

WORLD BRIEFS

Bush administration might ask for more than \$87B

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Vice President Dick Cheney hinted Sunday that the Bush administration will seek more money next year than the additional \$87 billion already requested to pay mainly for postwar costs in Iraq.

He also said the administration does not know when the U.S. military presence in Iraq will end.

I don't think anybody can say with absolute certainty at this point," Cheney said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

Amid an increasing U.S. casualty count in Iraq and continuing attacks and other forms of resistance, the administration has faced criticism for its postwar strategy.

Democratic presidential candidates and others have said too little planning was done on how to rebuild the country and how to pay for it.

But a new poll shows the U.S. public clearly is uncomfortable with President Bush's initial request for an additional \$87 billion for Iraq.

The ABC-Washington Post poll found that six in 10 oppose the increased spending.

The poll released Sunday shows that 61 percent oppose spending the \$87 billion in addition to the billions in earlier spending Congress provided for the war. Congress approved \$79 billion in April for the Iraq operation.

A slight majority, 51 percent, opposed the \$87 billion in earlier polls that had asked simply whether or not they approved that request for Iraq.

Asked how the government should pay for the \$87 billion if it is approved, four in 10 said elimination of recent tax cuts; almost three in 10, 28 percent, said by cutting spending; and two in 10, 19 percent, said to increase the budget deficit.

Powell confident freedom will develop in postwar Iraq

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Secretary of State Colin Powell said Sunday that he is convinced "the winds of freedom are blowing" across Iraq but acknowledged the possibility that terrorists are trying to make their way into the country and sabotage the process toward self-rule.

Powell spent 12 hours in talks with the team of U.S. officials guiding Iraq in the postwar period and with the U.S.-appointed Iraqi Governing Council.

On his first visit to the nation that has dominated his attention since the early days of the Bush administration, Powell attended a Baghdad City Council meeting, met with Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari and joined the U.S. administrator for Iraq, L. Paul Bremer, at a joint news conference.

He described impressive moves toward self-government and seemed invigorated by what he heard as he made his rounds.

Israeli official says Arafat assassination solid option

RAMALLAH, West Bank — The second-ranking official in the Israeli government said Sunday that killing Yasser Arafat is an option as thousands of Palestinians took to the streets across the West Bank and Gaza Strip promising to protect their leader.

Israel blames Arafat for blocking peace efforts and preventing a crackdown against militants who have carried out two suicide bombings in the last week.

Vice Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said Sunday that killing Arafat is a possibility — along with expelling him or keeping him in a siege that would "isolate him from the world."

Olmert's comments have not been part of any official government statement.

CITY BRIEFS

Town Council to hold LUMO public hearing tonight

The Chapel Hill Town Council will host a public hearing at 7 p.m. today to consider a text amendment to the Land-Use Management Ordinance.

The amendment would allow the reservation of identified school sites which are the subject of proposed Site Plan Review or Special Use Permit development applications.

CALENDAR

Today

7 p.m. — An information session for students considering an economics graduate degree will be held in 103 Gardner Hall.

An Economics Club meeting will be held immediately after the information session.

Compiled from staff and wire reports.

Commission drops executive post

Director's salary large part of budget

BY RYAN C. TUCK
ASSISTANT CITY EDITOR

Downtown Commission officials announced last week that the position of executive director, which Robert Humphreys has held for 13 years, will be dropped from their organization.

Humphreys' last day, Sept. 20, will fall just a few weeks prior to dis-

cussions between the commission and the Chapel Hill Town Council over the possibility of creating an economic development commission specifically responsible for the downtown business sector.

The mayor's Task Force on Downtown Development had recommended the creation of this organization after evaluating the

status of downtown business and its recent overruns and closings.

Orange County already has an economic development commission, but such a body had never formally existed for the downtown area.

The current Council on a Sustainable Community will examine the positive and realistic aspects of that type of commission.

Humphreys has been a resident of Chapel Hill for 35 years and was

responsible for much of the success of the downtown commission, said Charles House, the commission's board chairman.

The decision ultimately was made because Humphreys' salary accounted for nearly half of the commission's working revenue.

The commission is funded by a tax on downtown property which creates about \$60,000 for the Downtown Commission annually.

The organization's past respon-

sibilities have been serving as a contact for visitors, prospective businesses and brokers from outside the negotiation process.

Officials now want to establish an independent economic development commission that will have equal representation and input from the town and University.

The possibility of creating such a commission will be determined in

SEE HUMPHREYS, PAGE 7



DTH/ALLISON MONEY

Off N.C. 86 in Orange County, Vaughn Compton raises these chickens in an effort to increase profits after the tobacco industry came under fire in 1996. Diversification has been essential due to major changes in the agriculture industry.

Local farmers adapt

Industry changes force diversification

BY STEPHANIE JORDAN
STAFF WRITER

Every day Vaughn Compton wakes up before 5 a.m. to do a job he says is underappreciated, one that will never make him rich.

And Compton says he loves it. Compton is a tobacco and poultry farmer who lives and works just off N.C. 86 in Orange County.

Tobacco was his biggest cash crop until 1996, when the cigarette industry came under fire. Since then, he's gotten into the poultry business. "The chicken houses compensate for loss in tobacco," he said.

Compton is under contract with Allen Farms, the 13th largest poultry farm in the nation. He raises about



A STATE OF DISTRESS

A four-part series examining the future of North Carolina's major industries.
Today: Agriculture
Tuesday: Furniture
Wednesday: Textiles
Thursday: Tobacco

52,000 chickens.

Compton has had to expand, in part, because the state's agriculture industry has taken a major hit recently.

Experts say Compton and other farmers are pursuing a profession that simply is not as viable as it was a decade ago.

Inclement weather, globalization and technology are just some of the factors contributing to the change.

To diminish the potential for loss, farmers have moved away from spe-

cialization, making them less dependent on the success of a single crop.

"A lot of farmers have diversified because they've seen what's happening (with crops like) tobacco, peanuts and cotton," said Steven Leath, associate dean for research in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at N.C. State University.

For the farmers who choose to stay farmers, there are still obstacles.

Weather is perhaps the greatest factor. A persistent drought peaked in severity in 2002, followed by a relative deluge in 2003.

"The weather was absolutely terrible (this year)," Compton said. "Sixty-five to 70 inches of rain has been dumped on us since January."

Globalization also has contributed

SEE AGRICULTURE, PAGE 7

Johnny Cash leaves legacy that spans genres, time

BY MICHAEL PUCCI
ASSISTANT ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Music legend Johnny Cash died at 3 a.m. Friday in a Nashville hospital from complications of diabetes, resulting in respiratory failure. He was 71.

His death was hardly a surprise: The music icon's health had been deteriorating for years.

Still, the announcement of his passing has led to an outpouring of sentiment and appreciation by everyone familiar with his towering body of work.

"He's one of the great independent, persistent and consistent voices in country music," said David Whisnant, whose English and folklore classes at the University used Cash and his music in the curriculum.

Cash's place in music history is secure. The public first heard him when Sam Phillips signed Cash to his new label, Sun Records, where he was a labelmate of Elvis Presley. Decades later, the "Man in Black" became one of only two musicians to be inducted into both the Country Music Hall of Fame and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Presley is the other.

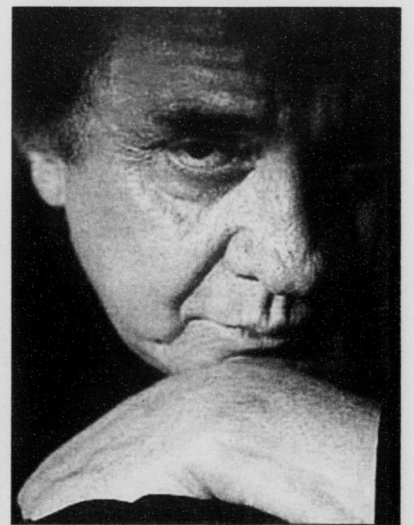
In between, he recorded more than 1,500 songs. His most popular included "I Walk the Line," "Ring of Fire" and "Folsom Prison Blues."

Jocelyn Neal, who teaches courses on the history of country music, said his ability to bridge genres was one of Cash's greatest achievements. "So many of his recordings were done with just him and his guitar," she said. "It brought recognition to himself and the song, with minimal studio production."

William Ferris, senior associate director of the UNC Center for the Study of the American South, said Cash represented the daily struggle of the working man. "His music and persona included a vulnerability and a sense of the vicarious nature of life," he said. "His audiences understood that."

Cash, whose wife, June Carter Cash, died in May,

SEE CASH, PAGE 7



COURTESY OF COLUMBIA RECORDS

Seventy-one-year-old musician Johnny Cash died in Nashville, Tenn., Friday morning due to complications of diabetes that resulted in respiratory failure.

Theme houses offer diversity

Housing options will be examined

BY CAROLINE LINDSEY
SENIOR WRITER

Sonia Wilson loves Germany, but her status as a full-time student leaves little time for trips there.

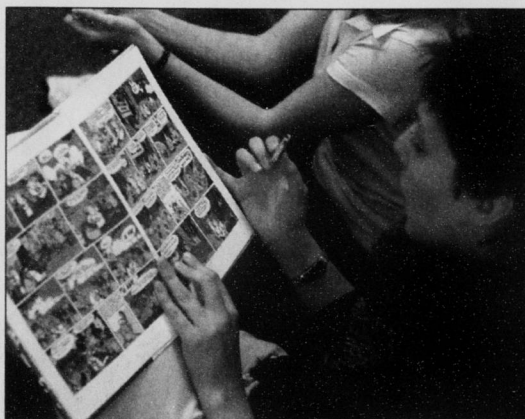
Thanks to UNC theme housing, though, Wilson, a junior, has the next best thing: She lives on a hall with 30 people who share her passion.

She couldn't be happier than in the German House, located on the fifth floor of Carmichael Residence Hall. But she said good theme housing programs can be fleeting.

"I think a great deal of the quality of the programs depends on the coordinators," Wilson said. "It also depends on how enthusiastic the people are."

The German House isn't alone. The University's eight other theme housing programs have little difficulty recruiting students, but other problems leave room for improvement.

Allison McNeill, coordinator of



DTH/ELSPEH CALLAHAN

Senior Laure Almairac, who lives in German House on the fifth floor of Carmichael Residence Hall, reads the cartoon Astérix in German.

the Women's Perspective program on the first floor of Cobb Residence Hall, can attest. McNeill, a junior religious studies major, said low morale has affected the quality of the program in only its third week.

"My experience has been that a

lot of people figure out that theme housing is one of the only ways to get on Mid or North Campus," McNeill said. "Even if they give a decent interview, I find that they're

SEE HOUSING, PAGE 7

Officials divided over school merger plan

BY NICK EBERLEIN
ASSISTANT CITY EDITOR

Orange County officials will wrestle with a new wrinkle in an already contentious issue tonight.

According to a report prepared by county staff, a merger between the Orange County and Chapel Hill-Carrboro school systems would increase the property tax rate for Orange County residents to 17 cents per \$100.

But Chapel Hill and Carrboro denizens actually would pay less, and residents of the current county district alone would bear the added burden.

Chapel Hill-Carrboro residents already pay a special district tax of 20 cents per \$100 that is earmarked for local schools. Under a merged system, this tax would be voided, and those who live in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro school district would experience a 3-cent net decrease in the yearly rate.

Because of the special district tax, Chapel Hill-Carrboro schools receive an extra \$12 million on top of what the county allocates them.

State law mandates that, in the event of a merger, per-pupil spending in the new system must be equal to the higher-funded district.

Commissioner Moses Carey initiated the talks in January and touts a merger as the only viable option to ensure educational equity.

"We owe every child in this county a fair chance," Carey said. "(County system residents) will pay more, but they will benefit more."

Such monetary concerns have dominated the merger talks and undercut a focus on improved education, said Gloria Faley, vice chairwoman of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Board of Education.

"I have yet to find out how this will benefit education," Faley said. "If this is a money issue, if you only want to equalize funding, this is possible without merger."

She said a district schools tax for county system residents was proposed to the commissioners a few years ago but was rejected.

The Orange County Board of
SEE REPORT, PAGE 7