

TICKETS

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violations or decisions to withdraw. One contestant who had stood strong in the competition until 3 p.m. Saturday was close to tears when he was forced out of the race. After falling asleep on the brick stairs of the Pit, he woke up a couple of seconds too late to return to the table. KRANC Coordinator Parker Melvin said organizers had no idea the competition would last this long. "You never know how badly somebody wants a Duke ticket," he said. KRANC and the Carolina Athletic Association collaborated to produce two riser tickets to the game. "We got the idea for the contest

"I've actually faded off to sleep a couple of times. But I've done stretches, had hot chocolate and a lot of Mountain Dew."

DAVID GRADY, COMPETITOR

from the documentary, 'Hands on a Hardbody,' Melvin said. The film documents a car dealership's contest, in which people compete for a truck by keeping their hand on the prize the longest. Senior Stephanie Wrenn, one of the final two, said she was determined to win the tickets because this is her last chance for riser seats to a UNC vs. Duke game. "I was really struggling a couple of hours ago, but I feel like I've got

a second wind," Wrenn said. "I'm feeling really good right now." Despite the fact that this is his first year at UNC, and that the competition has taken a long time, Phillip Barbee, one of the final four candidates, said he thought the tickets were worth the wait. "I figure looking back, what's a weekend for riser tickets?"

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

BOG ELECTIONS

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paigned, Cecil said. "You just go by and introduce yourself to all the members of the legislature." While incumbents have the benefit of experience working with legislators, their re-election is not a shoo-in, said Brad Wilson, chairman of the BOG. And incumbents, as well as new candidates, generally need to find a sponsor each time, said board member Bradley Adcock. Before any votes are cast, each chamber of the General Assembly must decide upon the exact operating procedures. The rules must be re-evaluated every two years. "Each house of the General Assembly sets its own rules," Wilson said.

The Senate will move forward today with the introduction of a bill proposing those guidelines. Wilson said that the rules do not vary extensively from year to year, but that the exact voting day changes. The standing legislation governing the elections requires that they be completed within 30 days of the creation of the education committees in the General Assembly, which is not on a consistent day each year. Until the rules are approved, the incumbents and candidates have time to prepare for their election and for the next four years.

"We have been privileged to serve, and I hope the Senate will give me the opportunity to serve one more time," Wilson said. "But that is certainly within their discretion."

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

HOUSING

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Robert Dowling, executive director of the Orange County Housing and Land Trust, who says the area must find a way to house an increasing number of low-income workers. "You don't want people driving in from places like Mebane because that causes pollution," he said. While the town's effort to require new developments to include affordable housing has created more options, working families still have to compete for a limited number of affordable-housing opportunities. Habitat accepted only 15 of 75 applications last year, turning away many qualified families, Levy said.

The lack of cheap, buildable land within town limits makes the task of providing affordable housing more difficult for both nonprofits like Habitat and developers. "Land is so expensive that a developer can't justify putting less-expensive houses on the lot," Caiola said. Levy said finding good, cheap lots in town is nearly impossible.

One lot Habitat did secure was a 17-acre site near Ginger Road, just south of Interstate 40, where they have proposed a 50-unit development called Sunrise Road. But the development has met resistance from nearby residents, who say the project's density will not fit with the existing environment.

This is because, unlike the Habitat project, which will include several multifamily buildings tightly clustered around an area of open space, neighboring subdivisions such as Chandler's Green are composed of exclusively single-family homes on spacious lots.

"I think about people who make \$8 an hour. How do you survive on \$8 an hour?"

TRUPHENIA KELLEY, UNC EMPLOYEE

"We are in an area where people are living on two to three acres of land, and someone is coming in and changing it and saying, 'Why don't you like that?'" said Doug Schworer, president of the Sunrise Coalition. The coalition, established in 2003 in response to the project, has petitioned for a development of about 20 to 25 single-family units.

Doug Bibby, president of the National Multi Housing Council, said that as a result of failed public housing projects like Chicago's Cabrini Green, which was plagued by drugs and concentrated poverty before it was demolished, many people harbor negative stereotypes about dense affordable housing.

"When they block those, the alternative is to push the development out, putting people farther away from jobs," Bibby said. "You have a choice. There are consequences for that that aren't always good for the greater community."

But for Kelley, sitting in her newly refurbished 1930s home, the future is hopeful. "The best part of this experience is that I can tell people, especially single parents, that if I can do this, you can, too."

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UNC

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compete individually and encourage each others' successes," Gage said. In October 2003 the University again outpaced higher education institutions by establishing the Carolina Covenant — which ensures a full ride for low-income students in exchange for 10 to 12 hours per week in a federal work-study program. Soon after, University of Virginia officials began a financial analysis of what it cost take them to establish such a program. Several other states' universities also contacted UNC-CH for a run-down on the program.

A public service

But there are places where UNC-CH isn't quite ready to venture. Though several public schools in Virginia are working with the Va. General Assembly to gain more

autonomy, UNC-CH officials say the University will not be leaving its mission behind any time soon.

Under legislation passed by the state's General Assembly this month, Virginia's public universities would have to meet 11 criteria set by the legislature to gain autonomy.

The legislature's stipulations include a commitment to providing equal access to affordable education as well as the development of six-year revenue projections.

Though schools within the UNC system have felt the strain of funding crunches in recent years, UNC-CH administrators have expressed a desire to remain a public university.

And keeping things affordable is key to providing a top-notch education to all North Carolinians. "I've never heard of anyone who didn't love it," Gage said.

Though UNC-CH has one of the nation's best basketball programs and is about to expand through its planned satellite campus Carolina

UNC-CH GROWTH

The University's undergraduate enrollment has increased 12.71% over the past 25 years.

Fall Semester	Undergraduate Enrollment	Percentage Growth
2000	15,608	1.13
2001	15,844	1.51
2002	15,961	0.74
2003	16,144	1.15
2004	16,525	2.36

SOURCE: UNC-CHAPEL HILL
DITHMARY JANE KATZ

North, it's the intangibles that often draw people to "Blue Heaven." "Carolina offers a lot of things that don't translate into U.S. News rankings," Calabria said. "That's difficult to explain, but it's profoundly true."

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CIGARETTES

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raised the tax out there," he said. "And I didn't notice any appreciable drop in the number of smokers we had coming in there."

He said his bar, as well as most others, already charges more than most gas stations for cigarettes, and he only expects a small price increase, if any.

"I can't imagine we would ever charge \$6 for a (pack) of cigarettes," he said. "That is obscene."

Kinnaird said her legislation is more about preventing the advent of new, young smokers and stopping collateral smoking damage than about any possible economic effects.

"We have to weigh the good and bad of any policy," she said. "Think

about the children who are suffering from secondary smoke."

Kinnaird also pointed out the huge amount of money that might be saved if this tax reduces smoking.

"One of the leading causes of Medicaid costs is tobacco-related illnesses," she said.

Even with the added hit to their wallets, many smokers say they won't be deterred from their vice of choice.

Cory Patton, 23, said the tax won't really affect his habits. "It doesn't really bother me one way or another," he said. "If you're addicted, you're gonna buy them no matter what."

Because of smoking's addictive nature, some see the tax as an unnecessary burden on an unfairly targeted portion of the commu-

nity. "There are people out there who do smoke, and I think there is a war going on against them," McFall said.

He said another concern is where the money from the tax will go.

"I just haven't got a straight answer from anybody proposing this, what it's going to be used for," he said.

Regardless of where the money goes or whom the tax affects, there can be no doubt that smokers are destined for extinction, said sophomore English major and smoker Jed Templin.

"Smokers ... we are a dying breed."

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