

Shuttle caters to football crowd

University Mall tailors pregame offers

BY DAN SCHWIND
ASSISTANT CITY EDITOR

University Mall wants to bring a little more fanfare to UNC football enthusiasts — in the parking lot. Mall officials are launching the Fan Fare program in hopes that football fans who use the park-and-ride lot at University Mall will be taking greater advantage of the mall services instead of just parking and heading to the game. "We want them to know not only about the park-and-ride, but also about the mall," said Teresa Mitchell Rad, spokeswoman for the mall. "You really have a lot of interesting stuff there."

Normally, park-and-ride shuttles begin running an hour and a half before game time. But shuttles from University Mall will now begin running three hours before

game time. The idea? Fans can show up, park and have plenty of time to shop before they hop on a shuttle to Kenan Stadium. They'll also be provided with a sheet of coupons good at a number of restaurants and stores at the mall. Rad said officials began putting together the Fan Fare program when they realized that many of the mall's shops and restaurants already offered game-day discounts, but fans still did not know about them. "It's an awareness thing," Rad said. Renee Pelletier, manager of Bear Rock Cafe, said she thinks this could be a big help for business. The cafe offers to-go boxes specifically made for tailgating for home football games. Pelletier said

that while they have been popular and have helped business on game days, she thinks they will sell even more now. "The to-go boxes boosted things a little more for us," she said. "But all this publicity really helps out." Such discounts, in addition to the allure of free parking and cheap transportation to the game — \$3 for a one-way trip and \$5 for a round trip — have some thinking this could further increase the popularity of shuttle services. Kurt Neufang, assistant director for Chapel Hill Transit, said the low cost and convenience of the town's shuttle service, known as the Tar Heel Express, has made the service popular and is part of the reason it continues to grow every year. "It's been hugely popular because of the limited amount of parking," he said. "This is very convenient for football fans." Neufang said the number of peo-

ple who ride the shuttle depends on the game but has ranged anywhere from 4,000 to 10,000 riders. "It really depends on who they're playing," he said. "William & Mary was not a very well-attended game, so there weren't as many people. But last year for Florida State, the place was packed and so were the buses." Chapel Hill Transit also provides service to the Smith Center for University basketball games as well as concerts held at the center. "It's a very convenient system," Neufang said. "It's right there, and it's quick and efficient." But just because the game is over, Rad said, it doesn't mean football fans have to go home. "They can come back and shop at the mall after the game, too," she said. "It just offers a range of things."

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

Politicians consider presidential eligibility

BY ERIN GIBSON
ASSISTANT STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

While most of the country is focused on November's election, some politicians are pushing aside party differences to gain the right for a new group to run for president. Rep. Dana Rohrabacher, R-Calif., proposed a constitutional amendment Wednesday that would allow naturalized citizens declaring U.S. residency for at least 20 years to run for president of the United States. "It would expand the talent pool of people available for the presidency," said Aaron Lewis, press secretary for Rohrabacher. The attempt to reform presidential candidate guidelines is nothing new in Congress. Members of both the House and Senate have made suggestions in recent years. Rohrabacher's proposal is similar to one introduced in the Senate on July 10, 2003, by fellow Republican Sen. Orrin Hatch of Utah. "Twenty years should be enough time to climatize someone as an American citizen and dispel any doubts about America," said Margarita Tapia, press secretary for the Senate Judiciary Committee, of which Hatch is the chairman. Members of both parties are working to change the population available for president of the United States. Proposals from each chamber have been co-sponsored by Democrats. Rep. Darrell Issa, R-Calif., proposed a plan in 2003 to allow naturalized citizens who have lived in the United States for 35 years to run

for president. It was co-sponsored by Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass. The proposal now is pending in the Senate Judiciary Committee. Sen. Don Nickles, R-Okla., decided to take a different approach on the issue by focusing on adopted citizens. The bill he introduced Feb. 25, 2004, would not require a change in the Constitution. He suggests that the term "natural-born citizen" be defined to include children of American parents who were adopted before age 18. His bill was co-sponsored by Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La. The premise behind the Founding Fathers' decision to prevent foreign takeover is outdated, many say, and some officials are trying to change with the times. "It is in the Constitution because they were afraid a European monarch, like the Duke of York, would be sent to take over," Tapia said. The position of president is the only government job that only can be held by a natural-born citizen. There are many naturalized citizens holding lower offices. Lewis said Rohrabacher did not make the proposal to specifically help California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, born in Austria, into the Oval Office, but to benefit all naturalized citizens. "Schwarzenegger has helped raise the issue," he said. "He's running a state that's like running a country. He sets a good example."

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

Students bask in book's publication

BY MEREDITH LEE MILLER
ASSISTANT CITY EDITOR

A story about an unusual octopus is thrusting former Estes Hills Elementary School students into the spotlight. That's what the story of Susan Cavender, Zoe Gan, Vaishnavi Krishnan and Allison Smith, who

together wrote and illustrated their own children's book during their fifth-grade year, would say. "Nora the Nonapus," the tale of a shy cephalopod who must reveal a secret to save her friends from a class bully, was their creation and the grand-prize winner in the fiction category for the

Scholastic Inc. "Kids are Authors" competition. Nora is called a nonapus because she has an extra tentacle. The book was published this month by Scholastic and will be distributed at its national book fairs. The students will be recognized tonight at a celebration at Estes Hills. "Scholastic made it clear that they wanted to celebrate these girls' work," said Nancy Cavender, a parent of one of the girls who wrote the book. Representatives from the town, school district and community have been invited to attend the 7 p.m. ceremony. "I'm really excited about tomorrow," Gan said Thursday. "We worked hard, and the hard work really paid off." She said she has never been honored publicly and is looking forward to being recognized in front of the community. "Now I'm a published author," she said. The girls agreed that the hardest part of the writing experience was trying to come up with the right ideas for a children's story. "At first, we had a lot of cheesy plots with no ending," Susan Cavender said. After brainstorming, they decided they wanted a story that stressed the

importance of individuality. "We wanted it to show that it's okay to be different," Krishnan said. Susan Cavender said that once they found their idea, everything else began to fit together. "I think it's so cool that we got the book published," Krishnan said. Ghada Ramadan, their fifth-grade teacher, said the story is something that real children can relate to because of its moral. "The book says that if you are different, you can still have strengths," she said. Ramadan said she plans to attend tonight's event to support her students' accomplishments. "It is outstanding," she said. "They have worked so hard." Copies of the book will be sold to the public at the celebration. Gan said she expects to be signing a lot of books for family and friends. Frances O'Roark Dowell, a national children's author, will be the event's guest speaker. Scholastic donated 100 free copies of the book and \$2,000 in merchandise to the elementary school. Krishnan said she is glad schools will receive the books. "I think reading is important."

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Senate campaigns diverge on subject of negative ads

BY EMMA BURGIN
STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

While the new batch of ads in North Carolina's U.S. Senate race has yet to air, pundits say the hype surrounding them is sure to set the tone for the remaining six weeks of campaigning. Democratic candidate Erskine Bowles extended a peaceful hand to his opponent Wednesday, pledging in a letter that he would not be the first to run any attack ads. Bowles' request came on the heels of an article in political newspaper The Hill, in which Republican candidate Richard Burr said voters can prepare for "skin to rip and blood to flow" during the remaining weeks of the campaign. Carlos Monje, press secretary for Bowles' campaign, said Bowles did not receive any direct response from Burr. "(Burr's campaign) went ahead and started running the negative ads," he said. "We're going to respond — and I don't want to reveal our strategy, but you're going to see a response." Burr's campaign did not return phone calls by press time. Ferrel Guillory, director of UNC's Program on Politics, Media and Southern Life, said that North Carolina has a "long, unfortunate" history of attack ads and that this race is shaping up to be similar. "This has been going on for a while in this campaign," he said. "The voters have grown tired of it. At the same time, voters do

indeed watch them. The hit upon an opponent seeps into the voters' unconscious." But Guillory also said that until recently, this year's race has featured mostly positive commercials. Burr has featured his wife, Brooke, and his father in ads. And Bowles has related stories about losing his father and sister to Lou Gehrig's disease to raise awareness about health care in the state. Bowles, who lost a bid in 2002 for the seat vacated by Republican Sen. Jesse Helms, is leading Burr in the polls by 10 percentage points. In a Survey USA poll taken from Sept. 6 to Sept. 9 for WBTV in Charlotte and WTVD in Durham, Bowles garnered 50 percent of voter support; Burr gained 40 percent. Guillory said Bowles now is enjoying a lead in this race because he ran a clean campaign against Sen. Elizabeth Dole in 2002. "Most people felt that the 2002 Senate race mostly stayed within the bounds," he said. "Both sides hit the other side to some extent. ... (Bowles) simply got beat by a major national figure who came back to the state to run for the Senate."

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

CORRECTIONS

- Due to an editing error, the Sept. 8 article "Panel allots \$7,000 for Keyes talk" stated that the honorarium for conservative speaker and constitutional scholar Ann Coulter, who came to campus last school year for a speech, was \$25,000. It actually was \$20,000.
- Due to a reporting error, the Sept. 16 article "Committee kicks off fee discussion" stated that fee increases can take effect without the approval of the UNC-system Board of Governors if they are at or below the inflation rate of 3.2 percent. It should have stated that the inflation rate is 2.3 percent.
- Due to a reporting error, a photo caption accompanying the Sept. 16 article "Soccer league looks to regain footing" stated that The Daily Tar Heel file photo was taken by Ashley Pitt. It actually was taken by Garrett Hall.
- Due to a reporting error, the Sept. 14 article "Larceny leads to murder arrest" misstated the name of Corp. Anthony Westbrook II as Anthony Westerbrook.

To report corrections, contact Managing Editor Chris Coletta at ccoletta@email.unc.edu.

The Daily Tar Heel
P.O. Box 3257, Chapel Hill, NC 27515
Michelle Jarboe, Editor, 962-4086
Advertising & Business, 962-1163
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