

The Daily Tar Heel

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University celebrates research

FIRST ANNUAL RESEARCH DAY SHOWCASES STUDENT EFFORTS



DTH/CARTER MURPHY

Visitors at the first Research Symposium and Banquet look at display boards at the George Watts Hill Alumni Center on Thursday.

BY SHARI FELD
STAFF WRITER

The George Watts Hill Alumni Center transformed into a maze of possibilities Thursday afternoon as members of the University community showcased their discoveries.

As part of UNC's first University Research Day, 42 participants displayed their research on subjects as various as cellular development and the critical role reputation plays in political careers.

"It enriches the environment at the University," said graduate student Michelle Smith as she stood confidently beside a poster displaying her

findings on cell development.

Participants presented research objectives and findings to judges. Seven top scorers earned awards with monetary honorariums.

The Graduate and Professional Student Federation and the Order of the Grail-Valkyries sponsored the event, which pooled researchers from many departments and disciplines.

"We wanted people to feel like they are appreciated, and we wanted to use the day to celebrate all the research people have done," GPSF President Jen Bushman said.

Despite efforts to involve the entire campus community, the room was

filled with graduate students representing the University's physical sciences departments — an aspect of this year's event that Bushman said she hopes will change. Diversity is a key goal for next year.

"This is a growing, changing beast," Bushman said. "We are looking forward to making the changes to make this useful to as many students from as many disciplines as we can."

Given the time constraints for the event, Bushman said, it was most logical to stick with poster presentations this year — a situation that caters more toward natural science researchers.

Erin Taylor, a seventh-year gradu-

ate student studying political science, felt the brunt of this decision.

"It's a little intimidating because I feel like some of the expectations are geared toward natural sciences," Taylor said.

She also said the poster presentations probably discouraged other students in the social sciences from participating.

Student Body President Matt Calabria made a brief appearance at the event. "The fact that there are undergraduates showcased here shows the strength of undergraduate

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Court shares reason for act

Rejected CAA case because of timeline

BY RACHEL BROCK
STAFF WRITER

Another chapter has officially ended in the controversy that has plagued the Carolina Athletic Association this year.

The Student Supreme Court released its rationale Thursday for dismissing a case brought against CAA regarding the number of basketball tickets reserved for the association.

The court dismissed the case on grounds that the complaint was filed too late.



CAA President Lindsay Strunk said she thinks CAA has gotten a bad rap.

"If you can't hear a case, you can't hear a case," Presiding Chief Justice Drew Erteschik said. "Statutes of limitation are the end of our authority."

Student Congress Member Domenick Grasso filed the case against CAA with student government's highest judicial power Feb. 17.

He contended that CAA violated the Student Code by retaining 138 men's basketball tickets for its members instead of the 40 stipulated in the Code.

"I would rather the Code be extremely clear, and it seems that the CAA got off on a loophole," Grasso said.

The court unanimously dismissed the case at a pretrial hearing March 10 but did not release its rationale until Thursday. The court had until today to release its rationale.

The opinion of the court states that the case was dismissed on the grounds that Grasso violated the statute of limitations requiring a complaint to be filed within 96 hours of the violation. He filed the case 12 days after the final ticket distribution of the season.

The court didn't provide guidance regarding the ticket distribution policy, stating that congressional legislation likely will solve problems with CAA's internal ticket allocation without future intervention by the Court.

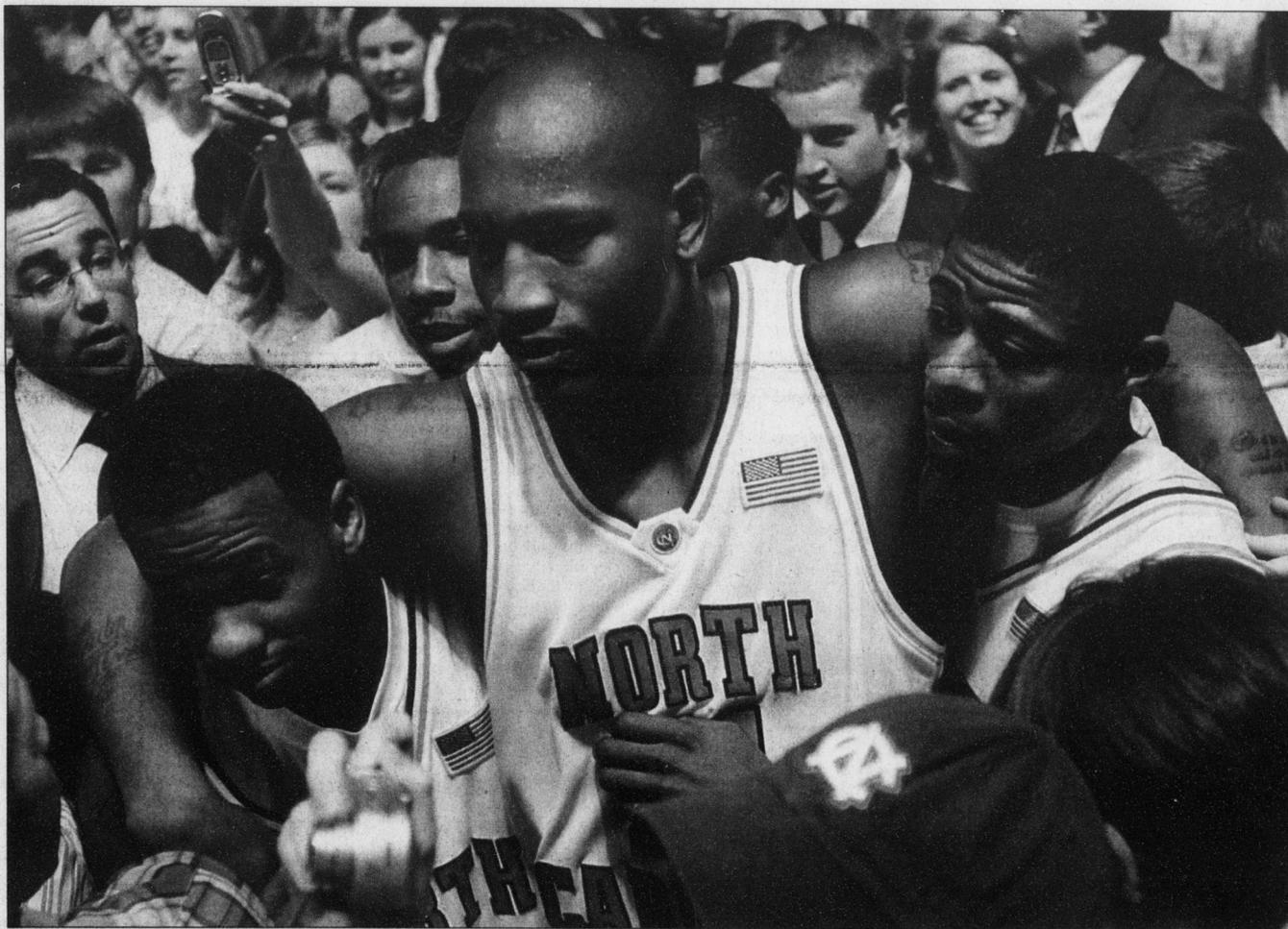
Erteschik said elected members of Congress are much better equipped to make a decision about the fairness of CAA's policies than are the four appointed Supreme Court justices.

Grasso intends to take up tickets again next year and will recommend that the Athletic Department take the reigns from CAA for distributions.

"Our process is really outdated," he said. "Nobody really likes to break the status quo. (Congress representatives) don't realize it is their job to do things that are in the best interest of

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SENIORS: FROM DISASTER TO TRIUMPH



DTH FILE PHOTO/LAURA MORTON

North Carolina seniors (from left to right) Melvin Scott, Jawad Williams and Jackie Manuel played through the worst season in UNC history and now have earned a trip to the Final Four.

BY DANIEL BLANK
SENIOR WRITER

Somehow, "8 and 19" just doesn't seem quite as bad.

There's something about "8 and 20" that sounds perfectly miserable — especially because that 20th loss was the ultimate insult in a season in which the North Carolina basketball program sank to its lowest point in history.

The Tar Heels were set to face third-ranked Duke — a team that had blasted UNC by a combined 54 points in two meetings that year — in the ACC Tournament's opening round.

Coach Matt Doherty had to figure out a way to overcome his team's significant disadvantage in athleticism and extend the season, if just for one more game.

The best game plan Doherty could come up with was a nod to his former coach, as he instructed his team to drain the shot clock on every possession.

It was a strategy reminiscent of Dean

SEE 8-20, PAGE 4

Fans go all out to follow their team

BY VIRGINIA WOOTEN
STAFF WRITER

Junior John Gardner will be making the approximately 800-mile trip to St. Louis this weekend in a rented recreational vehicle filled with food, beer and four friends.

Passionate UNC fans such as Gardner will use any available mode of transportation to get to the Edward Jones Dome to watch their beloved basketball team fight for the champi-

onship in the Final Four.

Gardner opted for the RV because it is inexpensive and he won't have to spend money on a hotel.

"We're going to sleep in the Winn-Dixie parking lot or Wal-Mart or something crazy," he said. "The RV has four beds, TVs, a fridge and a shower."

About 500 students were lucky enough to obtain tickets from the Carolina Athletic Association lottery earlier this week, a process highly cri-

tiqued as underpublicized.

Many students were warned ahead of time about the distribution procedures from alumni relatives and friends who were familiar with the process.

"We had a friend who had gone to the Final Four in the past who told us to keep checking the CAA Web site," said senior business and anthropology major Jonathan Ward.

SEE ST. LOUIS, PAGE 4

Local attempts to 'raise heel,' spirits

BY SPENCER GIPPLE
STAFF WRITER

For the last two years, a light-blue hearse decked with Tar Heel paraphernalia has stood out in the stream of cars rolling around Chapel Hill for UNC sporting events.

Piloted by John Snipes, a 45-year-old Hillsborough resident who freely admits his obsession with the Tar Heels, the "Heelraiser" set out for the

Final Four in St. Louis on Thursday.

"I'm just a big kid," he said. "It's all for fun, and I'm not looking to promote myself."

Snipes said that two years ago at a football game against Clemson, he saw a similar-looking hearse called the "Paw Bearer," which inspired "Heelraiser."

He purchased his hearse for \$1,000 soon after the game and has since spent more than \$13,000 on what he

calls "the big beast."

Snipes admitted that some people might not appreciate his sense of humor but said the hearse is not intended to be disrespectful.

"I was afraid some people would say, 'Oooh, that's a hearse. ... That's irreverent,'" he said. "Well, that's my personality. I love to be irreverent."

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ONLINE

Check for the DTH's coverage of Saturday's game
Hillsborough talks annexation, legislative requests
Find these and more stories at www.dthonline.com.

INSIDE

ON THE BOOKS
Wilson Library charts the University's history through the pages of campus publications **PAGE 7**

WEATHER

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