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Arena ads looming for University

OFFICIALS EYEING SIGNAGE TO AID ATHLETIC BOOSTERS

BY EMILY STEEL
ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY EDITOR

Officials are likely to approve advertising in athletic facilities as a solution to the increasingly difficult task of funding athletic scholarships, a burden that got almost \$300,000 greater just last week. "The question is not whether but how, and the proper steps the University can take to make sure it

is in within the University's mission," Chancellor James Moeser said Friday. Many universities allow advertising in athletic facilities, but officials long have fought to keep advertising, so-called corporate signage, out of UNC facilities. Now, officials say maintaining the policy might not be feasible as the cost of athletic scholarships increases.

A tuition hike approved Wednesday by the Board of Trustees — \$1,500 for out-of-state and \$300 for in-state students — will affect significantly the Educational Foundation, which traditionally funds all athletic scholarships. During the last two years, the foundation has struggled to meet its obligations and, last year, could not cover the full cost of its scholarship needs. The BOT's proposal will take an extra toll. The Department of Athletics had projected the 2004-05 scholarship budget to be about \$7.9 mil-

lion, but the tuition increase tacked an extra \$285,000 onto that tab. The 2003-04 projected scholarship budget is \$7.3 million. "Just like the tuition increase is killing students, it is killing the Educational Foundation," said Trustee John Ellison, member of the Educational Foundation and the newly appointed Task Force on Signage in Athletic Facilities. Original proposals for the tuition increase reserved money for talent- and merit-based aid, but heavy criticism of the plan led officials to eliminate this component.

Faculty, staff and students highly criticized board members, who ultimately decided using tuition funds to hold harmless private foundations was a bad policy move. "If it is really going to hurt those foundations that badly then that would lead me to think that it would harm all students that way," said Lissa Broome, professor of law and chairwoman of the Faculty Athletics Committee. The Educational Foundation and the athletic department will now face the challenging task of finding funds to maintain all the scholar-

ships the foundation now provides. "If the tuition and fees are going to be raised every single year, the challenge will become greater and greater," said Larry Gallo, senior associate director of athletics. "At some particular time, it may force an organization, in our case the athletic department, to make some difficult decisions." John Montgomery, president of the Educational Foundation, did not return calls last week. Some officials see allowing cor-

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Men offer help Sunday afternoon and push a stranded car up Raleigh Street to Franklin Street, which was more thoroughly cleared of snow. DTH/LAURA MORTON

CLASSES CANCELLED

Wintry weather swirls into Triangle, bringing mixed bag of problems

BY STEPHANIE JORDAN
AND DAN SCHWIND
SENIOR WRITERS

The Triangle was crippled Sunday after a winter storm swept into the area, bringing with it snow, sleet and freezing rain. University officials announced Sunday evening that the University would be closed and operating under a condition III adverse weather alert. They said they took into consideration conditions at the time as well as weather forecast projections. According to the National Weather Service on Sunday, the forecast for today predicted freezing rain and drizzle early in the day, resulting in some ice accumulation with the high temperature in the 20s. Carrboro public works officials said they believed more problems would arise with the forecasted wintry mix. Gwen Snowden, a deputy director in the Orange County Department of Emergency Management Services, said that despite sever-

al problems reported throughout Orange County, the storm still was not as bad as the ice storm of December 2002 that brought the area to a standstill. As of 5 p.m. Sunday, 80 traffic accidents were reported across Orange County, though Snowden said only one accident was serious and most involved only mild vehicle damage and a few scrapes and bruises. "It wasn't bad at all," she said. "We haven't gotten any ice, which was the problem last time. This time was just people going out and not slowing down." Chapel Hill resident Katie Guest was driving on Airport Road when her blue BMW lost traction and became stuck. She backed into the parking lot of the BP gas station at the bottom of the hill but was told by an employee that her car would be towed if she left it there. It took the help of three police officers and a motorist to muscle her car into the parking lot of the police station further up the hill.

Snowden said the county began making preparations as early as Friday afternoon when emergency vehicles replaced their standard tires with snow tires. Chapel Hill Transit did not experience any serious problems with service Sunday but ended service for the day at 5 p.m. Transit officials said they would assess conditions early this morning before deciding how and when service would resume. Progress Energy, which was hit particularly hard by the December 2002 storm, reported no weather-related power outages as of Sunday afternoon. Progress spokesman Garrick Francis said the company made numerous preparations for the storm. Most notably, Progress mobilized 1,400 personnel in the event of power outages, including damage assessment teams and tree trimmers. Francis also warned customers to be wary of

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Dems. stump for votes in N.H. primary

BY MATT HANSON
SENIOR WRITER

MANCHESTER, N.H. — Democratic presidential candidates battled for every last undecided voter over the weekend as the margin between the top candidates narrowed in the days before the all-important Tuesday primary. Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts still was leading the pack after winning last week's Iowa caucus and garnering a few last-minute endorsements from various groups in New Hampshire.

Assorted polls conducted in the last few days showed Kerry with the support of 30 percent to 34 percent of Democratic voters. A wrestling match seems in the works for second, third and fourth place. Former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean, currently second, has continued to slide in polls, while Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina is gaining ground slowly on the third spot, now occupied by retired Gen. Wesley Clark. The candidates rehearsed now-familiar stump speeches, stopping at town hall meetings and other

small gatherings of voters. One theme was iterated by all candidates at weekend campaign stops: "America needs a higher standard of leadership," said Clark, in a speech delivered at a dinner Saturday night. "We can do better than George W. Bush, and we must." Edwards' wife, Elizabeth, issued a similar declaration at a Nashua, N.H., middle school cafeteria. "Any one of these men would be better than the one we have in the White House," she said. The cafeteria was crowded with snowflake streamers, lunch tables and several hundred voters who came to see Edwards, and this was just the overflow room for those unable to pack into the gym already filled with 500 or more. She criticized President Bush for being out of touch with the American working class. "This is a man different than he

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Edwards speaks to an overflow crowd of enthusiastic campaign supporters at Rochester Middle School in Rochester, N.H., on Saturday. DTH/BRIAN CASSELLA

BOG names Roper health system CEO

BY EMILY STEEL
ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY EDITOR

With a patterned bow tie around his neck and smile spread across his face, William Roper walked into a room filled with applause shortly after the UNC-system Board of Governors unanimously appointed him to lead the UNC Health Care System on Friday. Roper will assume the three-tiered position of chief executive officer of the UNC Health Care System, UNC-Chapel Hill vice chancellor for Medical Affairs and dean of the School of Medicine on March 15. "I am delighted for the confidence the president and the chancellor and others have shown in me," Roper, currently dean of the



Public health school Dean William Roper will take over UNC Health Care when CEO Jeff Houpt retires in May.

School of Public Health, said Sunday. At an annual salary of \$450,000, Roper now will earn the University's highest base salary. Jeff Houpt, who currently serves in the position, earns an annual salary of \$382,825 — the ninth highest at the University. Shortly after Houpt announced

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Officials: Campus illness waning

Cause of symptoms still unknown

BY MICHELLE JARBOE
FEATURES EDITOR

Though at least 133 students visited Student Health Service last week and eight patients required acute care Saturday, SHS officials believe the mysterious epidemic's force has taken a downturn. In addition to the rush of students cared for at Student Health between Tuesday and Sunday, residence hall assistants turned up a list of 185 names during sweeps last week. SHS Director Robert Wirag said many of these names were duplicates of those already recorded by Student Health. "I think it's probably fair to say that there were probably close to 200 students with gastrointestinal signs and nausea, vomiting and

diarrhea," Wirag said. Though the Orange County Health Department and Student Health have not pinpointed the cause of students' symptoms, Wirag said the illness seems to have run its course. Student Health treated six patients Tuesday, 70 Wednesday and 38 Thursday, said SHS Associate Director Mary Covington. Eight patients required acute care, including intravenous fluids Friday. Covington said no patients required hospitalization, though SHS used hospital stretchers and space to make students more comfortable during Wednesday's rush. A few students also visited UNC Hospitals' emergency room after

Student Health closed in the evenings, but all were treated and discharged. "In no sense was this a life-threatening illness, but I'm sure that many patients were very uncomfortable," Covington said. Eight students required attention Saturday, and five patients, none of whom required acute care, visited Student Health before 4 p.m. Sunday. "This is tapering off," Wirag said. "It doesn't look like there's another reservoir out there." Though the number of patients continues to decline, Wirag confirmed that secondary infection is a possibility. One SHS secretary left work Friday with similar symptoms to those displayed by students. Her name was submitted to health department officials, Wirag said. "There are some similar illnesses

that have started going around (the SHS) community," Covington said. "I don't know if it's the same thing." Secondary infection, whether related to an original viral or bacterial source, might be a possibility for anyone who came into contact with vomit or other bodily fluids last week, Wirag said. He urged students and housekeeping staff to observe proper hand washing procedures to prevent transmission of illness. According to a medical update sent Friday by the health department, specimen analyses should return today. Preliminary data suggest that the illness might be food-related and sparked by contact with a common source. Health department officials continued to contact students during the week.

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ONLINE

Aspiring teachers discuss No Child Left Behind Act
Winter weather doesn't deter medieval festivities
More coverage online at www.dailytarheel.com

INSIDE

DEMANDING TASK
Task force begins examination of the O.C. animal shelter **PAGE 11**



SPORTS

HOME COURT ADVANTAGE
The Tar Heels rebound from a loss on the road to beat UVA. on Saturday **PAGE 12**

WEATHER

TODAY Freezing rain, H 33, L 31
TUESDAY Partly cloudy, H 43, L 26
WEDNESDAY Partly cloudy, H 47, L 32

