

# The Daily Tar Heel

VOLUME 112, ISSUE 13

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 2004

www.dailytarheel.com



DTH PHOTO ILLUSTRATION/KATE BLACKMAN

A poll by The Daily Tar Heel revealed that UNC students are among those using prescription drugs such as Adderall (above) as a study aid without a prescription.

## SOME USING DRUGS AS STUDY 'CRUTCH' AT UNC

DTH survey sheds light on use of prescription drugs to help academic performance

BY KELLY OCHS  
STAFF WRITER

More than half of the UNC student body gets a little bit of help plodding through books, papers and exams.

According to a telephone survey conducted by The Daily Tar Heel, 54 percent of UNC students boost study time energy with substances ranging from caffeine to prescription drugs.

The vast majority of these students rely on coffee or soda, but Claire, a UNC senior, has found something that works a little better than caffeine.

She uses Adderall, a drug commonly prescribed for attention deficit disorders, when she has a lot of work to do. The quality of the time she spends studying is what matters, Claire said. "Every second you're looking at those books, you have to make it count."

She tried using caffeine to stay awake while studying, but it made her jittery. She said that when she takes Adderall, she doesn't have a reason to stop studying and isn't distracted.

Adderall and Ritalin, both prescription drugs meant to treat Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, create

an intense focus and aren't hard to come by on college campuses.

They are stimulants classified as amphetamines, putting them in the same category as speed.

Though some students have turned to these drugs when studying, the DTH's survey shows that the majority of UNC students do not rely on over-the-counter or prescription drugs as study aids.

According to the survey, about 14 percent of students use over-the-counter drugs such as caffeine pills while only about 4 percent use prescription drugs such as Adderall or Ritalin.

Of the 395 students randomly selected for the poll, only 19 reported using prescription drugs as study aids. But the study found that about 22 percent of UNC students know somebody who uses prescription drugs without a prescription when studying.

The poll, conducted between Feb. 2 and Feb. 6, has a margin of error of 5 percentage points, rendering the data on prescription drug use statistically insignificant: Use could be nonexistent or as high as 9 percent.

Journalism Professor Robert Stevenson, an expert in survey research, said a 5 percent margin of error in a survey of this size is not large.

Dan, a senior communication studies major who has a prescription for Adderall, said many people turn to study aids to balance a full schedule. He said he does not take his medication daily but has used it to help him study.

"I think a lot of people don't know how to (balance a full schedule)," he said. "It's a crutch."

Dan said his prescription provides him with more pills than he can use each month, so he sometimes gives away or sells the extra pills, usually to friends. If he sells the pills for \$1 a piece, he said, he still makes a profit.

"It's money," he said. "It's money in my pocket."

Although he has used the prescription as an aid for studying, Dan said, he is an advocate for a clean and healthy lifestyle.

He said that even though students are challenged in college with many activities, it is possible to balance them. Taking Adderall is a simple solution for

some students who become overwhelmed by high expectations, Dan said.

Students who do use over-the-counter or prescription drugs tend to employ them most when studying for exams or working on papers, according to the DTH's poll.

But some students say using the drug for study purposes is the same as drug abuse. A junior communication studies major at UNC who has used Adderall without a prescription for study purposes described it as a potential gateway drug.

"If you abuse it, you're likely to abuse any other drug," said the student, who preferred to remain anonymous.

Abuse of prescription drugs has become prevalent enough among youth to attract the attention of MTV. "True Life: I'm on Adderall" will premiere on the cable network this spring.

"As always with 'True Life,' we try to present topics that are relevant to our audience," stated Marshall Eisen, supervising producer of the show, in an

SEE SURVEY, PAGE 7

## Greeks see decline in numbers

Officials cite increased number of student groups

BY CLAIRE DORRIER  
STAFF WRITER

Greek officials say the increase in the number of student organizations along with a decrease in retention rates has caused membership in Greek organizations to decline during the past several years.

Greek Affairs recently released numbers that show that 14 percent of UNC students held membership in Greek organizations in 2003. Jay Anhorn, director of Greek Affairs, said this is lower than past levels. He said that in the mid-1990s, participation was around 18 percent.

He said he thinks the recent decline is due to the vast array of options that are available for students to get involved. "There are more than 500 student organizations and only 50 Greek organizations," he said. "People don't realize that by joining a Greek organization you can do many of the same things the other organizations do."

Despite declining numbers in the Interfraternity Council and the Panhellenic Council, the Greek Alliance Council and the National Pan-Hellenic Council have seen a large increase in membership. Within the past two years membership grew from 75 members to 200 members, Anhorn said.

IFC President Walker Rutherford said he thought a reason for the decline in participation is that members go inactive later in their academic

SEE GREEKS, PAGE 7

## Rally unifies party goals, candidates

BY KELLI BORBET  
STAFF WRITER

About 100 students attended a UNC College Republicans rally Monday afternoon featuring speeches from U.S. Rep. Richard Burr, R-N.C., and N.C. Sen. Robert Pittenger, R-Mecklenburg. Governorial candidate Bill Cobey also was in attendance.

Burr, a candidate for the U.S. Senate, said he was glad to see a room full of loyal conservatives at a place such as UNC, which he said was unlikely to have a conservative rally.

During his speech, Burr emphasized the country's need to work cooperatively to ensure that opportunities are as great for future generations as they are today.

"Our country is at a crossroad," he said. Burr said his motive to attend the rally was not only to increase support for his Senate campaign but also to support President Bush.

Burr cited Bush's ability to handle crisis situations. He said Bush did what was right for the country after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

"I'm proud of our president and his leadership,"

SEE RALLY, PAGE 7

## NCAA games to give area financial boost

BY CHRIS COLETTA  
ASSISTANT STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

As area basketball fans don their team's colors in preparation for the NCAA Tournament, the city of Raleigh is making March Madness plans of a different ilk.

N.C. State University and its home arena, the RBC Center, are hosting first- and second-round games in the men's tournament, including at least one game each involving Wake Forest and Duke universities.

The matchups are expected to provide a major financial windfall and a boost in prestige for the city and the university, particularly in an area known for its love affair with college hoops.

"It's March Madness," said Charlie Cobb, associate director of athletics and external relations for NCSU's Department of Athletics and a leader in the university's tournament committee.

"It's a major machine, and to be a part of it in a unique way as we are ... is obviously a good way to highlight this area and to highlight N.C. State."

The university and its court aren't the only groups benefiting.

Scott Dupree, director of sports marketing for the Greater Raleigh Convention and Visitors Bureau, said that though it's hard to know exactly how much money the tournament will bring in, he expects visitors to spend between \$2 million and \$3 million during their stay.

"We're anticipating a major boost for the economy," he said. "This community as a whole is big on bringing sporting events to the area."

The RBC Center will play host Thursday to first-round games between Florida and Manhattan, Wake Forest and Virginia Commonwealth, Seton Hall and Arizona, and Duke and Alabama State.

The winners of the last two games will play in the second round at 1:10 p.m. Saturday. The winners from the first pairing will tip off a half-hour after the first second-round game ends.

N.C. State and the RBC Center each will receive 10 percent of all ticket sales from this weekend's six sold-out games in Raleigh, a sum that Cobb said will total about \$200,000 per game.

SEE NCAA, PAGE 7

## Talk stresses human rights

Stone Center presents head of Global Rights

BY CAROLINE KORNEGAY  
STAFF WRITER

The Sonja Hayes Stone Center for Black Culture and History presented Tuesday night Gay McDougall, executive director for the international human rights organization Global Rights, at the 10th annual lecture honoring the late renowned UNC scholar.

McDougall's lecture, titled "Race and Poverty: Critical Frontiers for Human Rights Advocacy" was held in an almost full Tate-Turner-Kuralt auditorium and focused on poverty, racism and gender discrimination in the United States and around the globe. Stone's father and son attended the lecture.

McDougall stressed that there have been hard-earned victories in the past decade but said there have been some terrible losses as well.

Universality, equality, the rule of law, women's rights and social, economic and cultural rights are the important lessons of human rights advocacy, McDougall said.

"If 9-11 taught us anything, it is that



DTH/JUSTIN SMITH

Gay McDougall, executive director of the international human rights organization Global Rights, delivers the 10th annual Sonja Hayes Stone Lecture on Tuesday.

each of us bears the responsibility to see that this world turns out to be a just world," she said.

McDougall's organization, Global Rights, works in more than 22 countries. She also serves as an independent expert for the United Nations' International Convention on the Elimination of All

Forms of Racial Discrimination.

"It's a fascinating time to be working in human rights," McDougall said, noting the potential for change.

Ethnic tensions, nationalism and religious differences have widened the gap

SEE STONE, PAGE 7

### ONLINE

#### NEW DEVELOPMENTS

Town Council debates three concept plans for new housing and UNC sport facilities

### INSIDE

#### LUCK OF THE IRISH

Discover the origins of St. Patrick's Day before celebrating with green beer PAGE 5



### SPORTS

#### HOME RUN

UNC improves its record to 9-1 after handily defeating Princeton PAGE 4

### WEATHER

TODAY Partly cloudy, H 57, L 37  
THURSDAY PM showers, H 63, L 43  
FRIDAY Sunny, H 64, L 34

