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Employees fight to bargain

RALLY FOR RIGHTS GRANTED BY UNITED NATIONS LABOR AGENCY

BY LINDSAY MICHEL
STAFF WRITER

On Saturday afternoon UNC Hospitals housekeeper Mauricio Rosales did what he said many of his co-workers never muster enough courage to do.

Rosales stood behind a lectern and explained in Spanish the various inequities — including struggles with wage rates and working conditions — that he faces at UNC

Hospitals.

An interpreter translated his words as he spoke in front of an audience of about 60 people composed of the Chapel Hill Workers' Rights Board and several advocacy groups, including UE Local 150, the North Carolina Public Service Workers Union.

"We need to be compensated for the work that we do," he said. The International Worker

Justice Campaign and UE Local 150 sponsored the third hearing of a statewide campaign to shed light on what members consider injustices faced by public-sector workers in North Carolina.

The campaign's goal is to prove that these problems could be avoided by the legalization of collective bargaining.

Public-sector workers in North Carolina are able to join unions, but the unions cannot hold a contract with employers. Workers and event organizers said this keeps wages low and working conditions poor.

The International Labor

Organization — a United Nations agency that promotes social justice and internationally recognized human and labor rights — grants all public-sector workers the right to collectively bargain, but N.C. General Statute 95-98 makes the practice illegal for state employees.

Virginia has the only other state law that makes collective bargaining illegal for its employees, said N.C. State University Professor David Zonderman, who opened the hearing and presented statistics concerning state employees. "At least over a half of state employees make less than \$30,000 a year," he said.

Fourteen workers testified during the hearing and said wages and working conditions could improve if the statute were repealed.

Tarshia Stephens-Hayes has been working in health care for the last nine years and began working as a nursing assistant at UNC Hospitals in 1999.

She said she earned more money at her previous job in Fayetteville but has been unable to reach a pay agreement at UNC Hospitals.

Stephens-Hayes said her department is understaffed, while

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Drunk deaths elicit worry

Alcohol use draws campus attention

BY JACKI SPIES
STAFF WRITER

College students' unflinching ability to "party hard," coupled with widespread use of alcohol, recently has taken a top spot in headline news.

In-depth media reports on college drinking abounded after a sophomore was found dead in a fraternity house at Colorado State University in September. He had consumed about 40 drinks.

A freshman at the University of Colorado-Boulder made headlines when he died from alcohol poisoning after he and other Chi Psi fraternity pledges were hauled to the mountains and forced to stay until they had downed multiple bottles of whiskey.

And a student at the University of Oklahoma was recently found dead at a university fraternity house — his blood alcohol content level surpassed the legal limit by five times.

Estimates attribute 1,400 deaths per year to alcohol-related incidents, and the tragic deaths of college students have university officials across the country raising questions about what they can do to control the epidemic.

University of Oklahoma President David Boren announced Wednesday a new set of policies that will govern the social scene at the University of Oklahoma.

These new rules ban drinking at fraternities and in residence halls at the university next semester, increase alcohol education and establish a hot line through which students can report violations.

As universities nationwide take a critical look at programs to prevent further tragedies, UNC's efforts to combat student drinking are far less visible than in the past.

The funds for the "2 out of 3" campaign — which aimed to evaluate the role of drinking in undergraduates' lives on the weekends — ran out, and the program no longer exists on campus.

In 1997, 1999 and 2002 officials from the UNC Highway Safety Research Center performed the comprehensive study, in which random students were given breath-alcohol tests on weekend nights and statistics were culled to demonstrate that students didn't drink as much as one might suppose.

Instead of preaching about the dangers associated with excessive drinking, the "2 out of 3" campaign attempted to shed light on what it considered a common misconception about alcohol intake: that the majority of college students drink frequently and to excess.

Officials said they hoped the findings — on Thursday, Friday or

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SANTA CLAUS COMES TO DOWNTOWN



DTH/JULIA LEBETKIN

Holden Selkirk, 8, of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro YMCA Tar Foot Nation Y-Guides, waits for the annual Chapel Hill-Carrboro Holiday Parade to start its journey Saturday morning. 2,000 participants celebrate the season by processing from Morehead Planetarium to Carrboro

BY BLAIR RAYNOR
STAFF WRITER

Sleigh bells jingled, marching bands played and locals received a dose of Christmas spirit at Saturday's annual Chapel Hill-Carrboro Holiday Parade.

The Chapel Hill Downtown Commission hosted the event, which began at 9 a.m. at Morehead Planetarium and ended at the Carrboro Century Center.

Carol Richards, coordinator of the parade, said a crowd of about 10,000 came to watch the tradi-

tional holiday festivity.

At least 2,000 people, primarily children, participated in the parade, which included a variety of groups from the local cub scouts to the Animal Protection Society.

"To have so many kids participate is the best part of it," she said.

Members of the women's varsity tennis team from East Chapel Hill High School were grand marshals for the event.

This year's event started an hour earlier than it has in the past, but several local business owners said

the time change didn't have much of an impact on turnout.

Charles House, owner of University Florist on Franklin Street and former chairman of the Downtown Commission, helped organize the event and said the turnout was similar to last year's. "I think it kicks the season off."

Chapel Hill resident Phil Susann participated in the parade with members of Pack 820 of the Orange District Cub Scouts, who wore gift packages on their heads. The cub scouts sported the pack-

ages because "kids' minds are gifts to us all," Susann said.

Wearing his "Parade Czar" jacket, Robert Humphreys, the former executive director of the Downtown Commission, helped organize the lineup at Morehead Planetarium.

Humphreys, who has worked with Carol Richards for 15 years on the parade, also assisted with the distribution of groups, or units, throughout the procession.

Jared Resnick, owner of West End Wine Bar on Franklin Street, put a couch on the sidewalk for his

family to sit on during the parade.

He said the switch to an earlier kickoff for the event gave onlookers more time to see the town.

"This way people stay around, can get a cup of coffee and enjoy downtown," he said. "We're getting people from all over, not just from Chapel Hill."

And local residents said their families were pleased with the festive goings-on.

Trudy Longan, who lives in

SEE PARADE, PAGE 4

Council will likely approve renaming

BY ADAM W. RHEW
STAFF WRITER

Though racial tensions in Chapel Hill might not see resolution in the near future, the fate of an issue deeply tied to race relations will be decided tonight.

After 11 months of debate, at least six Chapel Hill leaders plan to vote tonight in favor of renaming Airport Road.

Chapel Hill Town Council members Mark Kleinschmidt, Sally Greene, Jim Ward and Cam Hill said they will support changing the name of Airport Road to Martin

Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

"I don't see any reason at this point to do anything other than support this," Kleinschmidt said.

Mayor Kevin Foy and Mayor Pro Tem Edith Wiggins also said they will vote in favor of the renaming.

But council members Ed Harrison and Dorothy Verkerk said they will wait to decide until they hear the presentation on the 10 recommendations of the Special Committee to Consider Renaming Airport Road.

Council member Bill Strom could

SEE RENAME, PAGE 4

Students weigh music programs

BY CARLY SALVADORE
STAFF WRITER

Songs by The Beatles, Sublime and Snoop Dogg resonated in the Great Hall of the Student Union on Friday as four digital music service providers showcased and advertised their systems.

Next semester, students living on campus will have the opportunity to try one of four online music programs as part of the UNC system's pilot for downloading legal music.

Representatives from Cdigix, Napster, Rhapsody and Ruckus Network set up speakers, screens and computers for students to test out each music provider.

The pilot will serve as a test run for different downloading options that could be implemented at the University next fall.

Freshman Matt Hendren said he thinks it is a good idea for the University to initiate music downloading programs. Before approaching each stand, he said he thought each system seemed similar.

"I feel like, how different can they really be?" Hendren said.

But each music provider sought to distinguish its system from the others and to appeal to students.

Ajay Kori, a representative for Cdigix, said the major difference between Cdigix and the other programs is the number of files.

Cdigix will have 1.5 million files at the end of the month, he said. Kori challenged students to pick obscure music

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Representative Jonathan Zepp showcases Napster's downloading services in the Student Union's Great Hall.

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Haitian former slave delivers an autobiographical talk as part of a slavery awareness project PAGE 6

SPORTS

SECRET RECIPE

UNC fries No. 8 Kentucky with strong performances on the glass and in the running game PAGE 14

WEATHER

TODAY Rain, H 59, L 52
TUESDAY P.M. showers, H 71, L 53
WEDNESDAY Sunny, H 67, L 38

