

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Taxi passenger at UNC exits cab without paying his fare

A taxi driver was cheated out of his fare Friday evening, according to University police reports. Reports state that an employee of Airport & Intown Taxi picked up a man in his early 20s from Ehringhaus Residence Hall and dropped him off in the Brentwood neighborhood in Raleigh. The passenger then got out of the car and ran away without paying the \$65 fare, reports state.

Student found passed out after damaging windows

Students in Craige Residence Hall called University police just before midnight Friday to report that another student was damaging their windows, according to University police reports. Police found the suspect, freshman Stephen Conger, passed out on the floor of the elevator lobby, and officials transported him to UNC Hospitals, reports state. According to reports, officers suspected that drugs or alcohol were involved. Total damages amounted to \$200, reports state.

CITY BRIEFS

Aldermen to host hearing on capital, operating budgets

The Carrboro Board of Aldermen will hold a public hearing tonight on next fiscal year's capital and operating budgets. The aldermen hope to receive citizen input on community needs before formulating its budget for the 2005-06 fiscal year. The hearing will begin at 7:30 p.m. at Town Hall.

County to hold meeting on local housing needs tonight

Orange County will hold the first of two community meetings about housing needs at 7 p.m. today. The county is developing its Five-Year Consolidated Housing Plan, which affects funding for housing and community development projects from 2005 to 2010, and is using the meetings to receive public comments. Tonight's meeting will be held at the Orange County Library Conference Room, at 300 W. Tryon Street in Hillsborough.

A second meeting will be held at 7 p.m. next Tuesday at the Orange County Southern Human Services Center, at 2501 Homestead Road in Chapel Hill.

More information can be obtained by calling the Orange County Housing and Community Development at 245-2490.

STATE & NATION

Ohio State student puts school president on eBay

COLUMBUS, Ohio — An Ohio State University student has put school president Karen Holbrook on the online auction site eBay, saying in the ad that she will ruin the undergraduate experience.

Bidding started at a penny Saturday and the seven-day auction had 64 bids from 19 bidders topping out at almost \$100 million Monday morning.

Timothy Rosman, a sophomore from St. Augustine, Fla., said the ad is a joke but he really doesn't like Holbrook. He said in the ad that Holbrook ignores everyday crime, supervised two tuition increases and is responsible for hideous construction "as far as the eye can see."

The auction notes that the item for sale cannot be shipped: "Will arrange for local pickup only." School spokeswoman Elizabeth Conlisk called the joke "a little mean-spirited."

CALENDAR

Today — The Carolina Students for Israel will host a lecture by Dror Elnor, titled, "Human Rights in the Middle East," at 8 p.m. in 103 Bingham Hall. Elnor, who studied law at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, will speak on Israeli-Arab, gay and women's rights in Israel today.

March 1 — Registered Democrats in Durham County are invited to precinct meetings to elect precinct leaders, select county convention delegates and discuss resolutions. Most will meet at 7 p.m. at the polling sites. To find out where and when your precinct will meet, visit <http://www.durhamdemocrats.org>.

March 3 — The Department of Psychiatry will offer free confidential screenings for eating disorders from noon to 4 p.m. in the Student Union.

The screenings are part of the 18th annual National Eating Disorders Awareness Week, sponsored by the National Eating Disorders Association. For more information about the screenings, call (919) 966-4410.

— From staff and wire reports.

Town looks at park plans

BY JAKE POTTER STAFF WRITER

The details of a proposal to create what some town parks and recreation officials are already calling the area's future "flagship park" became a little clearer Monday at a Chapel Hill Town Council public hearing.

The town will begin the development process for the 72-acre Southern Community Park, to be built adjacent to the Southern Village and Dogwood Acre developments off U.S. 15-501 South, as soon as

the council approves a special-use permit for the land — scheduled for April 5.

The town hopes to construct about 5,000 square feet of building area, 229 parking spaces and several athletic fields. Playgrounds, trails and a large dog park are also slated to be included in the park.

Kathryn Spatz, director of the town's Parks and Recreation Department, said the park proposal represents the town's last chance for a flagship park.

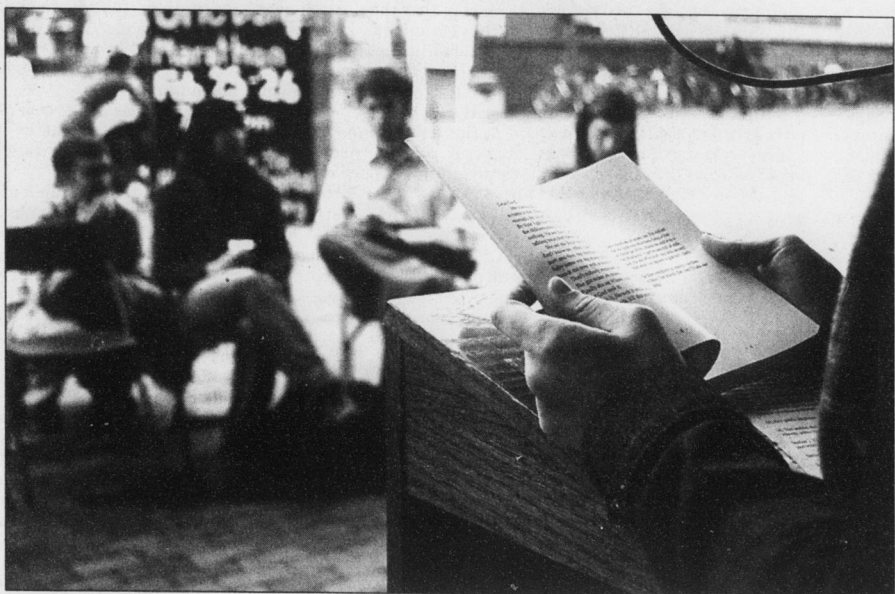
"The community — the town's soccer community, in particular — is in des-

perate need of this," she said. "And our department doesn't have any space for, say, family reunions."

Council members raised concerns about several aspects of the project to presenter Brian Starkey of OBS Landscape Architects during Monday's hearing.

Council member Jim Ward feared that the lack of a new traffic signal along Dogwood Acre Drive could create a dangerous situation for younger parkgoers.

SEE PARK, PAGE 6



Senior Meghan Gambling reads an excerpt from "The Color Purple" on Monday afternoon in protest of proposed Alabama legislation that calls for the destruction of all the state's public textbook and library materials that recognize homosexuality.

PROTEST TAKES ON CENSORSHIP

Students react to proposed Alabama bill

BY ALEX ROBINSON STAFF WRITER

The works of William Shakespeare, Virginia Woolf and Alice Walker could be taken off the shelves, banned from classrooms and even destroyed if an Alabama state senator has his way.

Republican Sen. Gerald Allen, is attempting to pass legislation that calls for all public schools in his state to stop buying and to destroy all textbook and library materials that recognize or promote homosexuality as an acceptable lifestyle.

To raise awareness of and protest the legislation, UNC students and faculty are conducting a 24-hour reading of texts with homosexual themes or characters. The reading began at noon Monday and will continue until noon today in front of the Student Union.

"You don't have to be violent, but you also don't have to be silent," said Julie Fishell, a dramatic art professor. "We just want to raise awareness of this bill. Bills pass in legislation all the time without people being aware that they are there."

The protest, titled "Read Free for

Alabama," includes the reading of excerpts from Tony Kushner's "Angels in America," Alice Walker's "The Color Purple" and Tennessee Williams' "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof."

Students and faculty members will read the Alabama representative's legislation at the top of every hour.

"This legislation affects me personally," said Olivia Henderson, a senior dramatic art major who read excerpts Monday. "I was just in a production of 'Angels in America' here on campus. Even though it's in the state of Alabama, it affects our campus as well."

Many involved with the protest said such legislation might create an environment of fear and repression for homosexual teens.

"This anti-thought kind of move could prove devastating for young people," said English professor Maria DeGuzman. "Suicide among teens is already very high. This fear directed toward teens is going to have extremely negative effects."

Other campus outlets also are involved with the protest. The Bull's Head Bookshop has a display of books

that might be banned. The table, labeled "The Pro-homosexual Agenda," will be on display until the readings end.

"We want people to know exactly what the literature in question is," said Erica Eisdorfer, the bookstore's manager. "There is Virginia Woolf, Pulitzer Prize-winning works, as well as literature written by people from this campus."

The Daily Grind Espresso Cafe is supporting the event by providing coffee for the readers.

"We feel it is important not to censor people's views just because they are different," said Paul Bonnici, assistant manager of The Daily Grind. "We provided the coffee because we agree with what the protesters are doing."

Fishell said banning these books is a hindrance to free speech and will have serious consequences on the academic world.

"Anyone in an academic environment can understand the value of free speech," Fishell said. "If we can't share the information that we have about our society, the world suffers. Future generations suffer."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

16 MISSIONS, ONE VISION

Part 12 of a 16-part series profiling the campuses of the UNC system.



TODAY: UNC-P

Pembroke celebrates its diversity

BY KEVIN CHANDLER STAFF WRITER

PEMBROKE — Founded in 1887 as the first state-supported college for Native Americans, UNC-Pembroke now is recognized as one of the most diverse schools in the South.

"It's basically a quad-racial school," said N.C. Sen. David Weinstein, who represents Robeson County, which houses UNC-P. "It's quite a representation here."

UNC-P also is in a phase of unprecedented growth. "Enrollment growth, up 69.5 percent in five years, is high on UNC-P's list of achievements," said Glen Burnette, vice chancellor for university and community relations.

He said enrollment has jumped from about 3,000 students in the 1999-2000 school year to a record 5,132 during the 2005 spring semester.

"Enrollment should continue to soar as UNC-P finds new ways to serve its region and the state," Burnette said.

But enrollment increase is only part of the university's growth.

An optometry school is in the works, which, if funded, would complement the nursing and education programs already available at the university.

"A proposed optometry program is in initial planning stages and would be the only school of optometry serving the Carolinas," Burnette said.

The English E. Jones Health and Physical Education Center has received an \$8.8 million expansion that added 32,000 square feet to the building.

Sixteen offices, three classrooms, two racquetball courts and a fitness center were added to the Jones Center's already existing gyms, Olympic-sized swimming pool and diving pools, Burnette said.

"The English E. Jones Health and Physical Education Center is home to the university's academic programs in health and physical education, as well as athletic training," Burnette said.

There are myriad other expansion and renovation projects occurring on campus. A \$17 million renovation project for the Herbert C. Oxendine Science Building is under way, and renovations and additions are continuing with a \$4.6 million project for the art and music buildings, Burnette said.

"Also, a \$3 million addition to the James B. Chavis (University) Center and a new bookstore will get under way this spring," he said.

Growth also has led to the university reinstating a football team after a 50-year lapse, he said.

"This follows on the heels of a highly successful start-up of the women's soccer program," Burnette said.

Students also enjoy UNC-P for its unique location — situated only a short drive away from Wilmington and Myrtle Beach, S.C. But the location is remote enough to allow students to focus more intently on their studies.

Some students say the location can prove to be a double-edged sword.

"What I don't like (about Pembroke) is sort of the same reason that I do like it," said Kelly Jones, a sophomore psychology major and a varsity soccer player.

"I came to Pembroke because it was a small school where I could focus on soccer and academics. It has small classrooms where the teachers can give you personal attention."

"I don't like that there isn't really a lot to do around here."

She cited the lack of restaurants and nightlife as one of the drawbacks of the university's location.

SEE PEMBROKE, PAGE 6

Board eyes criteria for reassignment

BY BRIANNA BISHOP ASSISTANT CITY EDITOR

The often complex world of K-12 student reassignment got a bit clearer Monday.

That's when members of the Orange County Board of Education picked the most important criteria to consider in student reassignment — though they stressed that their picks are subject to change.

Proximity, socio-economic balance, ethnic balance and minimizing student reassignment were among the top criteria chosen.

But board chairwoman Libbie Hough said the group will not move forward with specific criteria until hearing from the public.

Superintendent Shirley Carraway said that the initial stimulus for reassignment discussions was to populate the county's third middle school — now under construction on its future site in Efland — but that the process also might serve to better redistribute underfilled or over-capacity schools.

The school board will hold a hearing March 14 to garner feedback on the list.

The district also plans to circulate the information to the public.

"What we plan to do is get the information out very quickly," Carraway said.

She suggested posting the infor-

mation on the schools' Web site or using Connect-ED, the district's new centralized phone service, to advertise the information.

While the board made no final decision Monday about the criteria, not all members were pleased with the initial outcome.

Board member Al Hartkopf said he thought more discussion was needed about factoring Hillsborough Elementary School, the district's year-round school, into reassignment. "This board has not had a serious discussion about year-round middle schools, in my recollection," he said.

But Hough said the criteria are only meant to be part of a rough draft.

"No final decision has been made," she said, adding that the public might suggest other criteria at its hearing.

With less discussion, the board also approved its timeline for student reassignment Monday, with one alteration. Now a public hearing will be added in November after the board reviews potential reassignment plans in October.

In the original schedule, the board would not have had such a hearing until January, but board member Dennis Whitting said a hearing held earlier could be

SEE MOVING, PAGE 6

Hillsborough facelift plans evolve

BY CATHERINE SHAROKY STAFF WRITER

The quaintness of downtown Hillsborough now is masked by the barrage of strip malls, fast food restaurants and parking lots travelers must pass to get to town, residents at a design workshop said Monday.

But planners are working to change that, as they brainstormed with business owners and residents at the workshop on ways to extend the small-town feel down Churton Street — the subject of a long-term redesign initiative.

Residents were invited by the Churton Street redesign committee to the Hillsborough Town Hall Barn to offer suggestions for improving the town's main thoroughfare, which runs from Interstate 40 through downtown Hillsborough to the split of N.C. 86 and N.C. 57.

"The economics of the whole town is governed by how it looks," said Margaret Cannell, executive director of the Hillsborough-Orange County Chamber of Commerce.

Last January, the planning team took suggestions from city planning students at the University who competed to create a project to redesign the street. Monday's workshop was the next step in the redesign.

Cannell suggested focusing on regulating signs along Churton Street to make the road more appealing and to help people find businesses.

"There's all these little stores off on the side streets and no signs directing you," said Anjan Desai,



Hillsborough resident Bonnie Hauser joins community members in voicing ideas and solutions for revamping the areas throughout Churton Street.

general manager of the Holiday Inn Express in Hillsborough. "Not too many people know we're here."

Uniform "way-finding" signs throughout the town could be used to list important places, such as government buildings, restaurants and hotels, said Anne Morris, program associate for the Office of Urban Development of the N.C. Division of Community Assistance.

Businesses could be given incentives to conform the signs on their property to town regulations by being included on the way-finding signs, Morris said.

Elvan Cobb, 26, who works in

Hillsborough, suggested moving roadside parking lots to the backs of buildings and increasing accessibility by adding more sidewalks.

"We're dedicated to the automobile, and it's a big mistake," said Hillsborough resident Bill Reid, 78. "We've got to hide the cars better than we're doing."

Cathleen Turner of the Alliance for Historic Hillsborough also suggested setting appearance guidelines for national chains so they blend in with local buildings.

The workshop was focused on the

SEE CHURTON, PAGE 6