

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Student robbed on campus Friday near Arboretum

A student was robbed Friday night when she left Spencer Residence Hall near Coker Arboretum, reports state.

The suspect reportedly snuck up behind her, put a gloved hand over her eyes and snatched her purse, reports state.

The suspect then ran through the arboretum toward Cameron Avenue, reports state.

Items stolen were a \$10 denim purse, the victim's driver's license, her UNC ONE Card, \$30 cash, a pack of cough drops and one \$15 umbrella, reports state.

The victim described her attacker as a large male, approximately 5 feet 9 inches tall, reports state. The suspect did not speak during the attack and carried a yellow umbrella.

Reports state that the case is under further investigation.

Vending machine taken from campus laboratory

Police reports state that a vending machine was stolen from Kenan Labs on Sunday. The machine, worth \$1,000, was stolen some time between 6 p.m. Saturday and 9 a.m. Sunday.

The case is under further investigation.

CITY BRIEFS

Two laptops stolen from Hillsborough Street home

A Hillsborough Street apartment was broken into by forced entry late Sunday night, according to reports.

Reports state that an unknown suspect entered the residence through a window.

According to reports, a Compaq Presario 1600T laptop valued at \$1,900, an IBM ThinkPad valued at \$1,500, and \$15 worth of coins were taken.

Man charged with larceny for taking steaks from store

A man was arrested Sunday morning on charges of larceny in connection with stolen meat from the Harris Teeter located at 310 N. Greensboro St. in Carrboro, reports state.

At 11:15 a.m., Charles Harden, 30, of 112 N.C. 54 Bypass, was caught stealing \$51.71 worth of t-bone/rib-eye steaks, according to reports.

Harden was released on written promise to appear in court, reports state.

NATIONAL BRIEFS

Mass. legislature divided about gay marriage issue

BOSTON — An Associated Press survey of Massachusetts lawmakers shows a legislature deeply divided over a proposed constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage in the state where the nation's first legally sanctioned same-sex weddings could take place as early as May.

The 199 House and Senate lawmakers — all up for re-election in November — could take up the volatile issue at a constitutional convention as early as Wednesday.

The issue gained urgency last week when the state's high court declared that anything less than full-fledged marriage for gays in Massachusetts would be unconstitutional.

The opinion put Massachusetts lawmakers at the center of a political maelstrom that is being closely watched across the country and could play a role in the presidential race.

All of Massachusetts' legislators were contacted by telephone and e-mail by the AP since last week's Supreme Judicial Court opinion, and 146 responded. Of those, 61 said they would oppose the constitutional amendment, while 70 said they could support it. An additional 12 said they were undecided, and three said they had no comment. Fifty-three did not respond.

There is probably nothing lawmakers can do to prevent the nation's first gay marriages from taking place May 17. The earliest the proposed amendment could end reach the ballot is November 2006.

CALENDAR

Wednesday

9 p.m. — The UNC School of Medicine Class of 2007 will present a date auction at Avalon night club. Twenty-five carefully selected first-year "hotties" will be auctioned off to raise money for Carolina Donor Services.

Pictures of the men and additional information can be found at <http://www.med.unc.edu/wms/ms1/dateauction>.

From staff and wire reports.

Panel to mull student town board seats

Plan set to explore civic involvement

BY DAN SCHWIND
ASSISTANT CITY EDITOR

A motion to create permanent student positions in town government moved closer to fruition after the Chapel Hill Town Council voted Monday to create a committee to examine such a possibility.

The Committee to Study the Possible Creation of Student Seats on Town Advisory Boards and Commissions was approved unanimously with the charge of achieving seven objectives aimed at exploring methods to improve stu-

dent involvement in civic affairs.

The objectives were set forth by a committee comprising council members Mark Kleinschmidt, Jim Ward and Edith Wiggins.

The council members charged the new committee with identifying current opportunities for student involvement, evaluation of the position of University Student Liaison to the Town Council and consideration of what boards, if any, should have student seats.

Kleinschmidt said that the town historically has provided the

chance for political involvement to all ages and that the objectives were created to encourage more such involvement.

Ward expressed similar sentiments, saying the committee would be designed to provide as much access to government as possible.

"We wanted to explore opportunities beyond the existing standing committees," he said. "We felt like the petition was right on target — it just needed to expand."

Monday's vote also addressed the composition of the committee, recommending a 14-member board.

William Hartye, chair of the student government committee on town relations, added his stamp of approval at Monday's meeting, saying he thinks the committee's composition was a particular strong point of the resolution.

"(Student government) is in full support of this recommendation," he said. "The makeup of the committee will help advance towards our goal of improving student interest."

Of the 14 members, the resolution recommends two council members and four University students, two undergraduate and two graduate.

Kleinschmidt and Ward already have agreed to serve as the council's representatives.

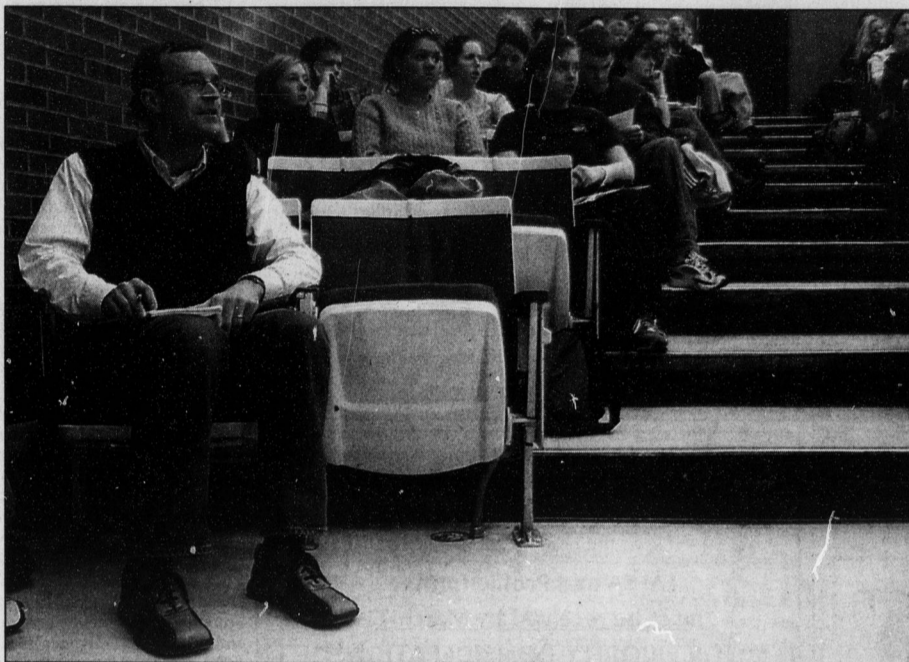
The issue of student positions on town advisory boards first surfaced at the Nov. 24 council business meeting.

UNC Student Body Secretary Frances Ferris presented a petition proposing that the council create permanent positions for students on boards that directly affect student lives such as the transportation board.

Kleinschmidt said that while the petition only addressed student

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HIV AWARENESS



Graduate student Anton Zuiker (left) and other students listen at the "AIDS: Principles & Policies" class Feb. 3. Zuiker co-organized the "Narratives of HIV" event series, which begins Wednesday to emphasize HIV/AIDS awareness.

HIV PROGRAM STRESSES CRISIS

Personal narratives breathe life into HIV-AIDS statistics

BY ADAM RODMAN
STAFF WRITER

Kimberly Smolen is HIV-positive. She was popular: a member of a sorority who partied a lot in college. For a while, she dated a cool, funny guy who refused to use a condom — and who was a drug addict.

After college she ran the New York City Marathon. She said she felt so successful that she decided to donate blood that same week. After the results from her blood donation came back, she descended into homelessness and drug addiction.

This semester Smolen will come to UNC to talk about her experiences as part of the program, "Narratives of HIV," which begins Wednesday. Anton Zuiker, a graduate student in journalism and co-organizer of the event series, stressed the importance of awareness of HIV and AIDS, especially for college students.

"On the national level, the (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) released a report that said new cases of HIV are still going up," he said. "One of the highest places of transmission is the South. And in North Carolina, over the past four to five years, there has been an outbreak on college campuses."

Forty million people in the world have HIV, including about 900,000 in the United States, according to the

CDC. And, according to a recent study by UNC researchers Peter Leone and Lisa Hightow, there also is an HIV outbreak among college students in North Carolina.

"We are in the middle of a rapid resurgence of HIV on our campuses," said Leone, a UNC professor of medicine.

Leone said that at some North Carolina colleges, the HIV incidence rate among black men is almost 500 per 100,000. This is significantly higher than the overall incidence rate for North Carolina males: between 27 or 28 per 100,000.

"It certainly shows it's time for North Carolina college students to be concerned," said Beth Credle, coordinator of human sexuality programs at UNC's Center for Healthy Student Behaviors.

She attributed the higher campus infection rates not only to college students, but also to young adults in general, more experimentation in college and alcohol risks.

"People are starting to be sexually active at younger ages, and they're having more partners and getting married later," she said. "This leads to more sexual partners overall."

Leone predicts increased HIV infections if nothing drastic is done. "I see the next wave of HIV," he said.

Although he doesn't think the lat-

est AIDS outbreak will be as severe as the one in the early 1980s, Leone said there will be an increase in the number of HIV cases in the United States when there should be a decrease.

"If we see this in this country ... it doesn't bode well for anyone else," he said.

"Narratives of HIV" will start Wednesday with the film, "A Closer Walk," at 7 p.m. in the Union Auditorium. Academy Award-nominated director Robert Bilheimer will attend and answer questions at the screening.

During the week of Feb. 23, Mark Schoofs, a reporter for The Wall Street Journal, will talk about his Pulitzer Prize-winning series on HIV and AIDS. On March 22 the film "HIV Positive Voices" will come to the Rosenau Hall auditorium, followed by a speech from Smolen, who is featured in the documentary.

Funding for "Narratives of HIV" has come from many University sources, including the School of Medicine, the School of Public Health and the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, as well as Student Health Services and the Office of Student Affairs.

"The campus has been really sup-

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Primary is set for July

Delay might hurt hopefuls seeking to oust Gov. Easley

BY KAVITA PILLAI
STAFF WRITER

The N.C. Board of Elections decided Monday to delay the state primary until July 20 because of a pending lawsuit to redraw legislative district maps passed by the N.C. General Assembly in November.

The delayed primary leaves three months of campaign time before the general election and could prove detrimental to Republican challengers trying to unseat Democratic Gov. Mike Easley.

"As we learned in 2002, short campaigns favor incumbents or other especially well-known candidates," said Ferrel Guillory, director of UNC's Program on Southern Politics, Media and Public Life. "You've got a group of six or seven Republicans knocking against each other, while Easley runs unchallenged."

In 2002, a similar situation delayed the primary until September, hurting Democrats running for the U.S. Senate nomination against Republican Elizabeth Dole.

"The Democrats were running against each other longer and running against ... Dole for a shorter period," Guillory said. "Now, the situation is reversed."

The late primary date could hinder fund raising by Republican gubernatorial candidates who so far have

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Democrats vie for South

Kerry projected to prevail in upcoming primaries

BY ALEX GRANADOS
STAFF WRITER

Sen. John Kerry is winning the hearts and minds of Democrats everywhere, but he still has to prove himself in the Republican-dominated South in order to secure his party's presidential nomination, political experts say.

Kerry, of Massachusetts, has won 10 of the 12 primaries and caucuses held so far, and an MSNBC-Zogby poll released Monday shows him with 45 percent of the vote in Tennessee and 47 percent in Virginia.

Compared with Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina and his projected 21 percent in Tennessee and 24 percent in Virginia, Kerry appears unstoppable.

Holly Armstrong, communications director for the Kerry campaign, said last week's South Carolina primary was important for the senator's campaign.

"All the states in February are important," she said. "But South Carolina has been known as first in the South."

Kerry lost South Carolina to Edwards but has led ever since in national polls.

Few Southern states have held their primaries, so today's contests could demonstrate whether the South will play an influential role in deciding the nominee.

Bill Buck, national press secretary for Gen. Wesley Clark's campaign, said the South often is overlooked

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SBP carries weight beyond campus

Strives to make student voice heard

BY LAURA BOST
STAFF WRITER

At a university that historically has valued self-governance, the responsibilities of the student body president involve cooperating with a multitude of governing bodies.

In its most basic function, the position of student body president is the liaison between the student voice and these bodies, ranging from Student Congress to the N.C. General Assembly.

"The role of the SBP is to mobilize the student voice," said Lily West, a candidate for student body president. "The power is derived from the student voice, and it is imperative students are informed about the office."

But as such, the student body president serves as an ex officio voting member of the UNC-Chapel

Hill Board of Trustees and as an ambassador to the town of Chapel Hill, other schools, the state and the nation.

Since 1973, the student body president has served on the BOT as an ex officio voting member — what some believe to be the president's most influential role, especially given recent tuition controversies.

As the only student trustee on the 13-member board, the president has a difficult role to play.

BOT Chairman Richard "Stick" Williams said that while presidents have an equal opportunity to influence the board as voting members, much of their success depends on the situation and the individual holding the office.

In 1999, then-president Nic Heinke organized a large protest against the BOT's proposed \$2,000

tuition hike for nonresidents. His fight was successful: The BOT agreed to a \$1,500 increase and the UNC-system Board of Governors lowered it to \$600.

Heinke and Student Body President Matt Tepper both said trustees listen to the student voice, even if it differs from the majority opinion.

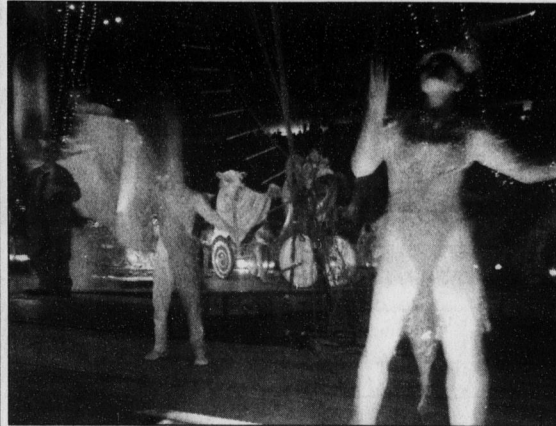
"The SBP's power within the BOT depends on issues and circumstances," Tepper said. "I always have their attention. ... My ideas are respected, even if they just lead to dialogue and debate."

Remembering his time in office, Heinke said it is essential that the president spend time on campus to be an accurate representative.

"Getting out of the office and being involved in campus activities increases power because you are then carrying more weight," he said.

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STEP RIGHT UP



DTH/LEAH LATELLA

Performers present their act Saturday night at the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey's "Greatest Show on Earth" in Raleigh. The circus, held at the RBC Center, began Thursday and ended Monday night. The show has been traveling the country for 133 years.