

CITY BRIEFS

First case of rabies in 2004 confirmed by local officials

Orange County Animal Control confirmed March 19 the county's first case of wildlife rabies for the calendar year.

Animal Control Director John Sauls said a raccoon was tested positive for the virus after being killed March 17, when it attacked a dog in southwest Orange County.

He said the owner of the dog was not harmed but would have to undergo tests to ensure that she did not contract the virus.

Both of her pets also were up-to-date on all their rabies immunizations and booster shots and did not have to be monitored.

Sauls warned that although rabies is no longer the constant threat it used to be, pet owners still should be wary and make sure they keep their pets' immunizations up to date.

"Rabies is endemic throughout North Carolina," he said. "It could happen anywhere in the county at any time."

Sauls also emphasized that the rabies shot is the only one required by law to be kept up to date.

Animal control will sponsor three reduced-cost rabies clinics in the county next month during which residents will be able to immunize their pets for \$5.

Two will be held from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. April 15 on the Hillsborough courthouse parking lot and the Caldwell Community Center, respectively.

Another will be held from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. April 17 at the Orange County Animal Shelter in Chapel Hill.

Alcohol-related incidents lead to arrest of two locals

Two Chapel Hill residents were arrested on alcohol-related charges in separate incidents early Saturday, police reports state.

Gabriel Arcangel Cordero-Ordenez, 23, of 1100 N.C. 54 Bypass, was stopped by Chapel Hill police at 105 Mallette St. in connection with a hit-and-run incident and for operating a vehicle without a fastened seat belt, reports state.

According to reports, Cordero-Ordenez showed numerous signs of impairment from field sobriety tests and refused to submit to chemical analysis.

He was arrested and charged with one count misdemeanor driving while intoxicated and one count misdemeanor hit and run at 1:17 a.m., reports state.

Cordero-Ordenez was taken before the magistrate and released on a written promise to appear in court, reports state.

His trial is scheduled for May 4 at the Orange County Court in Chapel Hill.

Also on Saturday, Molly Jane Hodges, 25, of 105 Misty Woods Circle, was stopped on Airport Road after she was observed weaving, reports state.

According to reports, Hodges performed poorly on field sobriety tests and admitted that she had drunk four alcoholic beverages.

Hodges submitted to an Intoxilyzer 5000 test that yielded a 0.10 alcohol concentration, reports state.

She was brought before the magistrate and released on a written promise to appear in court.

Her trial has been scheduled for May 4 in the Orange County Court in Chapel Hill.

CALENDAR

Tuesday

5:15 p.m. — ChoiceUSA of UNC will host Kate Michelman, president of NARAL Pro-Choice America. Michelman will speak on the topic of "Threats to Your Right to Choose."

The event will be held in 116 Murphey Hall.

ChoiceUSA also will host a pro-choice rally featuring Michelman at 1:30 on the steps of South Building. The event is part of the "March Against the Madness" bus tour.

Thursday

10 a.m. — Students United for a Responsible Global Environment and the Student Environmental Action Coalition co-host the "Don't Be a Fossil Fool" national day of action on campus on April Fool's Day.

The event will last until 2 p.m. There will be an interactive display in the quad in front of Wilson Library showing why energy production needs to be converted from the dirty fossil fuels currently used to cleaner, renewable forms of energy production such as biodiesel fuel and wind and solar production.

For more information visit <http://www.surgenetwork.org>.

From staff and wire reports.

House OKs contested budget by 3 votes

No Democrats voted for \$2.4T plan

BY KAVITA PILLAI
STAFF WRITER

The Republican-led U.S. House passed a budget late Thursday that has Democrats up in arms about everything from a rising deficit to cuts in programs that include higher education grants and loans.

The \$2.4 trillion budget passed by only three votes and closely

matches the budget requested by President Bush.

Every House Democrat voted against the plan.

"This budget is the worst of all worlds," said Bridget Lowell, spokeswoman for U.S. Rep. David Price, D-N.C., a member of the House Appropriations Committee.

"The budget basically digs a

tremendous fiscal hole. At the same time, it slashes funding for programs critical to North Carolina and the country as a whole."

Democrats criticized the budget as benefiting upper-income citizens with more tax cuts.

"This is not a budget that serves middle-class people very well, or students for that matter," Lowell said.

But U.S. Rep. Richard Burr, R-N.C., said that the budget plan will

promote job creation and further the economic recovery.

"Part of what we incorporated in this budget was the continuation of the rollback of taxes, and that has a direct effect on economic growth," he said. "When you leave more money in people's pockets, it creates more money for people to pump into the economy for purchases."

Burr added that increased funding for the military will help the economy in North Carolina, which

has five military bases.

"Overall, North Carolina has benefited because the commitment to the military has been increased significantly," he said. "It's felt in the expendable income that our soldiers have. And that's reflected in the money that they are going to spend in their communities."

Burr also said the Democrats' assertion that tax cuts only benefit

SEE BUDGET, PAGE 4

"(CHisPA wanted) to show the variety of people that make up the Hispanic culture." NORA MUJICA, PRESIDENT OF THE CAROLINA HISPANIC ASSOCIATION



Jonathan Tenenbaum (left) and Laurel Zmolek-Smith dance in front of a packed house Saturday in the Great Hall. Below: Zmolek-Smith tries to encourage Alyiah Beal, 3, to dance backstage while Beal's grandfather's band, Saljazzo, performed Saturday night at Noche Latina.

'NOCHE' REVELS HONOR VOCALIST

BY CAROLINE KORNEGAY
STAFF WRITER

It was a sweet night for Carolina Hispanic Association's 13th annual Noche Latina on Saturday night when the doors to the Great Hall swung open at 7 p.m. to let in the streams of people eager to see the performances.

"Azucar Pa' Ti," was the theme of the night, in honor of Celia Cruz, a Cuban-born singer who passed away last year. The theme was taken from Cruz's famous exclamation, "¡Azucar!", meaning "sugar" in Spanish.

"With her dead, we wanted to celebrate her life, and how much she gave to our culture," CHisPA President Nora Mujica said. "She was an icon in Hispanic culture."

Posters of Cruz and pictures of white-sand beaches decked the walls close to the stage. Colorful banners and streamers added to the party's atmosphere as couples learned their first steps of merengue, friends chatted and hip-high children darted in and out of the aisles during the evening.

Nine groups came to perform a wide variety of music and dance ranging from South American dances such as the tango and capoeira to UNC students who played Latin-American rock.



¡Que Rico!, Opeyo Modern, Tango North Carolina and Capoeira performed dance numbers in a variety of styles. Samecumba, Saljazzo, Punto Cinco and Eduardo Souza and the Carolina Samba School percussion group came to play their music.

One special performance by CHisPA Chicos was a skit featuring local elementary students that told the story of why the moon wanted to go to a party.

SEE NOCHE LATINA, PAGE 4

Event spotlights Brown's legacy

BY AMY KINGSLEY
STAFF WRITER

Almost 50 years after the Supreme Court ended segregation in public schools, diverse opinions and heated debate dominated a UNC-Chapel Hill symposium Saturday devoted to examining the failures and successes of integration in the educational system.

Participants discussed the impact of Brown v. Board of Education, recent court decisions about affirmative action and the "resegregation" of public schools.

The symposium featured legal scholars Gerald Torres and Lani Guinier, experts on the role of race and education, and Julius Chambers, director of the UNC-CH School of Law's Center for Civil Rights, as keynote speakers.

"I think it really was a signature event for UNC(-CH) to have," said Robert Adams, associate director of the Institute of African American Research. "It represents what we can achieve when institutions and units work together."

The symposium opened with an oral history and discussion of deseg-

"Race is not the problem. Race is the diagnostic tool that allows us to see the problem."

LANI GUINIER, KEYNOTE SPEAKER

regation in the Chapel Hill community, which led to the closing of the all-black Lincoln High School. The panel comprised community leaders, activists and historians.

A panel of students and young educators then discussed the role of race on contemporary education. Participants stressed the need to rethink traditional frames and expectations for minority students.

The keynote speakers delivered short speeches and answered questions from the audience. Despite low attendance, panelists treated audience members to a vigorous debate about school vouchers that earned applause and jeers.

SEE DEBATE, PAGE 4

LGBT life in South discussed

BY LAURA BOST
STAFF WRITER

More than 100 people of all ages, races and genders gathered at UNC this weekend to explore the experience of "Living Below the Bible Belt" at the second annual N.C. Unity Conference.

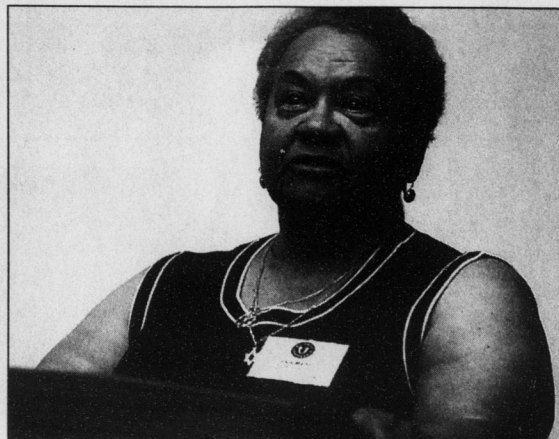
The convention, sponsored by UNC's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender-Straight Alliance, attracted participants from 11 schools and universities across the Southeast and more than 15 LGBT communities.

Trevor Hoppe, a junior political science and women's studies major who organized the conference, said he got the idea in 2002 while attending "Creating Change," the national lesbian and gay conference.

"It really made me realize that there is nothing like this available to most people, and I wanted create a conference to focus more specifically on the Southeast," he said.

This year's theme, coinciding with recent local debates and legislation, sought to examine the unique experiences of LGBT people living in the South.

"We realized that there is a lack of unified, central dialogue in the South about how this specific history affects the (LGBT) communi-



Vera Martin, a member of Old Lesbians Organizing for Change, kicks off the N.C. Unity Conference on Friday with a speech about ageism.

ty," Hoppe said.

"Race, gender and faith, especially faith, play such an important role in Southern culture, but they also inhibit the development of sexual identities," Hoppe said. "We want to help everybody realize that those identities don't have to be mutually exclusive."

Participants registered Friday night and were then treated to a

performance by openly gay performing artist Eric Himan, on Saturday and Sunday.

Participants attended any number of the 18 workshops offered, dealing with topics such as faith and sexuality, same-sex marriages, "queer politics," community organization and networking.

SEE UNITY, PAGE 4

F-18 jet catches fire at RDU

Aircraft was on routine mission

BY STEPHANIE JORDAN
ASSISTANT STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

MORRISVILLE — An F-18 military jet taxied off a Raleigh-Durham International Airport runway at about 3 p.m. Friday and burst into flames on one of the airport's Terminal A runways.

Two F-18 Hornet jets were en route from Virginia Beach, Va., to Tennessee on a routine training mission when they stopped at RDU to refuel.

The first jet left the airport safely. The second never left the ground.

Lt. j.g. Wesley Baumgartner was the pilot of the grounded plane. He ejected safely before the crash and was discharged from Wake Medical Center on Saturday.

Airport emergency crews responded to the fire, transported the pilot to WakeMed and contained the fire quickly. The cause of the incident is under investigation.

The pilot was reported to be conscious and walking around after he ejected from the plane before he was taken to WakeMed.

The first plane circled around after the fire then landed at the airport again.

RDU spokeswoman Teresa Damiano said at a press conference Friday that the jet involved in the crash was taxiing on the runway then began swerving before it caught fire and stopped near Terminal A.

Airport officials shut down the terminal for about three hours as a precaution, and passengers were re-routed to Terminal C.

The closing of the terminal was expected to cause little difficulty for RDU because the airport only had about 50 flights left for the day, Damiano said.

She added that no other airport facility or property was damaged as a result of Friday's incident.

Runways and terminals were fully operational by 6 p.m. Friday and RDU attempted to resume

SEE CRASH, PAGE 4