

CITY BRIEFS

Wastewater spills at Hillsborough gas station

About 14,700 gallons of untreated wastewater spilled into an unnamed tributary of the Eno River on Friday. The accident, which occurred at Hillsborough's Rencher Street Pumpstation, was attributed to a blown fuse, according to information released by the town of Hillsborough.

NATIONAL BRIEFS

Court hears appeal against Nev. nuclear waste site

WASHINGTON, D.C. — In a last-ditch effort to stop a nuclear dump in Nevada, the state told a federal appeals court Wednesday that the government has failed to ensure that thousands of years from now people will be protected from the waste's radiation.

Two of the three judges hearing the case asked government lawyers why the federal standards for radioactive releases for the Yucca Mountain dump were pegged to 10,000 years into the future when scientists say the material will be most dangerous many thousands of years after that.

The three hours of arguments before the appeals court panel marked the first time a federal court has heard the merits of President Bush's decision in 2002 to select a ridge of volcanic rock 90 miles from Las Vegas as the place to entomb 77,000 tons of used reactor fuel from the nation's commercial power plants.

Congress affirmed Bush's decision in July 2002. Nevada officials argued Wednesday for the decision to be overturned, saying Congress violated the state's constitutional rights when it singled out Nevada.

The case will not be decided by the three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals until later this year.

WORLD BRIEFS

Libyan government ratifies U.N. nuclear test ban treaty

VIENNA, Austria — In a new signal that Libya is serious about renouncing its weapons of mass destruction, U.N. officials said Wednesday that the North African country has ratified the nuclear test ban treaty.

Libya's nuclear program was far from producing a weapon, and the treaty is 12 nations short of the 44 ratifications needed for it to enter into force. Still, the announcement by the U.N. agency overseeing the agreement appeared to be a further sign of commitment by Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi to give up nuclear weapons ambitions.

The Vienna-based agency — known as the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test Ban Organization — said that in ratifying the pact earlier this month, Libya agreed to host a monitoring station at Misratah. That would be part of a network of 337 stations being set up worldwide to verify compliance with terms of the treaty.

Libya announced Dec. 19 that it was giving up its weapons of mass destruction after months of secret talks with the United States and Britain. It said then it would sign the test ban treaty and become a party to the convention prohibiting chemical weapons.

Once it enters into force, the treaty bans any nuclear weapon test explosion in any environment.

CALENDAR

Feb. 3

8 p.m. — The Daily Tar Heel will host a forum for student body president candidates in 209 Manning Hall. The forum will be open to the public. For more information, contact Elyse Ashburn at eashburn@email.unc.edu or at 962-4103.

From staff and wire reports.

Native symbols to decorate Union

American Indian artist to liven area

BY BROOK R. CORWIN
UNIVERSITY EDITOR

The Student Union courtyard is about to take on new life.

Southeastern Native American symbols, each representing traditional "gifts of life," soon will adorn the brick-lined walkway separating the two halves of the Union.

Beginning today, Union workers will spend two weeks arranging

multicolored bricks across the entire area, creating artistic representations of water, land, food, health and honor.

The original arrangement, titled "The Gift," comes from the artistry of Senora Lynch, a Haliwa Saponi tribe member who normally works with pottery and beads.

It was her pieces of pottery that connected the Warrenton native to

Student Union officials when they began brainstorming the project more than three years ago.

"Part of the planning for this building was ... to reflect the culture and community of UNC," said Don Luse, director of the Carolina Union. "One culture that wasn't here was Native American."

The design's center is a shield of eagle feathers symbolizing the highest honor bestowed by Lynch's tribe.

Flanking the centerpiece will be designs of turtles and flowers, tra-

"At first I thought, 'I've never done this before. This is new.' But then I just began drawing, and it all fell into place."

SENORA LYNCH, DESIGNER AND ARTIST OF UNION WALKWAY PROJECT.

ditional Native American symbols of life, with border designs representing water and corn. At the far end of the courtyard will be a circle design representing unity.

The meaning and traditions SEE COURTYARD, PAGE 9

behind these symbols will be explained in a piece of beaded artwork, also commissioned to Lynch, that will hang outside the Union

SPRING RUSH



DTH/JOHN DUDLEY

Sophomores Yuri Broze (bottom) and Charles Patton paint a cube Wednesday in the Pit. Broze and Patton are members of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia fraternity, a men's music fraternity. Phi Mu Alpha is one of

several fraternities on campus trying to generate interest as the new semester begins and another pledge season approaches. Rush events for Phi Mu Alpha will take place Wednesday through Sunday of next week.

Change in sidewalk sites drives up project's costs

BY KATHRYN GRIM
SENIOR WRITER

The Carrboro Board of Aldermen voted for changes Tuesday that upped the cost of the first phase of sidewalk construction, to be funded in part by the town's sidewalk bond.

The board decided to add sidewalks to a section of North Greensboro Street instead of a section of Oak Avenue, raising the price tag of the initial project to about \$1.48 million — an \$88,645 increase.

A resident of Oak Avenue said sidewalks built on her street would

impede on residents' already cramped yard space.

"Our neighborhood is ... full of mill houses," she said. "The homes were built before the street existed, so many houses have short front yards. Many gardens go right to the curb."

Town Manager Steven Stewart approved of the increase because interest rates are at a historic low, which eases the cost the town will have to pay back to investors.

The town might issue as much as \$4.6 million in bonds during the

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Soldier suicide rate remains high

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. soldiers in Iraq are killing themselves at a high rate despite the work of special teams sent to help troops deal with combat stress, the Pentagon's top doctor said Wednesday.

Meanwhile, about 2,500 soldiers who have returned from the war on terrorism are having to wait for medical care at bases in the United States, said Dr. William Winkenwerder, assistant secretary of defense for health affairs. The problem of troops on medical extension is likely to get worse as the Pentagon rotates hundreds of thousands of troops into and out of

Iraq this spring, he said.

Both situations illustrate the stresses placed on the troops and the military's health system by the war in Iraq. Suicide has become such a pressing issue that the Army sent an assessment team to Iraq late last year to see if anything more could be done to prevent troops from killing themselves. The Army also began offering more counseling to returning troops after several soldiers at Fort Bragg, N.C., killed their wives and themselves after returning home from Afghanistan.

Winkenwerder said the military has documented 21 suicides during 2003 among troops involved in the Iraq war. Eighteen of those were

increases will address all of students' concerns.

"We're not really sure what we're getting with the \$300," Caravano said. "We've had increases in the past but haven't seen smaller classes. To have another increase that is supposed to benefit those same areas is a little disheartening."

Caravano agreed that students were given plenty of opportunity to express opposition through N.C. State's Tuition Task Force and a campus meeting, but he said he still is dissatisfied with the increases.

N.C. State spokesman Tim Lucas said about 50 people attended a town hall-style meeting addressing the potential increase. About 20 of them were students,

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Petition follows admissions suit

BY LAURA YOUNGS

ASSISTANT STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

A former plaintiff in a discrimination lawsuit against the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor launched a petition drive Monday to eliminate racial preferences in hiring and admissions, a move affirmative action advocates in the state strongly oppose.

Jennifer Gratz, one of two plaintiffs in the U.S. Supreme Court case against the UM undergraduate school, is leading the campaign with the support of the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative and with help from the American Civil Rights Institute.

To get the proposal on the November ballot, the group must collect 317,057 signatures in six months. Gratz said she hopes to gather them with the help of volunteers and paid circulators in an effort to end preferential treatment in hiring and admissions practices.

"(Preferential treatment policies) discriminate against people," she said. "They divide based on skin color and treat each category

differently."

Gratz and Patrick Hammacher, the second plaintiff in the Supreme Court case, applied to UM in 1995 and contended in their lawsuit that they met criteria for admissions but were denied in favor of minority applicants.

The court ruled last year that although the use of a point system is unacceptable, schools can continue to consider race as a factor when admitting students.

But Gratz said that using preferences is unconstitutional and that she rather would have a system that would examine an applicant's socio-economic background.

Affirmative action supporters dispute that those policies are necessary to give minorities opportunities and that reverse discrimination was not involved in the case of Gratz. "She didn't measure up," said Jeannie Jackson, the Michigan state coordinator for the American Association for

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N.C. State students battle tuition hikes

BY KAVITA PILLAI

STAFF WRITER

A proposed \$600 campus-initiated tuition increase has some students at N.C. State University up in arms and concerned that the money ultimately won't be used appropriately.

Under the proposed plan, tuition would increase by \$300 each year for the next two years. The money would be used to decrease class sizes and improve the quality of the university's faculty, said Jeff Davies, UNC-system vice president of finance.

The proposal also allocates money to financial aid and a graduate student support plan.

But N.C. State Student Body President Tony Caravano said he's unsure that the end results of the

Is Overactive Bladder a part of your life?

Millions of women suffer daily with a condition known as Overactive Bladder (OAB). If you are a woman who copes with an OAB and typically urinate 10 or more times during waking hours, you may be eligible to volunteer for a research study of an investigational medication.

Qualified participants will receive a physical examination and study related medication.

Please call Chapel Hill OB/GYN
919-929-9541 x110

for more information on this study

The Princeton Review

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