

Day's parties contrast history N.C. economy expected to trail U.S.

BY TIM PRICE STAFF WRITER

While the green brews flow and students claiming to be Irish get kissed, it's time once again to reflect on the well celebrated, but often not-so-well understood, holiday that is St. Patrick's Day.

as a Catholic feast day, St. Patrick's Day has been around much longer. "In Ireland, it's a much quieter kind of thing," said Patrick O'Neill, a professor of English at UNC who moved to the United States from Ireland in 1976.

congregation. Myth and reality often are blurred because of a lack of concrete information. Either way, stories of Patrick's feats, fact or fiction, endure even today.

BY NIRAV VORA STAFF WRITER

North Carolina's economy is expected to underperform in 2004 compared with the rest of the nation, according to a key economic forecast released Monday.

this year in services, retail, trade and finance." Connaughton said he doesn't foresee strong employment growth in the state until national employment rates improve.

Carol Conway, deputy director for the Southern Growth Policies Board, a think tank based in Research Triangle Park, blamed underinvestment in education for the state's problem.

THE Daily Crossword

By Gregory E. Paul

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- ACROSS
1 Totally absorbed
5 En (in one group)
10 Manly
14 Bassoon's cousin
15 Edgar Poe
16 WWII alliance
17 Utah ski resort
18 Fowl perch
19 Be Cruel!
20 Kevin Cronin's Speedwagon
21 St. Patrick's Day parade site
23 Hard to see
25 Ode Line
26 Liver, heart, etc.
28 Lyricist Carol Bayer
30 A Visit from St. Nicholas poet
31 Jewish month
32 Pronto letters
36 Kind of tanker
37 Small brook
40 TV movie channel
41 Ransom of early cars
43 Potential plant
44 Online letters
46 Actor Jeremy
48 Tooth covering
49 Tennis string
52 Provide food
53 St. Patrick's Day phrase
56 Fall mo.
59 Verdi work

- DOWN
1 Crowd's noise
2 Qualified
3 St. Patrick's Day prop
4 and Sympathy
5 Chech and John
6 Overhead
7 Coin channel
8 Pageant band
9 Snarl
10 Portuguese wine
11 Nerve parts
12 Peanuts kid
13 Lauder of cosmetics
21 Less coarse

Crossword grid with clues and answers. Includes a 15x15 grid and a list of answers for each clue.

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