

STATE & NATION
Kinnaird introduces bill
for student vote on BOG

N.C. Sen. Ellie Kinnaird, D-Orange, filed Thursday a measure that would give students a vote on the UNC-system Board of Governors.

The student representative on the BOG serves in a nonvoting capacity, and previous attempts to change the rule have been scuttled by Sen. Tony Rand, D-Cumberland, chairman of the Senate Rules Committee.

"It goes through the House with a lot of support, and I have a lot of people in the Senate who have signed on and are willing to vote for it," Kinnaird said.

But it will still need Rand's approval to move forward, and Kinnaird said the job of persuading the rules chairman will be difficult.

"It will be the students," she said, "if he gets convinced by anybody."

Tobacco employees won't
join international union

Employees of R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. in Winston-Salem voted Friday against unionization.

The International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers had announced in February a bid to represent the workers of the nation's second largest tobacco company.

A statement released by the company reported preliminary results of 618 votes for union representation and 1,185 against, with about 50 challenged ballots.

Mason Alexander, a partner with Fisher & Phillips, a nationwide labor and employment law firm, said employees often decide not to unionize because of expensive dues for minimal benefits.

Ray Riffe, secretary and treasurer of the N.C. AFL-CIO, said that in general, "fear is the biggest factor" in employees' decisions not to unionize.

The National Labor Relations Board will certify the results this week.

CITY BRIEFS

Town Council to consider
last step in developer search

The Chapel Hill Town Council tonight will consider sending off its request for funding documents — one of the last steps in finding a developer for phase one of the redevelopment of parking lots 2 and 5.

Council members pared down the list of potential phase-one developers to five at its Feb. 28 meeting, based on scores from request for qualifications documents, which were due Jan. 31.

Phase one of the project will see the redevelopment of lot 5, across from University Square, into a mixed-use development and a three-level expansion to the Wallace deck on Rosemary Street.

The project also will include the re-development of lot 2, behind Spanky's restaurant, into a mixed-use facility; the construction of a transit transfer center beneath lot 2; and the construction of a parking garage on the site of the Rosemary Street RBC Centura bank.

Chatham leaders look to
approve mega-development

If the Chatham County Commissioners approve the minutes of their Feb. 15 meeting today, they will approve a development 1 1/2 times the size of Chapel Hill's Meadowmont.

Briar Chapel — a mixed-use community that will include a grocery store, school, shops and 2,389 new homes — has been caught in approval stages for three years.

But after many well-attended meetings and public hearings, the commissioners voted 4-1 on Feb. 15 to approve the development, to be located five miles from Chapel Hill.

Concerns about the development's potential impact on area traffic flow, especially on U.S. 15-501 South, were voiced before and after last month's vote.

In approving the minutes, the commissioners officially will give the go-ahead to the project.

The meeting begins at 9 a.m. in the Agricultural Building Auditorium in Pittsboro.

CAMPUS BRIEFS
CD player, musical discs
stolen from MacNider Hall

A CD player and five compact discs were reported stolen from MacNider Hall on Thursday.

According to police reports, the total value of the stolen items was \$195. The CD player was last seen Wednesday in the Tissue Procurement and Analysis Facility.

— From staff and wire reports.

Faculty mum on Western studies

Proposal received by silent audience

BY KATIE HOFFMANN
STAFF WRITER

A storm continues to brew between faculty and administrators over the proposal for a curriculum in Western studies and its funding from a conservative foundation.

Members of the Faculty Council received their first peek at the

recently revised proposal, which outlines the programs and the budget for the new curriculum funded by the John William Pope Foundation, during their meeting Friday.

The proposal has been a bone of contention with many faculty, who continue to say that they have been left out of the discussion process.

After explaining the proposal to the council Friday, Bernadette Gray-Little, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, solicited concerns.

But no one said a word.

Afterward, many faculty members declined to comment. Those who did said the new draft is an improvement but still excludes faculty opinion.

"I'm glad that (Gray-Little) shared the proposal with us, but there seemed to be substantial

changes from the draft the faculty committee originally passed," said Frank Dominguez, a Romance languages professor.

Sue Estroff, social medicine professor and former chairwoman of the Faculty Council, said many in the University community have misunderstood the conflict. Members of the faculty have expressed concerns about the exclusion of faculty members from the process, she said

— not about the content or political ideology of the curriculum.

"It's just symptomatic about something that has happened between the faculty and the administration in the past five or six years," Dominguez said. "The faculty has less resonance with the administration than it should have."

The new draft proposes a Studies

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"This is ... to honor our elders that came before us and all the Native Americans that have lost their lives fighting for us." **JOSHUA BARTON**, CO-HISTORIAN, CAROLINA INDIAN CIRCLE



Members participate in a dancing circle during the 18th Annual Spring Powwow, hosted by the Carolina Indian Circle on Saturday. The group is celebrating its 30th anniversary as a campus group, and the event drew an enthusiastic audience to the Great Hall.

POWWOW DRAWS FRENZIED CROWD

BY STACEY CARLESS
STAFF WRITER

Drummers beat their instruments steadily, dancers swirled in circles and singers' powerful voices echoed throughout the Great Hall.

The Carolina Indian Circle's 18th annual powwow was in full effect.

Dancers moved freely in the middle of a circle formed inside the hall. As they flailed their arms and hopped from foot to foot, their hand-crafted clothing, marked with colorful beads, flashy sequins and sparkling glitter, shadowed every move.

Many dancers wore headdresses constructed from delicate feathers, some of which reached from head to toe.

Girls and boys danced as if they were born on their feet, and the chimes and bells sewn into their clothing jingled as they moved.

They were all part of a diverse group of about 160 guests that gathered Saturday to watch Native American tribes from across the East Coast compete in a powwow — and celebrate their culture.

"This is a celebration to honor our elders

that came before us and all the Native Americans that have lost their lives fighting for us," said Joshua Barton, co-historian of the Carolina Indian Circle.

The event marked the end of a week highlighting the group's 30 years of existence at the University. The cultural week included activities such as discussion forums, a dream catcher workshop and a banquet.

"There are over 140 Native American students on campus," Barton said. "We want people to know we still exist."

This semester, UNC reports state, 151 undergraduate Native American students are enrolled on campus.

Thirty-nine graduate students and 32 professional students bring the total to 222 — more than any other UNC-system school except UNC-Pembroke, a historically Native American institution.

Outside the Student Union, vendors sold hand-woven baskets, headdresses, hand-crafted pottery and jewelry. Curious visitors stopped by the tables, which piqued their interest in experiencing the day's events.

"I'm enjoying the scenery — the diversity of their culture and what you see every day," said Clifton Granby, a junior at Wake Forest University who came to watch and to support a friend involved in the event.

"It's a completely different experience," Derek Oxendine, Carolina Indian Circle's outgoing president, said the week was about culture, pride and education.

"We want to educate others that are non-Indians on our culture, and we are hoping to dispel any stereotypes or myths about us," he said.

Many students took part in the organization's weeklong celebration, and members of the group said they hope to see students continue to support and learn about the Native American culture on campus.

"Diversity seems like one of the University's main goals," said Oxendine. "Students should be aware and go to other cultures' programs and activities."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

Officials lambast plans for storming

Petition foresees little N.C. success

BY GREG STEEN
STAFF WRITER

Administrators shut the door on voter registration in residence halls Friday during a meeting with Student Body President Matt Calabria.

Last fall, groups were barred from visiting students in residence hall rooms to register voters for local and national elections.

On Friday, administrators reaffirmed their stance, telling Calabria that dorm-storming for that purpose won't come to fruition on their watch.

Calabria — who submitted a petition signed by 40 student leaders — touted the advantages of allowing students to hit the residence halls.

"This is going to happen to a certain degree no matter what University policy is," he said. "By making it legal, we can get students to follow guidelines."

But he did not have a plan to clear the legal obstacles at the center of administrators' concerns: the constitutional concerns in distinguishing between political groups and other campus organizations.

"Legally, we can regulate time and place but not content of speech," said Leslie Strohm, general counsel for the University. "If you open it up for public elections, you open the door for all student groups."

Calabria said that students would abide by necessary security measures. Specifically, he said, they would follow regulations that also are enforced during student body elections, such as wearing identification tags, checking in and adhering to time limits.

But administrators still wouldn't budge.

Sen. Ellie Kinnaird, D-Orange, attended the meeting to show support for the petition and to highlight the importance of student involvement in politics.

"This is a fundamental right, and

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Student Body President Matt Calabria sees little success for dorm-storming.

Leaders discuss feasibility of goals

BY MICHAEL TODD
STAFF WRITER

Chapel Hill leaders fed a long list of ideas to Orange County's legislators Friday morning at their annual breakfast.

Lawmakers from the N.C. General Assembly meet with local leaders each year to discuss how likely it is that local initiatives will get passed at the state level.

For starters, both sides revisited an almost perennial proposal — the \$1 luxury "fee" idea that council members have proposed at various times for more than 20 years.

The town would levy the per-ticket charge at high-profile sporting events, such as UNC men's basketball games, on tickets exceeding \$30 in value. Revenues would go to public transit and safety.

The University has consistently opposed the fee since it was first proposed.

But area leaders said they think current budget strains, paired with the increasing demand on public transit, could justify the added cost on each ticket.

"(There was a) 5.3 million ridership this year. I'm not seeing that slow down," said Mayor Kevin Foy.

"Something must be done to lessen the burden of transit costs."

Chapel Hill's property taxes could go up about 10 cents under current spending schemes — a fact that's prompted local leaders to look for other ways to raise revenue.

Sen. Ellie Kinnaird, D-Orange, said passing the fee might be possible this year because it has local support and because the state's own budget deficit could force legislators to consider various funding alternatives.

The University is delaying an official response on the plan until the council issues a formal legislative agenda — which is scheduled to do tonight.

Jonathan Howes, special assistant to the chancellor and former mayor of Chapel Hill, said Friday afternoon that the University's position likely won't change.

But Town Manager Cal Horton said the tax would lessen University transit costs, freeing up money for other programs.

"Funding the transit system is a major concern for the University. It's a very delicate equation," Howes said.

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White House chef works his magic

BY KATHY CHO
STAFF WRITER

The scent of vanilla lingered in the air as former presidential pastry chef Roland Mesnier crafted an apricot sunburst, Bill Clinton's favorite, for his "Presidential Desserts" class at A Southern Season on Saturday.

A creamy soufflé fleshed out with puréed apricots formed the dessert's body.

Dressed in a tart fruit salad and an "angel hair" wig spun of melted sugar strands, it was exactly what Clinton was looking for — a delectable dessert that would slip past his chocolate and dairy allergies.

The jolly, energetic Mesnier worked his sold-out audience of 46 as deftly as he would a ball of dough, with liberal sprinklings of humor.

When asked about the most romantic dessert, Mesnier answered in his typically thick French accent, "I usually make it wearing an apron only! That's where it starts."

The audience screamed in reply.

Mesnier also served up 25 years' worth of White House anecdotes.

"When you want the job, know



Former presidential pastry chef Roland Mesnier teaches his class at A Southern Season on Saturday. He worked at the White House for 25 years.

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