

CALENDAR

Today

7 p.m. — Euripides' classic "Trojan Women" will be performed at 7 p.m. today and Saturday and at 2 p.m. Sunday in the Forest Theatre (rain site: Swain Studio 6).

It will incorporate African drums and dance into the ancient Greek tragedy and is a fund raiser for organizations that provide relief for women affected by wars in Afghanistan, Iraq and the United States.

Monday, April 28

9 a.m. — North Carolina Haiku Society is hosting its annual Haiku Holiday workshop at 600 Bolin Brook Farm Road. Workshops, talks and walks run until 2:30 p.m. It's open to anyone with an interest in haiku, beginner or advanced. Bring previously written, unpublished haiku and a bag lunch. For additional information, visit <http://nc-haiku.org>.

10 a.m. — The School of Medicine is sponsoring a blood drive until 2:30 p.m. on the third floor of Berryhill Hall. Donors will receive a coupon for free a Chick-fil-A sandwich and a coupon for \$2 off Great Clips haircut.

The Daily Tar Heel

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 One copy per person; additional copies may be purchased at The Daily Tar Heel for \$.25 each.
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Grassroots lobbying steps up in recession

BY COURTNEY BARKER
 STAFF WRITER

In times of national economic downturn, higher education advocates are stressing the significance of the presence of citizen lobbyists at state legislatures.

Lobbyist and advocacy groups always tend to step up their rhetoric when faced with economic hardships, said Rob Jones, director of government relations at the Virginia Education Association.

He said it helps when voters from the legislators' own districts present their personal arguments.

Incorporating these personal stories might be an increasingly common practice by students fighting a proposed 5 percent tuition increase for all UNC-system students.

Jonathan Ducote, president of the UNC-system Association of Student Governments, said it's beneficial to have familiar people at the legislature. But he added that new personal stories are more persuasive at times. "The more new faces and personal stories you bring in, the more effective lobbying is."

Doug Dibbert, president of UNC-Chapel Hill's General Alumni Association, said the Tar Heel Network recognizes alumni in each of North Carolina's 100 counties who work with legislators to promote higher education issues.

These alumni are identified as active members in their communities or as having productive personal relationships with legislators. Dibbert said alumni are important

because they help legislators understand that citizens support UNC-CH.

North Carolina isn't the only state in which students and alumni are making concerted efforts to lobby for state funds.

The Virginia Education Association — one of the top 10 lobbying groups in the state, according to Virginia legislators — organizes contact teams for each legislator. These teams are used when emphasis needs to be placed on a certain bill. The association also employs the "cyber lobby," in which 2,000 to 3,000 members send letters to and call legislators.

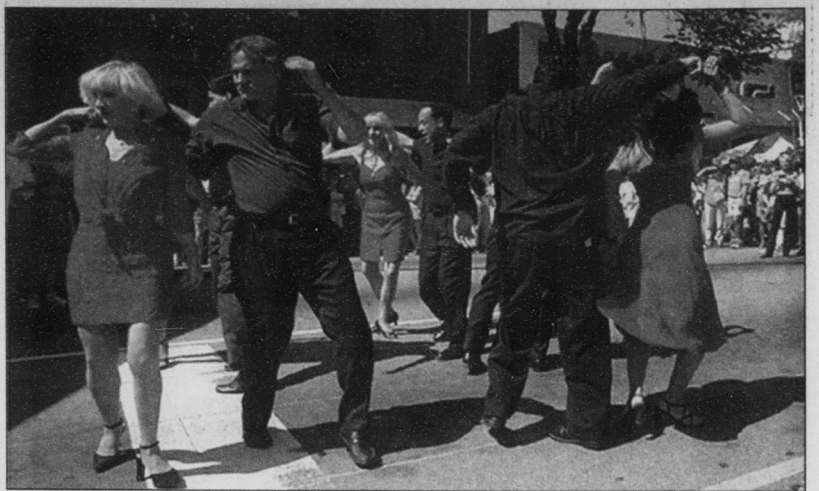
After the University System of Maryland implemented a 5 percent tuition hike in the middle of this spring semester, some students in system schools sued.

The students at the University of Maryland-College Park organized a grassroots campaign to protest the tuition increase, said Teresa Flannery, the university's executive director of marketing and communication. "Students have been the largest percentage in grassroots."

Students also staged a funeral protest in Annapolis, Md., with hearse to represent the death of higher education, Flannery said.

She said the grassroots campaign was a success because it attracted an enormous amount of attention from media and state officials.

Contact the State & National Editor at stntdesk@unc.edu.



DTH FILE PHOTO

Dancers perform at the Apple Chill festival in 1999. The Town Council has appointed a review committee to determine whether to continue holding the festival, which will take place on Franklin Street on Sunday.

Resident surveys to help decide Apple Chill's fate

BY JENNI NORMAN
 STAFF WRITER

Chapel Hill is famous for its diverse, artistic population and its tight-knit community. Street fairs such as Festfall and Sunday's Apple Chill have become a part of the community.

But events such as Apple Chill could be in danger of extinction.

On Sunday, residents attending the popular event will have the chance to complete general surveys about the fair. The Street Fair Review Committee then will submit the survey results along with other findings for consideration to the Chapel Hill Town Council in May.

"The surveys are to give us information on what is working for the public and what is not," said Parrish Anderson, representative of Chapel Hill's Parks and Recreation Department.

Anderson said the surveys are not the final determining factor in the fate of the fairs.

A similar survey was distributed at last year's Festfall. Generating about 300 responses, the surveys gave residents the opportunity to express what they like and dislike

about the festival. The survey also asked questions about ethnicity, age and place of residence.

Residents will be given the same opportunity at Apple Chill, which escaped elimination by the council earlier this year. The council is expected to announce the review committee's findings in May.

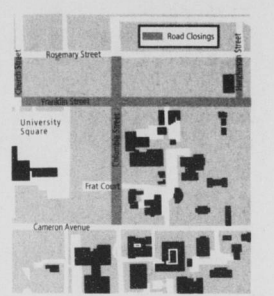
Kathryn Spatz, director of the parks and recreation department, said the main concern for many residents was that the fairs attract too many outsiders to the area.

Spatz said the results from Festfall's survey revealed that in fact, most people at the fairs are residents of Chapel Hill and Carrboro.

Besides the surveys, the committee will hold a public forum May 13. Spatz said the e-mail address where residents can send opinions about the fairs already has received 15 to 20 e-mails, which the committee also will review.

Some residents have expressed concern that this is a make-or-break year for community street fairs.

"We've made significant changes to this year's Apple Chill," Spatz said.



DTH/STAFF

She added that the event's committee has worked closely with church leaders and that this year's festival will feature better church access and more parking.

The festival, in addition to allowing better access, also will feature about 80 fewer vendors, Spatz said. "The feedback we've gotten is that the overwhelming community is happy with it."

Spatz stressed that Apple Chill is completely separate from "After Chill," the after-hours cruising that takes place on Franklin Street.

Linda Convisor, UNC coordinator of local relations and a member of the Street Fair Review Committee, said the town's police presence will be stronger this year.

"If there are things going on that shouldn't be, they will be there to take care of it," she said.

She said the committee has a lot of support from the community for Apple Chill and similar festivals. But as to whether Apple Chill will return next year, Convisor could not speculate. "I don't think anybody could say at this point."

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

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