

STATE BRIEFS
N.C. counties given \$40M in state and federal aid

RALEIGH — A total of \$40 million in federal and state disaster aid has been approved for residents of 36 N.C. counties that were damaged by Hurricane Isabel, federal officials said Wednesday.

Since the storm made landfall Sept. 18, 25,869 N.C. residents and business owners have applied for various forms of federal and state disaster assistance.

Individuals, families and business owners who reside in the designated counties and who sustained disaster losses from the hurricane are eligible for disaster assistance programs. Those programs include grants for eligible repairs or temporary housing and low-interest disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration.

CITY BRIEFS

Sierra Club endorses eight candidates in local elections

The local chapter of the Sierra Club, an environmental advocacy group, announced its endorsements of this year's candidates in a press release yesterday.

Candidates Sally Greene, Cam Hill, Andrea Rohrbacher and incumbent Bill Strom won the club's endorsements for Chapel Hill Town Council.

Candidate Mark Chilton and incumbent Alex Zaffron won the Sierra Club's support for the Carrboro Board of Aldermen race.

Incumbent mayors Mike Nelson of Carrboro and Kevin Foy of Chapel Hill also garnered endorsements.

NATIONAL BRIEFS

Clark supporters frustrated with 3-week-old campaign

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Some in the Internet grassroots movement that helped give rise to Wesley Clark's candidacy are frustrated with the direction the 3-week-old campaign is taking under the guidance of former advisers to Democrat Al Gore.

On the DraftClark.com Web site Wednesday, an open letter to readers said: "By the time you read these words, the bell will be tolling for Wesley Clark's candidacy. It will be clear across the country that the campaign of Wesley Clark is nothing more than the Gore campaign with a better candidate."

The sudden departure of Clark's campaign manager Donnie Fowler reflects the rift between the more traditional campaign strategists, many of whom worked for Gore's unsuccessful presidential bid in 2000, and the new guard pushing an Internet-driven effort.

The 35-year-old Fowler quit the campaign Tuesday after telling associates he was having trouble getting top campaign advisers to take supporters of the Draft Clark movement seriously. He also was concerned that the campaign would be too focused in Washington.

Experts: SARS fears likely to sweep country in winter

ATLANTA — Fear over the possible return of SARS is so great in the United States that even if the virus does not appear, it probably will cause disruptions in hospitals this winter, top U.S. health officials say.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other health officials say emergency rooms could be swamped with suspected cases of the disease.

"Whether the virus comes back this winter or not, we will be dealing with SARS," said Dr. James Hughes, director of the CDC's National Center for Infectious Diseases. "When people start showing up with respiratory diseases, physicians will be thinking of SARS."

Health officials said they are worried that doctors with limited SARS experience could easily confuse early SARS symptoms with the flu. To clarify matters, the CDC is working on a plan for doctors and hospitals to prevent outbreaks.

CALENDAR

Today

8 p.m. — The Carolina Union Performing Arts Series presents Def Poetry Jam in Hill Hall Auditorium.

Created by Russell Simmons, the show features gifted young poets who speak about love, dreams, self-respect, politics and everything that makes the world fascinating and complex. The show has been staged on Broadway and broadcast on HBO.

Tickets are \$35 for the general public and \$18 for students.

Compiled from staff and wire reports.

CAA revamps hoops ticket policy

Students need ONE Cards for games

BY GREG PARKER
STAFF WRITER

Student Congress unanimously approved Tuesday night the Carolina Athletic Association's 2003-04 basketball ticket distribution policy, which aims to ensure that only UNC students use student tickets.

The revamped policy will prohibit the use of a student ticket for

admission into the Smith Center without a valid UNC ONE Card.

The decision comes at a time when CAA estimates that the average turnout at distribution will double from 3,500 students to 7,000 this year because of the team's high preseason ranking and new coach Roy Williams.

Those with student tickets also will be required to enter through

Gate D at the back of the Smith Center. Student tickets will not be accepted at any other gate.

CAA President Sherrell McMillan said he thinks this change will expedite the entry process for students because they will be using a gate that is closed off to regular ticket holders.

Gate D will be staffed by a security team that will be responsible for checking ONE Cards but will not scan them like at football games.

"Some students have been sitting at home while other people use the tickets our student fees pay for."

SHERRELL MCMILLAN, CAA PRESIDENT

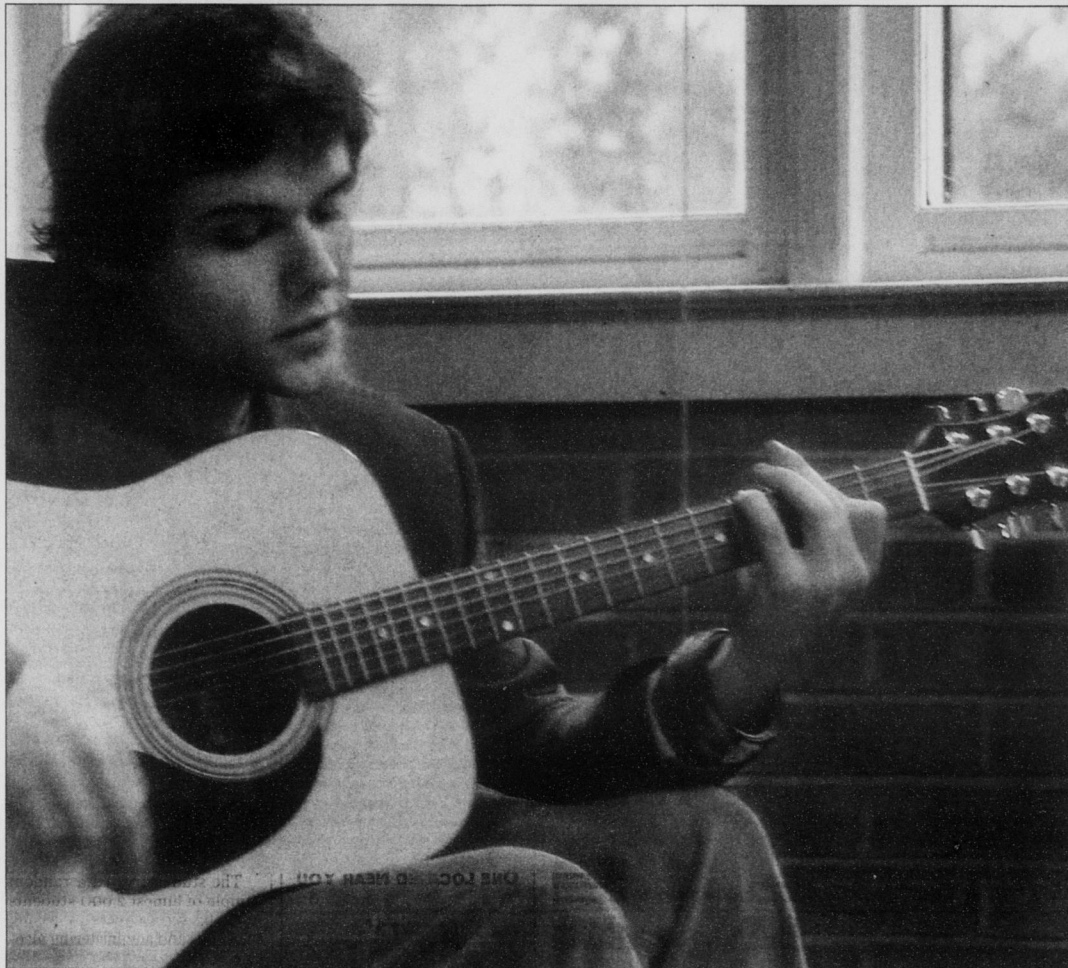
McMillan pointed to the fact that student tickets often fall into the hands of nonstudents as the primary reason for the policy change.

"In the past, student tickets

haven't gone to students a lot of the time," he said. "Some students have been sitting at home while other people use the tickets our student

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WHILE MY GUITAR GENTLY WEEPS



DTH/KATHY SHUPING

Senior Grant Austin plays around on his guitar and sings in his Carrboro home during the rain Wednesday afternoon. Austin is considering pairing his musical talents with those of his friends to form a band. The drama major also enjoys playing the piano but devotes the majority of his

time to working on costumes and directing plays for the student-run Lab! Theatre group. Lab! Theatre recently finished performing "Snake in Fridge" on Tuesday. The group's next show, "The Illusion," starts Friday and is using a script translated from Pierre Cornielle's original French.

Focus on need breaks the mold

BY ADJOA ADOFO
STAFF WRITER

In a national climate increasingly focused on merit-based aid for college students, UNC has gone against the grain by implementing a new initiative that offers full financial aid based on need.

Though the use of both types of financial assistance has increased, the amount of available merit-based aid is increasing at a faster rate, said Kenneth Redd, director of research and policy analysis for the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators.

"Need-based aid has increased by 65 percent, but merit-based aid certainly has tripled," he said. "Many schools have introduced more merit-based aid to provide more aid to middle-income students."

Redd said it is believed that merit-based aid attracts students from middle-income families who are better qualified students. "Many institutions want to remain attractive and competitive," he said. "They try to attract students with better SAT scores. Merit-based aid doesn't necessarily reach those who are most needy."

Schools also prefer merit-based aid because it attracts fund raising, said Jackie King, director of the American Council on Education's Center of Policy Analysis.

"People like to give money to scholarships," she said. "But that's the great thing about the Carolina Covenant. They were able to raise money among alumni for need-

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Tour aims at Iraq support

BY STEPHANIE JORDAN
STAFF WRITER

In response to escalating skepticism of the Bush administration's rebuilding efforts in Iraq, the president has enlisted several top Cabinet officials to help him in a weeklong campaign to improve public opinion.

President Bush launched a nationwide campaign Friday in which he, Vice President Dick Cheney and National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice will make speeches concerning progress on reconstruction in Iraq.

Bush will devote his entire radio address Saturday to the progress in Iraq, and Rice spoke Wednesday in Chicago to a foreign policy forum about Saddam Hussein's possession of weapons of mass destruction. These two, along with Cheney, will speak well into next week about the rebuilding efforts in Iraq.

But experts say the U.S. public will not buy into the rhetoric.

"They're saying with more intensity what they've been saying," said Richard Eichenberg, Tufts University professor of political science. "They're trying to show that the \$87 billion they asked Congress for is justified and worthwhile."

He added that the public relations coup might be a sign that public trust in the president is declining. "The administration found no weapons of mass destruction and has admitted that (Hussein) had nothing to do with September 11."

But it is not time to drop the curtain on Bush's presidency yet, said Betty Glad, University of South Carolina professor of political science.

"Only time will tell," Glad said. "(Ratings) depend on what happens. Upward trends (in Iraq) like getting the electricity back on and opening schools will increase his approval ratings."

Jim Davis, Washington University professor of political

science, said the administration would benefit if Secretary of State Colin Powell were involved in the public opinion campaign.

"The vice president is never perceived as a key player," Eichenberg said. "(But) Powell's general trust and approval ratings are high."

But Eichenberg said it does not matter who is speaking.

"The people have accumulated doubts, and one more voice is unlikely to be any more convincing than another," he said. "The president and his advisers have realized they're in serious political trouble. They've experienced substantial erosion for action in Iraq."

Davis said this is evident in the fact that Bush's public approval ratings are declining steadily.

"(Rebuilding) costs are going up," he said. "(People) don't think the administration has the answer."

Davis said distrust has seeped

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Council unanimously condemns Patriot Act

Action is part of nationwide trend

BY DAN SCHWIND
STAFF WRITER

The Chapel Hill Town Council unanimously adopted a resolution condemning the USA PATRIOT Act on Wednesday night.

The motion was a response to a citizen petition organized by the Orange County Bill of Rights Defense Committee at the council's Sept. 22 meeting.

Committee member Margaret Misch, who presented the petition, said the council's action could not have come any earlier.

"It's about time," Misch said. "I am happy that it finally came to conclusion."

With last night's vote, the town

became the 185th jurisdiction to refute the controversial federal anti-terrorism legislation. Carrboro, Orange County and Durham County officials have enacted similar policies. The decision's wording was identical to that of the resolution passed by the Orange County Board of Commissioners in May.

Richard Cramer, local resident and former president of the local chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, said the number of jurisdictions passing similar policies reflects the act's unpopularity.

"This is an expression of the public," Cramer said. "The more communities support this ... the more we work to repeal the effects of (the act)."

The resolution calls for local law enforcement to preserve residents' civil liberties and refrain from racial profiling. Additionally, the

council must actively work to repeal "those portions of the act ... that violate the rights and liberties guaranteed by the Constitution" and oppose adoption of the Domestic Security Enhancement Act, the so-called "Patriot Act II."

The Patriot Act, first passed in October 2001, was a response to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. It grants government agencies more sweeping powers of electronic surveillance, domestic espionage and access to library records.

The ACLU and other civil liberties advocates say that the law is an erosion of human rights and that it offers no help in the ongoing war against terrorism. Local resident Stephanie Kilpatrick was one of several urging the council to reject the federal legislation.

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DTH/JUSTIN SMITH

Chapel Hill Town Council member Mark Kleinschmidt speaks at the council's Wednesday meeting. The council opposed the USA PATRIOT Act.