

CAMPUS BRIEFS
UNC student arrested
on drug-related charges

Freshman Joseph Randall Schwartz, 18, of 514 Morrison Residence Hall, was arrested at 12:28 a.m. Monday on drug-related charges, police reports state.

Schwartz was charged with possession of a controlled substance, which includes the hallucinogenic drug mushrooms, reports state.

He also was charged with possession of half an ounce of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia, reports state.

Schwartz appeared in Orange County District Court in Hillsborough at 9 a.m. Monday.

WORLD BRIEFS
Federal appeals court
postpones Calif. recall

SAN FRANCISCO — A federal appeals court delayed California's Oct. 7 recall election, citing the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in Bush v. Gore ruling that punch-card ballots could lead to votes not being counted.

The decision by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals is certain to be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The three-judge panel did not set a new date for the recall election but backed a suggestion from the American Civil Liberties Union that the balloting be held during the March 2 presidential primary.

ARTS BRIEFS
UNC to screen nationally
broadcast feature film

A preview screening of the PBS "Matters of Race" segment "The Divide" will play tonight on UNC's campus.

The segment documents the integration of Siler City, a historically segregated town. Raising questions about quick demographic shifts and the importance of race in America, "The Divide" tackles the future of race's significance in society.

Executive Producer Orlando Bagwell and Producer/Director John Valadez will provide commentary and host a brief Q&A session, moderated by African-American studies Professor Charlene Regester.

The film, showing as part of the continuing line of fall events sponsored by the Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History, will be at 7 p.m., in OS Gardner Hall.

New Klezmer Trio to bring
unique sound to Hill Hall

The New Klezmer Trio, trailblazers of the New Jewish Renaissance, will bring their genre-mixing act to campus tonight.

Klezmer music blends Old World Mediterranean and Slavic tones and typically is performed by small ensembles at special occasions.

Featuring jazz trio instrumentation (clarinet, double bass and drums), the New Klezmer Trio blends Jewish traditional sounds with jazz elements and improvisation to produce an unconventional product.

Formed in the early 1990s by members of Hotzenplotz, the trio is a banner act on John Zorn's Tzadik record label.

The performance begins at 8 p.m. in Hill Hall.

CALENDAR
Today

7 p.m. — The White Ribbon Campaign is having an internet meeting for people interested in helping to plan the campaign next semester in the Class of 2000 Lounge on the third floor of Union.

Compiled from staff and wire reports.



Furniture designer and private-business owner Jacob Marks works in his workshop at Kirkpatrick Woodworks on Monday afternoon. Kirkpatrick Woodworks, a cooperative in Carrboro, allows furniture designers to create their own art.

State's furniture artisans
struggle against extinction

Overseas competition, economic doldrums put crimp in profits

BY EMMA BURGIN
 ASSISTANT STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

HIGH POINT — George Kosinski's business is kaput and his physics degree is useless.

Born in a displaced persons camp in Germany, Kosinski is a sixth-generation hand carver on his mother's side. He began carving at the age of 6.

"I was prodigious. I learned quickly and I learned well. But I hated it because that's all they would let me do."

So Kosinski went to college and got a degree in physics. After a stint in the Marine Corps, he decided to start his own model-making and hand-carving business — a venture that was overwhelmingly successful.

But with the economy struggling and much of the manufacturing volume going overseas, Kosinski went from a six-figure salary to nothing.

He now relies on his consulting skills and furniture design expertise, which have been lifesavers in a drowning state industry.

North Carolina has been the epicenter of the furniture industry for more than seven decades and has hosted the largest furniture market in the world for the past 10 years.

North Carolina produces 35 percent



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

of the nation's wholesale furniture shipments, with 600 plants employing 75,000 people, according to the International Home Furniture Market Authority. About 3,000 plants across the country employ more than 275,000 people.

But the state is starting to see a

power shift.

Retailers can purchase cheaper products from overseas manufacturers, and traditional artists such as Kosinski are becoming obsolete. With them, a part of the state's legacy is fading.

Around 1880, North Carolina jump-started its furniture industry when it stopped exporting raw materials to northern cities, said Richard Bennington, chairman of High Point University's home furnishing and design departments.

Saw millers in the state decided to manufacture their own goods because the labor was cheaper and shipping costs were smaller. Most of the manufacturing was done in Hickory, where

the furniture industry thrived.

But just as Southerners eased the labor needs and costs associated with the furniture industry in the 19th century, the rest of the world now is easing the burden for the United States.

The industry has been shifting its focus from the United States to countries with lower overhead costs, such as China and the Philippines.

Kosinski said he would have to sell for \$1,200 what manufacturers in Asia sell for \$12.50 because of the individual handiwork. "There's no way we could compete with these guys. They had incredible capabilities — an artistry not found anywhere else in the world."

He added that overseas workers have learned to work with difficult materials such as leather and upholstery. Southern China now has the world's largest leather manufacturing factory.

"There's nothing they can't do over there," Kosinski said. "They're doing it more and they're doing it better."

The problem is twofold, Kosinski said, because the United States has stopped investing in its factories and workers are not trained appropriately.

Asia's advances in the industry have shifted the United States' focus from

SEE FURNITURE, PAGE 5

Locals pack
county forum
on potential
school merger

BY NICK EBERLEIN
 ASSISTANT CITY EDITOR

If the Orange County Board of Commissioners reached any sort of consensus Monday night about a potential merger of the county's two school districts, it was that consensus might be a long time coming.

Last night's work session before a packed house in the Orange County district courtroom was the commissioners' first opportunity to discuss publicly a staff report on the effects of a potential merger.

The study, released Friday, said county residents will face a property tax increase of 17 cents per \$100 valuation if a merger is initiated.

"The issue with the schools is funding," Commissioner Alice Gordon said. "I think if we had equal funding there wouldn't be this question of a merger."

Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools receives an extra \$12 million in addition to county money earmarked for the system because of a special district tax that Orange County Schools residents do not pay.

State law requires the county to fund both districts equally on a per-pupil basis. In the event of a merger, the county would be obligated to fund the consolidated system at the same level as the higher-funded district.

Commissioner Moses Carey initiated the talks in response to what he said were parental concerns about the disparity in resources available to students in the county and in local school systems.

But testimony from Neil Pedersen, CHCCS superintendent, and Shirley Carraway, Orange County

SEE MERGER, PAGE 5

Committees nix
malpractice cap,
offer new plan

BY CLEVE R. WOOTSON JR.
 STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

In a special meeting Monday, two N.C. Senate committees pushed through a bill that could change the way medical malpractice cases are handled in the state.

According to the legislation, before malpractice claims would be brought before a judge, litigants would come before a three-person panel.

One member of the panel would be chosen by the plaintiff, another by the defendant. Those two members then would agree on a chairman to oversee the proceedings.

After the panel decided whether or not to award money, the loser still could opt to go to trial, but he would have to pay both sides' court and lawyer fees.

If the full Senate approves the legislation, which passed the Appropriations Committee and a select Committee on Insurance and Civil Justice Reform on Wednesday evening, it would go before the House when the General Assembly reconvenes next May.

The committees also chose not to enact a \$250,000 maximum award for malpractice, a cap doctors and nursing homes lobbied heavily for. Some spoke against the bill before and after senators considered it.

Dr. Joseph Jenkins, chairman of the Professional Liability Insurance Task Force of the N.C. Medical Association, said he takes issue with the fact that solu-

SEE SENATE, PAGE 5

SECC kickoff raises hopes despite economy

Employee donations aid community

BY ASHLEY HOLT
 STAFF WRITER

UNC-Chapel Hill kicked off the State Employees Combined Campaign on Monday, which officials hope will raise \$1 million for local, state and national nonprofit organizations.

SECC, which runs through Oct. 31, is the only charitable giving program for state employees. UNC-CH was the largest contributor in North Carolina last year.

The University raised about \$1 million of the \$4 million generated statewide, said Richard Cole, co-chairman of the University's cam-

paign and dean of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

Cole said 43 percent of funds received from the 16 UNC-system institutions last year came from UNC-CH.

State employees contribute funds to the campaign through their departments, and SECC distributes the funds to charities including the American Red Cross, Earth Share and Triangle United Way.

Fulfilling community needs is the program's main goal, and officials place emphasis on the importance of support, especially with the slow

economy. UNC-CH's campaign slogan, "Helping in Hard Times," highlights an anxiety of this year's campaign.

With increases in health care and the absence of employee pay raises, University officials chose a goal equivalent to last year's, said Jan Yopp, the campaign co-chairwoman at UNC-CH and associate dean of the journalism school.

"(Officials) realize that this year will be a hard year with no state raises," she said.

Some employees have not received pay raises in the last three years, but Eric Wild, regional coordinator for SECC, said this issue should not affect contributions.

"The economy affects a lot of

things but not charity organizations," Wild said.

"The economy has no effect on AIDS, homelessness or abuse. ... We cannot let the economy have a negative impact."

Charities have received more than \$40 million since the program began raising funds in 1986. Officials said surpassing \$50 million is not an unreachable goal for the campaign this year.

"Donations to nonprofits have been down, but we are pleased that SECC funds are going up," said Barbara Palmer, chairwoman of the Orange County board of directors for the Red Cross.

More than 800 charities are on the SECC list, and employees can

designate which groups receive their donations.

The first weekly collection deadline is Sept. 25. Deadlines will continue every Thursday through Oct. 30. Incentives such as football tickets and the chance to be a "sideline coach" will be given to large donors.

UNC-CH Chancellor James Moeser said donations help the needy and emphasized the importance for employee support on campus to meet the SECC goal.

"We want Carolina to be a model of commitment," he said. "It's not the size of the gift but the amount of heart given."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

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