Donna Justice, whose son is a member of the fraternity council, also expressed her satisfaction with the efforts

"It's wonderful when college kids come together with some-thing like this," she said.

everal local businesses donated

food and wine for the event.

R.B. Fitch, of Fitch's Creations

MARRIAGE

and the owner of Fearrington

Carrboro is not submitting a

legislative request to alter the act

this year, but Mayor Mike Nelson said the town instead is focusing

"I believe it is unconstitutional."

he said. He added that he thinks

that proponents of the amend-ment have little chance of getting it

passed by the General Assembly.

The amendment proposal

might be less likely to pass this

year because Democrats control both the state House and Senate.

Although actions to reverse por

tions of the act are expected to fail

again this year, some advocates

will be finished in June and ready

for use in the fall. The other is a

privately funded \$15 million resi-

dential facility that will be com-plete in April. These development

projects have come to fruition

thanks to the university's 2000

There is plenty of other con-struction both under way and in

the works. The renovation and

expansion of the main cafeteria is already progressing, and an exten-

sive renovation of the library will

An apartment complex for graduate students also was recent-

Assuming the role of the state's

leading HBCU, N.C. Central has taken a prominent role in observ-ing Black History Month by mak-

ing its events free and available to

Black History Month

bond initiative.

begin soon.

ly completed.

N.C. CENTRAL

on the amendment proposal.

Village, picked up the expenses, while U.S. Foods and several wine companies donated their wines. In addition, companies including The Siena Hotel and The Carolina Inn contributed to the raffle by providing overnight stays.
"The need is still great even

though the event is months after," said Mark Sherburne, general manager of The Siena Hotel. Other guests at the event includ-

ed current Student Body President Matt Calabria and the remaining student body president candidates, Seth Dearmin and Seke Ballard.

Calabria said that the Greek community often is involved in public service events but rarely

think persistent opposition is nec-essary to keep the issue alive. Ed Farthing, executive direc-

tor of development at the advo-

cacy group Equality NC, said it is important to voice the opinions of

constituents, even if their demands are not politically feasible.

changed. The longer the discussion endures, the more progress we can

expect," Farthing said, calling the amendment an act of desperation.

But proponents of the amend-ment, also known as the Defense

of Marriage bill, argue that polls show support of the proposal.

Forrester said the act will not be

"People's attitudes can be

gets the recognition it deserves.
"I think it brings together a lot of student leaders," he said. "I think of this as a very visible sign

that it's in the right direction." Tom Merrihew, president of the council, said that he was on cloud nine at the end of the event.

"I feel so relieved but so proud of tonight," he said. "Everyone had a great time. It was an overwhelming success."

The relief effort is one of many

in the University community. For more information, visit: http:// ww.ibiblio.org/ttrc.

> Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

"I think it should go to the citizens to vote on it. Seventy percent of the constituency would approve," Forrester said.

He said that 17 states constitutionally define marriage as between a man and a woman and that North Carolina should follow the trend.

"It is clearly a topic on hearts and minds of citizens, and it should be debated on the floor of the General Assembly," said Sen. Fred Smith, R-Johnston, who is sponsoring the amendment proposal.

He said the amendment is not as extreme as opponents think. "It is exactly the law that is in place."

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changed because it has strong sup-port in the General Assembly. **NCCU DISTRIBUTION**

OF BONDS

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improvement	\$10,263,800
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B.N. Duke Auditorium addition	\$740,000
Health and safety repairs	\$1,809,00
Total	\$121,246,20
SOURCE: UNC GENERAL ADMIN	IISTRATION
DTH/MARY JANE KATZ	

"Traditionally we've always taken Black History Month to heart. We don't only put on a program for the university, but for the entire community," said Carlton Wilson, chairman of the history

department.

"We definitely think it's a role that we should play, particularly the history department."

Wilson said the student body generally participates in the events put on by the department, but added that there is room for more involvement.

"We always want them to be more active because we understand that our students should be aware of the black experience, and not just in February, but especially in February," Wilson said.
As part of the many lectures

and exhibitions all month, UNC-Chapel Hill professor of African-American studies Perry Hall gave a lecture Wednesday titled, "Niagara, Brown, and Today: Reflections on a Century in Pursuit of Integration." Other events include an art collection titled, "The Robert E. Holmes Collection: Affirming a Legacy."

The exhibit displays figurative work that sheds light upon the black experience, an experience for which N.C. Central is helping to write the next chapter.

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

VIRGINIA

vidual institution. Each university also will have to meet 11 specific criteria set forth by the legislature, including a commitment to providing equal access to affordable education as well as the development of six-year

revenue projections.
Ultimately, the schools will be less reliant on state funds but will not be completely independent something that Mark Owczarski, Virginia Tech news and information director, said was not his

school's original goal.
"Virginia Tech wants to be a public school," he said. "We never had any interest in being an inde-

accepted fact that when you're married you're supposed to stay married," Doug said. "It's about a companionship, shared memories,

One memory that sticks out in

their minds is their 50th anniver-

sary. Their daughter and her hus-

band threw an elaborate, WWII-

themed surprise party. The 300

VALENTINES

shared experiences.

pendent school."

Tuition and fees also will be projected in the six-year plans, something Owczarski says will help families budget for their children's college education.

"Tuition will always increase," he said. "This plan ... what it will do is allow the university to plan in a six-year cycle so that students will know the cost of a Virginia Tech education."

While Virginia Tech's tuition reached \$5,452 for residents and \$16,145 for nonresidents in fall 2004, UVa. students paid \$6,790 if they were from Virginia and \$22,831 if they were from else-

North Carolina residents pay \$4,450 to attend UNC, while non-

guests dressed in period uniforms and wore official WWII dog tags. During the party, two parachuters dropped down from the sky to join the property of the sky to join

the guests. They danced to 1940s hits and enjoyed the nostalgia. "They played 'God Bless America," Doug said. "There

wasn't a dry eye in the place. It was a party to end all parties."

be no huge celebrations for their

upcoming 60th anniversary.

As far as they know, there will

residents pay \$17,548. But UNC Chancellor James Moeser stood firm in stating that the University doesn't plan to look for more autonomy, saying, "We

have no such plans." The Virginia legislation will not be put into effect until the General Assembly's two chambers work out the minor differences between the House and Senate bills.

Until then, the universities will have to wait to adjust to their newfound freedom.

"Virginia Tech is pleased with the legislation that is being put forth," Owczarski said. "It will help families. It will help students."

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"My daughter's very clever," Olga said. "We need to be careful because she's sneaky, and she'll plan something we don't know about."

As for Valentine's Day, Doug and Olga will not be exchanging mushy cards or sharing a fancy dinner.

"We're romantic, but not in that way," Doug said. "Plus, too much chocolate makes you fat."

> Contact the Features Editor at features@unc.edu.

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