

# U.S. signs 8th free trade deal UNC initiates program to snuff smoking habits

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The United States and the Dominican Republic agreed Monday to remove virtually all barriers to trade over the next decade, marking the eighth country to strike a free trade agreement with the Bush administration over the past three months.

The administration said it would present the agreement for congressional approval in a package with a recently concluded Central American Free Trade Agreement, or CAFTA, covering Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua.

But with trade becoming a hot election issue that Democrats hope to use against President Bush, the chances are dimming for getting any new trade agreements through

Congress this year.

U.S. Trade Representative Robert Zoellick said Monday that the administration would make every effort to get the trade deals approved against the forces of what he called "economic isolationism," a phrase Bush has been using to attack presumptive Democratic presidential nominee Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts.

"As the president has said, if (members of Congress) want to fight economic isolationism, this is a wonderful way to do it," Zoellick told a crowded news conference. "We are ready to make the fight."

While Kerry supported the North American Free Trade Agreement eliminating barriers with Canada and Mexico, as a presidential candidate he has called for a review of all trade laws to make

sure they contain sufficient protections against American workers being subjected to unfair competition from low-wage nations with lax environmental laws.

Unions have attacked the CAFTA deal for failing to provide sufficient protections for workers.

In addition to the six Latin American nations, the administration in recent weeks completed negotiations on free trade agreements covering Australia and Morocco.

Sonia Guzman, Dominican Secretary for Commerce and Industry, told reporters she hoped U.S. lawmakers would understand that "this is a good agreement for everyone" that will boost economic growth in both the United States and the Dominican Republic.

BY IRIS PADGETT  
STAFF WRITER

The University of North Carolina Health Care System launched this month a comprehensive smoking cessation program to help UNC Hospitals patients and other smokers terminate the harmful habit.

The action is a response to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's March 9 declaration that tobacco-related illnesses are the leading cause of death in the United States.

"It's far better for smokers to quit early," James Donohue, chief of UNC's Division of Pulmonary Diseases and Critical Care Medicine, stated in a press release. "Before they have to come see a pulmonary specialist to manage the debilitating, painful and life-threatening effects of (smoking)."

The program allows any UNC Hospitals patient to meet expense-free with Jeanie Mascarella, the hospitals' nursing education clinician, to develop an initial quitting plan.

Mascarella said she initially thought educating patients on the

detrimental effects of smoking while they were hospitalized was a bad idea. But now, she said, more people are realizing that it is a good time to increase awareness.

"If we can get people past nicotine withdrawal while in the hospital, we can more easily help them with the habit part afterwards," she said.

The smoking cessation program replaces a series of classes previously offered by UNC Health Care.

A free support group that anyone can attend, even if they only want to gather information about smoking, replaced the classes which required regular attendance and a dedication to quitting, said Mascarella.

She said that the support group will discuss aspects of smoking according to audience requests and will "be more likely to meet the needs of people in the community."

If people desire even more help, they can make individual appointments at the UNC Clinical Lung Center for outpatient assistance provided by Heather Krumnacher, a nurse practitioner who will meet with families to develop a quitting

plan, teach behavior modification techniques and, when appropriate, prescribe medication.

Mascarella, Krumnacher and Jana Johnson, a clinical assistant professor in UNC's pulmonary division who works with the statewide program Quit Now NC!, also will educate health care providers across the state about smoking cessation. They will focus on guidelines that the surgeon general's office asked every health care provider to incorporate.

These "5 A's" are: asking patients whether they use tobacco products, advising them to stop, assessing whether they will attempt to quit, assisting them with the attempt and arranging a follow-up contact.

"The average quit rate is 40 percent," Mascarella said. "So if the program results in anything over that, then we will be happy."

Smokers who are interested in participating in UNC Health Care's smoking cessation program may call 966-7933 to request an initial consultation.

Contact the University Editor at [udesk@unc.edu](mailto:udesk@unc.edu).

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Information Day  
Wednesday, March 17

Stop by between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.  
The Great Hall  
of the New Student Union

Representatives on hand from many  
University departments to assist with  
your graduation plans.

CLASS of 2004

CAROLINA

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# Coca-Cola. CAMPUS RECREATION UPDATE

## Carolina Adventures

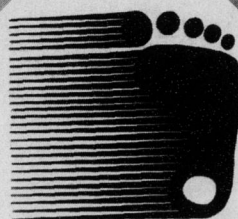
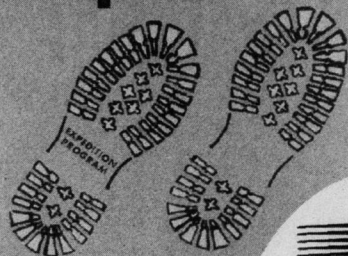
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Upcoming Expeditions

3/26-3/28 Kayak Goose Creek  
4/3 Day Hike Hanging Rock  
4/17 Kayak Kerr Lake

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get outdoors.



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## Sport Clubs

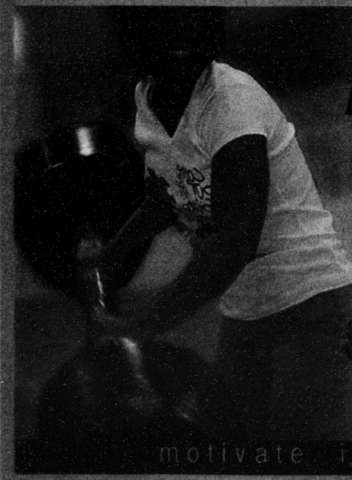
### Waterski with us!

Sign up for the UNC waterski club and—

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- compete with our team!

Come to our first meeting:  
March 22 @ 7:00 PM  
301 Woollen Gym

## Student Recreation Center



### ARE YOU UP FOR IT?

Teams of 2 will go up against the fierce gladiators of the SRC. Compete in the joust, tug-o-war, powerball, touchdown, and the ultimate obstacle course. For more info, email [hinton@email.unc.edu](mailto:hinton@email.unc.edu).

### SRC Gladiator Challenge

March 26, 2004 ■ SRC Studio A

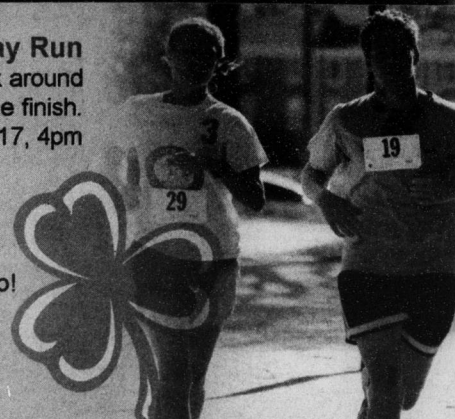
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## Intramural Sports

St. Paddy's Day Run  
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Event day: March 17, 4pm

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On Campus

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