

CORRECTIONS

Due to a reporting error, Wednesday's page 7 story, "El Centro sees silver lining," contains two errors.

First, the article states that El Centro Latino is continuing after-school programs at Scroggs and McDougale Elementary schools. The programs are being run through those schools but will take place at El Centro Latino.

Secondly, the article states that El Centro Latino will host a statewide soccer tournament. The organization's upcoming soccer tournament actually will only feature teams from across the Triangle.

The Daily Tar Heel apologizes for the errors.

CITY BRIEFS

Officials vote to increase funding for area children

County officials now are providing more support for child care.

The Orange County Board of Commissioners voted Wednesday to give \$50,000 to the Social Services Department due to the increasing need for affordable child care in the area.

The money will be used for subsidies to give to families waiting for day care services.

In June, the county estimated that it had almost 400 children waiting to receive child-care subsidies.

Social Services also is looking for sponsors in the county to further increase the support for child care.

Orange County acquires land for conservation program

Orange County will be acquiring a parcel of land for conservation, as part of its Lands Legacy Program.

The Orange County Board of Commissioners recently approved the acquisition of 36 acres of land in the southwestern portion of the county.

The land — which is located in the Pickard's Mountain area — is owned by Charles Keith, who opened an arboretum on the property with his wife during the 1980s.

The land is a conservation easement that will help protect the property from future development.

It is estimated that Keith's arboretum boasts more than 5,000 species of trees and shrubbery indigenous to a variety of locations from around the world.

Monthly art event provides public with variety of works

Locations throughout the area are participating in the 2nd Friday Art Walk.

The event — titled "The Hot Spot to be for Art" — will run from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Friday.

Participants include The Chapel Hill Museum and The Ackland Art Museum and other art galleries throughout Chapel Hill and Carrboro.

The event is held monthly to give locals a chance to view many genres of art.

Refreshments will be provided at each museum and gallery, and some locations also will feature live music.

Admission to attend the event is free.

Additional information about the evening can be found at <http://www.2ndfridayartwalk.com/>.

STATE & NATION

Gay marriage bill's future remains unclear in Calif.

The California legislature passed a bill to redefine marriage as gender neutral Tuesday, by a 62-50 vote.

But the future of this legislation still is up in the air, as Republican Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signaled he would not sign the bill into law.

In 2000, California voters passed Proposition 22, defining marriage as an institution between a man and a woman.

Since then, the issue has been winding through the state's court system.

"The governor believes the courts are the correct venue for this decision to be made," said Margita Thompson, Schwarzenegger's spokeswoman in a Sept. 6 press release.

"I think it's a political and public policy mistake," said Assembly member John Laird, D-Santa Cruz, an author of the bill.

The latest poll on the issue shows the state split right down the middle, and there is time for proponents of the bill to voice their opinion before the veto, he added.

— From staff and wire reports.

Students restart efforts for workers

BY SHARI FELD
STAFF WRITER

University officials announced Thursday that investigators found insufficient evidence to confirm allegations against Aramark Corp., UNC's food-services provider.

Officials were investigating claims of employee mistreatment and the use of harassment and intimidation to prevent unionization. The University released the findings at a meeting with various student leaders in attendance.

But many student activists say they are not convinced.

"I feel the University hasn't tried to objectively investigate," said Jillian Johnson, an outspoken member of Student Action with Workers. "There haven't been any attempts to find any clear and convincing evidence that would meet University standards."

University officials' expectations

for "clear and convincing evidence" are unrealistic, she said, because the investigation did not use personal testimony from the workers as concrete evidence.

"I feel like these things have been communicated, and we've gotten nowhere," Johnson said.

The investigation focused on breach of contract — a charge that was not proven.

"There was no basis for us to conclude that Aramark was not in compliance with our contract," said Joanna Carey Smith, who conducted the examination of UNC's contract with Aramark.

The University can monitor the Aramark contract, she said, but it is not the University's right to tell a company how to operate.

Students expressed their concern that violations of workers' rights might have occurred even though

there might not have been contractual violations.

While officials boasted their confidence in the investigation's findings, they noted that watchdogs are in full force.

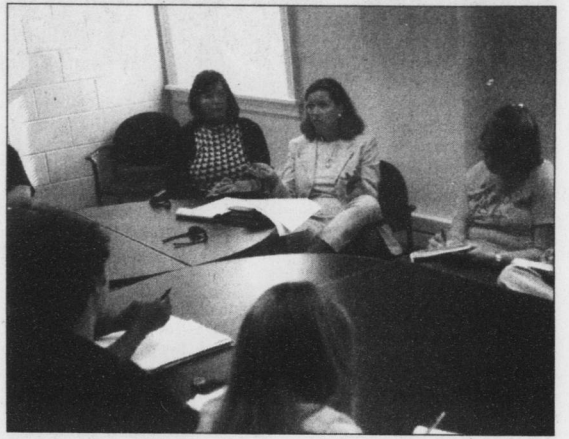
"I am comfortable with the conclusion we made, but it is an ongoing process," Smith said. "I think there are concerns that people have that they should be able to raise with Aramark, regardless of if they have to do with contractual compliance."

This recent rise in the storm comes after a fairly calm summer.

Faith Everett, a member of SAW, was the only student to take any substantial action on behalf of workers this summer. But that does not mean other students do not care, she said.

"Many students just weren't here," she said. "They just had other

SEE WORKERS, PAGE 6



DTH/RICKY LEUNG

Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Margaret Jablonski meets with Student Action with Workers on Thursday to discuss working conditions.



DTH/GILLIAN BOLSOVER

Sophomore Caitlin Corkery cradles a candle Thursday evening during a vigil held in the Pit for the victims of Hurricane Katrina. A crowd of more than 300 gathered to show their support. The event was put on by Carolina Katrina Relief, which hopes to raise \$50,000 for the cause.

TAKING A MOMENT

Campus community reflects on Katrina victims, aftermath

BY JENNY RUBY
ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY EDITOR

In the spirit of unity, hope and determination for change, a crowd of more than 300 gathered in the Pit on Thursday in support of victims of Hurricane Katrina.

And in the storm's aftermath, they reaffirmed a campuswide commitment to provide relief for the Gulf Coast.

"We have all been touched deeply by these horrors," said Margaret Jablonski, vice chancellor for student affairs.

She and Student Body President Seth Dearmin encouraged students to learn more and challenge issues that have come to light in the hurricane's aftermath — especially those relating to race and poverty.

"There are a lot of tough questions we need to ask," Dearmin said. "We need to make sure we're having this kind of dialogue."

Jablonski said she hopes to see students use the events following the hurricane as incentive to join together against racism and class disparity.

"We all saw those faces," she said. "We heard their cries."

"I urge you to think about this issue as the defining one for your generation."

Senior Hicks Wogan, one of three UNC students from the affected area to speak at the vigil, said he felt lucky that his house and his family are safe.

But he said the tragedy is not about him. "This is also not about politics," Wogan said. "And it's sure as hell not about gas prices."

The thousands of poor and less-fortunate citizens who were unable to leave New Orleans in time are the ones in the most dire need of aid, said James Brown, a junior from New Orleans.

"It is these people who give my home its life and spirit."

Lauren Hansell, a graduate student from Waveland, Miss., said each person seen on the television has a story.

"By coming here tonight, by praying, by donating blood ... you are allowing those stories to continue, to grow and not to end," she said.

Following the speeches, candles were lit and students participated in a moment of silence.

The Loreleis, the Achordants and members

of Ebony Readers/Onyx Theater offered performances and reflections during the vigil.

Sarah Greenblatt attended the vigil to seek comfort. She said she has not been able to reach a friend since the hurricane hit.

"I just thought it might be good to come out and hear about other people's experiences," she said. "I think it was the first time I was able to think about it."

The vigil is part of Carolina Katrina Relief, a campuswide effort to raise \$50,000 for the American Red Cross by Sept. 17.

As of 10 p.m. Thursday, \$4,377.44 had been collected, according to the UNC Red Cross.

"Everything is adding up," Dearmin said. "Hopefully we'll reach the goal that we have set up — and surpass it."

Wogan said students should continue to do more.

"I'm urging you, I'm begging you to dig deep," he said.

"Do what you can. Help because this didn't happen to you. Help because you can."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

Officials consider FEMA's future

BY MATTHEW BOWLES
STAFF WRITER

With nearly three months remaining in the hurricane season, the federal government's response along the Gulf Coast is bringing concerns about the future of disaster relief in North Carolina.

Rep. David Price, D-N.C., met with victims of Hurricane Katrina at a Wake County shelter Tuesday and said he would hold the administration accountable for what he called a slow response to the disaster.

The state is threatened by several hurricanes every year and often relies on the help and support of the government during the recovery process. But decreased funding could pose problems.

Bridget Lowell, spokeswoman for Price, said the Federal Emergency Management Agency needs adequate funding to be prepared for such emergencies.

But North Carolina has yet to see a hurricane this year. The state was hit by seven named storms in 2004.

The resources reserved by the legislature for specific recoveries remain available, she said.

"The state as a whole is well-prepared for natural disasters," said Patty McQuillan, spokeswoman for the N.C. Division of Emergency Management.

But she acknowledged that FEMA's role remains crucial to states affected by major natural disasters.

FEMA intervenes to assist state agencies and victims if the state receives a Presidential Disaster Declaration, which the governor must request.

Recent restructuring of the federal bureaucracy has left some lawmakers uneasy about the performance of those agencies.

In 2003, the once-independent FEMA was one of several agencies consolidated into the new Department of Homeland Security.

SEE FEMA, PAGE 6

Graduate students focus of tuition talks

Tuition Task Force kicks off meetings

BY BRIAN HUDSON
UNIVERSITY EDITOR

Less than a year after graduate student leaders said their interests weren't considered in tuition discussions, it seems that graduate students might be at the forefront this year.

During the first meeting of the Tuition Task Force on Tuesday, members discussed allocating possible tuition revenue to graduate students' needs.

The academic department chairmen attending the meeting portrayed the needs of graduate students as desperate.

"Each year we're bringing in fewer graduate students," said task force member James Thompson, chairman of the English Department. "I don't want to take in anyone I can't support."

Because so many graduate students are financially independent, they rely on factors such as tuition remission — which provides a discounted tuition to graduate students who serve as teaching or

research assistants.

The consensus among the task force was that graduate students, in their role as teaching and research assistants, are crucial to the fabric of a successful university.

Chairwoman of the Faculty Judith Wegner, a task force member, said most faculty would probably favor more graduate assistants instead of faculty salary increases.

"It comes out in the end," she said. "They'd probably say, 'Do something to keep the grad students.'"

Task force member Steven Matson, chairman of the biology department, said the decreasing number of research and teaching assistants is having negative repercussions across campus.

"We were doing well up until last year," he said. "Last year was an unmitigated disaster. We're not competitive."

Matson reported that because of the lack of assistants, half of biology teaching assistants study in a discipline other than biology.

"There is a substantial population of graduate students getting hosed by this," Thompson said.

SEE TUITION, PAGE 6

Women's group jumpstarts race

BY MEGHAN DAVIS
ASSISTANT CITY EDITOR

Candidates in the upcoming elections had the opportunity to say a few words to voters Thursday at a forum hosted by an Orange County political group.

The Orange County Democratic Women sponsored the event — which was the first such gathering of the election season.

And with response times limited to 90 seconds, candidates chose their words very carefully.

Candidates for the Chapel Hill Town Council and Chapel Hill-Carrboro Board of Education mingled with the audience at the Southern Human Services Building at 2501 Homestead Rd.

Questions from the audience — filtered through moderator Dan Coleman — ranged from connecting neighborhood roads to technology, to whether the town would support a Wal-Mart.

Coleman, a local political activist, selected three candidates to address each question.

Many questions to council candidates centered around development — in town and around the University — allowing them to harp on what are becoming signature platforms.

Bill Thorpe, who served on the council intermittently between 1977 and 1987, said he learned the key to



DTH/ISAAC SANDLIN

Town Council candidates Ed Harrison (left), Jason Baker and Robin Cutson participate in the Orange County Democratic Women's forum Thursday.

development is compromise.

When the University built the Smith Center, Thorpe recalled standing up for area neighborhoods that were against it.

"I was one of the few council members to vote against the Dean Dome," he said. "We got the University to build that ceiling on it, for noise."

When asked the difference between good growth and bad growth, council member Mark Kleinschmidt said good growth is transit-oriented — human-scale buildings and without sprawl.

Other candidates — Foy, incumbent Ed Harrison and UNC graduate Walker Rutherford — also said they want to improve and expand the town's public-transit service.

Robin Cutson argued that positive growth requires more precise utility planning than the town has provided.

"Smart growth can't create water," she said. "What we need is sustainable growth."

Candidates also debated how

SEE FORUM, PAGE 6