

Local sheds light on airport

BY BRIANNA BISHOP
ASSISTANT CITY EDITOR

Anecdotes, facts and a slide show were combined Sunday to provide some local residents with the history of a town landmark.

Doug Eyre, a Chapel Hill resident and former University professor, gave a presentation at the Chapel Hill Public Library about the history of the Horace Williams Airport.

The airport sits on a tract of land that has been owned by the University since May 1940, about 1 1/2 miles from the main campus. It has been the topic of much recent debate, as it is located on the proposed site of Carolina North, UNC's satellite campus and research park.

Eyre's lecture chronicled the airport's history until about the time it was purchased by the University. He also welcomed questions and input from his audience, which gathered in the library's meeting room.

"When these opportunities come up, you got to grab them," Eyre said of the decision to buy the land for the airport.

He also spoke of the key players involved in the airport's evolution.

The economic prosperity of the 1920s nurtured a growing interest in aviation, Eyre said. Out of that interest grew a private airport, which got

its roots when Charlie Martindale purchased the tract of land in 1928.

The 1930s and '40s brought attempts to commercialize the land, known as Martindale Field.

But near the outset of World War II, UNC and Duke University received federal funds to develop a flight training program at the airport, Eyre said.

Former President Gerald Ford was one of the program's pilots.

It was then, with the growing importance of the airport, that N.C. 86 was renamed Airport Road.

"Here we have the modernization of Airport Road," Eyre said.

By the end of the war, Horace Williams Airport was the largest college-owned airport in the United States, Eyre said.

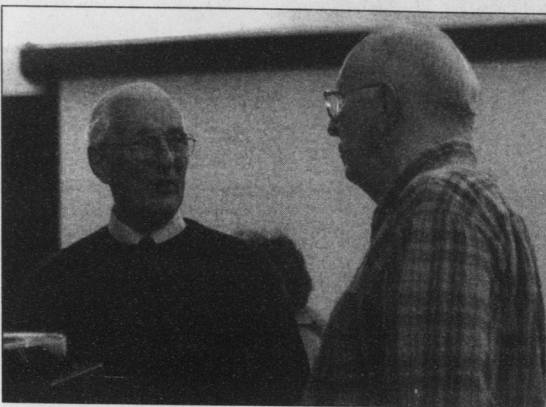
Eyre said he has been interested in the airport's history for a while.

He was already doing some research on the facility before he began meeting people and gathering firsthand information.

"You're sopping up a background that you're not really aware of," he said of his research on the airport.

Alan Fearing, a pilot for the N.C. Area Health Education Center program, which operates out of the airport, said he enjoyed Eyre's lecture.

"It had information about the



Local historian Doug Eyre (left) speaks with Rodger Harris (right) after Eyre's presentation of the history of the Horace Williams Airport on Sunday.

airport that I had never known before," he said.

One lecture attendee noted the airport's fate after Eyre's lecture.

"I think it's very important that the University keep that airport an airport," said Chapel Hill resident Tom Nuzum.

"What could you need more than an airport?" he added.

The N.C. General Assembly has

said that the airport must remain open until a new site is found for the AHEC program.

The lecture was organized by the Friends of the Chapel Hill Public Library as a part of its Sunday Speaker Series program, which is in its fourth year.

Contact the City Editor
at citydesk@unc.edu.

POLICE LOG

FROM STAFF REPORTS

■ A UNC Health Care employee was arrested early Saturday morning and charged with misdemeanor assault with a deadly weapon, misdemeanor damage to personal property and felony breaking and entering, Chapel Hill police reports state.

According to reports, Natasha Leann Munn, 25, of 10 Woodbridge Drive, Apt. B, kicked in the door of her ex-boyfriend's apartment and stabbed him with a small plastic hobby knife, resulting in minor injuries.

The incident occurred about 2 a.m. at the Colony Apartments at 1250 Ephesus Church Road, reports state.

Munn was taken to Orange County Jail to be held without bond. She will appear at the first opportunity today in Orange County District Criminal Court in Hillsborough.

■ A Chapel Hill man was arrested at 11 p.m. Saturday for violating a domestic violence protective order and is being held on a felony fugitive warrant, Chapel Hill police reports state.

According to reports, Herman Lee Owens, 46, of 1527 U.S. 15-501 South, was arrested at the Kingswood Apartments at 1105 N.C. 54.

He was under the influence of drugs or alcohol, reports state.

According to reports, he was sent to Orange County Jail to be held pending extradition hearings for a fugitive warrant that was issued December 2003 in Virginia.

He will appear at the first opportunity today in Orange County District Criminal Court in Hillsborough.

Two people, including a waitress at Woody's Tar Heel Tavern & Grill, were arrested shortly after midnight Sunday and charged with misdemeanor possession of marijuana, Chapel Hill police reports state.

According to reports, Keith Kareem Parks, 19, of Chapel Hill, and Jessica Paige Robinson, 21, of Durham, were found with marijuana off Craig Street near Sykes Street.

They were found in a black 1994 Nissan Altima that was left at the scene, reports state.

The two were released on written promises to appear March 7 in Orange County District Criminal Court in Hillsborough.

■ A UNC student was the victim of aggravated assault at 1:30 a.m. Saturday when he was struck with a beer bottle at 316 E. Rosemary St., Chapel Hill police reports state.

According to reports, the 19-year-old sophomore was under the influence of drugs or alcohol when he was struck.

The incident resulted in minor injuries, reports state.

■ A UNC senior's cell phone was stolen Saturday morning at a nightclub at 306 W. Franklin St., Chapel Hill police reports state.

According to reports, the phone was taken while the 21-year-old was inside the discotheque Avalon.

The phone and its cover were valued at \$315, reports state.

Program to support soldiers' families

To be offered in 5 state communities

BY STEPHANIE NOVAK
STAFF WRITER

As increasing numbers of National Guardsmen and reservists are deployed, families and soldiers are finding themselves in unfamiliar territory — both at home and abroad.

But with the support of a new government program, spearheaded in part by UNC-Chapel Hill officials, the transitions from deployment to home will soon become easier for soldiers and their families.

The Citizen-Soldier Support program aims to build community involvement to strengthen support for these families.

The program is moving from the planning stage and soon will be implemented in five communities throughout North Carolina, including Asheville, Greensboro, Charlotte,

Rocky Mount and Wilmington.

The Department of Defense appropriation bill, which was finalized in July, includes \$1.8 million in funding for the National Demonstration Program for Citizen-Soldier Support — a collaborative effort involving many universities, including UNC-CH as well as Duke, N.C. State and East Carolina universities.

Last week, the program held a three-day training session for community liaisons and a group called "Subject Matter Specialists."

The liaisons will work in their own geographic areas to raise awareness among community members about the soldiers and begin developing new support services for troops and their families. The specialists will serve as backup resources to the commu-

nity liaisons.

Retired Maj. Gen. Doug Robertson, director of UNC-CH's Highway Safety Research Center and a member of the core team involved in bringing the initiative together, said he is looking forward to the program becoming a model for the rest of the nation.

He said he hopes all soldiers will have information available to them, as well as community support.

"Every county in North Carolina has people being deployed," said Dennis Orthner, a core team member of the support initiative and a UNC-CH professor of social work. "In many cases they're surprised because they didn't anticipate the separation."

The first plan of action for the liaisons is to create community contacts and find out what support services are already in place, Orthner said.

"We're looking to mobilize the

community to help soldiers (and their families), particularly while they're deployed," he said.

Heather Hill, a resident of Mecklenburg County for 28 years, said she knows the difficulties associated with having a loved one in the service. Her husband is now enlisted, and she served in the National Guard for two years.

She will be the community liaison for Charlotte.

"(Citizen-Soldier families) sometimes feel lost and alone and the community would love to help but doesn't know how," she said. "If we can let them know that the needs are there ... then we've done our job."

Other community liaisons include: Crystal Moore in Wilmington, Roman Bowles in Greensboro, Rebekah Murray in Rocky Mount and Deborah Reed in Asheville.

Contact the University Editor
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Campaign slogans catch students' attention

BY STEPHANIE NOVAK
STAFF WRITER

Several candidates for student office woke up Saturday morning to discover that some of their carefully planned, meticulously painted A-frames were missing.

While the signs later were found strewn around the steps of Wilson Library and several other locations throughout campus, candidates were worried about the consequences stemming from a vital part of their campaigns going missing.

During election season, students often realize that one of the most important parts of any campaign is publicity. As a result, the campus is littered with signs displaying a variety of logos, from "26,878 Students, One Unified Vision" to "Answer the Bell" signs featuring the cast from Saved by the Bell.

Candidates have tried to embed parts of their platform in their

logos and other distributed items.

"We basically wanted all our material to be substantive so that people would know what we're about," said Tom Jensen, candidate for student body president. The main goal of his campaign, he said, is to reach students who do not actively research the election.

Some questions have been raised concerning candidate Seth Dearmin's use of the John Deere logo because of possible legal implications with trademark laws.

Dearmin has been using "Nothing Runs Like a Dearmin" as his campaign slogan but decided Sunday night to replace it with "Making Life Easier."

Dearmin and his campaign manager, Adrian Johnston, said they researched the situation and do not believe they have done anything wrong.

"We absolutely believe that we're

"We're going to issue a statement removing the logo. We want to spend time on issues, not the logo."

ADRIAN JOHNSTON, CAMPAIGN MANAGER FOR SBP CANDIDATE SETH DEARMIN

in the clear, but we're going to issue a statement removing the logo," Johnston said. "We want to spend time on issues, not the logo."

He added that because of such concerns, the campaign will remove the John Deere logo from all signs and posters and from its Web site.

Candidates also use the Internet as a valuable campaign tool.

"The quality of your Web site demonstrates the quality of your candidacy to some extent," said student body president candidate Seke Ballard.

"If I put up a subpar Web site, how can I be expected to do a good

job as SBP?" he said. "I can't even represent my campaign, how can I represent the student body?"

Candidates have to adhere to campaign rules in the midst of the publicity frenzy.

The Board of Elections fined Dearmin's campaign for illegally posting campaign materials in Ehringhaus Residence Hall.

Madison Perry and Whit Walker, candidates for senior class officers, were fined \$3 for putting a sign in Polk Place with a stake.

Contact the University Editor
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Policies harm tobacco growers

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CINCINNATI — Tobacco growers are being squeezed between the government's plan to phase out a 1930s-vintage price support system and cigarette makers' refusal to pay millions under an agreement tied to a master settlement of anti-smoking lawsuits with 46 states.

In 1998, cigarette manufacturers agreed to pay the states \$206 billion over 25 years. The following year, in a deal known as Phase II, they said they would pay tobacco growers \$5.1 billion over 12 years to soften the effect of reduced demand for tobacco.

When Congress passed the \$10 billion buyout legislation last year to pay growers the equivalent of about five years of sales, tobacco companies said that ended their Phase II obligation. Because buyout payments won't start until later this year, many growers were left short of cash.

"A lot of that money has already been spent, and here they come and say you ain't going to get it," said Bob Koehler of Ripley, vice president of the Ohio Tobacco Growers Association. "That puts a lot of boys in a pinch."

The four major tobacco companies contend that under terms of an amendment to the Phase II agreement, they don't have to make the final payment of 2004 and are entitled to a refund of payments made earlier in the year.

Bill Phelps, spokesman for Philip Morris USA in Richmond, Va., said officials in the 14 tobacco-growing states where Phase II payments were made agreed that tobacco companies would be entitled to repayments in the year the buyout was

enacted. The states dispute that.

A judge in North Carolina ruled in favor of the tobacco companies last month, but the state Supreme Court there agreed to hear the states' appeal directly, bypassing the appellate courts. Thursday was the deadline for filing briefs.

Tobacco quotas were established to prop up prices and limit the amount of leaf that a grower could legally market. Ohio, one of the smaller tobacco states, has an overall quota of 10.9 million pounds divided among nearly 15,000 growers.

At about \$2 a pound, the average grower makes about \$2,600 a year — supplemental income rather than a livelihood. Most Phase II payments due in December would have been a few hundred dollars.

Not so for Lamar DeLoach, of Metter, Ga., one of the nation's largest tobacco growers and president of the Tobacco Growers Association of Georgia. He sold up to 2 million pounds of tobacco a year in the late '90s, and expected to receive a Phase II check for \$250,000 last month.

"That's a quarter million dollars cash flow I didn't have January 1 to meet my obligations," DeLoach said. "I had to renew some notes in the past couple of weeks, and there were a lot of other farmers at the bank."

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