

# The Daily Tar Heel

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## SARS threat sparks UNC preparations

### UNC HOSPITALS READY EVEN AS RISK DECLINES IN STATE

BY MEREDITH OAKES  
STAFF WRITER

It has been almost two weeks since the first case of severe acute respiratory syndrome in North Carolina was confirmed, and officials gradually are returning to their normal pace.

"The level is not where it was a week ago," said Rosemary Summers, Orange County's health director.

After an Orange County man was diagnosed with SARS on June

6, local officials began taking steps to identify other possible cases.

Summers said the first step in the case was to contact and interview any individuals who had been in contact with the victim.

Next, officials tried to identify areas where the victim could have been during his infection period. After those areas were identified, officials tried to locate anyone who might have present there.

As of press time, the only known SARS victim in Orange County has

recovered fully, and there are "no other potential victims in the area," Summers said. But officials are waiting for the final test results of one of the victim's co-workers from Wake County who died Friday. Test results for another Orange County man who also was a co-worker of the victim came back negative for the disease on Friday.

Orange County's public health office worked with the N.C. Division of Public Health and the UNC Department of Environment,

Health and Safety to administer a questionnaire at the victim's workplace to identify other potential victims. UNC and Duke hospitals and Western Wake Medical Center are involved in the treatment and identification of possible SARS cases.

UNC Hospitals also has been preparing for SARS. A temporary podium was set up outside the entrance to the emergency room to provide hand-cleaning foam and surgical masks in the event that someone shows up with symptoms

consistent with the disease. "We've got two areas within the hospital that are prepared to accept SARS patients," said Thomas Hughes, managing editor for the hospital's public affairs and marketing.

"We are prepared to do screenings in the emergency department if patients show up who have the symptoms and need to be screened," Hughes said.

The UNC community also is taking steps to stop the spread of SARS. Peter Reinhardt, director of the Department of Environment, Health and Safety, said the department's worry is people traveling to

and from areas where SARS is prevalent.

Through a campuswide e-mail and the University Gazette, Reinhardt said, the department is trying to educate people and prevent SARS from affecting the campus community.

They also encourage anyone who travels to areas affected by SARS to monitor themselves and to seek care immediately if they have a fever, respiratory problems or other symptoms associated with the disease.

Contact the University Editor at [udesk@unc.edu](mailto:udesk@unc.edu).

## Budget deadline nears



Rep. Linda Johnson, R-Cabarrus, and Rep. Michael Gorman, R-Craven, discuss business during Tuesday's session of the N.C. House.

### House, Senate must reach compromise soon

BY ELLIOTT DUBE  
STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

July 1 is creeping closer and closer. That day marks the official start of the new fiscal year, and the N.C. House and Senate haven't agreed yet on a budget proposal that would go into effect and decide how state funds will be allocated for the next two years.

The budget process has remained in the conference committee phase since early May, with legislators trying to hammer out a plan both chambers will approve.

In addition to the sluggish state economy, a spring state revenue shortfall of more than \$400 million has complicated matters.

On Monday, House budget writers proposed taking money out of the state retire-

ment system and the rainy-day trust fund and allotting more funds for education and human services. Rep. James Crawford, D-Granville, co-chairman of the conference committee, said the House's new offering takes a step toward provisions supported by Senate Democrats.

"It just goes closer to the Senate positions in those areas and helps satisfy some of the concerns in our own caucus," he said.

The House proposal leaves out something the most recent Senate plan includes — new taxes.

Senate budget writers proposed last week to raise the prices of alcohol and tobacco products to create hundreds of millions of dollars in new state revenue. The proposed increases are known widely as "sin taxes."

Sen. Stephen Metcalf, D-Buncombe, said he prefers raising sin taxes to making cuts in programs dealing with mental health, substance abuse and developmental disabilities.

"Alcohol and tobacco are areas that I think would be the least damaging to our economy," he said.

Crawford said he can gauge about 51 votes in support of raised tobacco and alcohol taxes and about 55 votes in favor of a controversial state lottery. 61 House votes are needed for approval.

"Our problem is we can't get the votes to raise the revenue," said Rep. Joe Tolson, D-Edgecombe. "So certainly, you don't want to cut anything if you don't have to — but if you can't get 61 votes, there's not much you can do."

Rep. Michael Gorman, R-Craven, said he doesn't like the Senate proposal

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## Expansion vote could happen late this month

BY TIM CANDON  
SPORTS EDITOR

After spending nearly six hours over three straight days last week wrangling over ACC expansion, the conference announced in a statement released Tuesday that a formal vote on expansion might not take place until the end of the month.

INSIDE The ACC is engaged in a thorough, member-driven, strategic planning process designed to ensure the long-term viability of the conference," the statement said. "When a final vote does take place it will conclude a nearly two-year process that began in July 2001."

The announcement came just one day before the ACC Council of Presidents was set to meet via conference call again on Wednesday. However, information pertaining to that call was not available as of press time.

Two weeks ago, after the ACC finished its campus visits to Miami, Syracuse and Boston College, it appeared as if adding the three schools to the ACC was a done deal.

However, Virginia President John T. Casteen III came under pressure from Virginia Gov. Mark

Warner to vote against any ACC expansion plan that did not include UVA's in-state rival, Virginia Tech.

The state's "interest as a whole will be insured" if both Virginia and Virginia Tech are in a viable football conference with a Bowl Championship Series tie-in, Warner said in a statement.

Big East officials have said that if the conference loses the three schools, it likely will lose its automatic bid in the Bowl Championship Series and the multimillion-dollar payday that accompanies that bid.

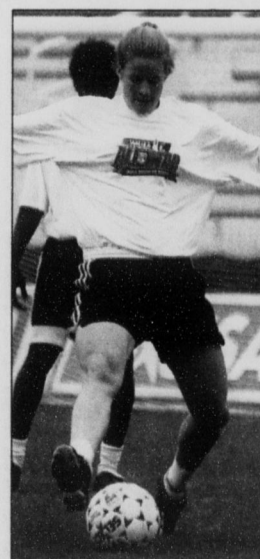
Then UNC Chancellor James Moeser and Duke President Nan Keohane brought their initial concerns — which had been quiet for almost a month — back to the forefront. Those concerns, mainly about division alignment in a new 12-team ACC and student athletes' welfare, combined with the inability to get a "yes" vote from Casteen, brought the process to a halt.

Combining those problems with a lawsuit filed by Pittsburgh, Connecticut, Rutgers, West Virginia and Virginia Tech alleging that the ACC, Miami and BC were out to destroy the Big East further muddled the ACC expansion picture.

However, last Friday, the ACC's outside legal counsel responded to

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## ALL-STAR TAR HEELS



DTH PHOTOS/BRIAN CASSELLA

Former UNC soccer players Cindy Parlow (left) and Tiffany Roberts (right) will join former Tar Heels Mia Hamm, Kristine Lilly and Siri Mullinix on the American Stars team in tonight's WUSA All-Star Game in Cary at SAS Stadium at 7:30. Parlow and Roberts helped lead UNC to the 1997 NCAA championship and were members of the 1999 U.S. national team that won the FIFA Women's World Cup. For the full story, see page 9.

## Junior track runner wins championship

STAFF REPORT

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — North Carolina junior Alice Schmidt won the 800 meters for the second consecutive year Saturday night at the 2003 NCAA Track and Field Championships.

Schmidt won in 2 minutes, 1.16 seconds, breaking Monique Hennagan's school record of 2:02.5. Schmidt edged Louisiana State's Neisha Bernard-Thomas, who ran 2:01.75 and Butler's Becky Lyne, who ran 2:01.76.

Schmidt becomes the first UNC track and field athlete to win two NCAA titles in the same event.

Shalane Flanagan, winner of the NCAA cross country



Alice Schmidt

title and indoor 3,000 this year, placed second in the 5,000 meters.

Sophomore Vikas Gowda finished fifth in men's discus with a throw of 191-10.

Adam Shunk, the 2003 NCAA indoor champion, placed sixth in the high jump with a clearance of 7-3 1/4.

Laura Gerraughty was second in the shot put behind Nebraska's Becky Breisch. Gerraughty put the shot 57-10 1/4, five inches shy of Breisch's mark. Gerraughty also finished seventh in the hammer with a throw of 201-2.

For their efforts, Gowda, Shunk and Gerraughty earned All-America honors at the championships.

## Researcher resigns after accusations

### Committee says article fabricated

BY HILLARY LITTLE  
STAFF WRITER

Steven Leadon resigned from his position as director of radiobiology in the Department of Radiation Oncology in early April after being accused of fabricating research during his tenure at UNC.

A retraction of his 1998 research appeared in Friday's edition of Science Magazine.

The notice states that an ad hoc investigatory committee from UNC found that Leadon "fabricated and falsified research findings" in his 1998 paper titled "BRCA1 required for transcription-coupled repair of oxidative DNA damage."

Leadon and his former col-

leagues from the radiation oncology department were unavailable for comment.

There were a total of five co-authors of the paper, but the remaining four have not been implicated.

Their research focused primarily on BRCA1, an acronym for Breast Cancer 1 — a tumor suppressor gene that, if mutated, might result in an increased risk of breast cancer.

Leadon's 1998 research posits that BRCA1 is crucial in repairing damaged DNA.

Not all of Leadon's research is considered fabricated. According to

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### INSIDE

#### WHEN ANIMALS ATTACK

Orange County officials find another case of rabies in a local raccoon PAGE 3



### SPORTS

#### CLEVELAND ROCKS

North Carolina baseball standout Jeremy Cleveland makes the decision to head to the pros PAGE 9

### WEATHER

TODAY P.M. T-storms, High 84, Low 62  
FRIDAY Showers, High 80, Low 57  
SATURDAY Partly cloudy, High 79, Low 58

