

**CITY BRIEFS**

**Kaela and Rajah selected as names for tiger cubs**

The Carnivore Preservation Trust's newest male and female tigers were given names Tuesday after more than 4,000 votes were submitted last week.

Kaela and Rajah were chosen with 49 percent and 42 percent of their respective votes. Almost 300 suggestions for names initially were submitted. The trust whittled down both lists to five for last week's voting.

The about 7-month-old cubs — found wandering a road between Cleveland and Gaston counties in January — are expected to arrive at the trust, located in Pittsboro, in late March.

The trust continues to raise funds for the \$70,000 goal set for the cubs' rescue. Completion of the cubs' new habitat can be sponsored for a one-time gift of \$3,000 or named for five years for \$5,000. Donations may be sent to: Save the Tigers c/o CPT, 1940 Hanks Chapel Road, Pittsboro, NC 27312 or made online at <http://www.cptigers.org>.

**Middle school chess team wins state championship**

The chess team at Phillips Middle School won the state championship held in Charlotte last weekend. It is the fourth championship in five years for the team.

**Local robotics team qualifies for national competition**

The Orange County Robotics Team 587 competed in a regional robotics competition held in Richmond, Va., last weekend, placing 23rd of 62 teams.

NASA Langley, Virginia Commonwealth University's School of Engineering, has hosted the competition for six years.

The county team's OCCAM 5 played both defense and offense, leading the way in several matches when the other robots were unable to score.

The team moves on to compete in the national competition in Atlanta in April. Photos of the competition can be viewed at <http://www.virginiafirst.org/photos.html>.

**CAMPUS BRIEFS**

**Students toss extinguishers from South campus balcony**

Two fire extinguishers were thrown from a balcony in Morrison Residence Hall at 7:50 a.m. Saturday, according to University police reports.

Reports state that a resident assistant called the police after hearing the first fire extinguisher land on the basketball court.

According to reports, the RA saw Russel Cope, a resident of Morrison, throwing the second fire extinguisher as Fergus Harrington, a resident of Craige Residence Hall, took pictures. Police estimated the total damages at \$95.

**Bonfire damages car at Fraternity Court on Sunday**

A student reported Sunday that his vehicle was damaged by a bonfire after the UNC-Duke men's basketball game, according to University police reports.

Reports state that the rear portion of the car, which was parked at Fraternity Court, appeared to be warped by heat, and the paint on the car also had bubbled. Police estimate damages to the vehicle at \$1,000.

**STATE & NATION**

**N.J. lawmakers aim to name tomato as state vegetable**

TRENTON, N.J. — The humble tomato might technically be a fruit, but lawmakers here consider it a vegetable.

Members of the Assembly Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee on Monday approved a measure designating the Jersey tomato as the official state vegetable. A similar proposal is pending in a Senate committee.

Sponsors of the measure get around the fact that the tomato is considered a fruit by using a century-old U.S. Supreme Court ruling that slapped a vegetable tariff on tomatoes, similar to the tax placed on cucumbers, squashes and beans.

In squeezing tomatoes into the vegetable category, justices on the 1887 high court reasoned that if it's typically served with dinner, and not as a dessert, it must be a vegetable.

The Jersey tomato's ride through the legislature began after a group of fourth-graders wrote letters urging lawmakers to adopt a state fruit. The beloved blueberry won out, and it — not the tomato — took its place last year as the official state fruit.

There currently is no official state vegetable in the Garden State.

— From staff and wire reports.

# YD aims to bring Begala to campus

BY GREG STEEN  
STAFF WRITER

UNC Young Democrats hopes to garner attention by bringing Paul Begala, formerly of CNN's Crossfire, to campus.

The group wants Begala to speak on April 18 but is struggling to come up with enough money to pay his fee.

At last night's finance committee meeting, Anisa Mohanty, treasurer of YD, requested \$10,529 for the event from Student Congress but was advised that the group likely

will receive less money. Mohanty said the group has three weeks to secure Begala's \$5,000 booking fee — his speaking fee is \$10,000 and airfare will cost \$529.

"I think it is feasible for us to eventually fund the full \$5,000, but I do not feel comfortable doing that now," said Daneen Furr, chairwoman of the finance committee. She told Mohanty that the committee would recommend \$2,000 to \$3,000 for now.

The amount the group receives will not be final until full congress



Former "Crossfire" host Paul Begala might speak at UNC in April if enough funding is secured.

meets next Tuesday.

The Young Democrats expect to garner funding from local democratic groups and candidates that they have worked for in the past, but they encountered problems

requesting money from other University-related sources.

"The problem is, since it is YD, they will not fund something that is partisan," Mohanty explained to the committee.

Erskine Bowles, John Edwards, John Kerry and Patsy Keever are among the donors the group is currently courting.

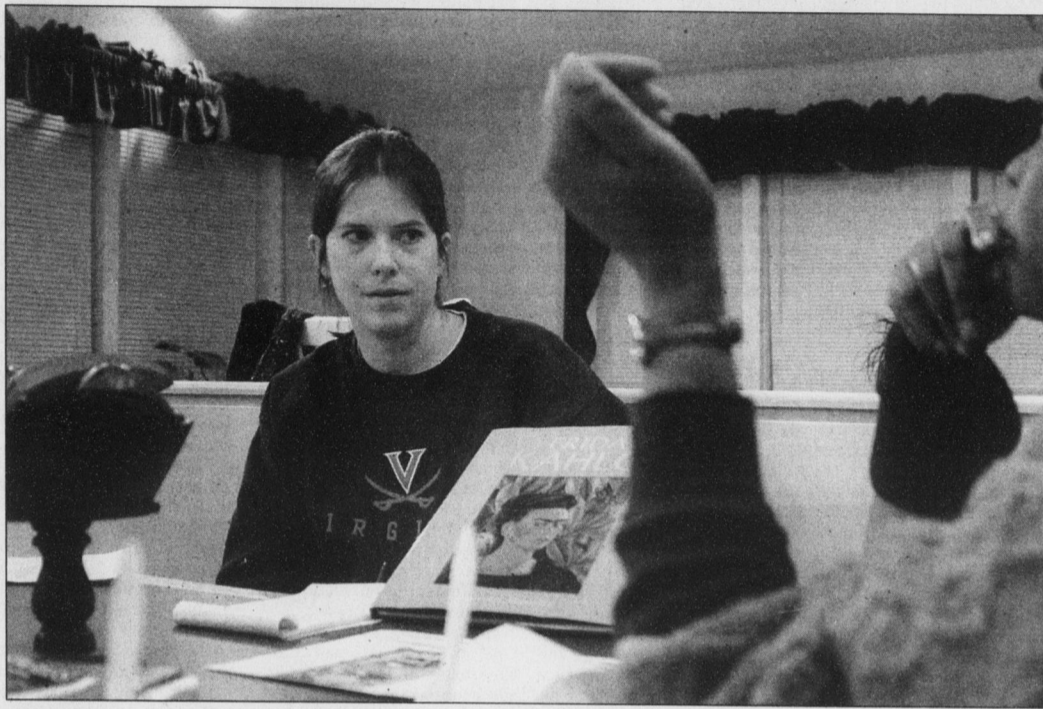
Begala first gained notoriety when his consulting firm helped Bill Clinton with his 1992 presidential campaign. He also served as counselor to Clinton during

his administration. He authored the best-selling book "Is Our Children Learning?: The Case Against George W. Bush" and he co-authored the best-seller "Buck Up, Suck Up and Come Back When You Foul Up" with James Carville.

Begala garnered most of his name-recognition while serving as co-host of CNN's Crossfire. He currently works as a research professor at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.

SEE BEGALA, PAGE 5

*"If lives are going to be repaired and reshaped, these things have to be in place."* CHRIS MORAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, INTER-FAITH COUNCIL



Jocelyn Dawson, a volunteer from the Orange County Literacy Council, shows the art of Frida Kahlo to a client at the Homestart Shelter of the Inter-Faith Council on Tuesday night. Dawson and another volunteer asked participants to write their responses to Kahlo's art.

## HILLSBOROUGH TO EYE SHELTERS

BY CATHERINE SHAROKY  
STAFF WRITER

The town of Hillsborough soon might be adding another weapon to its arsenal in ending area homelessness, as the planning board revisits tonight the possibility of allowing homeless shelters in the town.

The meeting at 7 p.m. in the Hillsborough Town Barn will provide board members with information to use in making a decision on a proposed amendment to town zoning rules, which allow for the building of halfway houses but not homeless shelters.

Board members requested a special meeting to learn more about homeless shelters and to look at the feasibility of operating a shelter before proposing the amendment to the Hillsborough Town Board.

"They are all still trying to really understand the day-to-day operations of the shelter," said Margaret Hauth, town planning director. "It's all a very new topic for them."

Board members' concerns include whether shelters would go in residential or commercial areas and legal issues such as liability, Hauth said.

Chris Moran, executive director of the Inter-Faith Council, which operates the

community shelter in Chapel Hill, will attend tonight's meeting to answer questions and offer guidance on how to set up a successful homeless shelter program.

"He can tell us the horror stories and the great stories of the good and bad things that come from operating shelters," Hauth said.

Moran said he will share his knowledge of how facilities should be staffed and operated, how local volunteers can be used and how congregations can become involved in the shelters.

"If lives are going to be repaired and reshaped, these things have to be in place," he said. "Otherwise, we're setting up people for failure."

Hillsborough already took a step toward ending area homelessness when the Town Board decided Feb. 14 to join other local municipalities in supporting the county's Partnership to End Homelessness.

The planning committee for the partnership has been working for about a year, gaining support from local governments and nonprofit organizations in the fight to end homelessness, said Emily Dickens, partnership chairwoman and Chapel Hill mayoral

aide. The last additions to the partnership — Hillsborough and the town of Carrboro, which joined March 1 — join the town of Chapel Hill, Orange County, the IFC, the Orange Congregation in Mission and the Community Initiative, formerly the Continuum of Care.

With the roster of representatives complete, the group, which will meet Friday, can focus on addressing the county's homelessness and finding ways to end it.

"This is a serious problem," said Tara Fikes, partnership member and county housing and community development director. "It's not just something that we're giving lip service to."

Dickens said the next major step for the partnership will be a presentation in May to the local governments of a plan to develop a local 10-year plan to end homelessness.

Hillsborough's planning board anticipates having a text amendment dealing with homeless shelters ready by the Town Board's April 26 public hearing.

Contact the City Editor at [citydesk@unc.edu](mailto:citydesk@unc.edu).

## Board takes aim at traffic worries

BY MEGHAN DAVIS  
STAFF WRITER

The Carrboro Board of Aldermen is trying to prevent multiple projects around the downtown Chapel Hill-Carrboro border from congesting the area's traffic flow.

At a work session Tuesday, the aldermen discussed issues surrounding several proposed development projects near Brewer Lane, none of which have received land-use permits from the town.

"(The discussion) raises a lot of possibilities of how we should be more proactive about this area and the potential there," said Mayor Pro Tem Diana McDuffee.

Among the suggestions was rezoning the site of a proposed 164-unit apartment complex on Merritt Mill Road, now a residential zone, into a business area to reduce the volume of permitted development.

"I'm far from convinced that a purely residential development on this site is what's best for Carrboro and best for downtown," Alderman Mark Chilton said.

If the area were rezoned for business, developers would have to

match residential space with parking space, which would reduce the town's worries about having too many residences too close together, said town Development Review Administrator Marty Roupe.

On top of the apartment complex and the possible changes to the 300 E. Main St. shopping center, another residential project is proposed for the area, but details haven't been fleshed out. The aldermen considered how each proposal would affect the area and each other.

"I think there probably is some room for discussion with property owners about how to make these streets work," Chilton said. "We need to identify specific road connections that need to be made in future."

As proposed, the Merritt Mill apartments would be accessible mainly through an entrance on Guthrie Avenue, a private driveway for the Ready Mix concrete plant.

Chilton offered several computer-drawn diagrams of ways to make the complex accessible, including making the avenue a public road.

SEE BREWER, PAGE 5

## Credit card proposal falters

BY KRISTIN PRATT  
STAFF WRITER

A proposed amendment to bankruptcy legislation in the U.S. Senate would have placed increased restrictions on credit cards for people under 21.

The measure, proposed by Sen. Chris Dodd, D-Conn., failed to win support Tuesday but likely will resurface during this session.

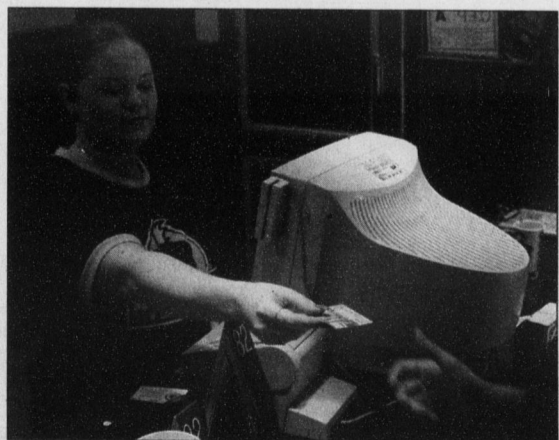
The amendment stipulated that people younger than 21 only could get a credit card with the signature of a parent or guardian, a signed statement showing that the individual can cover any debts incurred and proof that the individual has passed a credit counseling course.

Dodd made similar proposals in 1999 and 2002 in an effort to help decrease the number of people filing for bankruptcy.

The senator plans to continue pushing for the regulation, said Sean Oblack, an official for Dodd.

During Senate debate Friday about the Bankruptcy Act, Dodd said the number of bankruptcies filed by people under the age of 25 is more than six times as high as it was in 2000.

"Debt among this group has gone from around \$1,800 a year to



Meredith (left), an employee at Buffalo Wild Wings, returns a credit card to a customer. A U.S. motion to restrict card access saw little support Tuesday.

over \$3,000 a year," he said.

"I am not opposed to people under the age of 21 having credit cards," Dodd said on the Senate floor.

"Credit cards are a great asset to a lot of people. I am not opposed to them, but they must be issued and used responsibly."

The key problem with credit card use and young adults is the

lack of financial literacy and education about credit, said Peter Burns, vice president and director of the Payment Cards Center at the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia.

"If you're smart enough to take microbiology, you should be smart enough to handle credit,"

SEE CREDIT, PAGE 5

## 2 show up for name change

### MLK Street sees little controversy

BY ADAM W. RHEW  
STAFF WRITER

After an area road renaming sparked controversy last year, local leaders are making every effort to hear the voices of affected residents before undertaking another name change.

Members of the Chapel Hill Town Council's naming committee held the first of two meetings Tuesday with residents who live along Martin Luther King Jr. Street — the subject of this year's renaming conversation.

The council's unanimous decision in December to change the name of Airport Road to Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard meant that the street name also would have to be changed to prevent confusion for emergency personnel.

And while conversations about the Airport Road renaming drew crowds in the hundreds, only two residents showed up Tuesday to meet with the committee.

"The people in the neighborhood are going to come if they want to," said Janie Riggsbee, who has lived on the street for 24 years.

"I just wanted to be here, so I'm here," she said.

Despite the low attendance, committee members went forward with the renaming talks. And it was the name — not the process — that received the most attention.

Mayor Pro Tem Edith Wiggins said the committee would prefer to name the street after someone who is deceased.

"Extraordinary circumstances would have to exist for (a living) person's name to be used," she said.

Riggsbee suggested Jackie Robinson or Garrett Morgan, who invented the traffic signal, as two options for the new name.

But perhaps the most thought-provoking suggestion came from the youngest person in the room.

Several committee members nodded after 12-year-old Devante Riggsbee suggested civil rights champion Rosa Parks as an option for his street's new name.

SEE RENAMING, PAGE 5