

# Funding may end school tradition

UNC might not host championships

BY ERIN GIBSON  
STAFF WRITER

A 90-year tradition at UNC might end in June if the North Carolina High School Athletic Association does not receive the necessary funding for championship games.

In 1913, UNC invited the state's high schools to its campus and athletic facilities for championship games as a part of its extension program on a budget of \$200.

While high school athletic departments have grown and the necessary finances have changed, the tradition of playing championship games at UNC has stayed alive.

But in recent years the association, a nonprofit organization, has fallen short of meeting its financial needs for events held in Chapel Hill.

Funding is provided by the town of Chapel Hill, the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce and private corporations.

Karen DeHart, the association's director of development, said many cities have sports commissions that can provide more money, but Chapel Hill does not. "We are getting about a third of the \$75,000 we need," she said.

To compensate for the lack in funding, the high school association has been forced to use money generated from ticket sales to cover costs.

This money is intended to be split between the University and the high school association, which in turn provides for high school athletics on the state level.

DeHart said the NCHSAA is asking the town of Chapel Hill to double its financial support to \$20,000.

The association presented the proposal to the Chapel Hill Town Council on March 24 in a public forum on the budget. Representatives then were asked to meet with Mayor Kevin Foy and

Town Manager Cal Horton on April 6 for further discussions.

"The council members expressed interest in working with (NCHSAA) to raise additional funds," Horton said.

DeHart is optimistic about getting desired support from Chapel Hill because of the economic benefits it reaps as the host town.

An informal economic study performed by the association shows an estimated \$7 million was brought to Chapel Hill between 1998 and 2003 as a result of the championships.

The UNC Department of Economics was commissioned to do a formal study on the impact from the 2003 football championship games. The study suggested a \$355,000 economic boost from the one-day event.

NCHSAA previously has confronted the town about its financial problems, but to no avail.

"I think people are really listening now," DeHart said. "There seems to be more positive energy this time around."

About one-fourth of the high school championships are held at UNC, including those in basketball, football, indoor track, tennis and swimming and diving.

DeHart said other events have been moved to Raleigh and Winston-Salem for economic reasons and facility availability.

She said that both of these cities are able to provide ample financial support through their sports commissions.

"The University is already letting us have access to their facilities," said DeHart. "There isn't much more they can do."

She said they like working with UNC and enjoy being here, but unless there is a change, collaboration will not be possible in the future.

Contact the City Editor at [citydesk@unc.edu](mailto:citydesk@unc.edu).

# Brotherly ire, love color 'West'

BY KATE LORD  
STAFF WRITER

Palatable in its comedic sense, Martin McDonagh's "The Lonesome West" represents sibling rivalry with peerless precision.

Irish stereotypes, murderous actions and a compulsive packrat take a backseat to an overarching theme of reparation in this amusing interpretation by Wordshed Productions, which continues April 8 through 10.

Chronicling the aftermath resulting from the death of Valene and Coleman's father, the play develops humorously as the brothers put the pieces of their troubled relationship back together.

Valene, played by Matthew Spangler, obsessively collects figurines of saints and marks all of his belongings with a capital 'V' to ensure that his brother Coleman knows exactly what does not belong to him.

Spangler portrays the ever-so-annoying brother well, toeing the line of hammy acting, he plays an excellent second fiddle to Chris Chiron's Coleman.

Chiron's portrayal of Coleman is reminiscent of a drunken, not-so-friendly Sam from "The Lord of the Rings."

THEATERREVIEW

LONESOME WEST  
SWAIN HALL  
FRIDAY, APRIL 2

★★★

The Oscar Madison of the pair, he steals the show as the frustrated and vengeful brother.

Chiron's scowls and eyes that bug out in anger are reason enough to come see the show.

"The Lonesome West" revolves around the brothers' dysfunctional and emotionally stunted relationship.

Their childlike fights range from potato chip crushing to wrestling, to firing off barbed insults at one another, such as the amazingly tactful affront, "Your sex appeal wouldn't buy the phlegm off a dead frog."

Although the play does include somewhat offensive Irish and Catholic stereotypes, it has redeeming value in its overall message of forgiveness.

The theme is conveyed as Father Welsh, a priest suffering from a crisis of faith due to his unruly parish, leads the pair toward their reconciliation.

John Murphy portrays the clergyman with just the right mix of



COURTESY OF MATT SPANGLER

Leads Matt Spangler and Chris Chiron are Valene and Coleman Connor in Wordshed Productions enjoyable staging of "The Lonesome West."

exasperation and confidence, becoming an unexpected voice of reason as the story unfolds.

While the acting in this production is not quite professional caliber, it's believable and entertaining.

Wordshed downplayed the controversial aspects of the play well, allowing the moral of peaceful fraternalism to speak for itself.

The audience leaves the theater

thinking not about the ever-flowing potene, but about the underlying similarities between Valene and Coleman.

With a resulting feeling of familial appreciation, as well as a few chuckles, Wordshed's production of "The Lonesome West" is certainly worth seeing.

Contact the A&E Editor at [artsdesk@unc.edu](mailto:artsdesk@unc.edu).

# Violence at anti-U.S. protests kills at least 20

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NAJAF, Iraq — Supporters of an anti-U.S. Shiite Muslim cleric waged violent demonstrations in four Iraqi cities Sunday, punctuated by a gun battle at the Spanish garrison near this Shiite holy city that killed at least 20 people, including two coalition soldiers: an American and a Salvadoran.

The U.S. military Sunday reported that two Marines were killed in a separate "enemy action" in Anbar province, raising the toll of U.S. service members killed in Iraq to more than 600.

Protesters also clashed with Italian and British forces in other cities in a broad, violent challenge to the U.S.-led coalition, raising

questions about its ability to stabilize Iraq ahead of a scheduled June 30 handover of power to Iraqis.

With less than three months left before then, the U.S. occupation administrator appointed an Iraqi defense minister and chief of national intelligence.

"These organizations will give Iraqis the means to defend their country against terrorists and insurgents," L. Paul Bremer said at a press conference.

About three miles outside Najaf, supporters of anti-American cleric Muqtada al-Sadr opened fire on the Spanish garrison during a street protest that drew about 5,000 people. The protesters were angry about the arrest of the cler-

ic's aide, said the Spanish Defense Ministry in Madrid.

The attackers opened fire at about noon, said Cmdr. Carlos Herradon, a spokesman for the Spanish headquarters in nearby Diwaniyah.

The Spanish and Salvadoran soldiers inside the garrison fired back, and assailants later regrouped in three clusters outside the base as the shooting continued for several hours.

Two soldiers, a Salvadoran and an American, died and nine other soldiers were wounded, the Spanish defense ministry said. No other details were available.

More than 200 people were wounded, said Falah Mohammed, director of the Najaf health department. El Salvador's defense minister said several Salvadoran soldiers were wounded.

The death toll of at least 20 included two Iraqi soldiers who were inside the Spanish base, wit-

nesses said.

Spain has 1,300 troops stationed in Iraq, and the Central American contingent is of a similar size. The Salvadorans are under Spanish command as part of an international brigade that includes troops from Central America.

Multiple train bombings in Madrid last month that killed 191 people have been blamed on al-Qaida-linked terrorists, who said they were punishing Spain for its alliance with the United States in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Spain's new government, elected just days after the March 11 train bombings, has promised to make good on its pre-election promise to withdraw all Spanish troops from Iraq unless command for peacekeeping is turned over to the United Nations.

In El Salvador, the defense minister said the attack will not alter his country's role in reconstruction efforts.

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