

CITY BRIEFS

Town Council to take closer look at consultant applicants

Wednesday's public forum on the budget for the next fiscal year began with a discussion of the professional history of the company from which the town's new budget consultant was hired.

The Virginia-based MAXIMUS Inc. was hired by the Chapel Hill Town Council to consult with town staff and the council's budget review advisory committee for a contract of \$80,000.

Town Manager Cal Horton told the public that an Internet search done after the hiring revealed that the company had been investigated for financial impropriety related to the provision of welfare programs in New York and Wisconsin.

Horton said he was unaware of that information when hiring MAXIMUS, who has worked with the town before.

"I don't believe there is a reason to be concerned with people working with us," Horton said. "But I felt obligated to report (this information) to the council."

"Their references have been consistently solid."

"Day for Day Care" to offer training sessions in child care

Child Care Services Association, in collaboration with the Orange County Department of Social Services and FPG Child Development Institute, will host its "A Day for Day Care" from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday at East Chapel Hill High School.

"A Day For Day Care," now in its 25th year, is a full-day, statewide training event for child care center directors, teachers and family child care providers.

More than 110 sessions will be held during three different time slots throughout the day, and keynote speakers will address current child care issues.

A detailed schedule can be found at [http://www.childcareservices.org/dfdc\\_schedule\\_keynote.pdf](http://www.childcareservices.org/dfdc_schedule_keynote.pdf).

Price to speak with seniors on changes to Social Security

U.S. Rep. David Price, D-N.C., will come to Chapel Hill today to talk with local seniors about possible changes to Social Security.

Price first will have a question-and-answer session with the Geriatric Coalition from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Carol Woods Retirement Community at 750 Weaver Dairy Road.

The congressman then will travel to The Cedars of Chapel Hill Retirement Community, at 100 Cedar Club Circle, for an informal town hall-type meeting.

Large crowds are expected at both events.

Artist seeks public input on project at IFC shelter

The Inter-Faith Council community shelter will host a work day for its public art project from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday.

The work day is an opportunity for citizens to give input on the Chapel Hill Public Arts Commission's Percent for Art project, which is being done for the newly renovated shelter.

Sally Erickson was selected as the artist after the project was first publicized in 2003.

Erickson is creating the project, a mosaic, at her studio but has requested public input before it is set to be finished in March.

The community shelter was renovated this summer and reopened in September.

The shelter is located in the Old Municipal Building at the corner of Rosemary and Columbia streets.

STATE & NATION

Oklahoma senator wants boxing gloves for chickens

OKLAHOMA CITY — A state senator has a plan for saving Oklahoma's gamefowl industry now that cockfighters are legally prohibited from pitting birds fitted with razor-like spurs.

State Sen. Frank Shurden, a longtime defender of cockfighting, is suggesting that roosters be given little boxing gloves so they can fight without bloodshed.

The proposal is in a bill the Democrat has introduced for the legislative session that begins Feb. 7.

"Who's going to object to chickens fighting like humans do? Everybody wins," Shurden said.

Oklahoma voters banned cockfighting in 2002. The practice is still legal in Louisiana and New Mexico.

Shurden said he's not trying to amend the existing cockfighting ban, something he tried the past few years without success.

Shurden's legislation would create the Oklahoma Pari-mutuel Gamecock Boxing Act.

— From staff and wire reports.

# Honor Court sees more efficiency

BY JACKI SPIES

STAFF WRITER

Each year, incoming students at UNC pledge to uphold the Honor Code that governs appropriate behavior and outlines disciplinary procedures.

As a tradition at UNC that has been maintained for more than 120 years, the Honor Code's visibility on campus is tremendous. It is on the front cover of UNC's official examination books and on plaques in classrooms throughout the campus.

But there are some students who fall into the trap of short deadlines and poor time management, and hasty decisions lead them astray.

Student Attorney General Carolina Chavez recently released a summary of 91 of the 96 honor

cases that were tried this fall.

According to the report, plagiarism is the most common academic violation at UNC. Last semester, 29 of the 91 cases concern academic dishonesty by plagiarism.

Chavez said she thinks the high detection rate of plagiarism is related to the "nature of what it is." Teachers can easily access the Internet materials most students chose to copy.

Driving under the influence and possession of marijuana are the two most common disorderly conduct cases received by the court.

Dave Gilbert, assistant dean of students, said the majority of students tried for possession of marijuana are caught during their first semester at UNC.

"I think the theory behind this

trend is that a lot of first-year students, when they first move into the residence halls, are testing the boundaries," Gilbert said.

He said this type of illegal activity tends to die down after students realize there are repercussions for their actions.

In recent years, the UNC honor system has noticed an increase in the court's efficiency.

Gilbert said the number of cases heard by the Honor Court in the fall was a marked improvement. He said the 84 cases brought to court in fall 2003 and 64 hearings in fall 2002 indicate a rise in court's ability to address students' needs.

"The courts are providing stu-

SEE HONOR, PAGE 5

HONOR COURT DOCKETS, FALL '04

Student Attorney General Carolina Chavez provided The Daily Tar Heel with a breakdown of 91 of the 96 cases heard by the Honor Court during the fall semester. Of the 91 cases, 74 had a guilty verdict.

Case Type	Number	Guilty
Academic Dishonesty by Cheating	7	4
Academic Dishonesty by Plagiarism	29	27
Academic Dishonesty by Unauthorized Aid	2	0
Academic Dishonesty by Using Unauthorized Materials	2	2
Damage to Property	1	1
Damage to Property and Disorderly Conduct	4	4
Disorderly Conduct	4	3
Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol or Other Substances	11	9
Drug Possession: Schedule I or II	3	3
Drug Possession: Schedule III - VI	16	14
Inflicting Physical Injury on Another	2	2
Possession of Marijuana, Disorderly Conduct through Verbal Abuse, Disorderly Conduct by Pushing RA, CD, and PO, Furnishing False Info	1	1
Possession of Schedule III - VI Drugs	1	0
Providing False Information to a University Official	3	3
Theft/Damage to Property	1	1
Trespassing	3	0
Weapons Possession	1	0

SOURCE: CAROLINA CHAVEZ  
DTH/MARY JANE KATZ

"The idea wasn't really profound. It was common sense and a matter of need." HENRY DEARMAN, GRADUATE EDUCATION ADVANCEMENT BOARD



Karen Edwards, a marine sciences graduate student, attends an open house for the new Graduate Student Center on Thursday afternoon. The new center above the Carolina Coffee Shop will provide a place for the graduate student community to connect socially and academically.

## Grad students get own home

BY SHARI FELD

STAFF WRITER

Graduate students across disciplines at UNC now have a place to learn and socialize together under one roof.

The Graduate Student Center, which opened Thursday, will provide the University's graduate student community with a spot to meet, work and share research ideas with students from other departments.

"It will give them an identity and hopefully a place to expand opportunities for interdisciplinary exchange," said Linda Dykstra, dean of the graduate school. "In addition to expanding academic opportunities, there are chances for social opportunities that weren't there before."

She said the center acknowledges the important role graduate students play on campus.

Graduate students said they are grateful for the center, even though they can use it on a reservation-only basis — a constraint many hope will be removed.

Kate Shallcross, a senator in the Graduate and Professional Student Federation, said she

sees a lot of potential for the space.

"I hope there is some form of community created so students in different departments can socialize together," she said.

The center is partly a response to recommendations of the University's Academic Plan by integrating interdisciplinary research and education, as well as incorporating graduate and professional students more fully in University life.

"We need more spaces for seminars and informal intellectual exchanges," Dykstra said. "It will meet their needs for extra space for class."

She said about eight interdisciplinary groups of fellows will hold their meetings at the center. The graduate school also will use the facility to host interdisciplinary programs like global studies, computational sciences and urban livability.

The center, located on Franklin Street above the Carolina Coffee Shop, held an open house from 3 p.m. until 7 p.m. Thursday.

The location used to belong to the Upward Bound program, which moved to the Sonja

Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History.

Steve Allred, executive associate provost, said he took advantage of the vacancy to secure the center's spot.

Allred said he hopes to find a more suitable space for the center within the next few years. As campus construction progresses, Allred said he anticipates a vacancy in the basement of Bynum Hall and hopes the center can be placed there as early as 2007.

Henry Dearman, former dean of the graduate school and member of the Graduate Education Advancement Board, proposed the idea for the center to the board about three years ago.

He said graduate students deserve an establishment devoted to fostering unity and conversation similar to the James M. Johnston Center for Undergraduate Excellence.

"The idea wasn't really profound," Dearman said. "It was common sense and a matter of need."

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

## Report: NCSSM has unfair breaks

BY MEGAN MCSWAIN

ASSISTANT STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

A local conservative higher-education watchdog has deemed that the tuition waivers for UNC-system schools given to graduates of the N.C. School of Science and Math are unfair.

The John Williams Pope Center for Higher Education Policy released a report Wednesday stating that North Carolina is wasting money on the grant program.

The N.C. General Assembly waived tuition costs for NCSSM graduates as a motivation for them to attend college in the state. The public residential high school, started in 1980, is affiliated with the UNC system.

"This is a carrot to keep those students in our university system," said Sen. Kay Hagan, D-Guilford, who sponsored the bill.

The Pope Center says it is a carrot the state cannot afford.

"It's not a justified expense when the state is looking at a billion-dollar deficit," said Shannon Blosser, co-author of the Pope Center's report.

The report also states that the program is discriminating against students who attend other high schools.

"It discriminates unfairly against other North Carolina high school students who may be at least as academically promising as graduates of NCSSM, if not more so," the report states.

But Hagan said North Carolina's economy, and its universities, will benefit if NCSSM students stay in the state.

The school, the first of its kind, has a curriculum that centers on science and math, and it requires a unique admissions process.

Craig Rowe, director of communications for NCSSM, said the bill was able to send a higher percentage of students to UNC-system schools and boost the high school's enrollment.

Last year's class was the first that had the chance to take advantage of the tuition waiver.

Eighty percent of the graduating class stayed in the UNC system, an

SEE WAIVER, PAGE 5

## Local colleges get schooled

### Security official touts visa policy

BY ALEX GRANADOS

STAFF WRITER

In light of concerns about foreign student enrollment, the Department of Homeland Security is traveling the country to inform college officials about the ins and outs of visa policy.

C. Stewart Verdery Jr., assistant secretary for border and transportation security policy and planning for the department, finished up a tour of some of the nation's top universities Thursday at UNC.

He met with the University's International Affairs Advisory Council and other school officials to answer questions and to provide information about the effect of U.S. visa policy on universities.

"We saw, big declines in the number of student applicants after 9/11," he said. "But the numbers are rebounding, and we want to encourage that."

After the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, enrolling in American schools was much harder and more time-consuming for foreign students. But now, Verdery said, improved technology is helping the



C. Stewart Verdery Jr., assistant secretary at the Homeland Security Department, visited UNC to inform college officials about visa policies.

process move more quickly.

He said his meetings with college officials at schools such as Harvard and Duke universities were designed to determine whether the policies of his office are interfering with the enrollment of foreign students.

"The use of biometrics — finger scans and digital photographs

— for most of our programs ... can speed people up, because there is less worry."

This technology can help immigration officials clear foreign students who are not on a terrorist watch list and who have visas.

Biometrics and databases will

SEE VISAS, PAGE 5

## Student leaders fume over fee

### Officials wanted increased debate

BY JENNY RUBY AND JOSEPH R. SCHWARTZ

ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY EDITORS

Members of two campus committees charged with examining student fees said they were shocked Thursday when the UNC Board of Trustees approved an unprecedented fee hike.

Just days before the BOT's vote, the Student Fee Audit Committee and the Chancellor's Committee on Student Fees voiced almost unanimous disapproval for the proposal to use student fees to fund athletics.

The plan calls for a reallocation of 25 percent of logo revenues from athletics to merit-based scholarships and a \$50 increase in student fees to fund Olympic sports.

The BOT also approved a \$100 hike in the student athletic fee for the 2006-07 academic year.

Student Body President Matt Calabria, a member of both committees and an ex-officio trustee, was one of two members of the BOT to vote against the move.

He said he didn't think the proposal had been studied thoroughly enough to bring it to a vote.

"I think all students present were very surprised when it was brought up," Calabria said. "I think the process was rushed and skipped a number of important steps."

Speaker of Student Congress Charlie Anderson, also a member of both the advisory committees, said he was troubled by the vote. "The timing of it didn't allow us to do the proper research," he said.

"This obviously isn't the best choice for students."

Chairwoman of the Faculty Judith Wegner, who proposed the increase, said she was surprised that the BOT made a decision

"Sometimes if you wait, it doesn't make it any better," she said. "They really were conscientiously trying

SEE REACTION, PAGE 5