

The Daily Tar Heel

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Acclaimed rapper's appearance cancelled

Sudden illness cited as cause for late dropout

BY NICK PARKER
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

East Coast hip-hop icon Nas, scheduled to perform tonight in the Smith Center, has canceled.

The rapper's representatives contacted Chris Lamb, president of the Carolina Union Activities Board, at about 12:30 p.m. Wednesday and canceled Nas' performance.

Lamb said he was told that Nas had contracted a temporary stomach virus and that he would be unable to travel to North Carolina to perform.

"His agent (Steven Brush) called me up and said (Nas) had been sick all night," Lamb said. "We were stunned ... (and) unable to do anything to change it."

The cancellation, which came less than 36 hours before the concert's scheduled start time, left event organizers impotent to reorganize or reschedule.

At this point, all they can offer the 2,000 ticket-holders is a full refund at the location where the ticket was purchased.

But for tonight, the Smith Center's doors will remain locked and its seats empty.

"A few of us will be down at the Dean Dome to meet anyone that might not have heard the bad news," said Geri Borger, a member of CUAB who led the public relations push for the performance. "We want to put a human face down there and let people know this is not our fault."

But even if fault doesn't belong with CUAB, it still will have to deal with most of the consequences.

Touting an overall budget of more than \$83,000 — the largest sum CUAB committed to any one event all year — the failed Nas concert will cost CUAB and University students more than heartache.

"There was about \$10,000 that we poured entirely into advertising this thing," Lamb said. "And that money is lost. There is nothing we can do to get that back."

Luckily, the \$50,000 allocated for Nas' fee will transfer back into the general CUAB fund.

And if next year's CUAB members are able to reschedule the show for a date in the fall, Nas will knock \$10,000 off his performance fee to compensate for pest losses.

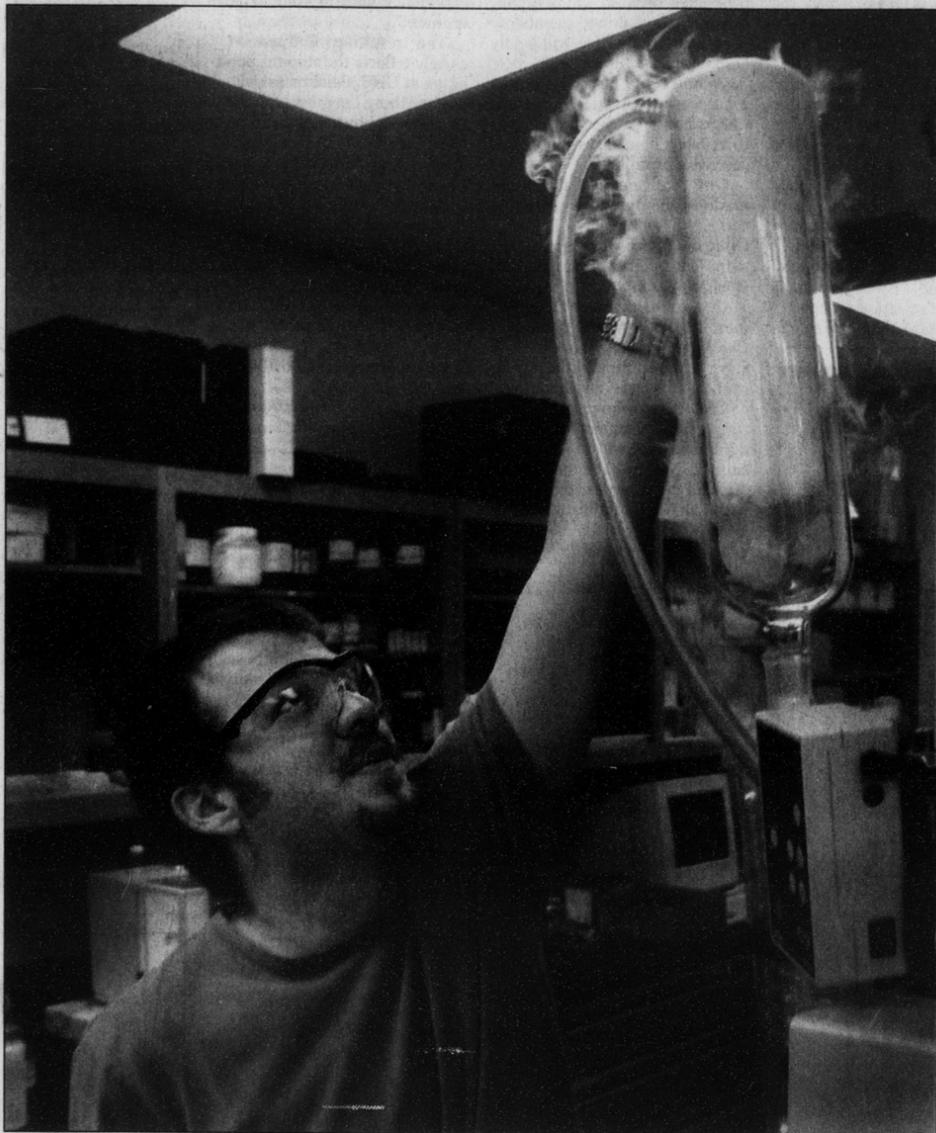
"I would say it is about a 50-50 chance we will be able to reschedule for next year," said Claire Anderson, 2004-05 CUAB president-elect. "We will definitely be talking with his people, trying to work something out, but I just don't know if it can happen. I worry about the information that we do not have yet."

But everyone agrees that the greatest loss isn't monetary.

"It's just unfortunate and heartbreaking for those of us that have put three months of work into planning, organizing and hyping this thing — and it's disappointing for the students," Lamb said.

"When you do volunteer work, you obviously don't do it for the money. The program is really the only reward, but we will get to see nothing come to fruition. We wanted to give this to the students, but now, we — CUAB and the students — are all left with nothing."

Contact the A&E Editor at artsdesk@unc.edu.



DTH/BRENT CLARK

UNC invested in Inspire Pharmaceuticals Inc., a start-up company in Durham that the University eventually made nearly \$3 million from after it went public in 2000. Three years later, UNC changed its investment strategy and sold its shares.

A SUCCESS STORY

Start-up is model for UNC spin-offs

BY NIRAV VORA
STAFF WRITER

Inspire Pharmaceuticals Inc. gave the University's technology transfer office not only its greatest financial success, but also a blueprint on how to bring UNC research into the business world.

In 2003, the University cashed out its stake in Inspire, making nearly \$3 million and concluding its role in the life of its first-born start-up company.

Developing new treatments for conditions such as cystic fibrosis and eye diseases, Inspire has grown into a publicly traded, \$400 million biotechnology company.

But it could have been different. The path from a laboratory concept to a Durham-based company with 150 employees was riddled with risks and obstacles.

Some problems were natural since the process for developing technologies at the University was relatively new, and as it progressed, Inspire laid the tracks for the 24

UNC start-up companies to follow.

"It was a big risk but you had to take it," said Richard Boucher, co-founder of Inspire and faculty member in the School of Medicine.

Unable to license Boucher's cystic fibrosis research to existing pharmaceutical companies in 1995, UNC's Office of Technology Development helped arrange the creation of a new company that could evolve the early-stage research.

"We were actually creating the licensee," said Mark Crowell, the director of the technology development office.

The research of Boucher and his colleagues had difficulty making it out of the labs. In 1995, the office's first year, Inspire became a start-up company because the established private sector believed the cystic fibrosis drug market small and unprofitable.

"One thing that many people don't realize is that they think

SEE INSPIRE, PAGE 7

UNC plans to give cash to ventures

BY TRISTAN SHOOK
STAFF WRITER

Technology from the University's laboratories has helped launch dozens of UNC-affiliated start-up companies and has raised the prospects for large revenue returns.

Now, investment strategists with the UNC Management Co. want a piece of the potential profits.

Through the management company, which controls the University's \$1 billion endowment, UNC began a \$20 million venture capital fund to invest money in start-up companies associated with the University.

But problems between the company's management and its board of directors have delayed its debut until at least the end of the year, and it might be years before UNC sees significant profits.

SEE CAPITAL, PAGE 7

Half-century later, progress still a priority

Brown's effect on University lingers

BY CLAIRE DORRIER
STAFF WRITER

Stereotypes still exist, one of the University's highest awards is named after a white supremacist and racial justice is not always guaranteed to minorities.

After 50 years of integration, UNC is continuing efforts to make minority students feel welcome on campus, but some say the University has a long way to go.

"There is always progress to be made," said Black Student Movement President Erin Davis. "We have to make sure there are different outlets for people to learn about other cultures."

Many minority students said that while officials must address the stereotypes that still exist throughout the University, the changes will take time and effort.

One year after the Supreme Court made its landmark decision in the Brown v. Board of Education case, black students were admitted as undergraduates at UNC.

Today UNC has one of the highest percentages of black students among top universities throughout the country, with blacks making up about 11 percent of the student body.

But before black students attended UNC, prominent white

supremacists controlled the University, including Cornelia Phillips Spencer, who is associated with the reopening of the University in 1875.

"We can't punish the University because of its past, but it needs to acknowledge history and make it readily accessible to students," Davis said.

Debate recently has sparked over the Bell Award, which is given to outstanding women and is named after Spencer. Graduate student Yonni Chapman has encouraged officials to consider

renaming the award because it can be offensive to minorities.

"The thing that is significant about the Bell Award today is that ... it is the highest award for women in the University and is named after a white supremacist," Chapman said. "That shows that the habits of the past are not all the way gone."

Ben Singer, 2002 senior class president, helped create the Unsung Founders Memorial in 2002, which commemorates the slave workers who built the University. Construction is now under way on the project.

Singer said that the past is a painful thing to think about and that the University, at times, is not

SEE INTEGRATION, PAGE 12



DTH FILE PHOTO

Black Student Movement members vote at a November 1967 meeting to support a petition for heavier recruitment of qualified black students.



DIVERSIONS

ROUND TWO

'Kill Bill, Vol. 2' embroiders, ends Tarantino's saga, adding character development and detail **PAGE 16**



SPORTS

BATS COME ALIVE

The Tar Heels trounce UNC-Greensboro 10-3, barely missing a shutout in the last inning **PAGE 13**

WEATHER

TODAY Partly cloudy, H 84, L 60

FRIDAY Mostly sunny, H 87, L 61

SATURDAY Partly cloudy, H 86, L 57

