

BLOGGING

FROM PAGE 1
see a bevy of responses from area politicians, is celebrating its second birthday Tuesday and has found its niche in this election through live blogging from candidate forums.
Town Council candidate and UNC sophomore Jason Baker hosted a blog prior to the election season but now is hoping it will bolster support for his campaign.
"It was nothing new to me to have a blog," he said of <http://www.jasonbaker.us>. "It lets a lot of folks know what's going on."
The driving force behind his blog? It attracts readership without

RITA

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Houston and New Orleans.
In Beaumont, trees of all sizes and power lines were down, street signs were shredded, and one brick wall of an office building had collapsed. Said Dr. Gaylon Gonzalez, a surgeon who spent the night at Christus Hospital St. Elizabeth as Rita arrived: "It sounded like a power washer hitting the windows."
Perry surveyed Beaumont by air Saturday. "Considering it was a Category 5 storm 48 hours ago, I think we're probably pretty fortunate," he said.
The Texas Department of Transportation dispatched a 30-vehicle convoy from Beaumont to clear a debris-covered highway to the north toward Lufkin. Authorities used military helicopters and a bus to move some nursing home residents who had been stranded since Friday at an elementary school without power in the small town of Fred.

INFLATION

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ring to the concept of a Relative Power Index. "You don't just look at the win-loss of the team, you also look at the difficulty of the schedule."
Such a system could benefit students taking difficult classes with harder professors, he said.
"Right now all the incentive for students is to get higher grades regardless of really what that reflects," Gordon said.
"An A in the class where everyone gets an A is the same as an A in the class where only five people get an A."
Provost Robert Shelton said he is familiar with the idea and that he thinks it merits further investigation.
"It's interesting," he said. "I'm always open to looking at new ideas, but you have to be very careful to make sure that whatever you do is done broadly, that you don't disadvantage your students here."
Leah McGinnis, committee member and undergraduate librarian, said the committee has discussed the idea but that it remains in the preliminary stages.
"I can see that there are definite issues there that need to be investigated," she said, referring to the problem of grade inflation. "I can't say at this stage that that's the correct direction to take, but that's something to look into."
One of the biggest problems at UNC-CH is that across the board, grades tend to be higher in the humanities than in the natural sciences, Gordon said.
A type of weighted GPA system might work to account for that imbalance.
"Grades vary widely by department," Gordon said. "It would hopefully reduce the incentives to simply take courses because you expected that the course would be a good way to get a high grade."
Similar problems with grade inflation are occurring across the field of higher education, said Harvey Mansfield, professor of government at Harvard University.
"I don't know if any major universities are an exception to this."
It's a problem that his own university has begun to address, Mansfield said.
"It's only recently that the faculty (at Harvard) became aware that we were giving 50 percent A's and A-'s," he said.
Last year, Princeton University implemented a quota for top grades. The school is working toward a goal of awarding A's only 35 percent of the time.
In a report released last week, Princeton's Faculty Committee on Grading reported an overall drop in A's awarded from 46 percent in 2003-04 to 40.9 percent during the 2004-05 year.
Whether the idea will ever make it beyond the Educational Policy Committee remains uncertain.
"Before anything would be done to change grading, there would be a tremendous amount of discussion of the proposals," Gordon said. "It would at least take a couple of years to implement."
"I don't think it would affect people now, though I could be wrong."

wasting paper, Baker said.
"I think one of my goals was to cut down on the amount of paper used," he said. "I can also look at my usage statistics, at (Internet Protocol) addresses."
About 50 of Baker's recent hits have come from University dorms.
"I was surprised to find the level of student hits," he said. "I think a lot of them come from other people linking to the site on their blogs."
Carrboro Alderman Mark Chilton, who is running for mayor this year, keeps readers updated on results of his door-to-door canvassing through his blog, at <http://markchilton.org/>.
"I started it back in the beginning of July," he said. "It's intended for the experience of the campaign as opposed to substance."
As the season draws closer to Election Day, Chilton said he will use the blog more as a platform to

PROTEST

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from Charlotte.
He said that being a conservative does not mean he supports everything the president does.
"We're against the war and the detriment of common liberties," he said. "War is supposed to be a last resort — this is a war of choice."
Tom VanDerBeek came to the rally with a group of about 200 people from the Chapel Hill area.
"I feel very strongly about this," he said of the war protest.
There were only a few counter demonstrations, but all conflicts ended quickly and peacefully. Police, armed with riot gear, lined the path of the march to maintain

CHANCELLOR

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National University of Singapore announced their goal for making the school one of the leading universities in the world. They made it clear that they believe in the power of higher education to craft a successful future for their country.
And they had another message for us — the universities of Asia, especially in China and India, are prepared to compete head on with the United States and Europe for the best faculty and students in the world and to challenge our established domination in the world of ideas and innovation.
What is the role of this university in helping its students and the state of North Carolina be competitive in a global marketplace? That is one of the "big picture" questions I have been considering this summer.
Another issue that has occupied my time is diversity. It is a key component of our academic plan and we have made tremendous progress in this area. The

tackle issues.
Baker's blog, updated about once a week, mostly focuses on campaign news and announcements.
Baker said other candidates' blogs raise the bar for having a good online representation, pointing out fellow candidate Will Raymond's blog, at <http://willraymond.org/>, as an example.
"Overall, I'm pretty impressed with everyone's sites," he said.
A list of candidate Web sites is available at orangepolitics.org/elections-2005. Among the bloggers: Town Council hopefuls Baker, Raymond, and incumbent Mark Kleinschmidt, at <http://kleinschmidt2005.blogspot.com/>; and in Carrboro, Chilton and David Marshall, at <http://mentevidebor.blogspot.com/>.

safety and control.
A few people from the White House came outside as the protesters chanted, increasing the excitement of the crowd.
Tom Palumbo, a veteran of the Gulf War from Norfolk, Va., arrived with two buses full of people — a significant number from a military town, he said.
He said he was impressed with the turnout, and is confident the message to bring the troops home made it to the White House.
He also said the fight wouldn't end with efforts scheduled to continue until the troops come home.
"It's like a meeting of the tribes," he said. "We're not going away."

campus diversity task force has compiled some great information about this issue that will help us to develop our next steps. The complete report of the task force is now available at www.unc.edu/diversity/assessment.
Both of these issues require the involvement of every person that is a part of this university, including you, the students. I would be very interested in hearing from you about these subjects, and others that are of interest to you.
Last year we started a series of open houses sponsored by the Student Advisory Committee to the Chancellor, held at the Johnston Center for Undergraduate Excellence. The next open house is today from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. There will be live music beforehand, courtesy of jazz musicians Eric Bilbrey and Charles Cleaver. Refreshments will be served. Please stop by, listen to some great music and join in our discussion.
I hope to see you there.

Chancellor's open house today

Officials hope for mixed discussion

BY LINDSAY MICHEL
ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY EDITOR
While issues surrounding UNC's relationship with Aramark Corp. dominated the last Chancellor's Open House, leaders hope that today's forum will elicit a more varied mix of topics.
"I would definitely like to see a wider range of issues discussed at this meeting," said Adrian Johnston, student body vice president and chairman of the Student Advisory Committee to the Chancellor.
The meeting, to be held in the Johnston Center lounge, will begin at 3:30 p.m. with jazz played by student musicians, and discussions with Chancellor James Moeser will run from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
The committee solicited student opinions about Moeser through its "Stick it to the Meez" campaign — which allowed students to stick Post-it notes to an oversized picture of Moeser in the Pit last week.
Johnston said students should

bring up as many issues as possible for an effective use of the time.
"A little bit of dialogue can go a long way on this campus," Johnston said.
Concerns about Baity Hill and Odum Village, bus routes and diversity were repeatedly addressed through the campaign and Johnston said he expects students to question Moeser about them today.
But one proposed policy change to the way University housekeepers do their work has the potential to turn today's meeting into a one-topic debate.
Mike Hachey, a member of Student Action with Workers, said his group plans to give a presentation on team cleaning.
This is the second time the student activist organization will use the open meetings as a way to confront Moeser about campus worker issues, Hachey said.
"I think that it has been useful meeting with the chancellor because he's the person who ultimately has the decision-making power to make the changes we are interested in," he said.

"Our strategy (last semester) was to bring as many workers as possible with us and have their voices heard," Hachey said, adding that this year will be no different.
Johnston, who will serve as the moderator for the forum, said the topic of team cleaning will be welcomed.
"It's a really important issue, so we are happy about having that kind of dialogue," Johnston said.
"It's really important that all of the stakeholders get a chance to be heard during the (team cleaning) trial period."

The Student Advisory Committee to the Chancellor began holding the forums last year to close the barrier between students and Moeser.
Sometimes people assume Moeser feels a specific way about an issue before they have had the chance to hear from him directly, Johnston said.
"People are on the same side of the issue a lot more than you think."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

THE Daily Crossword By Jlm Page

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ACROSS

- 1 CSA soldier
- 4 Clinton cabinet member
- 9 Meat jelly
- 14 Above, to poets
- 15 Goldoni of "Shadows"
- 16 Likable loser
- 17 Good luck on stage!
- 19 Bindlestiff
- 20 Texas shrine
- 21 Gossage or Tatum
- 22 "Das Lied von der ..."
- 24 Some broker's instructions
- 28 Feudal lord
- 30 Modernist's prefix
- 31 Yes indeed, Maria
- 32 "___ Butterfly"
- 34 Jule fractions
- 36 Kind of profit
- 37 Pauses along the way
- 40 Paranormal insight
- 43 Beehive State
- 44 Chloroform's discoverer
- 48 Most August babies
- 50 Of the ear
- 51 Actress Della
- 52 Deceptive delivery from the mound
- 56 Tall tale
- 57 Blanches
- 58 Mechanical man
- 60 "It Happened One Night" star

DOWN

- 1 Piffle
- 2 End of auction?
- 3 Coated with crumbs
- 4 ___Seltzer
- 5 Dress lines
- 6 Sitcom demo
- 7 ___de-France
- 8 Old horse
- 9 Fur merchant Jacob
- 10 Catch-of-the-day fish
- 11 Put to use gradually
- 12 Engage wholly
- 13 NYPD member
- 18 Sour mash

21 Large number

- 22 Stately tree
- 23 River inlet
- 25 No second chances
- 26 Felon, to a cop
- 27 Pose for shots
- 29 Outback runner: var.
- 33 Legally bars
- 35 Hoosegow
- 38 French actor Jacques
- 39 Ta-ta!
- 40 Building wing
- 41 Ooze quantity
- 42 Fit for drinking

45 Pad occupant

- 46 Leb. neighbor
- 47 DDE's rank
- 49 Morose
- 53 Equals
- 54 Skull: pref.
- 55 Vandenberg and Wilhelm
- 59 A/C figures
- 60 Obtained
- 61 Mom-&-pop store grp.
- 62 Dundee topper
- 63 Period of time
- 64 Mil. unit

ALER | SALAD | SANG
PURE | ECONO | PROW
EXSPEAR | MINTALLY
SETS | FREE | OHIOAN
FES | CHIN
RAFTED | MOAN | IDI
ECLAT | SAID | ADEN
THYME | IMMEMORIAL
IONS | NIBS | VIOLA
EON | ETTA | BEATTY
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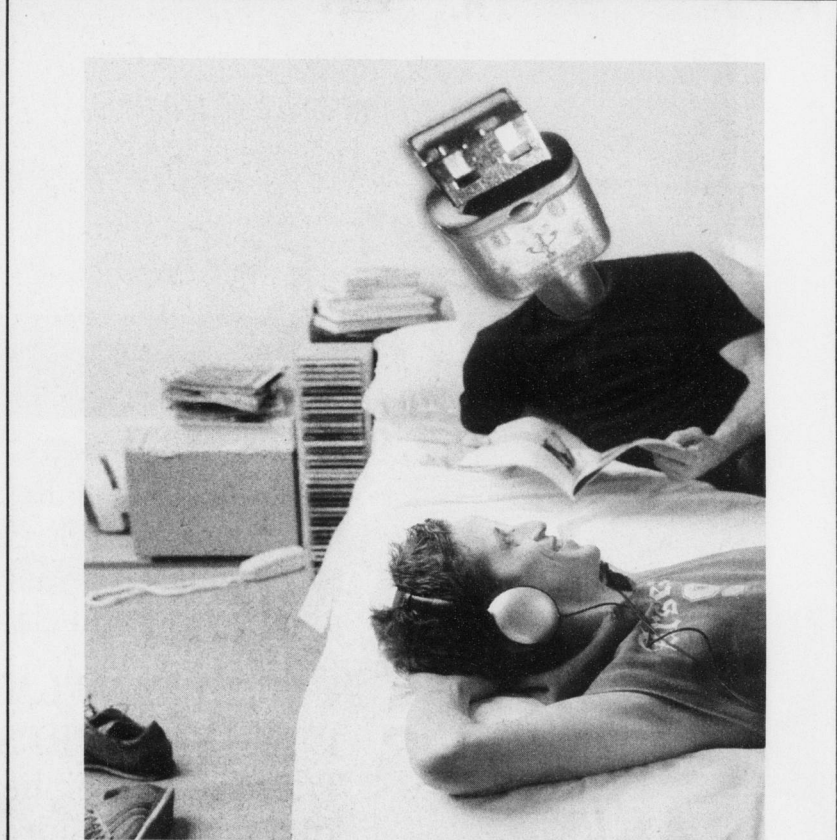
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