

# Basement opens quietly Congress to push book swap

*Underground has drawn few visitors*

BY JOSEPH R. SCHWARTZ  
ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY EDITOR

Tucked away in a cozy alcove and buried underneath the grind of classes and commitments, two students clang an air hockey puck back and forth.

Amid rows of florescent bowling balls, the two are among the few who have noticed that the Underground, a recreational area in the basement of the Student Union, reopened in June.

After using the area as a staging site for the building's renovation, workers uncovered the 10 pool tables, 12 bowling lanes and a host of arcade games that remained after a two-and-a-half-year hiatus.

"It was frankly a disaster," said Don Luse, director of the Carolina Union. "There was dirt everywhere. It took a lot of extra work to get things going."

Planners hoped to revamp the Underground but ran out of funding, Luse said. Now, the facility's future hangs in the balance.

The Carolina Union Board of Directors will decide in the next few years if they will update the area, maintain it or potentially phase it out.

Luse said the next two years will be used as a litmus test. "The big question is, now that we have it cleaned up and operational ... will students use it?" he said. "It's not a pressing issue, but it's something



DTH/ANDREW SYNOWIEZ

Emery Chen bowls Wednesday night in the Student Union's Underground during a rush event for Pi Alpha Phi. The Underground reopened in July.

we want to monitor."

On Monday and Tuesday, about 70 students wandered into the Underground. During the summer, students attending orientation stopped by for a game of bowling.

With a student ID, a games costs \$1.75, and shoe rental is \$0.75.

Most students that made their way to the Underground have left positive responses, Luse said.

But he said too few have taken advantage of the area.

More business is on the horizon, though, as residence hall communities and student organizations are seeking to use the area. The Physical Education Department is considering the return of bowling classes.

To lure more people to the

space, customers now can enjoy free popcorn and soda. Plans are in the works for nighttime DJs and weekly specials.

"We really want to get the word out for everyone to come," said Union employee Tiffani Marshall as she awaited customers.

If students don't start using the space soon, officials said they will have to reconsider its future.

"That space has a goal to break even financially," Luse said. "We have supplemented that area out of the operational budget because we felt it was an important recreational space."

Contact the University Editor at [udesk@unc.edu](mailto:udesk@unc.edu).

*Members: Could help lower prices*

BY KELLI BORBET  
STAFF WRITER

The founders of CarolinaSwap.com, a student-run Web site that fosters textbook exchange, are looking to further expand their network with the help of Student Congress.

During CarolinaSwap's first semester, students who purchased used books on the site saved more than \$10,000, according to figures comparing costs to new listing prices.

"Already, there definitely seems to be an increase in savings from last year," said Kevin Webb, a UNC alumnus who co-founded the site with senior Andrew Synowiez, a staff member of The Daily Tar Heel.

"By the end of this year, we hope to double the students' savings."

The Web site compiles information from local textbook retailers and Web sites, allowing students to browse for books and compare prices. It also provides a classified-

like forum to exchange textbooks. Students also can shop for books on Amazon.com via CarolinaSwap. The Web site is a nonprofit business and covers its operating costs through revenues generated from Amazon.

But Webb said the site's success is directly related to the number of students who take part.

To ensure the Web site's success, Congress is discussing ways to increase student awareness about the program. Congress' textbook committee is working on ways to make the student body more aware of the Web site, said Daneen Furr, a member of the committee.

She said the committee is determined to ensure that students have continuous access to lower textbook prices through the Web site.

"The main problem with the system is promotion," said Jordan Mendenhall, chairman of the committee. "With more promotion, students will definitely see its benefits."

Furr said the textbook committee plans to continue efforts to support CarolinaSwap once Congress begins its fall session Tuesday.

Members of the textbook committee also are talking with officials from UNC Student Stores so that the campus-based textbook store could combine efforts with CarolinaSwap.

Webb said Student Stores officials have been helpful in explaining how the textbook industry works. He said he hopes to establish an affiliation between Student Stores and CarolinaSwap.

The founders of CarolinaSwap also have incorporated their own ideas to encourage student participation.

Operators increased the size of the database this semester, adding the most current book and course lists. The Web site also allows students to create a personal map with their class schedule.

"We are trying to keep the savings in the students' hands," Webb said. "It's just a way for students to save extra money, and it gives students just one more option to find books."

Contact the University Editor at [udesk@unc.edu](mailto:udesk@unc.edu).

## Quirky play provokes introspection

BY BECCA MOORE  
ASSISTANT ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Even in the relaxed confines of the City of Brotherly Love, the lives of young people can be rocky.

The play "I Wonder," billed as an "urban tragedy about a postmodern dilemma" by writer and director Todd Harman, will be running Friday and Saturday night at Temple Ball in Carrboro.

Harman said the piece is a

"tragic comedy" that looks at the complex relationships friends have and the unbelievable circumstances that can develop in urban Philadelphia.

"The play is set in inner Philly and focuses on a group of friends sitting around and discussing life," Harman said.

"And then people start disappearing. One character is attacked by an old lady with a sword. It's all just

realistically absurd."

Using only six actors, the play focuses on a small ensemble, including the two main characters, Justin Gilden and Brandon Rosen.

Matt Edwards, who plays Justin in "I Wonder," said the play is based on exaggerated versions of situations that actually happened in Philadelphia.

A close friend of Harman's, Edwards worked on the production staff when "I Wonder" ran at the annual Philadelphia-based Fringe Festival. He said he's proud of the show because he thinks there's not enough thought-provoking theater on the market today.

"This play introduces a number of intricate themes that will linger in the viewer's head," Edwards said. "There are a lot of undertones in the writing that you won't notice until after the play is over."

"There are a lot of double meanings, and it all ties back together in the end in a surprising way."

Temple Ball owner Rick Ramirez said he applauds the play's unique premise and the fact that it's an original work. "There's just something dynamic about raw creativity," Ramirez said.

"Our mission is to serve what we feel is underserved art, and an upstart theater production fits very well into that category."

Doors are at 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. Tickets are \$10.

The play debuted at the infamous Coyote Ugly bar last September and sold out a number of shows, and it also was well-received at last fall's Philadelphia's Fringe Festival, an annual celebration of performing arts.

Edwards reflected on the fact that many of the concepts discussed in the play's dialogue are highly relevant to the concerns of his generation.

"I hope that it will at least trigger thoughts in the audience of remorse, regret and about where they're at in their lives and where they need to make change."

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

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**CORRECTION**

Due to a reporting error, the date of "Late Night with Roy Williams" was incorrectly reported in the Aug. 25 article "Late Night held over break." The event will be held Oct. 15, as opposed to the Oct. 16 date first reported in the article.

To report corrections, contact Managing Editor Chris Coletta at [cchetto@unc.edu](mailto:cchetto@unc.edu).

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