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THURSDAY, MAY 22, 2003

# Expansion lingers as ACC plays waiting game

Conference voted May 13 by a 7-2 margin to expand to 12 teams, extending formal invitations to **Boston College**, Syracuse University and the University of Miami from the Big East Conference. None have responded, but it is likely the outcome will hinge on Miami.







Enrollment: 13,500

University of Miami Coral Gables, Fla. 2002 Football: 12-1

DTH/BRIAN CASSELLA

Syracuse, BC will join if Miami does

BY TIM CANDON

Although Big East Conference Commissioner Mike Tranghese first lam-basted the ACC for trying to lure away three of his conference's schools a month ago, the fact remains that the ACC is still

only a nine-member conference. However, a 7-2 vote by ACC university presidents May 13 cleared the way for formal proposals to be presented to

three Big East schools.
Clemson President James Barker, chairman of the ACC Council of Presidents, announced Friday that the ACC will invite the University of Miami, Syracuse University and Boston College to join the league.

"These three institutions represent and share the values for which the ACC has long been known," Barker said in a statement.

Formal action on admission is pending based on ACC bylaws, which mandate visits to the three campuses and discussions with each school's president.

But that all depends on Miami. BC and Syracuse officials have said their decision will mirror Miami's. That decision isn't expected soon, as Miami Athletic Director Paul Dee and President Donna Shalala are consider ing the Big East's last-minute proposal to entice Miami to remain with the 24year-old conference at this week's annual Big East meetings.

UNC Chancellor James Moeser and Duke President Nan Keohane originally voted against expansion but later voted in favor of adding Miami, adding Miami, Syracuse and BC.

"We were not in favor of expansion," Keohane said in a statement. "But since the decision to expand has now been made, we decided that we wish to be part of framing the outcome and to join with our partners in the conference in making this step as positive as possible for everyone involved."

While the ACC is best known for bas-ketball, football is the impetus behind its desires for expansion.

If the three schools join the ACC, it

would split into two divisions. That would allow the conference to hold an

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# Dean of medical school to step down

Houpt will serve until a replacement is named

**MEREDITH NICHOLSON** 

After serving as dean of the School of Medicine at UNC for six years, Jeffrey Houpt announced Monday that he has decided it is time to pass the baton.
Houpt served as dean of the School of Medicine at

Emory University in Atlanta for 8



Jeffrey Houpt holds dean vice chancellor and CEO positions at UNC.

years prior to coming to UNC.

"I have been doing this dean's
job for 14 years at two places,"
Houpt said. "I just felt it was time for me to stimulate my mind by doing other kinds of things."

Houpt, who also serves as vice chancellor for medical affairs and chief executive officer of the UNC Health Care System, will leave his position by May 2004 after his successor is named.

Provost Robert Shelton called Houpt's departure a tremendous loss and said Houpt has been an excellent leader in both his roles as dean as as a hos

pital executive. "We've been very fortunate to have Jeff Houpt this long, and he's ensuring a smooth transition.

In addition to filling Houpt's position, University officials are looking for vice chancellors of student affairs and information and technology; deans of the College of Arts and Sciences and schools of Education and Business; and the General Counsel.

Houpt described his years at UNC as spectacular

and said UNC Hospitals demonstrated tremendous growth despite the economy. "They've been magnif-

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## **UNC** employee kills 3, himself

**BY JOHN FRANK** 

Orange County investigators are trying to determine what caused a UNC researcher to reportedly shoot and kill his estranged wife, her male friend and her 9-year-old daughter Monday morning at a home near Mebane.

Roderick Morris Farb, 56, had worked as a research technician in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the N.C. Women's Hospital since Aug. 20, 2000.

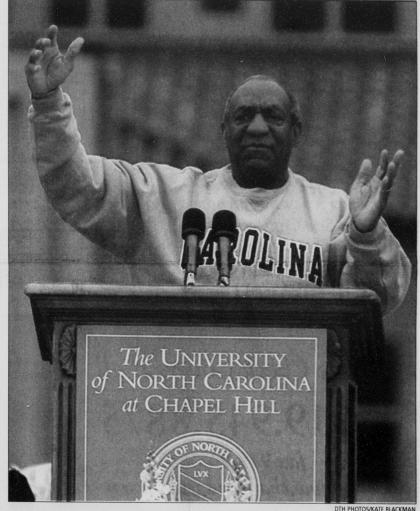
Law enforcement officials believe Farb shot and killed his wife, Erin Elizabeth Farb, 43; her daughter, Ashley Elizabeth Thomas, 9; and David Edward Cooley, 49, from St. George, Utah. Cooley also lived at the home located at 1600 Victoria Woods Road.

Roderick Farb was found dead with a gun in his

The shooting happened at 7:15 a.m. - about five minutes after Erin Farb's 18-year-old son, Brandon Robbins, left the house in his wheelchair to board a school bus bound for Orange High School at the end

SEE MURDER, PAGE 7

### SPRING COMMENCEMENT 2003



Comedian and education advocate Bill Cosby speaks during Commencement ceremonies Sunday morning.

# TIME RUNS OUT FOR CLASS OF 2003

bout the only thing in or around Kenan Stadium on Sunday morning that wasn't marked by a spirit of Carolina blue was the defiantly gray sky. As the members of the University's class of 2003 prepared to close the book on their college careers and add their names to UNC's list of alumni, the weather threatened to become inclement. Fortunately, the 2003 Commencement ceremony, with an alternately hilarious

and meaningful speech by Bill Cosby as its highlight, never was burdened by a sudden downpour.

About 30,000 guests, faculty members and graduate students took their seats before streams of sky blue gowns made their way down the aisles and lined the bleachers behind the west end zone.

Students quickly established a celebratory air, raising signs and flying balloops in a variety of chance

ing signs and flying balloons in a variety of shapes.

Among the bevy of speakers, Sue Estroff, former chairwoman of the Faculty Council, posed a final challenge to those about to graduate.

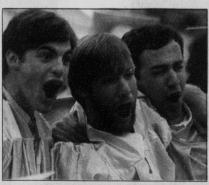
"I bet you thought you had your last exam," Estroff

told students. "You're wrong. One more, and there's just one question: 'Do you love Carolina?'" Once the inevitable roar in the affirmative had subsided, Estroff smiled and said, "OK, now you can graduate."

In addition to graduate and undergraduate diplomas, UNC conferred four honorary degrees. Reynolds Price, a Duke University professor of English who has

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New University alumni, including 2002 Homecoming King Berry French (center), sing the fight song.

# Fear of SARS grounds travels

BY ELLIOTT DUBE

Severe acute respiratory syndrome has hindered travel plans across the globe — including those of UNC students and faculty.

This year's Honors Asian Studies

Summer Beijing Program has been canceled due to concerns about the disease. Two trips to China in conjunction with an elective course in the Kenan-Flagler Business School's master's program also will not take

Dan Gold, Asia project officer for the Study Abroad Office, said an

officials)

students

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DEAN BRESCIANI,

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into

emergency ad hoc committee consisting of members of the office and other University officials recom-mended the cancellations. The commit-

tee took into account informa tion provided by the U.S. State Department, the Centers Disease Control and the World H e a l t h

CDC travel advisories for mainland China,

Taiwan and
Hong Kong — which have experienced SARS outbreaks — advise against nonemergency travel to those

The travel alert for Singapore calls attention to the health threat without advising against travel. UNC's summer study abroad program Singapore has not been canceled.

"Each (program) was evaluated on its own merits, so it wasn't sort of a blanket situation," said Provost

Dean Bresciani, associate dean of student affairs, said although discontinuing the programs has been disruptive and participating students and faculty have been disappointed, the reason for the cancellations is

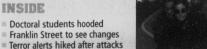
"The students I've talked to from those programs actually have been surprisingly understanding that the University has a responsibility to take their health and safety into consider-ation," he said. "We don't send students into harm's way any time we see that coming."

Peter Reinhardt, director of the

Department of Environment, Health and Safety, said students from affected areas of Asia are not being denied entry or admission to UNC during the summer. He said University offi-cials have worked to identify "those individuals who might pose a risk" and to give them information about SARS precautions.

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- Doctoral students hooded
- Franklin Street to see changes



#### INSIDE

"THE MATRIX RELOADED" Long-awaited sequel provokes widely differing opinions. PAGE 4



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### SUMMER MOVIES

DTH writers review film prospects for the summer. PAGE 9

#### WEATHER

TODAY: Isolated T-Storms, High 65, Low FRIDAY: Rain, High 67, Low 55 SATURDAY: Showers, High 76 Low 57