The Daily Tar Heel

# Hospital flu cases on the rise as U.S. becomes older, grayer

#### THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO – The number of people hospitalized in the United States because of the flu has climbed substantially over the past two decades to an average of more than 200,000 a year, in large part because of the aging of the popula-tion, a government study found.

Severe cases of the flu can result in pneumonia, dehydration or a worsening of chronic medical con-ditions and can be life-threatening.

Coming just as doctors are receiving the first supplies of this year's flu vaccine, the study demonstrates that the ailment is not trivial, and underscores the importance of prevention, said lead researcher William Thompson of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The annual average of 226,054 hospitalizations a year is almost double the CDC's previous esti-

# PERRY

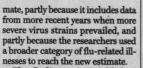
"loose nukes" under control. Enriched plutonium, uranium and nuclear bombs should be guarded as well as the gold in Fort Knox.

And other nations must be prevented from getting nuclear weapons. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons is a good start, he said, but it has loopholes that Iran and North Korea have exploited. He added that the most imminent dangen comes from North Korea. This small nation, which the

## CAMPAIGN

the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce

An active, healthy community will enhance the town's national reputation, Nelson said. By focusing on greenways and encouraging walking through the program, the ance costs, he said.



The findings were published in Wednesday's Journal of the American Medical Association. The nationally representative findings are based on records from about 500 hospitals from 1979 through 2001.

Annual flu shots have been commended for people 65 and older since the 1960s and for those 50 and older since 2000, but only about two thirds of older adults get vaccinated.

Annual shots also are recommended for all children ages 6 months to 23 months; women who will be pregnant during flu season; and people with chronic health problems including heart disease, diabetes and asthma.

Bush administration has clas-sified as an "axis of evil" power, feels threatened by the United States — a feeling that has been amplified by the war with Iraq, Perry said.

Finally, the risk of accidental nuclear launch must be eliminated by engaging Russia in talks to take clear weapons down from high alert.

Perry emphasized the need for diplomacy with other nations in order to deal with the threat of terrorist attacks as well as the neces sity of addressing the social and economic disparities that drive people to support terrorist activi-

Routes to School, which is being piloted at Ephesus Elementary School; the National Walk to School Day on Oct. 6; and the

10,000 Steps Program. The safe routes program encourages students to ride a bike or walk versus taking a car, said Ellen Young of the Orange County Health Department.

created in conjunction with the program, said Maria Hitt

# ROADMAP

**From Page Three** 

level

yet to be precisely defined by NIH. One goal shared by the Roadmap initiative and the University is to create new research teams consist-ing of members from varied fields.

James Anderson, chairman of the department of cellular and molecular physiology, served as chairman of the task force, which examined research programs at several other institutions. He said UNC is trying to match NIH requests with the strengths of UNC researchers. Juliano said he wants the faculty

to become aware of opportunities for multidisciplinary research. Starting in October, the committee will sponsor symposia for research-

will sponsor symposia for research-ers in a wide range of disciplines. Juliano said research often can be highly specific and complex work but that it can be streamlined by "tackling big problems by merging peo-ples' skills, abilities and resources."

One Roadmap goal is to speed the transition of research from the lab to the clinic, thereby improving medicine, Juliano said.

ties in their communities.

"The willingness to cooperate is being frayed by the unilateral action taken in so many fields," he said

"We can win battles unilaterally, but we cannot win the war without international cooperation."

The United States should engage allies, listen carefully to their views and work hard to accommodate them, Perry said. "I do not believe this is mission

impossible.

Contact the State & National Editor at stntdesk@unc.edu.

of the Orange County Health

Department. "I think it's fantastic," 80-year-old Chapel Hill resident Eva Metzger said of the Go Chapel Hill program.

Metzger, an avid walker, said she has wanted more walking space and recreation opportunities

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### PLAYBOY

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sibly pursue acting in the future. She also hopes to pose again for

Playboy. Nick Morris, a 2003 UNC graduate, said he got a copy of this year's ACC Playboy edition signed for his friend.

Morris said he ruined his friend's copy of the 1998 ACC edition while on a trip to the University of Virginia in high school. "I spilled a drink all over it, and

I vowed to get a copy of the next one," he said.

Morris said he is driving to UVa. on Friday to get signatures from models in the ACC edition who will be signing there. He then plans to

send the magazine to his friend. Morris asked Gery to sign: "To Jeff, thanks for the memories." Gery will be hosting a launch

party at 10:30 p.m. Oct. 1 at Spice Street.

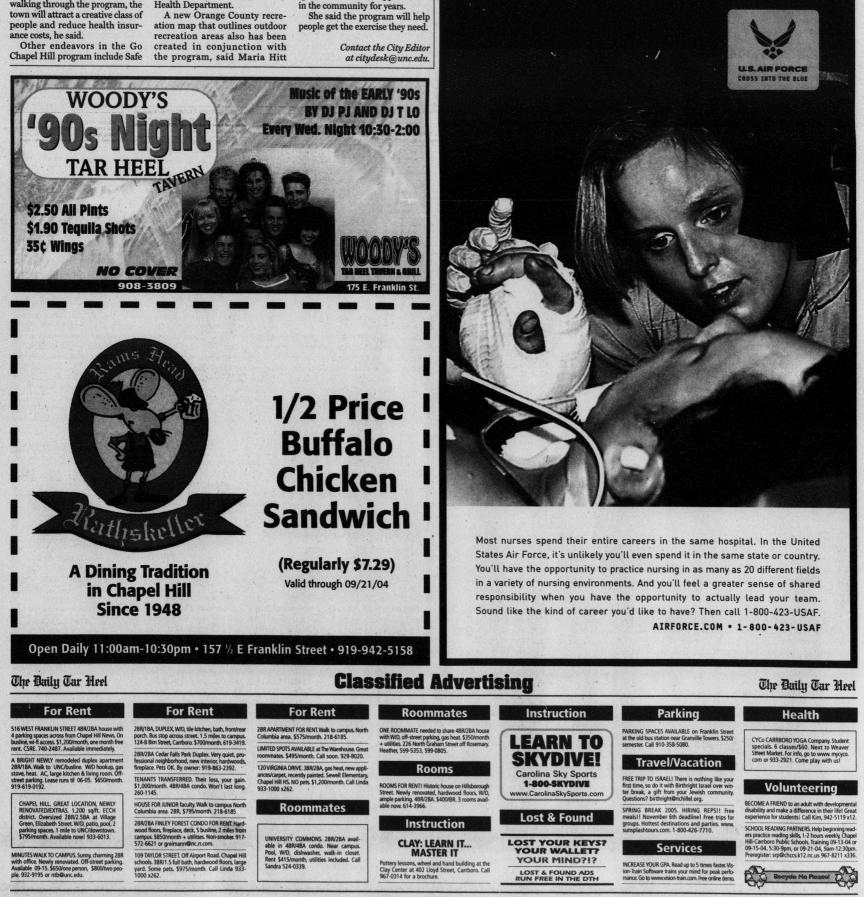
Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

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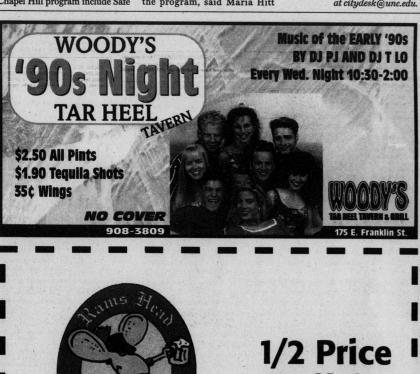
### MOST NURSES WILL ENTER THE U.S. HEALTHCARE SYSTEM. YOU'RE NOT MOST NURSES.

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MESSY SPED SUES 68



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campus, researchers in chemis-try, physics and biology can work ether to create new ways to treat diseases like cancer on a cellular

something that will happen over-night, Juliano said. "It's a matter of slowly laboring away in the field and seeing what grows up."

Contact the University Editor

But these advancements aren't

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Another Roadmap aim is pro-motion of nanotechnology; on