

Finley's fees break bank for students

As student groups mobilize campuswide in expectation of proposed tuition hikes there is a financial injustice nearly as egregious being carried out virtually unnoticed by the students of this University.

UNC Finley Golf Course will host the Lady Tar Heel Invitational this weekend where 18 of the nation's finest women's golf programs will take a crack at tackling one of the best collegiate courses in the country.

No problem there. But when the course reopens for general use, the price gouging of students wanting to tee it up will continue.

Golf is a game ill suited for those with a thin wallet. But for college students already raked over the coals with the costs of just attending class, shelling out big bucks for a campus-affiliated recreation activity isn't just ludicrous — it's immoral.

To properly gauge the assault on a UNC student-golfer's pockets in relation to other colleges we should set some criteria. As any golfer knows, the cost to play a round of golf varies with the time of day and day of the week you want to play.

Judging by the faces I see on the way to my 8 a.m. classes we can forget mornings and weekdays. So let's assume the average college golfer plays their round on Saturday at noon. Oh yeah, and we're walking, too. Let's leave the golf cart to the Van Wilder's and Billy Madison's of the world.

At Finley that round will cost a UNC student \$47. While that includes a \$17 cart fee, they say you can walk if you want to. How nice of them — you still have to pay the \$17. At 1:30 p.m., they take away the mandatory cart fee, so you can play for \$30 — still a crime to charge students.

In September, Golf Digest ranked the top 15 college courses in the country. Finley was No. 14.

If you want to play Saturday at noon at No. 7 Ohio State, it'll set you back \$14 or \$18 (they have two courses). Michigan's third-ranked course costs \$25 at any time.

Two of the country's most expensive schools to attend, Yale and Notre Dame, charge their student-golfers less than UNC.



MATT ESTREICH
STREICH ZONE

No. 5 Yale charges \$25 to play whenever and No. 15 Notre Dame only wants \$22 from their kids.

Cadets at the Air Force Academy play at America's eighth-ranked course for \$12.

Yeah, I know the old argument. "You can die for your country at 18 but you can't play golf on their courses for free." At least they still get on at a discounted rate.

Because those who wish to play at Finley are usually required to take out a mortgage on their dorm room, students are forced to travel inconvenient distances to play inferior courses.

While the costs of maintaining one of the best courses in the country might justify higher greens fees, the burden of recouping those funds shouldn't fall on current Tar Heels.

Students can be a tremendous source of revenue for the golf course, but if the cost of playing at Finley remains the same, we may never make it out there.

Contact Matt Estreich at estreich@email.unc.edu.

Consumers sour on SUVs as prices rise

BY SETH PEAVEY
STAFF WRITER

American automobile companies have seen their truck and sport utility vehicle sales drop sharply as gas prices remain high.

General Motor's overall U.S. sales dropped 24 percent in September from the same period in 2004 while Ford's were down 19 percent.

"That is very definitely a significant decrease," said Ed Erickson, economics professor at N.C. State University. "By a large margin, this is a reflection of higher gas prices."

The nationwide gas price Monday was nearly \$3 per gallon, according to the Energy Information Administration.

The overall sales decrease was primarily the result of poor truck sales, which includes SUVs. GM's and Ford's truck sales were both down about 30 percent in September.

"They are not making a profit," said Steven Szakaly, an economist with the Center for Automotive Research.

But he noted that Chrysler is an exception and said reduced inventory from successful summer sales campaigns were a major factor in GM's and Ford's poor Sept. sales.

This national trend is reflected at local dealerships.

"You see SUVs and pickups being traded in for smaller vehicles," said Mike Kemp-McCoy, general sales manager for Sanford Ford Lincoln Mercury Inc.

He said that sales probably were off about 30 percent from last year

because of high gas prices, but that they likely will rebound later.

Sales also were down at Bobby Murray Chevrolet Inc. in Raleigh.

But sales manager Richard Cholerton said the depleted inventory from the summer was the primary cause for the slump.

"(Trucks and SUVs) are always going to be a good seller," he said, adding that GM is working on more fuel-efficient vehicles.

While dealerships remain optimistic that sales will return to former levels, the price of oil might continue to depress the automobile market.

"Sales for the big three are not likely to rebound if gas prices remain high," Szakaly said.

And even if gas prices do drift downward, there might be no turning back the clock.

"I think we are seeing a permanent change in the composition of the automobile fleet," Erickson said.

This is particularly troublesome news for the American automobile industry, where larger vehicles make up the majority of sales.

International companies such as Toyota and Honda, which emphasize smaller and more fuel-efficient vehicles, are better suited to capitalize on this changing demand, Erickson said.

U.S. companies are at a serious disadvantage, he said. "I think they are going to be in trouble for the foreseeable future."

Contact the State & National Editor at stntdesk@unc.edu.

Democrats look to beef up primary schedule for 2008

BY NICK ANDERSON
STAFF WRITER

Wanted: A small- to medium-sized U.S. state with geographic and ethnic diversity. Applicants must be willing to host a parade of ambitious politicians, overworked campaign workers and an accompanying media circus. Iowa and New Hampshire need not apply.

That's what Democrats are looking for as the party moves to reform its presidential primary schedule in time for the 2008 election by allowing more states to vote earlier.

A commission discussing the change recommended last week the addition of at least two states to the traditional list of early voting states, which is currently limited to New Hampshire and Iowa.

The states that will be moved up in the calendar remain unannounced, but early indications show that New Mexico and South Carolina are strong contenders.

In presidential election cycles since 1980, New Hampshire's primary and Iowa's caucuses have had a lock on the first contests to influence the Democratic Party's presidential nominee.

"It makes sense to have more states involved in the earliest parts of the nominating process so that Iowa and New Hampshire do not dominate," said Ferrel Guillory, director of UNC's Program on Southern Politics, Media and Public Life.

"It's okay for Iowa and New Hampshire to have a role and have a prominent role, but it has skewed the process for them to have an

outsized role."

Rep. David Price, D-N.C., who is co-chairman of the party's commission considering the calendar changes, said the party is hoping to include states with greater ethnic, racial and geographic diversity than Iowa and New Hampshire.

"Should states have that dominant of a role?" Price said, referring to one of the commission's central questions. "Shouldn't there be states included that are more representative of the Democratic Party nationwide?"

There also is an important benefit to having early contests in smaller states, Price said.

The primaries in Iowa and New Hampshire allow candidates to practice "retail politics," the process of campaigning on a personal level, before they shift to a national campaign, he said.

Dante Scala, a professor of politics at St. Anselm College in New Hampshire, pointed to the party's history of representing all segments of society. "Democrats pride themselves on being a diverse party, and New Hampshire and Iowa are not ethnically or regionally diverse."

South Carolina has greater racial diversity than Iowa or New Hampshire and is situated in a different region of the country, Guillory said. "Adding two or three states would help provide a broader view of the field in the earliest stages of the process."

Contact the State & National Editor at stntdesk@unc.edu.

Without Dearmin, farmers' market moves forward

BY JENNY RUBY
ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY EDITOR

Campus officials are getting a little fresh with students.

From 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Oct. 27, the plaza level of the Rams Head dining facility will be transformed into a farmers' market where students will be able to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables.

The event, sponsored by the Center for Healthy Student Behaviors and Carolina Dining Services, is part of a push for promoting healthy eating habits on campus.

"The idea of having an outdoor produce market that highlights fruits and vegetables is a way that is fun, and we can get our message out," said Jen Ketterly, nutrition and fitness coordinator at the center.

The farmers' market will feature autumnal fruits and vegetables, such as apples, zucchini, squash, pumpkins, gourds and Indian corn.

"This is also a fall showcase of the different types of produce that come into play this time of the year," said Ed Sautro, Raleigh sales manager for FreshPoint, the

University's produce provider.

Student Body President Seth Dearmin listed creating a weekly farmers' market as one of his campaign goals.

Ketterly and Dearmin both said they were unaware the other had been considering the program.

Dearmin said Tuesday that he had delegated responsibility of creating the program to one of his committees.

Ketterly said she hopes to see the two groups work together in the future.

Ira Simon, director of food ser-

vices, said the event is the first of its kind and said he hopes to be able to learn more about student produce interests.

"If there's something that is very popular that we're not showcasing in our Rams Head Market, we want to know," he said.

Dining service officials said they worked with FreshPoint to feature as many local North Carolina growers as possible.

And Ketterly said dining services officials are working to provide the produce at a reduced price.

Nutrition is one of the 28 focus

areas of Healthy Campus 2010, a campaign that encourages students to lead healthy lifestyles.

Ketterly also said she hopes the farmers' market will increase the proportion of students who consume the recommended amount of fruits and vegetables each day.

"If it goes well, we're going to have it again," Ketterly said. "We want to continue to have it as a mainstay on campus. We want to sustain this idea."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

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Public Notice

The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations will conduct an accreditation survey of the UNC-CH Student Health Service on November 7th & 8th, 2005.

The purpose of the survey will be to evaluate the organization's compliance with nationally established Joint Commission standards. The survey results will be used to determine whether, and the conditions under which accreditation should be awarded the organization.

Joint Commission standards deal with organizational quality of care issues and the safety of the environment in which care is provided. Anyone believing that he or she has pertinent and valid information about such matters may request a public information interview with the Joint Commission's field representatives at the time of survey. Information presented at the interview will be carefully evaluated for relevance to the accreditation process. Requests for a public information interview must be made in writing and should be sent to the Joint Commission no later than five working days before the survey begins. The requests must also indicate the nature of the information to be provided at the interview. Such requests should be addressed to

Division of Accreditation Operations
Office of Quality Monitoring
Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations
One Renaissance Boulevard
Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181
or Faxed to 630-792-5636
or E-mailed to complaint@jcaho.org.

The Joint Commission will acknowledge such request in writing or by telephone and will inform the organization of the request for any interview. The organization will, in turn, notify the interviewee of the date, time, and place of the meeting.

This notice is posted in accordance with the Joint Commission's requirements and may not be removed before the survey is completed.

Date Posted: October 3, 2005