homecoming week.

"I see the changes that students would want," Fisher said.

Officials announced this week that there will be no ticket distributions for any football games during the 2003 season.

Fisher also said the fact that McMillan is running unopposed was a major factor in her decision to run for the position.

"I feel that people need an option," she said.

Brittain also said he thinks students should have more than one choice for CAA president.

"We didn't feel it was fair to the student body to have only one candidate," he said.

Even though Fisher is entering the race late, Brittain said the few campaigning material circulating on campus for McMillan so far might help her chances. "We are a lot more focused."



Junior Betsy Fisher emphasizes that she is not a part of the CAA and will bring new ideas.

The University Editor can be reached at udesk@unc.edu.

Choose the next
DTH Editor

The Daily Tar Heel is seeking students to serve on the panel that will choose the editor of the DTH for the 2003-2004 school year.

Applications for the seven at-large positions on the DTH Editor Selection Board are available at the DTH Office and the Carolina Union info desk kiosk.

Applicants must be available for an orientation meeting from 5-6pm Thursday, February 27 and from approximately 8:30am-4pm Saturday, March 1 to conduct interviews and make the selection.

All students may apply for at-large positions except current DTH news staff members. If you have any questions about the process, please contact Kim Minugh (962-4086, kminugh@email.unc.edu) or Janet Gallagher-Cassel (962-0520, jgcassel@email.unc.edu).

Deadline:
Friday, Feb. 14th

Ranked #1 by U.S. News & World Report

UNC SCHOOL OF INFORMATION AND LIBRARY SCIENCE

Interested in a career working with
PEOPLE, INFORMATION, AND TECHNOLOGY?

Find out more about an exciting new major in information science at an

OPEN HOUSE

Monday, February 10, 4:30-5:30pm
208 Manning Hall

For more details, go to
<http://ils.unc.edu/openhouse/intro.html>

intro-q&a-live demos-the word from current IS students-refreshments-intro-q&a-live demos-the word from current IS students-refreshments-intro-q&a-live demos-the word from current IS students-refreshments-intro-q&a-live demos-the word from current IS students

IRIS

the unc journal of
medicine, literature,
& visual arts

INVITES

SUBMISSIONS
(short stories, essays, poetry, paintings, photos, etc.)
related to health, illness, or medicine
by March 1, 2003.

More info at www.med.unc.edu/iris/

THE CAROLINA UNION PERFORMING ARTS SERIES PRESENTS
AN EVENING WITH CUBAN JAZZ PIANIST

CHUCHO VALDES

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 12
HILL HALL UNC-CH 8pm

FOR TICKET INFORMATION, CALL THE BOX OFFICE AT
919 962 1449

JOINED BY BASS, PERCUSSION AND DRUMS

Declare Your Love & Win Free Stuff!

1st Prize: Dinner for two at Top of the Hill
2nd Prize: Dozens of Roses from University Florist
3rd Prize: Movie tickets to Chelsea Theatre

DTH Valentine's Personal Contest
Submit your ad by January 31 and it's FREE!
50 word limit. After January 31 cost is \$6
Call 962-0520 or stop by Suite 104 Union
To submit your ad or for more information

Sponsored by:
TOP OF THE HILL
UNIVERSITY FLORIST
CHELSEA