

**CAMPUS BRIEFS**  
Special election to be held to fill empty Congress seats

A special election will be held today to fill the 13 open seats in the 85th Student Congress, which is in session now.

Students may cast their votes from 7 a.m. until 10 p.m. at <http://studentcentral.unc.edu>.

**Students sought for DTH editor selection committee**

The Daily Tar Heel now is accepting applications for its editor selection committee. All students are eligible.

Applications are available in the DTH office, located in the Student Union. Participants are required to attend meetings March 18 from 5 to 6 p.m. and March 20 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Those selected will be notified by March 4. Contact DTH Editor Elyse Ashburn with questions at [eashburn@email.unc.edu](mailto:eashburn@email.unc.edu) or call 962-0750.

**Vehicle reported stolen from Old East parking lot**

A 1998 black Dodge Dakota valued at \$12,000 was stolen from the parking lot outside Old East Residence Hall on Friday night, police reports state.

The victim reported that he parked his truck in the lot at 11 p.m., but when he returned at 8:15 a.m. Saturday the truck was missing. The incident is still under investigation.

**CITY BRIEFS**

**Purses stolen from Beta Theta Pi fraternity house**

According to Chapel Hill police reports, unattended purses were taken early Monday morning from Beta Theta Pi fraternity house on 114 S. Columbia St.

Three female UNC students reported the items missing at 3:16 a.m., reports state.

According to reports, a purse valued at \$100, along with a \$300 wallet and a cell phone worth \$90, were stolen from one student.

Another student reported that her \$265 Prada purse and \$110 Kate Spade wallet were taken. A Tiffany & Co. key chain valued at \$95, a \$60 Nine West purse and a cell phone worth \$90 were also taken, reports state.

**NATIONAL BRIEFS**

**Scientists discover new strain of mad cow disease**

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Italian scientists have found a second form of mad cow disease that more closely resembles the human Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease than the usual cow form of the illness.

The brain-wasting diseases BSE, known as mad cow disease, and human CJD are caused by different forms of mutant proteins called prions.

A number of people, mainly in England, also have suffered from what is called variant CJD, a brain disease believed to be acquired by eating meat from infected cows. No Americans have been reported with variant CJD.

Now, the team of Italian researchers reports a study of eight cows with mad cow disease found that two of them had brain damage resembling the human victims of CJD.

They said that the cows were infected with prions that resembled those involved in the standard form of the human disease, called sporadic CJD, not the variant caused by eating infected meat.

Salvatore Monaco, lead author of the new study, said the findings may indicate that cattle can also develop a sporadic form of the disease, but it also might be a new foodborne form of the illness.

**CALENDAR**

**Wednesday**

**5:30 p.m.** — The UNC Vegetarian Club will host a free vegetarian feast for body, mind and spirit in the Frank Porter Graham lounge of the Student Union.

**Thursday**

**6:30 p.m.** — Student Action with Workers is having a teach-in in 301 Bingham Hall about Smithfield Foods' efforts to prevent the formation of a union at one of its plants in North Carolina, what unions do and how they can be improved. There will be free food.

**7 p.m.** — Rap icon and social critic Chuck D will deliver a lecture in honor of Black History Month in the Great Hall of the Student Union.

Tickets are free to students and are available in advance at the Union Box Office. General public tickets are \$10 and are available Thursday at the box office.

From staff and wire reports.

# Fund to aid in-state study abroad

## Targets students from 3 rural areas

BY ALICE DOLSON  
STAFF WRITER

In a continuing effort to make studying abroad an affordable option for all students, UNC's Office of Study Abroad is offering a new scholarship to in-state students from Surry, Wilkes and Yadkin counties.

The scholarships, which will be awarded to as many as six students

each year, are financed by the Charles Garland Johnson Sr. Scholars Fund, an endowment of more than \$700,000 given by Mary Anne Johnson Dickson and Martha O'Neal Johnson in memory of their father, Charles Gardner Johnson.

"Our family realized the benefits of seeing other cultures," Martha O'Neal Johnson said. "I think he

would be very pleased to see more and more students involved in international travels."

"A lot of students from these counties cannot afford to go abroad," she said.

At \$5,000 each, the scholarships will offer more money than any current study abroad scholarship.

They will be awarded annually to six students who partake in semester or year-long study abroad programs at any location.

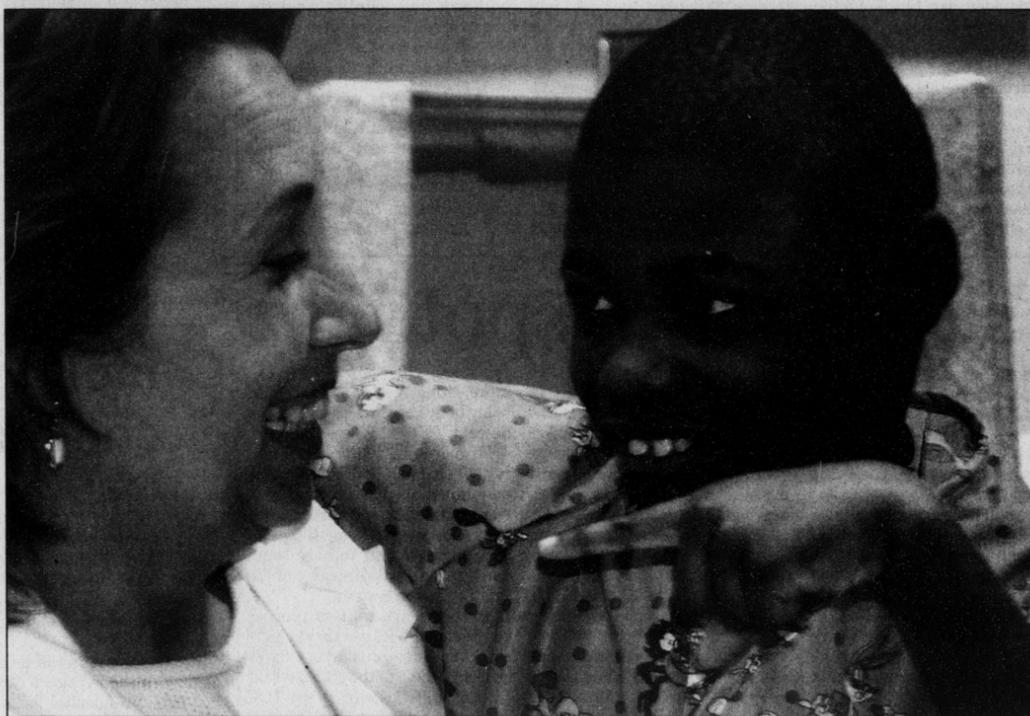
There is also an option to give one of the six students a full scholarship to study abroad, if compelling financial need is demonstrated, said Raymond Farrow, development director for the University Center for International Studies.

Gardner Johnson lived in Elkin, located in Surry County, for 70 years and served as mayor for four years. His daughters said they wanted to recognize the important role that the town played in his life.

"He felt that he gained a lot from that community and wanted to give back to the community," Farrow said. "If there are qualified candidates from those counties, they'll get the scholarship before equally or better qualified candidates from elsewhere."

The donation is part of the University's Carolina First campaign, which also stresses the importance of international pro-

SEE STUDY ABROAD, PAGE 7



DTH/JESSICA RUSSELL

George Kupit, 8, plays with pediatric nurse practitioner Lynne Farber on Monday night at UNC Hospitals. Kupit, of Milton, N.C., is a special needs child who is one of the many who will benefit from the money raised by the UNC Dance Marathon's For the Kids Fund.

# CHILD'S JOURNEY EPITOMIZES GOAL

## 8-year-old's resilience through illnesses motivates mother, volunteers

EMILY BATCHELDER  
STAFF WRITER

At 8 months old, George Kupit was given a life expectancy of four years. Today, at 8 years old, he tap dances and plays soccer.

"(George) is a very cheerful, interactive, happy little guy — even when he's sick," said Leslie Melnick, a clinical social worker who works with George and his family.

The ability to overcome all odds is what highlights George among many children who will be helped this year by the UNC Dance Marathon. His journey has been long and hard, but it hasn't slowed George down a bit.

At birth George was diagnosed with a digestive disorder called short bowel syndrome, which causes a malabsorption of nutrients and requires him to be hooked up to an I.V. and a "g-tube," a device that allows him to get his nutrients intravenously.

"His care is pretty complex," said Sharon Kupit, George's mother. "We just kind of look at it as the same kind of run of the mill thing. It's just the care he needs, and I don't begrudge him for it."

George's troubles did not end with his diagnosis. He spent his first six months of

life in the hospital, where he had multiple surgeries for digestive problems. At 11 months, he was hospitalized five times for infections.

It was during this time that Kupit, a single mom with four adult children, was contacted about possibly becoming George's foster mother. At the time, she was already in the midst of adopting another special needs child, Josef.

After their initial meeting, George won Kupit's heart, and she began the proceedings to adopt him. "(George is) just a joy," said Kupit, who is 58 years old and lives in Milton, N.C.

Yet as George continued to grow and develop, so did his disorders. He has been diagnosed with severe attention deficit hyperactive disorder and is mentally retarded. Recently, it has become apparent that he might also have autism, Kupit said.

"And that's okay, because George is

George," Kupit said. "He is very charismatic. He is extraordinarily articulate."

George understands many words, but not how to express them, which is a hallmark of autism.

As if his health-related problems weren't enough, George learned a sobering lesson two years and five months ago when a special needs bed collapsed, suffocating his brother. The two boys were three-and-a-half months apart, and Josef's absence left its mark on George.

"(George) learned the meaning of forever," Kupit said.

Though this chain of events might make other individuals give up, it hasn't stopped George, as anyone who knows him will attest.

Recently, he has taken up tap dancing, completed two recitals and even received a trophy for the most improved student. He also has begun to play soccer on the weekends with other special needs children in neighboring Danville, Va.

"He had more fun," Kupit said. "He just

SEE FAMILY, PAGE 7



2004 DANCE MARATHON  
Today: A Family Affair

# Subway relocates, expands

## Will offer more seats, menu items

BY ASHLEY DUNCAN  
STAFF WRITER

One of the empty store fronts plaguing Franklin Street in recent months will fill up again when Subway relocates to a larger space and a new business replaces its old location next to Johnny T-Shirt.

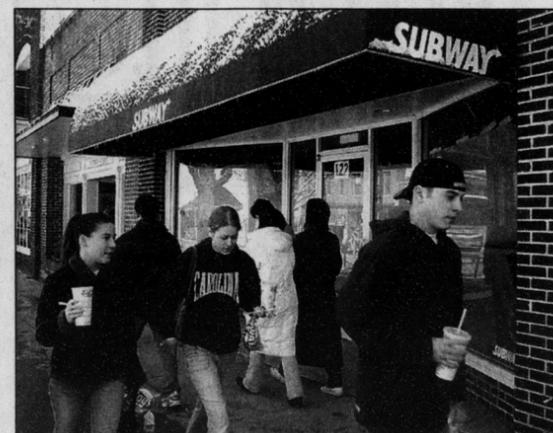
Subway is moving to 122 E. Franklin St., which has been vacant since Whims Cards and Gifts closed last September, to provide seating and other improvements for customers.

Javad Neakta bought the Subway franchise store at its current location at 132 E. Franklin St. three years ago. The franchise has been located there since the late 1970s and has been through several owners before Neakta.

Neakta has tried to move the restaurant since he bought the store.

"I have been working on it for the past three years, but this is the first opportunity I have had to sign a lease with someone," he said.

He said customers weren't satisfied with the close confines in the old location.



DTH/ASHLEY PITT

Chris Whiddon (right), Blake Tye and Katy Tye walk on Franklin Street past Subway's future location after visiting the current location.

"A lot of people complained about not having seating," he said. Neakta said the new location will seat about 75 to 85 people.

Neakta added that he hopes to expand operating hours. The current location is open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., but he said he wants the new store to operate from 6 a.m. to 3 a.m.

The new store also will offer expanded menu choices that will include breakfast items.

"The new location is bigger and will be able to serve more people at one time. Our objective is to give people more comfort," Neakta said.

SEE SUBWAY, PAGE 7

# Panel aims to align education schools

BY KAVITA PILLAI  
STAFF WRITER

Students interested in teaching careers face many obstacles in gaining admission to teacher education programs at North Carolina's public universities, according to a report released Wednesday.

The report, issued by the UNC-system Board of Governors' Task Force on Meeting Teacher Supply and Demand at the board's meeting last week, outlines problems that limit teacher supply in N.C. schools.

Of the 30 to 40 barriers identified by the task force, improving the relationship between community colleges and the UNC system is a priority, said Hannah Gage, co-chairwoman of the task force.

"I think a huge effort is going to be placed on improving the relationship with the community colleges and eliminating any obstacles to students going into education," she said.

The task force advocates streamlining admissions standards at different schools of education across the state, which would facilitate the process by which students transfer from two- to four-year schools.

Community college transfers also might be met with unfulfilled prerequisites due to course equivalency issues. "We're trying to craft an agreement that will greatly facilitate the transfer of community colleges," said Thomas James, dean of the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Education.

The task force also will ask education schools to look at their grade point average requirements and determine if there is a correlation between a student's GPA and actual success, said Gretchen Bataille, UNC-system senior vice president for academic affairs.

National accreditation and state approval guidelines require a 2.5 GPA for admission into teacher education programs, said Mary Lynne Calhoun, dean of the College of Education at UNC-Charlotte.

But some schools choose to raise these requirements, which Calhoun said can act as barriers.

The task force also has focused on the problem of teacher retention. "We can get more students going into education," Bataille said.

SEE SCHOOLS, PAGE 7

# Group fosters healthy habits

## Hopes to increase student wellness

BY TORRYE JONES  
STAFF WRITER

Senior Ann Hau recently realized the average college student did not have time to consider a healthy lifestyle.

So Hau, a nutrition major, said she founded Healthy Campus 2010, a new student organization, in order to increase the health consciousness of the UNC community.

"I thought it would be great to create an initiative for the campus and have people become involved in taking a step to improve their well-being," she said.

The organization, inspired by the nationwide initiative Healthy People 2010, was approved by the Carolina Union Activities Board in January. The UNC group held its first general interest and body meetings Thursday at which chairs were selected for three committees: nutrition, physical activity and mind and body.

Each committee will meet this week to set goals for the year.

Hau said about 80 people have asked to join the listserv.

"The response has been great, not just from students but faculty and staff as well," she said.

Hau said the group will be working with organizations such as the Center for Healthy Student Behavior, the Student Recreation Center and the Department of Exercise and Sport Science.

Mia Yang, co-chairwoman of the Mind and Body Committee, said some of the members' ideas include creating a place on campus where students can relieve stress between classes.

"We're thinking it can be a room in the SRC where students can wind down and get a massage in-between classes," she said.

Nutrition Committee Chairwoman Ashley Motsinger said the committee's biggest goal is to promote healthy eating habits for everyone. "We want to work with Carolina Dining Services to post information on healthy eating

SEE HEALTH, PAGE 7