

# Underground project yields traffic backup

BY DANIEL WILKES  
STAFF WRITER

With major construction set to wrap up in a few weeks, drivers traveling to and from campus through the intersection of N.C. 54 and Country Club Road will have one less obstacle during their hectic commutes.

## CAMPUS CONSTRUCTION



The construction, which has closed two of the five lanes of Raleigh Road, is scheduled to be completed by the Oct. 22 football game against the University of Virginia, said Jeff Kidd, UNC's construction manager for the project.

Crews cleared the construction site Wednesday for this Saturday's football game against Utah. Work will resume next week, Kidd said.

The project involves the installation of an underground electric duct bank and chilled water piping that will service a chiller plant now being

built near Cobb Residence Hall.

The construction has heavily impeded the traffic flow through the major campus thoroughfare.

Commuters who park in the N.C. 54 Visitor Lot, which is adjacent to the project, say rush hour traffic often is delayed.

"Someone from my 9:30 class was late because they had to sit at the light for twenty minutes," said Courtney Reid, a public policy graduate student.

Merle Sykes, a booth attendant at the lot, said she sees traffic backed up bumper-to-bumper from 3:30 p.m. until her shift ends at 5:30 p.m.

"I'm sure people don't particularly like it," she said. "But I think they take it in stride, and I haven't heard people complaining."

Some have said they don't mind the traffic.

"I really don't think it's that bad," said Audrey Sprung, a graduate student from California. "Maybe it's because I'm from the Bay Area."

Planning officials usually schedule major road projects for the summer when there is less traffic. Organizers originally intended to

complete the project before the fall semester, but it didn't get under way until late August, Kidd said.

"The (N.C. Department of Transportation) had some last-minute comments and requirements that delayed our approval."

He said that while he would have liked to have finished the project during the summer, he is pleased with the progress thus far.

"Considering the amount of traffic and rock excavation the contractors have to do, I think it's going considerably well," he said.

Motorists are not the only ones anticipating the project's completion. Pedestrians who routinely traverse the intersection say the construction has made crossing more chaotic.

"We're running for our lives to get through there," said Jennifer Henderson, an employee in the School of Government.

Drivers are a little less than polite at the busy intersection during rush hour, she said. "They don't yield to pedestrians at all."

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

# Day to feature student voice

BY NATE HUBBARD  
STAFF WRITER

The University Day committee took steps Wednesday to make an old tradition more accessible to students when it decided to allow them to make remarks in the Oct. 12 ceremony.

This is the first time a student representative will speak in the University Day celebration in at least several years, said committee chairman Steve Allred, who serves as executive associate provost.

This year's celebration will mark the 212th anniversary of the campus.

Classes will be canceled from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. to allow students to attend University Day celebrations, although many students prefer to stay home each year.

In hopes of encouraging a better student turnout, Student Body President Seth Dearmin proposed the addition of student remarks to the program.

After a few minutes of debate, the committee overwhelmingly backed the idea.

Dearmin will deliver his words on behalf of the students.

He said the committee's decision was an important one.

"We now have a voice at the event," he said.

Dearmin said he will focus on the many positives of University Day for students. He said he will emphasize the history and tradition of the University.

"There is a lot to be excited about," he said. University Day commemorates the 1793 laying of the cornerstone of Old East, the campus's first building. The campus community has paused to recognize the anniversary since 1877, when Governor Zebulon B. Vance, a member of the UNC Board of Trustees, announced that the day should serve as a time for reflection.

The committee also discussed other ways to increase student attendance at the ceremony.

Dearmin said he plans to send "personalized invitations to student leaders," and he said he hopes they will encourage their constituents to come.

Student leaders will be a part of the procession entering Memorial Hall — which will hold the ceremony for the first time since it closed

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SETH DEARMIN,  
STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT

for renovations in 2002.

Committee members also said they will encourage faculty members to use the time away from class to attend the event with their students.

The keynote speaker will be Christopher Armitage, an English professor who became a UNC faculty member in 1967. His address is titled "Chance and Change."

The committee also decided to allot time for Tommy Griffin, chairman of the Employee Forum, to speak at the event, a first in recent years.

Allred said he is looking forward to the celebration. "We'll have a splendid time."

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

## POLICE LOG

■ A UNC senior was arrested early Wednesday morning for impaired driving, Chapel Hill Police reports state.

Christopher Dickson, 23, of 214 McCauley St., was arrested at 4:06 a.m. at the corner 100 W. Rosemary and Columbia streets on misdemeanor charges of impaired driving and driving on the wrong side of the highway, according to reports.

Police reports state that Dickson was stopped for a moving violation but that at the traffic stop he was arrested for impaired driving as well.

Dickson's blood alcohol content was .19, police spokeswoman Jane Cousins said.

He was taken to Orange County Jail and held under a secured bond of \$100, reports state. Dickson is set to appear in District Criminal Court on Nov. 8th, according to reports.

■ Ram Book and Supply, 306

W. Franklin St., was the victim of a forced breaking and entering early Wednesday morning, Chapel Hill police reports state.

The incident was reported to police at 3:50 a.m. Wednesday after someone walking in the parking lot saw that the front glass door was broken by a brick, police spokeswoman Jane Cousins said.

An employee at Ram said a Hurricane Katrina donation jar, which contained about \$50, was stolen, she said.

■ A UNC sophomore was arrested Tuesday on charges of impaired driving in relation to a February car accident, according to Chapel Hill Police reports.

Jonathan E. Choi, 20, of 109 Macrae Court, had been in a car accident Feb. 20 and had admitted to drinking alcohol, reports state. He was transferred to UNC Hospitals for evaluation, and he was cited and released on charges

of impaired driving, reports state.

According to the Feb. 20 reports, blood alcohol content results were pending analysis.

Police spokeswoman Jane Cousins said BAC results confirmed he was he was impaired by alcohol. Choi was served a criminal summons and brought before a judge in Administrative Traffic Court on Tuesday.

■ A fraternity member was the victim of a burglary without force Wednesday morning, according to Chapel Hill Police reports.

The victim reported to police at 3:10 a.m. that his IBM laptop and digital camera were stolen from his bedroom, reports state.

Spokeswoman Jane Cousins said that the victim had left his room for about an hour at about 1 a.m. and that he did not think that he had locked his door.

The case is under further investigation.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

■ "Perspectives from Cuba: Individual and Collective Rights" will be presented by the UNC School of Law Clinical Programs at 4 p.m. today in the Rotunda/Van Hecke-Wettach Hall of the UNC School of Law building. Admission is free.

■ Lawrence Wallack, dean at the College of Urban and Public Affairs of Portland State University, will present "Talking Public Health: America's Second Language" at 4 p.m. today in the Michael Hooker Research Center. Admission is free.

■ The Department of Germanic Languages will hold its fall Undergraduate Reception at 4:45 p.m. today in the Toy Lounge of Dey Hall. All majors and minors in German are invited to stop by, chat and eat pastries.

■ Lawrence Blum will speak about his book, "I'm Not a Racist, But ..." at 5 p.m. today in the Hitchcock room of the Sonja Haynes Stone Center. The event will be hosted by the Parr Center for Ethics. For more information, visit [parrcenter.unc.edu](http://parrcenter.unc.edu).

■ There will be a Hurricane Katrina benefit dinner at 5:30 p.m. today in Union 3206 hosted by the Asian Students and the Vietnamese Students associations. Asian food will be served. Suggested donations are \$5.

■ Orange County and Chapel Hill-Carrboro City schools are holding a joint college fair from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. today in the Smith Center.

■ An interest meeting for Kabari, an African dance troupe, will be held at 7 p.m. today in the Carmichael Fishbowl.

■ Residents of the Morgan Creek-Kings Mill neighborhood will meet from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. today at the N.C. Botanical Gardens Totten Center to discuss becoming a neighborhood conservation district.

■ The executive branch of student government will hold a Tuition Feedback Forum from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. today in Murphey 116. Student Body President Seth Dearmin and Student Body Vice President Adrian

Johnston will be available to answer tuition questions.

■ The Mu Zeta chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity Inc. will sponsor a "Networking for Success" workshop today in Union 3503.

■ The Rumi Festival of Chapel Hill will begin today and run through Oct. 2. The four-day festival will celebrate the birthday of poet Jalaladin Rumi through cultural events, art displays and concerts. For more information, go to [www.rumifest.com](http://www.rumifest.com).

To make a calendar submission, visit [www.dailytarheel.com](http://www.dailytarheel.com) for a list of submission policies and contacts. Events must be sent in by noon the preceding publication date.

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## SUNDAY SERVICES

Holy Eucharist: 7:30 am, 9:00 am  
11:15 am, and 5:15 pm  
Sung Compline: 9:30 pm

Thursday, September 29th

## St. Michael & All Angels

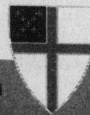
Solemn Evensong: 8:00 pm

Music By:  
Handl, Dering, & T. Tertius Noble

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October 1,  
2005

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Union to Southpoint Mall.

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