

Halls see new checkout system

Enhancement processes hit Internet

BY DANIEL MALLOY
STAFF WRITER

Welcome to the 21st century, South Campus.

Despite their distance from much of the rest of campus, both the Hinton James and Morrison communities are debuting new enhancement technology that soon will spread to every residence hall.

Both communities now have scanners that read the bar codes on students' UNC ONE Cards and on corresponding enhancements. The information is recorded on the front desk computer.

The status of the enhancements also is available on the Internet, allowing students to find out which enhancements are checked out without taking a trip to the residence hall's front desk.

Checking out a movie in Hinton James Residence Hall used to require a trip to the front desk that could have ended in disappointment if the movie was checked out. If the movie was in stock, a long wait to fill out paperwork ensued.

Colin Scott, vice president of the Residence Hall Association, said that the new system will continue to spread and that the RHA hopes to have the technology in every hall by the start of the spring semester.

The idea was proposed by Morrison community leaders last spring, and RHA members worked throughout the summer to have the new system ready for the first day of classes, Scott said. The technology made its debut in the Hinton James community Oct. 10.

Senior Erika Smith, who lives in

Hinton James and works at its office, said the new system makes her job easier. Under the old system, she said, the paperwork was quite time-consuming, and the automated system is much easier.

Scott added that the equipment is surprisingly inexpensive. The scanners cost \$100 each, and each residence hall uses about \$100 of outside server space. But the RHA is looking to move onto the campus server to cut costs further.

"There are a lot of benefits for a low cost," he said. "It adds reliability to the system."

However, Scott said, there have been a few complaints that the system is too precise. Fines have been automated with the system, and if an enhancement is turned in even a minute late, computers will assess a late fee.

Freshman Lauren Carpenter, a Morrison resident, said the system

is occasionally inaccurate as well as overly strict with fines.

"My two suitmates and I each rented a movie," she said. "I turned all three of them in at the same time, about two minutes late. My two suitmates got late fees, but I didn't."

But despite the possible inaccuracies in the system, Scott said, any fines can be appealed to the RHA and will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Other students praised the system. Freshman Prashant Thakur, also a Morrison resident and a frequent user of the enhancement system, said he enjoys the ease and convenience of the online listing of enhancements.

"It's a really efficient way for students to get the movies they like."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

GOSPEL

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UNC, the Roanoke-Chowan Award has a rich history of its own.

Past UNC recipients include English professors Alan Shapiro and Michael McFee in 2002 and 2001 respectively as well as 2000 winner Margaret Rabb, a Creative Writing Program lecturer.

"I'm honored to have won this award because of the long line of fine poets who have won it in the past," Chitwood said.

Bland Simpson, Creative Writing Program director, said having such a long list of distinguished faculty is a "real salute" to the University's culture of creative writing. "It's overwhelming to have our faculty members win the state's top poetry prize four years running."

Simpson credited what he described as UNC's "lively and diverse cultural life" with drawing top-notch faculty to the University. McFee agreed, adding that "Chapel Hill has been a focus for writers for a long, long time."

While both McFee and Chitwood said summer is the optimal time to write, Chitwood added that he believes teaching at the university level also has been very conducive to his writing.

"You don't have to go to a job everyday from 9 to 5," Chitwood said. "(Teaching) affords you the time."

Chitwood, who is on leave from the University this semester, will return to campus to teach an intermediate creative writing class in spring.

Sally Buckner, retired professor of English at Raleigh's Peace College and author of two anthologies of North Carolina literature, said Chitwood's works stand out for academic and pleasure reading alike.

"He handles the technique of poetry very well," Buckner said. "You can call him the Bruce Springsteen of North Carolina poetry."

Contact the Features Editor at features@unc.edu.

SEARCHES

FROM PAGE 3

"I've actually had a fantastic level of support from the chancellor and provost, who both encouraged me to do more than keep the boat afloat," he said.

Bresciani and Soloway said that they worked closely with the administrators they replaced and that adjusting to the job was fairly easy.

While interim administrators learn about their positions, a committee conducts an extensive search to find the perfect person for the job.

The committee, usually comprising 10 to 15 members from across the University, advertises the job in the Chronicle of Higher Education along with professional magazines and some mainstream media, such as The New York Times.

It then sifts through applications, whittling down the candidate pool to three to five people.

Those candidates come to campus for interviews with the committee and to answer questions from the UNC community in forums.

After the interviews, the committee makes its recommendation to the chancellor or the provost, who then makes a decision. Gray-Little said the process can take anywhere from six to 15 months.

The costs of the search are relatively low. Advertising costs between several hundred and a few thousand dollars, and bringing the candidates to campus for inter-

views costs between \$3,000 and \$10,000, though it varies with the number of people and the distance they must travel. The University pays for transportation and accommodation at the Carolina Inn.

Gray-Little said that despite the cost and time involved in the hiring process, it is important in ensuring the best fit for the University.

"The searches themselves are time-consuming and important, and they do represent a significant investment," she said. "But I don't think they're seen as a drain or a strain on University resources."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

ATN says e-mail should be stable

Hardware failure at fault in crash

BY GREG PARKER
STAFF WRITER

Academic Technology & Network officials and representatives from Sun Microsystems determined in a meeting Wednesday that a number of concurrent hardware failures were at fault for the e-mail crash that occurred two weeks ago.

The IMAP server that controls the campus's e-mail systems crashed the morning of Oct. 14 and returned to normal operation the night of Oct. 15, after officials were forced to reinstall the system from scratch.

Judd Knott, director of academic computing systems for ATN, said that at the time of Wednesday's meeting ATN staff members were not sure whether the system had recovered fully from the crash.

Therefore, ATN performed extensive maintenance on the server Friday.

The maintenance included replacing a number of hardware components, such as fiber optic cables and controllers. It also involved installing several software patches.

After working through the night, ATN officials rebooted the e-mail server several times Saturday morning without incident.

Officials now are convinced that the server is fully operational, Knott said.

He added that there are not many additional measures that can be taken to avoid a similar crash if the University continues to use the single-server e-mail system it now has.

However, he said, the system should be OK because it already has a number of built-in redundancies aimed at preventing massive failures.

One way to decrease the possibility of a failure of that magnitude from happening again is to switch to a multiple-server system.

Knott added that ATN already has the software licenses necessary to implement such a system.

However, he added, the group needs additional funds to install and operate the hardware necessary to run it.

ATN made a request for the additional funds two days before the e-mail crash. Knott said he anticipates that those funds will be allocated sometime in the near future.

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

APS

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During the last six years, contributions by APS toward shelter operations have ranged from 5.45 percent in 2001-02 to 19.12 percent in 1998-99. Last year APS covered 13.67 percent of its expenses related to running the facility.

The most significant change in APS's projected expenses since last year was a salary increase totalling \$23,540, which made up 66 percent of the increased funding.

County manager John Link expressed displeasure with the manner in which APS made its request — in the middle of the fiscal year and outside the budget process.

"In effect, the APS board, without county input or discussion, has decided to change the funding structure for the shelter and the financial relationship that has existed between APS and the county since 1975," Link said.

The board also agreed to have staff request proposals from organizations for how to handle interim management and operation of the shelter in the case that the county takes control from APS.

Members of APS's executive board have complained that uncertainty over whether the organization will continue shelter operation has caused a decrease in the

amount of donations and the number of volunteers.

The board has shortened APS's contract with the county from annual to monthly.

"You all knew APS had been contributing a substantial amount of money to the shelter. When you put us on a month-to-month lease, I thought we were going to have problems with getting contributions and staff," APS board member Ann Petersen said.

County staff wrote in their report that the county will require a minimum of four to six months for an "orderly and effective transition" of shelter management.

The board approved the formation of a task force to examine how to improve shelter operation. The group will present its findings in December.

Proposals must be submitted by Nov. 4, and the chosen applicant is to take over shelter operation no later than Feb. 1. Staff will report back to the board about applications Nov. 18.

Proposals for more permanent operation of the shelter will be requested in a separate process.

The board still has to decide whether to cede control to the health department, the manager's office or another entity.

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

COSTS

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ing) tuition, one of the ways to do that is to close academic departments," he said. "And most colleges are not willing to do that."

Despite the problems facing most colleges, the report found that the net cost of going to college is

"significantly lower than the published tuition and fees."

Topiel also said that the benefits of a college education outweigh the increasing cost of tuition.

"We don't want families to freak out," Topiel said. "The increases were very big this year, but we want them to keep things in perspective."

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