

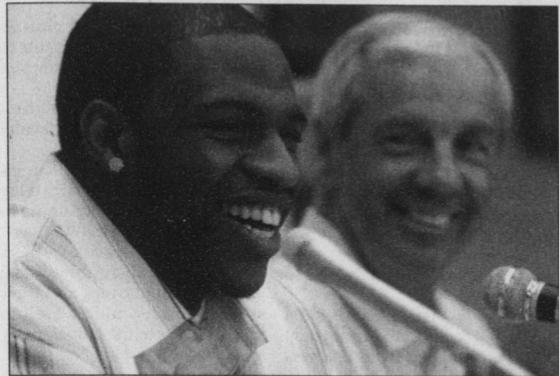
# The Daily Tar Heel

VOLUME 113, ISSUE 31

THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 2005

www.dthonline.com

## No surprise: McCants to leave for NBA



Basketball player Rashad McCants (left) smiles with Coach Roy Williams on Wednesday at a press conference to announce McCants' NBA eligibility. DTH/LAURA MORTON

BY DANIEL MALLOY SPORTS EDITOR

**M**ystery and intrigue characterized much of Rashad McCants' career at North Carolina.

But when he sat down at the press conference podium at the Smith Center on Wednesday, there was little mystery about the announcement he was going to make.

"I'm going to give up my college eligibility and enter the NBA Draft," said McCants, who was flanked by his parents, James McCants and Brenda Muckelvene, as well as Coach Roy Williams.

Fellow juniors Sean May and Raymond Felton and freshman Marvin Williams have

not yet said when they'll announce their decisions on whether to return to UNC for the 2005-06 season.

McCants said that he decided this year would be his last after he committed to stay for his junior season and that he had discussed the NBA with Roy Williams as early as January.

Several reports in the 10 days after North Carolina's national championship pegged McCants to make the jump to the NBA, so Wednesday's news came as no surprise.

But for most of McCants' career, surprises were commonplace.

Though touted as one of the top 10 high school stars in the country, he shocked even the most optimistic Tar Heel fans with 28 points in his first game in powder blue.

McCants wowed crowds with his explosive game, but his temperament became a powder keg as well. The brash freshman vocally expressed his frustration and discontent with

then-coach Matt Doherty after the season and was seen as one of the main influences behind Doherty's forced resignation in April 2003.

"If I wasn't a good player, if I didn't have such a split personality, I wouldn't get as much attention," McCants said.

During his sophomore season, McCants' lackadaisical effort on the defensive end drew the ire of Williams, who, after a loss at Kentucky, had a closed-door chat with McCants that seemed to spur him to new heights.

McCants then went on a tear in league play, finishing the season with an ACC-high 20.0 points per game and third team All-America honors.

But just when it seemed that McCants was ready to break through his struggles, he was cut from the U.S. 20-and-under team last summer. Many said McCants was the best player at the

SEE MCCANTS, PAGE 4

## Workers: UNC can do more

Public poverty efforts ignore campus, they say

BY KATIE HOFFMANN STAFF WRITER

In 2003, UNC's summer reading selection of a book on low-wage workers in America sparked debate about UNC's own underpaid employees.

Two years after students discussed "Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting by in America," the University created the Center on Poverty, Work and Opportunity to find innovative ways to bump impoverished Americans into the middle class.

Despite these very public efforts on UNC's part to raise consciousness of poverty, workers still say the University overlooks many of its employees who fall beneath the national poverty level.

"If we're going to study something, we need to start with studying people right here on campus," said Tommy Griffin, chairman of the Employee Forum. "It's a good place to start."

The federal poverty level for a family of four is \$19,350, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. That number is calculated each year by multiplying the cost of food by the number family members and adjusting for inflation.

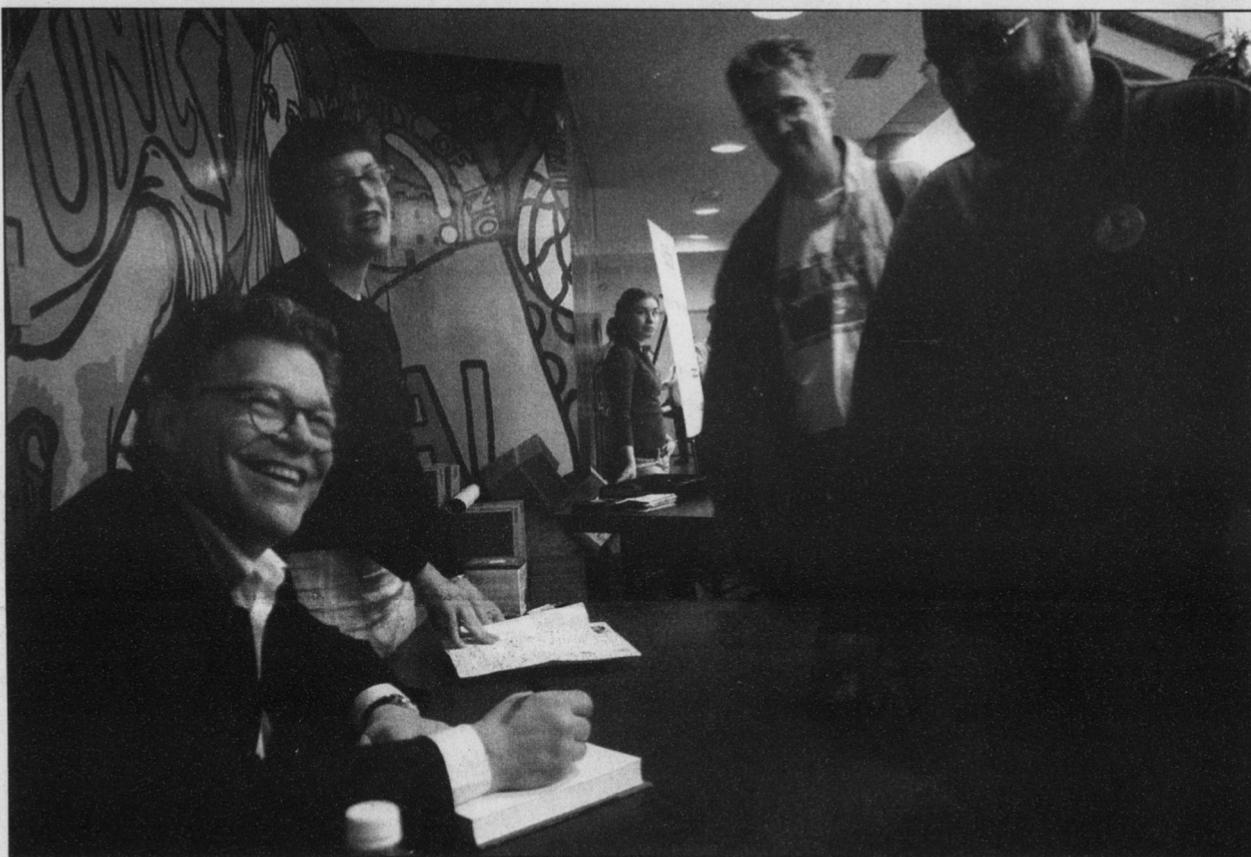
UNC employs 89 workers earning salaries below \$20,000, said Laurie Charest, associate vice chancellor for human resources. Though employment totals fluctuate, UNC records from last fall indicate that 6,326 workers — or about 58 percent of UNC's workforce — are state employees.

If this number still stands, about 1.4 percent of UNC's employees hover near the poverty line.

"It's time for the state of North Carolina to step up and start paying above-poverty wages," Griffin said. "People are having to struggle a terrible amount. We have employees working for poverty wages and working two jobs just to survive."

A variety of state employees, including housekeepers and grounds keepers, fit into pay grades that can fall below the poverty level for a family of

SEE WORKERS, PAGE 4



Liberal commentator Al Franken signs book copies outside the Student Union auditorium after hosting his radio show there Wednesday afternoon. Franken, who's also known for his work on the TV show "Saturday Night Live," spent three hours live on the air with regular guests and politicians from Chapel Hill and Carrboro. DTH/DAN BLUM

## FRANKEN'S BROADCAST STAYS LEFT OF THE DIAL

BY KRISTEN WILLIAMS SENIOR WRITER

He's good enough, he's smart enough, and doggone it, people like him.

Al Franken, famous for his Stuart Smalley character on "Saturday Night Live," attracted an audience of about 300 Wednesday afternoon as he broadcast his liberal political radio show live from the Student Union auditorium for three hours.

He also had some help from his friends. Chapel Hill Town Council member Mark Kleinschmidt and Carrboro Mayor Mike

Nelson were among the guests who joined the author and commentator for talks on subjects ranging from North Carolina's death penalty to reviled conservative icon Rush Limbaugh.

But first, Franken had to mention UNC's recent sports successes.

"Can't be here without mentioning the Tar Heels and the championship and mention how badly Duke sucks," he said. "What an enormous dick Coach K is. I know how to pander, don't I?"

Franken visited Memphis earlier this week and will broadcast next from Charleston, S.C.

"We decided to do a little Southern tour. I like this area of the country, Chapel Hill specifically. We are in some blue counties in some red states," he said.

While UNC was just one stop on Franken's tour, his road there was a long one.

Franken started his career as a performer, writing and acting with The Comedy Store in Los Angeles after graduating from Harvard University in 1973.

He soon was approached to write for

SEE FRANKEN, PAGE 4

*"I like this area of the country, Chapel Hill specifically. We are in some blue counties in some red states."*

AL FRANKEN, RADIO PERSONALITY

## Town-gown talks are key

University growth disrupts balances

BY DAN SCHWIND SENIOR WRITER

Carolina North, special zoning districts, chiller plants and parking decks. In the last two years, the list of conflicts between UNC and Chapel Hill officials appears to have grown at an exponential rate.

The two entities, which once enjoyed a friendly, close-knit relationship, now share a tense, and what some would call a combative, association.

But while universities sometimes have shaky interactions with the towns they call home, other towns have forged much stronger relationships.

Rick Cotton, city administrator for Clemson, S.C., said his city has developed a close relationship with Clemson University.

"We have a very cordial, very open relationship," he said. "It's probably as good a relationship as you'll find anywhere."

Cotton said he believes the town and university are able to work closely because of good communication between the city mayor and university president.

"They have a good personal relationship that goes beyond business," Cotton said. "That makes a huge difference. It's in both of our best interests to get along."

He said the camaraderie between both leaders also has helped to create a dialogue

SEE COMBAT, PAGE 4

### ON THE TOWN

A look into college-town politics

TODAY Combat between the town and the University

FRIDAY How the town and gown interact with development

## Columnist echoes students' cries

BY INDIA AUTRY STAFF WRITER

Last week, a mock refugee camp stood near Polk Place, drawing attention to the deaths of thousands in Sudan.

Today, in what some hope will be the state's largest demonstration against genocide in Darfur, about 100 students will stand in the middle of campus, holding photos of the casualties in a battle over land and resources.

Wednesday night, Nicholas Kristof brought those images into focus.

The long-time New York Times columnist and arguably the biggest media voice opposing genocide shared his experiences in Darfur through the words of others.

He told the story of a woman who had her baby son torn from her arms. She saw his throat slashed in front of her.

SEE KRISTOF, PAGE 4



New York Times columnist Nicholas Kristof speaks in a packed Carroll Hall auditorium Wednesday. Kristof's speech on genocide dovetailed with campus awareness efforts. DTH/GILLIAN BOLSOVER

**dive ONLINE**

■ 'Sahara' heats up in places but ultimately fizzles  
 ■ Trail of Dead more like Trail of Deathly Boring  
 For these stories and more, visit [www.dthonline.com](http://www.dthonline.com).



### INSIDE

**SHIVER ME TIMBERS**  
 Controversial, polarizing 'Pirate Captain' wins post of N.C. State's student body president **PAGE 3**

### WEATHER

**TODAY** A.M. showers, H 61, L 41  
**FRIDAY** Sunny, H 59, L 36  
**SATURDAY** Mostly sunny, H 61, L 38

