

# Officials warn users of new e-mail virus

Say avoid downloading attachments

BY MARIE CROWDER  
STAFF WRITER

As if University students don't have enough e-mails lingering in their mailboxes, a recent virus is adding more messages to sift.

The e-mails, which reach students through their subscribed listservs, have subject headings warning that there is an "online user violation" or that the e-mail account will be closed. Once opened, the e-mails contain no message.

"They're cluttering my mailbox," said Lucy Witt, a sophomore biology major. "I've got one from every single listserv I'm on. I'm confused as to why they haven't notified students."

Kevin Lyles, a sophomore business major, agreed.

"I think they're annoying, and I would like to know the root of the problem," he said.

According to Chris Columb, director of messaging for Information Technology Services, the e-mails are a result of a family of global viruses known as Mytob.

"It's one of a series of viruses going around," he said. "We have to go after every single one of them because we don't which will be the next to do some major damage."

The Mytob virus spreads by sending e-mails with infected attachments.

"The big thing with these e-mails is not to click on the attachment," Columb warned.

Thanks to ITS filters, e-mails that students receive through University e-mail should contain no attachments.

These filters screen campus e-mails before they reach students and usually remove all viral e-mails before students even see them.

Sometimes, however, the filters only remove the damaging parts of the e-mails while the rest of the message reaches students.

Such is the case with the recent slew of mail clogging student inboxes.

If students do receive suspicious e-mails containing attachments, they should contact ITS immediately by calling 962-HELP.

Another way to find out about recent problems or updates facing ITS is to visit its Web site, <http://itschanges.unc.edu>.

Meanwhile, ITS officials continue to work to prevent future problems.

"We work closely with several vendors to make sure that all networks have the most current virus protection to keep everything updated," said Megan Bell, assistant vice chancellor for ITS communications.

In managing approximately 45,000 e-mail accounts, Columb also is updating virus filters constantly to adjust to new viruses threatening the system.

With all the precautions taken by ITS, it is still important to be wary of suspicious e-mails.

"Students should know that we do not send out any kind of vague e-mails," Columb said. "We don't send out updates to software. We don't send out magic things to clean your mailbox of spam."

For students who want to learn more about protecting their computers, ITS also offers a training class that teaches different techniques useful in protecting computers from spam.

Columb also recommended that students download the Symantec antivirus from <http://shareware.unc.edu>.

As Bell said, "No matter how many proactive measures you take, there's always someone trying to find a way to break into the system."

Contact the University Editor at [udesk@unc.edu](mailto:udesk@unc.edu).

# Organic store makes local debut

Earth Fare opens in Chapel Hill

BY KATHY CHO  
STAFF WRITER

Local organic food shoppers can now be even choosier now.

Earth Fare, the Asheville-based organic and health food supermarket, opened its new Chapel Hill store Wednesday morning.

The new store puts more emphasis on naturally-grown produce than other retailers, stocking conventional produce only when organic varieties are unavailable, said Troy DeGross, director of sales and marketing.

Among Earth Fare locations, the Chapel Hill store's offerings of American artisanal cheeses and organic meat and seafood are the largest so far for the chain.

Some attractions were inherited from A Southern Season, the previous tenant of the property.

What was once the Weatherlane restaurant is now an outdoor dining area where Friday wine tastings will be held.

The community room will be used for cooking and belly dancing classes and health lectures. The space is open to the public, and nonprofits can use it for free, DeGross said.

DeGross acknowledged the existing competition in the local organic food market, but not only are supermarkets used to having competitors nearby, the demand for organic food is also on the rise, he said.

Local specialty-product retailers include Whole Foods Market in the Village Plaza shopping center and Weaver Street Market in Carrboro. Both stores expect a short-term impact in their sales because of the "curiosity factor" surrounding the new store's opening.

In the long term, "It becomes a



DTH/NATALIE ROSS

Earth Fare employee Carmen DeTitta III stocks the produce aisle Monday in preparation for the store's grand opening, which was held Wednesday. Earth Fare hopes to tap into the market for organic and gourmet foods.

Chapel Hill problem — traffic and parking," said Lisa Smith, marketing specialist at Whole Food Market's Chapel Hill location. "People will go to the store that makes them happiest, probably the one they can get to."

And if more supply leads to more demand for organic foods, everyone will benefit, she said.

Weaver Street Market's competitive edge comes from being a community cooperative, said General Manager Ruffin Slater, citing a "strong loyalty factor."

Slater said co-op members recognize that Weaver Street's profits stay within the community and are not siphoned away as is the case with chains like Earth Fare.

Slater agreed that demand keeps climbing. "We carry all that we can get in terms of locally-grown organic produce, and there's not enough production," he said.

Earth Fare is evidence of the growing popularity of organic and natural foods, said Tony Kleese, executive director of the Carolina Farm Stewardship Association.

"Earth Fare is opening within a block of Whole Foods Market," he said. "They're not going to do that without very clear market data."

Locals are already curious about what the new store will bring.

Karen Mitchell of Chapel Hill, who said she often shops at Whole Foods, had heard on the radio about the new store's cafeteria-style deli.

"I definitely will check it out."

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

# New search starts for journalism dean

Bowers will act as interim dean for year

BY KATHERINE HOLLANDER  
STAFF WRITER

After a seven-month search that resulted in an interim dean, the search for a more permanent School of Journalism and Mass Communication dean kicked back

into gear Tuesday afternoon.

The newly established search committee gathered for its first meeting to discuss pursuing applicants for the open position.

The group discussed several aspects of the search, including qualifications for the position, budget for advertising the post and a timeline

for the interviewing process.

The committee also plans to make changes to the search process to use time more efficiently.

"We will release the position description hopefully by July, to begin the application process," said Bernadette Gray-Little, chairwoman of the committee and dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Committee members, which include journalism school fac-

ulty, students and outside faculty professionals, agreed that the new dean should embrace the school's roots while continuing to push the faculty and students to maintain the school's national prominence.

Gray-Little said she hopes all applicants will be contacted by August. The committee will then narrow the pool of candidates throughout the fall semester.

Many committee members expressed frustration with the length of the previous search.

Don Curtis, a journalism school alumnus and committee member who also served on the previous search committee, said there were problems with the past process.

"The last search was so long," he said. "At times I felt disconnected."

Committee members said they are hopeful that all final candidates will be chosen by the end of the fall semester. The names of the candidates will be announced at that time.

The committee plans to advertise the position nationally as well as internally to the University faculty.

"We cannot afford to overlook any possible candidates," said committee member Cathy Packer, an associate professor in the journalism school.

To leave no stone unturned, the committee discussed the option of hiring a professional search firm to assist the committee in identifying, evaluating and pursuing candidates.

Tom Bowers, senior associate dean of the journalism school, has been named the interim dean of the School, effective July 1.

He has made it clear that he intends to retire at the end of the academic year.

"The school is in good hands as we continue our search," Provost Robert Shelton said.

Bowers will replace Richard Cole, who has served as dean for 26 years.

A second search committee was formed because Gerald Baldasty, chairman of the communications department at the University of Washington and the leading candidate from the previous search, rejected UNC's offer in March.

The search committee plans to meet again within the next week to review the position description, establish a firm timeline and decide if it wants to pursue outside help through a search firm.

"We have a great group gathered here," Shelton said. "I'm sure the committee's analysis will end with great results."

Contact the University Editor at [udesk@unc.edu](mailto:udesk@unc.edu).

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